



Ambassador College

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE



Is This Sabbath Keeping?

LESSON 27

What our STUDENTS SAY

"I remember how down-hearted and troubled I was before I wrote in for my first lesson. Now I praise the Eternal for helping me to make the decision to write in for the Course—it's so exciting, and thrilling. Day by day I can learn more new truths and 'know that I know'! Now, no more fearful, frightening, nightmarish shattered nerves! For deep down inside a new joy has been growing. And who could keep from rejoicing! If we know the truth we will be free! Multiple thanks to my Maker and His representatives for making these truths plain for me!"

— Mrs. C. S., Du Pont, Georgia

Lesson 27

"You sure can make the Bible plain through the Correspondence Course. I have just completed the one about the Sabbath (which day it is) and that it is a sign between God and His people. There certainly aren't many who have that sign in America today.

"When I was in high school I took a course on the Bible in 1943-4 and the only thing that was any real help was that we had to learn the books of the Bible in order. Thank you and all the others for all the help you have given us."

— Mr. A. L., Lexington, North Carolina

Had His Doubts

"Mr. Armstrong and his Correspondence Course staff must have spent many many hours studying the Bible and related works, for the information given is nothing short of fantastic. I find the greatest interest and pleasure in the reference given to other books of the Bible linking prophecies together. This gives one a clear insight to the fact that all the writing in the Bible must surely have been written by the divine inspiration of God.

"I must now confess that at first I had some doubts as to the reliability of the information Mr. Armstrong published. I first went to my local . . . Priest and asked his opinion regarding the prophecies of the Book of Revelation. He just laughed and stated that these were only 'morale boosters' for the churches in the time of St. John and that today no one believes in these prophecies. I questioned him closely for some time and eventually discovered that his knowledge of the Book of Revelation was less than

(Please continue on page 16)

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

LESSON 27

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About Our Cover . . .

Israelis on the beach at Tel Aviv, Israel, during the Sabbath. Many who claim to keep God's Sabbath today break His command which says: "Turn away thy foot . . . from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord" (Isa. 58:13).

Which day is the true Sabbath of God? Why does God command man to rest on His holy Sabbath today? And HOW do we make it a "delight"? Learn the wonderful truth in this revealing lesson!

Wide World Photo

WHY REST ON GOD'S SABBATH DAY?

DO YOU know that God has a “sign” by which He *recognizes* His spiritual children? And do you know that only those having this *sign* will be born into His ruling Family?

That vital, *overwhelmingly important* “sign” is God’s SABBATH DAY!

Yes — God’s Sabbath!

Not a “Sabbath of the Jews,” or any “day” that seems more or less important to any man, or group of men — but THE Sabbath of Almighty God Himself!

Does it Make Any Difference?

“But,” you might ask, “what does any ‘day’ have to do with entering into the happy, glorious world tomorrow and the very Kingdom of God?”

It has a GREAT DEAL to do with it!

To human beings using only fallible HUMAN reasoning, it may seem “strange” indeed that God would place stress and importance on a *specific “day” of the week!* “WHY,” some might reason, “would God want me to rest on ONE day of the week *more* than any other?” “What

real DIFFERENCE does it make anyhow?” ask others.

It makes a *TREMENDOUS DIFFERENCE* — *TO ALMIGHTY GOD!*

You are going to learn the surprising and truly satisfying *plain truth* about God’s SABBATH DAY!

God Blesses the Obedient

Noah “walked” with *God* (Gen. 6:9). They were that friendly! And because Noah “walked” in *obedience* to God, He saved Noah and his family from the great flood that destroyed sinful mankind (Gen. 6:11-14). That was REAL FRIENDSHIP!

And after the flood we know that Abraham also became an *obedient* friend of God (James 2:23, 21). Abraham and Christ (Melchizedek) were *very close* friends (Gen. 14:18-20; Heb. 7:1-3) — right here on this earth — at the present site of the city of Jerusalem.

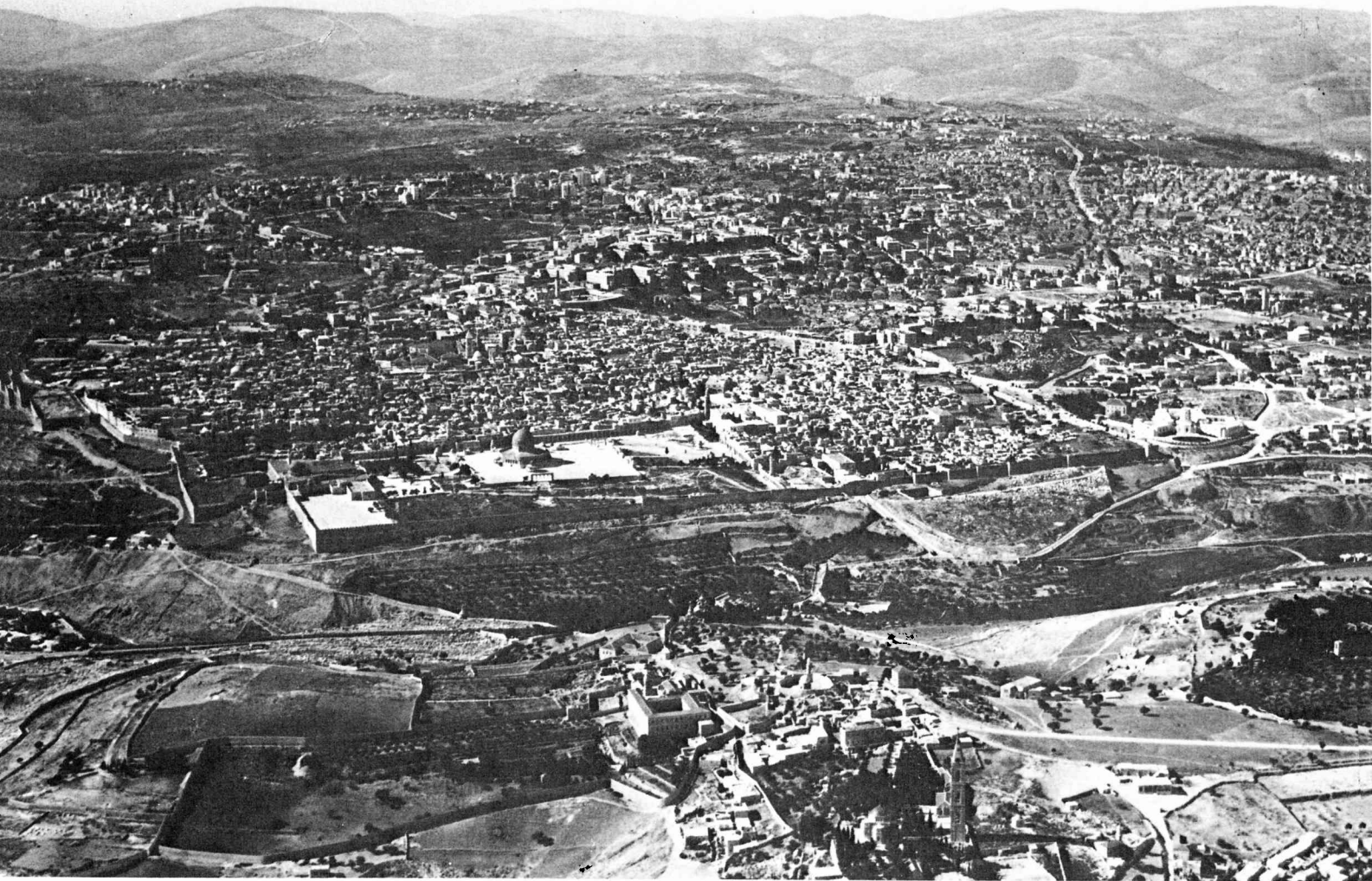
And what was the *result* of this close friendship?

Because Abraham continued in this *obedient* relationship with God (Gen. 26:5), God prom-



Ambassador College Photo

SABBATH IN TEL AVIV — Though business stops on the Sabbath, most are away seeking their own pleasures.



Above, Matson Photo — below, Z. Kluger

Aerial view of Jerusalem gives good perspective of city. It was here that Melchizedek (Christ) and Abraham talked together. At right is enlargement showing Dome of the Rock (see above center) built on the very site of ancient temples of God.

ised him the greatest and most abundant blessings imaginable — this *whole earth* for an inheritance, SONSHIP in *God's Family*, and ETERNAL LIFE with which to enjoy it!

But God blessed Abraham *even more* because of his loving obedience and mutual friendship! God placed before Abraham's spiritual offspring — we who become his "seed" through Christ — the SAME OPPORTUNITY to receive these *same great blessings*!

God is always the close, loving friend of those who *obey* Him. He says, "Ye are my *friends*, if ye do whatsoever I *command* you" (John 15:14).

It is within God's plan to become a very close friend of all who lovingly obey His wishes.



And God shows great love in return by doing *wonderful things* for them!

God is going to shower those of us who now learn our lessons of loving obedience with far *greater* blessings than we can imagine! He says, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that LOVE Him" (I Cor. 2:9).

God's PURPOSE for Mankind

God is *love* (I John 4:8). And the way of God's love is GIVING and SHARING. As our loving Friend and Father, God wants to *share* with us the glory and riches of His Kingdom — His Divine Family!

And so, God reveals His great PURPOSE for mankind to His obedient friends: "Let Us make man in *Our* image, after *Our* likeness..." (Gen. 1:26). And, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us; that we should be called the [*spirit-begotten*] SONS OF GOD . . . we know that, when He [Christ] shall appear, we shall be LIKE HIM . . .!" (I John 3:1-2.)

God's plan is to create *GODS* out of mortal mankind — very Sons of *God's Divine Family*!

Notice Christ's earnest desire to make friends of humanity so they may become God's spirit-born Sons: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his LIFE for his friends," Christ said (John 15:13).

Then Christ proceeded to show the extent of His great love for mankind by laying down His *own life* for the world — laying down His precious life for all who would become His *obedient* friends — FOR YOU AND FOR ME!

Christ is overjoyed to be the close Friend of us all and will do *great things* for us if we become His obedient friends. "Submit yourselves therefore to God [OBEY HIM] . . . Draw nigh [NEAR] unto God [as His *obedient* friend]," James was inspired to write, "and He will draw nigh unto *you* [as *your* loving Friend and Father]" (James 4:7-8).

Sabbath Pictures Eternal "Rest"

In addition to Christ's great sacrifice for us, what else did He say He would do? Notice:

Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden [be my *obedient* friends], and I will give you REST"! (Mat. 11:28.) A *gift*! And what kind of rest is this? — "*GLORIOUS REST*"! (Isa. 11:10.)

As our loving Friend and Father, God wants to give each of us His greatest gift of all — *ETERNAL LIFE* — glorious, eternal "rest" in the KINGDOM OF GOD!

In the fourth chapter of Hebrews, the apostle Paul plainly shows us that RESTING from our daily labors on God's Holy Sabbath Day *pictures* our glorious future as spirit-born Sons in God's Family! He shows that Sabbath keeping actually pictures "REST" *from our struggles against sin* which God promises to give His obedient children (Heb. 4:1-11).

When born of God's Spirit, we will no longer suffer the *downward pulls* of our carnal flesh and *sinful* human nature. We will then possess the MIND OF GOD in full. We will have the ability to remain *PERFECTLY OBEDIENT* to God's will *forever*! (I John 3:9.)

And when born into God's Kingdom — when we become very Gods — we will also possess the same kind of gloriously radiant and POWERFUL spirit body that Christ and the Father now have! We will no longer be *limited* by our weak mortal bodies. For it is then that we will possess the powerful capacity for infinite accomplishment with our supremely efficient SPIRIT BODIES! Bodies that will be, by comparison to our weak mortal bodies, *gloriously efficient and effortless*!

God promises to give us all of this when we become His spirit-born Sons! Isn't it astonishing what God will do for us if we now become His *obedient* friends and *spirit-begotten* children?

Eternal Life Offered to ALL Mankind

God promises His gift of eternal life to all peoples of the earth who become, *spiritually* speaking, "Abraham's seed" — those who surrender themselves to the will of Christ and are *spiritually begotten* by the Holy Spirit. "If ye be Christ's, then are ye *Abraham's seed* and HEIRS according to the promise" (Gal. 3:28-29).

As Abraham's "seed," we become heirs of the same promise made to Abraham — the promise of eternal life and sonship in the Kingdom of God. But only if we obey God and REST from all our labors on God's weekly Sabbath Days which *picture* this glorious future.

God reveals this great *spiritual* truth to those who have become sick of the pagan ways of this world and have begun to OBEY Him. He reveals it as a Friend to a friend.

But only those who *continue to obey* God's command to keep the Sabbath will finally enter the glorious "rest" of God's Kingdom and receive the gift of eternal, spiritual life!

No Sabbath Keeping — No Holy Spirit

God, who is the loving Friend of mankind, offers us the priceless gift of His Holy Spirit. A

gift which imparts all the peace and joy the human heart really longs for. Yes, and ultimately *eternal life* — eternal “rest” from this carnal, mundane life!

But to *whom* will God give the precious gift of His Holy Spirit? What does God expect of those who are recipients of His Spirit? Notice the answer in Acts 5:32: “the Holy Spirit... God hath given to them that **OBEY HIM**” — OBEY His *Ten Commandments*, which includes **SABBATH KEEPING!**

To carnal man, there is *seemingly* no earthly reason whatever to keep a sequence of Sabbath Days. Man, so he reasons, could rest as well on other days he would choose for himself.

But *keeping*, or *not keeping* God’s Sabbath Days **REVEALS AN ATTITUDE!** Keeping them shows a **WILLINGNESS** to forsake our *own* thoughts for periods of time specified by God. It shows a

willingness to learn — to study, to think and to meditate on the really important matters of the universe — and an *attitude toward development* of **GOD-LIKE CHARACTER!**

And keeping God’s Sabbath reveals an attitude of **SIMPLE OBEDIENCE** just because *God* says so! — although all carnal *human reasoning* says “no.” To the carnal, unrepentant mind, Sabbath keeping seems so unfathomable, unnecessary, and sometimes *annoying!* (Although to the *repentant*, spirit-begotten mind, the Sabbath is eagerly looked forward to every week.)

Sabbath keeping plainly is a *test* of our **ATTITUDE** to reveal whether we *really* want to OBEY and **DEPEND** on God and *receive* His Holy Spirit!

So now let’s understand exactly how God created the weekly Sabbath, *how* it is to be kept holy, and *why* it is so valuable to us today.

LESSON 27

Origin of God’s Weekly Sabbath

1. Who created everything that exists? John 1:1-3; Eph. 3:9 and Col. 1:16.

COMMENT: Jesus *Christ* is called the “Word” — the “*Spokesman*,” as the original Greek in John 1:1 may be translated. Jesus has been with the Father from the beginning of the earth, and *all things* were made by Him — by Jesus Christ!

2. What did God do on the *first* day of what we call Creation Week? Gen. 1:3-5.

COMMENT: God the Father and God the Son constitute the present God Family. It was the God who later became the *Son* who is spoken of here. He did the actual creating, with the sanction of the God who became the *Father*.

3. And what was done on the *second* day? Gen. 1:6-8. And did God use a *third* day on which to do something else? Verses 9-13. And a *fourth* day to make still other things? Verses 14-19. And a *fifth* day for creating another class of things? Verses 20-23. Then did God create animals and **MAN** on the *sixth* day? Verses 24-26, 31.

COMMENT: We see by the foregoing verses that God made and created all these things in just the first **SIX DAYS** of *Creation Week*.

4. What did the Divine Person — who later became the human Jesus Christ — do on the day *immediately following* His creation of man? Gen. 2:2-3. Christ did not rest because He was

tired and weary from His work of creating, did He? Isa. 40:28. Then He obviously did it for *another reason!* Did this final *act* of Christ on the *seventh* day **COMPLETE** the works of God’s creation? Refer to Genesis 2:2 again, and write down Hebrews 4:3-4.

COMMENT: The Sabbath had never existed prior to this time. Therefore, God had to bring it into existence. He did so by **RESTING** on the *seventh* day. This act of resting therefore **MADE** the Sabbath Day a *part of God’s creation!* Notice: “... On the *seventh* day [not before or after it] God ended His work [of creation] which He had *made*...” (Gen. 2:2).

The scriptures plainly show us that the Sabbath was made during the *same* seven-day period of time that man was made. And it was made by the Divine Person who later became Jesus Christ. It was made on the *last* of **SEVEN LITERAL 24-HOUR DAYS**, and was made an intrinsic *part* of man’s environment!








5. What else did God do to the seventh day? Gen. 2:3.

COMMENT: Notice that God “*blessed*” the seventh day and “*sanctified*” it. *Such an honor was not conferred upon any of the preceding six days.* When God *blesses something*, He bestows His divine *favor* upon, and His *divine presence* in that thing. He is especially near at that time.

The very word “sanctify” means *to set apart for a HOLY USE or PURPOSE!* By *resting* on the seventh day, God “sanctified” it — set it apart

THE FIRST SEVEN-DAY WEEK

(Counting From Sunset to Sunset)

Order of Days	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
Days of Week	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Divisions of Night and Day Periods							
Hours per Day	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
Occurrence or Special Creation on Each Day — Gen. 1:3-31; 2:1-3	Light appears on earth	Waters divided	Dry land appears, vegetation created	Sun, moon and stars appear	Fish and birds created	Land animals and man created	Sabbath created by rest

—from the other six days of the week. In so doing He made the *seventh* day HOLY!

Thus we see that by the very act of resting on the seventh day, Almighty God put His divine favor upon and set apart for holy use and purpose the most *enduring* thing there is — a certain space of time which comes around *regularly every seven days!*

And by setting aside the first Sabbath in this way, God also made EVERY *FUTURE* SABBATH — EVERY SEVENTH day of the week — HOLY ALSO!

Made for MAN

1. Was God's resting on the seventh day an *example* to show Adam — the first man — and all mankind that *we should rest* from our work on this day? Ex. 20:11.

2. Did God make the Sabbath for Adam only, or just for the Jews, or for ALL of *mankind*? Mark 2:27-28. Is the whole human race *commanded* to keep God's Sabbath? Ex. 20:8-10.

COMMENT: Christ said that at creation the Sabbath was made for *man* — FOR ALL MAN-KIND! Adam was the first man, therefore he stood as the *representative of the WHOLE HUMAN RACE* which has descended from him.

It is *ridiculous* to think that the Sabbath was made only for the Jews, since the first Jew was not born until over 2,000 years *later!* Judah, a son of Jacob, was the father of the Jewish family and nation (Gen. 29:35).

3. Why was the Sabbath made for man? How did God intend it to serve man's needs? Ex. 20:8 and Deut. 5:12-14.

COMMENT: Notice that God made the seventh day of the week *holy* — and on His authority

as our Creator He commands us to *keep* it that way! The Sabbath, then, is *holy* time. Yet it was made for man — for *all* mankind — to be a GREAT BLESSING for *all* humanity!

Our Creator knew that we *mortals* would need a period of rest from our physical labors and for the WORSHIP OF GOD every seventh day. This is the *basic purpose* for which the Sabbath was created.

Each of us tends to become overly absorbed in our daily cares, our work and our pleasures during the week. Our Creator foresaw that we would need a time set apart — His Sabbath Day — as a consecrated time when we can completely forget our daily routine and *draw closer* to the Creator God in study, meditation and prayer.

Modern man *desperately needs* this period of time in which to have real communion with God Who is creating him to become His glorified Son! Time in which to think upon God, to worship Him, to pray, to study and meditate upon the PURPOSE of his human existence and upon *God's revealed laws of life*. God knew that all of this would add great strength and meaning to man's life during the next *six* days of each week.

The Sabbath is truly one of the greatest BLESSINGS God has bestowed upon the human family!

When we keep the Sabbath Day as God intends, we are showing our *faith*, our belief, in God's promise of a *future* eternal "rest" — glorious *spirit life* in the Kingdom of God — just as we illustrate in the act of baptism our faith in the *past* death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

By resting on the Sabbath, we are, in a sense, "*acting out*" the KINGDOM OF GOD — our future as the Spirit-born Sons of God's glorious Family!



H. Armstrong Roberts

Times Square, New York City, epitomizes man's daily cares, work and pleasures. We desperately need God's Sabbath each week to get our minds off this world's glitter and on God!

The Sabbath Is God's "Sign"

God reveals that Sabbath keeping is a special "sign" of *identification* between Him and His people. Let's learn how it is a "sign."

1. What great blessing did God promise to give Abraham? Rom. 4:13.

COMMENT: We know that at the resurrection God will give Abraham this entire earth as an eternal inheritance, because of his outstandingly *willing attitude* and great OBEDIENCE to God.

But God blessed Abraham even more by offering his descendants the *same blessing*, if they would also conduct themselves obediently.

2. Later Abraham's descendants, the Israelites, because of famine in their own land, went down into Egypt — a land which God considers

as a *type* of SIN (Heb. 11:24-26). Israel gradually became enslaved in Egypt.

But because of Abraham's obedience and God's promise to him and his descendants, did God raise up a deliverer to bring the Israelites out of Egypt — out of "sin"? Ex. 3:10-12.

3. After delivering them out of Egypt, did God give the Israelites a *special "sign"*? Ex. 31:13. What was this "sign"? Was it a space of *time* — GOD'S SABBATH? Same verse. Who was this *sign* between? Same verse. How were they to be able to have this sign — by *resting*? Verse 15. How were the Israelites to benefit by *resting* on God's Sabbaths — would they be KEPT IN REMEMBRANCE, as long as they kept them, that God is the *true Lord*? Verse 13.

COMMENT: In order that Israel — the de-

scendants of Abraham, Abraham's "seed" — would never forget that God is Creator, Sustainer, and Supreme Ruler over all His creation, God revealed the one great "SIGN" BY WHICH THEY COULD ALWAYS REMEMBER WHO HE IS!

That *sign* is a constantly recurring space of time — the *seventh* day of the week, the Sabbath.

4. How long was Israel to keep the *Sabbath* — forever? Ex. 31:16, last four words. The word "perpetual" means *forever*. Did God make a special, *separate* Sabbath "Covenant" with His people? Same verse.

COMMENT: The Sabbath was, and is, so *important* for mankind, God DOUBLY COMMANDED Sabbath Day keeping by making this special and *separate covenant* with His people Israel! (The Sabbath was *already* commanded in the Ten Commandments which God had given them *earlier* — Ex. 20:8.) Here is an *everlasting* covenant to identify the true Creator God of Israel!

All other nations had forgotten God because they had forgotten the keeping of His Sabbath Day. Israel *alone* had the "sign" to prove that God — the Lord of Heaven and earth — was their God and Creator.

5. But now notice something additional. Was resting on the Sabbath Day to also be a "sign" to Abraham's descendants of something *else*? Ex. 31:13, the last five words. Doesn't this verse show that they would have always known — if they had *continued* to rest on the Sabbath Day — that the Creator God was setting them apart for a *particular holy use*?

COMMENT: The word "sanctify" means to *set apart* or *make holy*.

6. Were the Israelites to be a "*holy nation*" and a "*kingdom of priests*"? Ex. 19:6.

COMMENT: Israel was to be *sanctified* — be set apart and made holy — as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. They were to *lead others* to the SAME CONDITION OF HOLINESS!

Abraham's descendants were thus to be *set apart* for this special HOLY MISSION AND DUTY. Resting on God's Sabbaths also was to be a "sign" that they were God's *chosen* people, selected for this purpose.

God called Abraham's "seed" out of Egyptian bondage — the sin of this "world" — to perform a special mission. It was the most important calling any nation has ever been given in all the history of mankind. God called them so that *through them* He could REVEAL HIMSELF TO THE WORLD — to show that *He* is the Creator and Ruler of the universe, and reveal His laws, commandments, blessings and great plan for mankind!

7. But *notice!* Were the called "seed" of

Abraham already holy, or were they to *become* a holy people? Deut. 7:6-9.

COMMENT: The *italicized* word "art" in verse 6 has been wrongly added by the translators. These Old Covenant Israelites were *not holy* — they were supposed to *BECOME HOLY!*

8. Did the Old Covenant fleshly "seed" of Abraham *fail* to become holy? Ezek. 20:13. Notice the word "*rebelled*." And what did they do regarding *resting* on God's Sabbaths? Same verse.

COMMENT: Had Old Covenant Israel kept the Sabbath Day as God commanded them, He would have established a Priesthood of Holiness — ministers of True Holiness who would have instructed the Israelites *in the ways of God* as they rested on His Sabbath Days. And they would have become, thereby, a holy nation fit and able to teach others. But the Old Covenant Israelites would *not* keep the Sabbath, and therefore did *not become holy*.



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RESULT OF DISOBEDIENCE — God sometimes punished His people very severely for rebelling against Him. Sabbath breaking was prominent among ancient Israel's disobedience.

God therefore set up another type of priesthood — the Levitical Priesthood — which ministered things of *no lasting value* — ministered a rignmarole of sacrificial rituals which led the people to nothing they *really* wanted then and there!

Since the Old Covenant Israelites failed to *rest* on the Sabbath, they failed to remember the true Creator God, and that they were to become a holy people — a kingdom of priests who were to reveal to the world the Creator God, His blessings and His plan.

They failed because they did *not* have the HOLY SPIRIT to empower them. And for this reason they could *not have the promise of salvation at that time either*, “for the Holy Spirit was *not yet given*” (John 7:38-39).

God's “Sign” Necessary for Salvation Today

What has resting on the Sabbath — having God's Sabbath “Sign” — to do with salvation today? It is vital that we understand. Let's see what the Bible says.

1. Doesn't the Bible plainly reveal that to be a true Christian today one must become a *spiritual* Israelite — become Abraham's “seed” through Christ — in order to inherit the *same* covenant promise of eternal life that was made to Abraham and “his seed”? Rom. 4:16; 9:4 and Gal. 3:28-29.

2. So today must a spiritual Israelite (a Holy Spirit-begotten Christian) have to possess God's “sign” (*keep God's Sabbath*) in order to be “sanctified” — be set apart to be MADE HOLY? Ex. 31:13.

COMMENT: God made the Sabbath Covenant with the ancient Israelites — Abraham's physical “seed.” It was to be obeyed “*throughout*” their generations. Today, all true Christians are Abraham's *spiritual* “seed” through Christ.

So today every true Christian *must also keep the Sabbath!* He must keep it in order to remember it is the Creator God who *makes* man holy. He must have the Sabbath “Sign” in order to be *made Holy himself*. For after we are spiritually begotten we are to GROW in God's holy character, *through the help of His powerful Holy Spirit*, until we are born of God! Yes, *God alone* can make man holy!

3. Today, to what *purpose* are such true Christians — spirit-begotten Israelites, that is, Abraham's “seed” — especially “set apart” from this present evil world and *used* in God's service?

COMMENT: *The truth is astonishing!* The Old Covenant Israelites *failed* to respond to their calling because they would *not rest* on the Sabbath and receive instruction in God's Holiness. They did not have the Holy Spirit to

help them *recognize or understand* this call and CARRY IT OUT!

But *we*, if we become spirit-begotten New Covenant Israelites, *do have the Holy Spirit* to help us recognize this call and obey God. We have the *spiritual perception* to UNDERSTAND God's calling and the *spiritual power* to CARRY IT OUT.

Old Covenant Israel *never* became “a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.” But *we* can now become a relatively holy and competent “nation” by the *power* of the Holy Spirit! And it is *we* who can become the *completely holy* “nation” of “kings and priests” that God vowed to make of Abraham's “seed” (Ex. 19:6).

We will become this “nation” when we're BORN into the great *Kingdom of God* at Christ's soon coming. Christ will then have made us “kings and priests” unto Himself and His Father (Rev. 1:6). Then God's purpose will be COMPLETELY FULFILLED IN US!

Yes, *we* — if we are spirit-begotten New Covenant Israelites — *do have the POWER* of the Holy Spirit to save us. And we are receiving instruction in God's Holiness as we *rest* on His Sabbath Days.

We show by our *keeping* of God's ordained Sabbath Day that we *know* our God, that He is our Creator, and that we *know* our MISSION and our GOAL. We know that we are, at Christ's soon coming, to be *changed* into immortal spirit beings and as such are to be made kings and priests (Rev. 1:5-6; 5:10; 20:6) to serve the world throughout the Millennium as members of the Kingdom of God!

So it is God's True Church — composed of spirit-begotten Christians — which is *now* spreading the GOSPEL, the *Good News*, to all the world — telling of God our Creator, His divinely just laws, His blessings, and His plan for mankind — just before Christ's imminent return! And God's Church is *spiritually nourishing* those He has called to become His glorified Sons in the Kingdom of God.

This is YOUR GOAL, *isn't it?* Then keep the DAY on which you may *receive instruction in God's Holiness* — KEEP SATURDAY, THE SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH OF ALMIGHTY GOD!

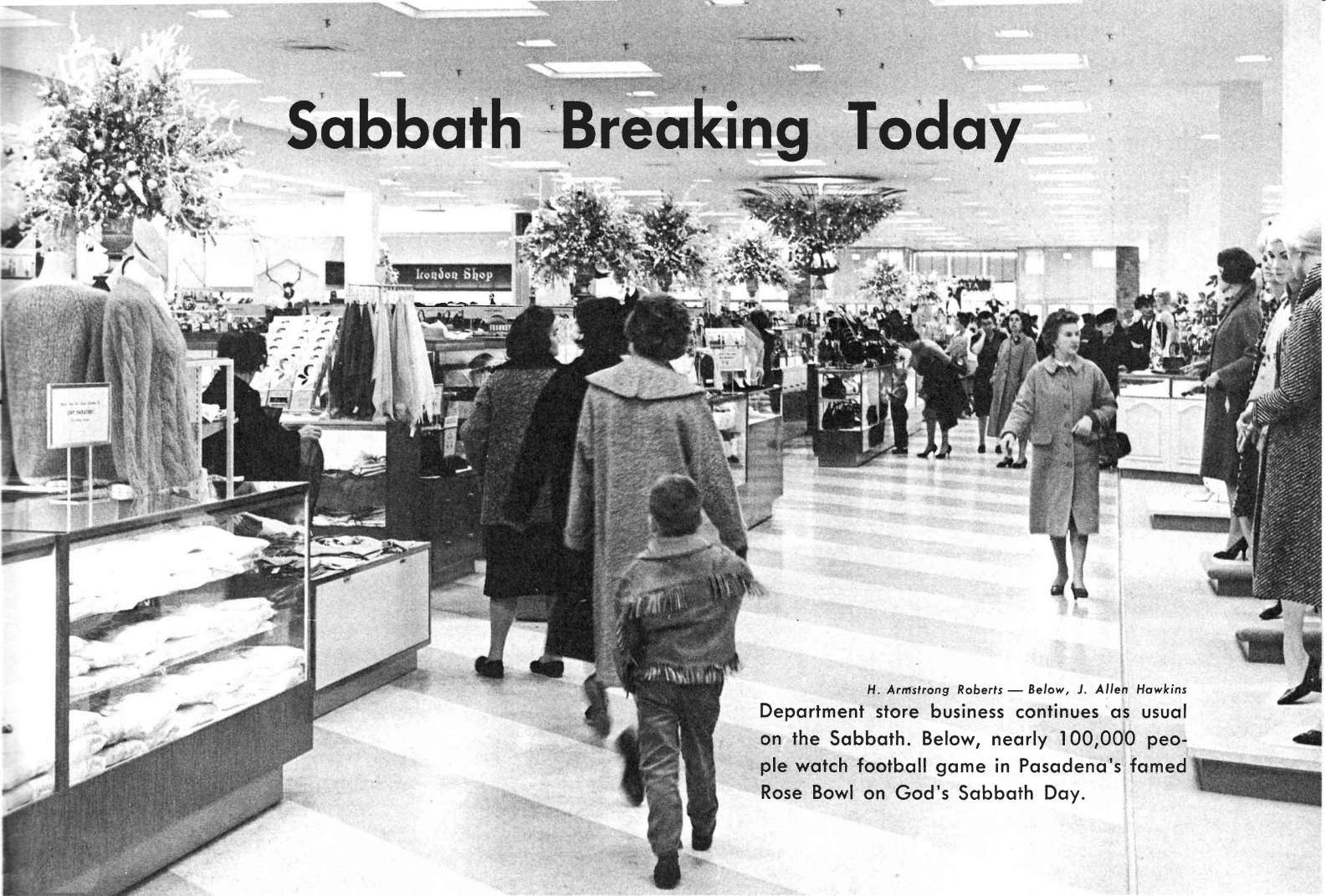
Sabbath Keeping Specifically Commanded Today!

1. Does one of God's great Ten Commandments specifically *command* us to keep the Sabbath today? Ex. 20:8.

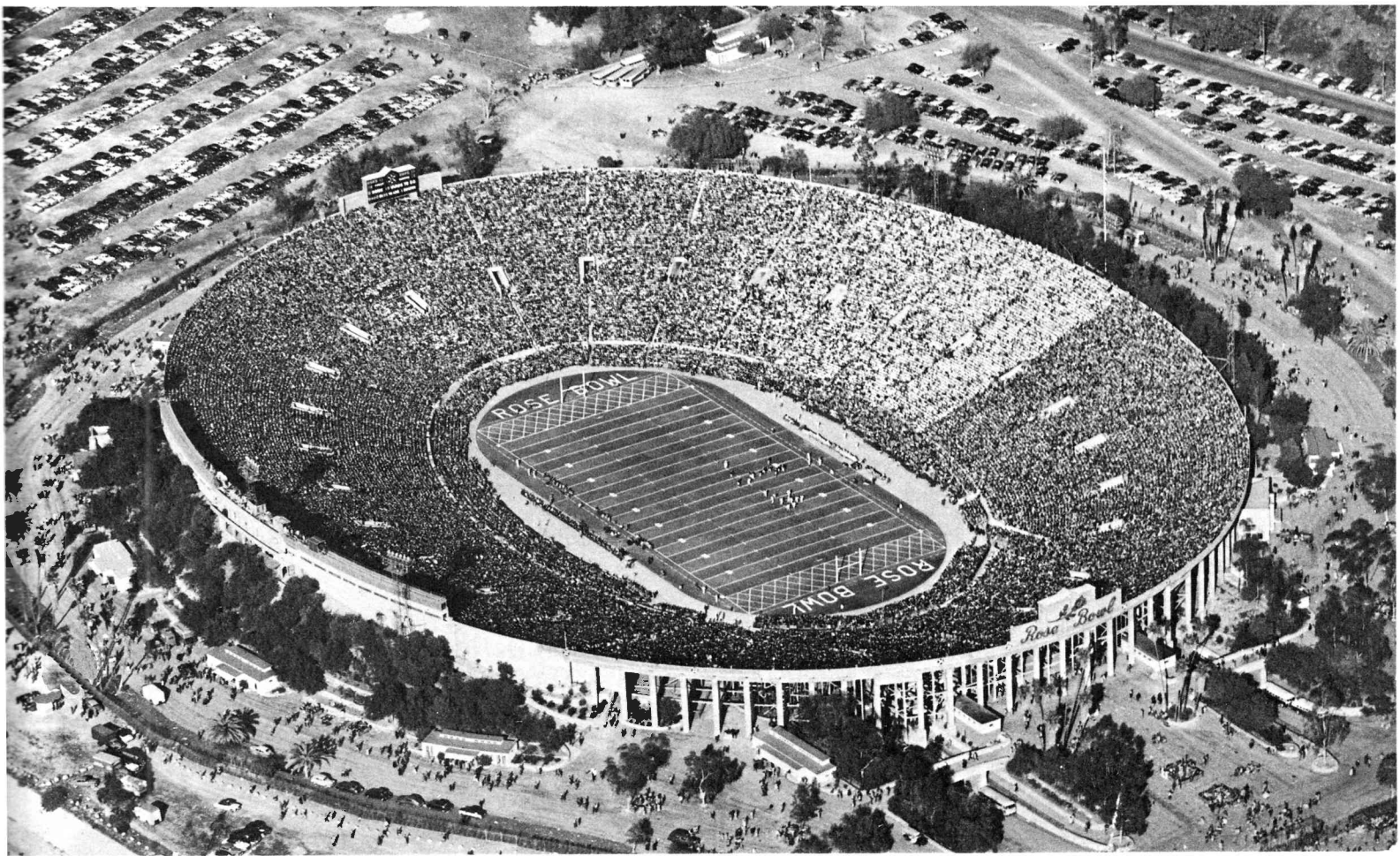
COMMENT: We learned in Lesson 17 that God's great spiritual law has been in full force and effect *from Adam until today!*

2. Are we to be obedient to God's commands

Sabbath Breaking Today



H. Armstrong Roberts — Below, J. Allen Hawkins
Department store business continues as usual on the Sabbath. Below, nearly 100,000 people watch football game in Pasadena's famed Rose Bowl on God's Sabbath Day.





Wide World

Incidence of "natural disasters" continues to rise sharply. God promises PROTECTION for those who hallow His Sabbaths!

and keep His Sabbath — *not* being rebellious as were the Old Covenant Israelites who would not *do* what God commanded, or keep His Sabbaths? Heb. 3:8-10. Did God, for this reason, prevent them from entering His "rest"? Verse 11 and Ezek. 20:13, 15.

COMMENT: We know that Old Covenant Israel was rebellious and that God never allowed those of that rebellious generation to enter the land of Palestine — the land God uses as a *type* of the Millennium and the Kingdom of God.

3. Was it primarily because they wouldn't *believe*, and therefore wouldn't *do* the Sabbath command that Israel didn't enter God's "rest" — the land of Palestine? Heb. 4:1-2. But if *we believe*, and OBEY this and God's other commandments, will we *enter* God's eternal "rest" — the Kingdom of God? Verse 3 — first nine words. Will we be following the *example* Christ set for us when He rested on the seventh day of Creation Week? Verse 4.

COMMENT: How clear it is that we *must* keep the Sabbath Day if we are to enter the Kingdom of God.

4. If we are *really* God's people, will we *continually* keep God's "rest" — His weekly Sabbath Day? Heb. 4:9-10.

COMMENT: The word appearing as "rest" in verse 9 is not translated properly. In the original Greek it is "*Sabbatismos*," which means that there still *REMAINS A KEEPING OF THE SABBATH FOR GOD'S PEOPLE TODAY!* Those *not* keeping the Sabbath will *not* be bearing God's Sabbath "sign" which identifies His people, and therefore will NOT BE BORN OF GOD at Christ's coming!

Yes, the *Sabbath* is God's "sign" showing that He is the One who is separating *us* from this present evil world and making *us* into His Holy people. And the only way we can keep the Sabbath as Holy time is by *DOING* what He commands on that day — by *RESTING from our physical labors!*

The evidence that we are to keep the Sabbath *today* is overwhelming. The word "Sabbath," which means *REST*, appears *sixty times* alone in the New Covenant part — the "New Testament" — of your Bible!

Creation Week the Pattern for God's Plan

God has ordained an overall period of time in which He is accomplishing His spiritual creation of mankind. The *pattern* for God's little-understood plan is given in the first two chapters of Genesis. It is the *WEEK* of *seven* days.

God's plan is patterned after the six *literal* twenty-four-hour work days and one twenty-four-hour Sabbath Day of "Creation Week." It's very important that we understand this vital truth!

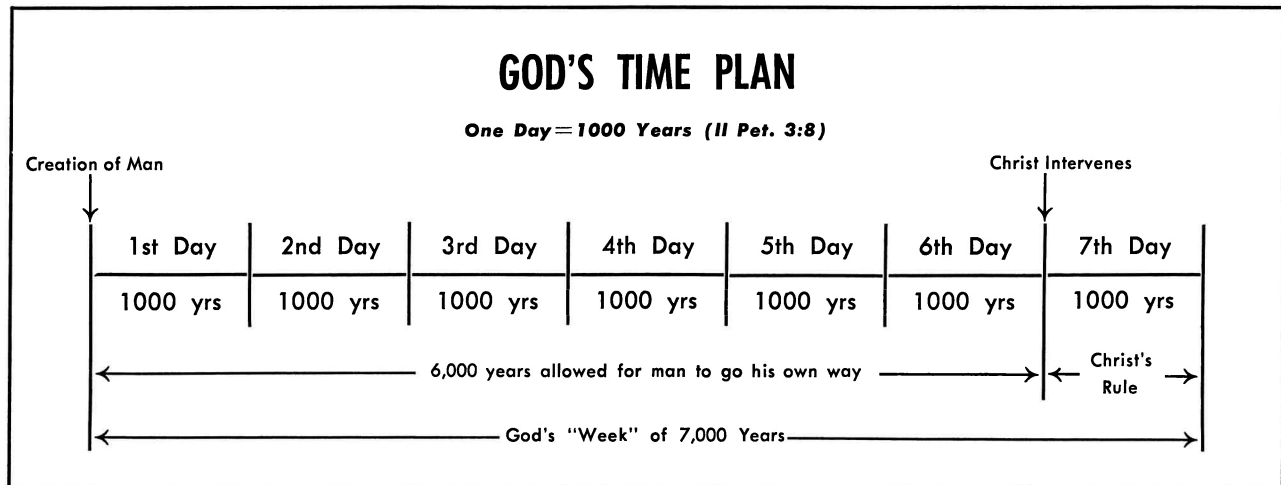
1. Was God's work of creation accomplished in *seven literal days*? Gen. 2:2.

2. And does the weekly Sabbath also *foreshadow* God's one-thousand-year Millennium of rest and peace for the physical people of this earth? II Pet. 3:8 and Rev. 20:1-5.

COMMENT: A day in God's *PLAN* is as "a thousand years," and "a thousand years" of human civilization is as *one* day in His planned *WEEK* of *seven 1,000-year "days"*!

God also planned the weekly Sabbath Day to foreshadow, or be a *type* of, the 1,000-year millennial period when He is going to bring the world to repentance so man can be begotten and born into His Family. This 1,000-year millennial period will become a time of *rest* and *peace* for the physical inhabitants of the world — a veritable 1,000-year "SABBATH" OF REST *from wars and Satan's temptations!*

And the total of the *other six days* of Creation Week clearly corresponds to the 6,000-year period of human civilization in which we *now* find ourselves. This, then, constitutes God's six-thousand-year and one-thousand-year *Plan* — a great "WEEK" OF 7,000 YEARS!



It's LATER Than You Think!

God made an astounding statement within the seven literal days of Creation Week—in the very first chapter of the Bible.

1. What was the astounding statement God made in Genesis 1:26?

COMMENT: God reveals that it is His purpose to create man in the very Spiritual character and composition of the God Family! And God said, *in effect*, that He would create man spiritually within a “week”—within a period of *seven thousand years*.

God has allotted carnal mankind the first 6,000 years of His 7,000-year Plan to *experience* the “fruits” of his own labors.

Man has been learning, by hard experience, that the “fruits” of his own ways—living by his *own* laws and under his *own* governments—has produced nothing but *sin*, SUFFERING and DEATH! God has allowed all this so that when He finally sets His hand to save the world, men will KNOW *beyond the shadow of a doubt* that GOD'S WAYS are *best after all*!

Many Bibles give the *date* of Creation Week as 4004 B. C. There is abundant evidence showing that *this date is reasonably accurate*! That means it's MUCH LATER than you think!!

It means we are *very near* the close of 6,000 years of human history and the beginning of God's 1,000-year Millennium!

The *TIME LEFT FOR PREPARING* to be born of God at Christ's coming IS BECOMING *VERY SHORT*!

2. What is to be the ultimate *end* of all those who will never obey God and keep His Sabbath Day? Rev. 21:8.

COMMENT: If we are *not* obeying God's Sabbath command because of “*unbelief*”—lack of *faith* in what God says in His Word—if we *PERSIST* in *refusing to rest* on the Sabbath Day, we will be showing God the *wrong attitude*

which points to a different type of eternal “rest”—the rest of *ETERNAL DEATH*! And those who *PERSIST* in keeping any day of the week *other* than God's ordained Holy Sabbath, are also showing this same *wrong attitude* to God!

FAITH — the Key

There are people today who have come to *know* and *understand* the truth about God's Sabbath, but are hesitant to begin keeping it. They *excuse* themselves by saying the *PRESSURES* of the world would absolutely prevent it—pressures of business, pressures of friends, of children, of pleasures and pressures from other sources.

Their problem is a *lack of FAITH* TO STEP OUT IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD, *trusting Him* to work everything out for their good—if they would only *resist* worldly pressures by *RESTING* from all their own pursuits on the Sabbath!

Do you know that such people—and this *may* include you—are being put to God's *supreme test* in His challenge, His *command* to rest on the Sabbath?

Nowhere does God promise that you will receive eternal life if you *just* rest on the Sabbath. But God does say, “If thou wilt enter into [eternal] life, *KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS*”—one of which is “*keep the Sabbath*”! (Mat. 19:17.)

Did you ever wonder *why* God singles out *one* of the Ten Commandments—the *fourth*—and insists again and again that we must keep it by resting on the seventh day of the week? The Sabbath is mentioned sixty times in the New Testament alone. And many more times in the Old Testament.

Here is the reason. GRASP IT FULLY!

Of all God's commandments, Sabbath keeping is the one that appeals the *least* to CARNAL-NATURED MAN. To the carnal, unrepentant mind, Sabbath keeping seems ridiculous and abso-

lutely unnecessary. Carnal man just does *not want to keep it!*

No wonder God stresses Sabbath keeping so much in the Bible. It is a **TEST** to ascertain our *complete, trusting, surrender to His will!!*

If we do *completely surrender* to God in continuous *trusting faith* and do all He commands, He promises to shower us with the *really worthwhile* blessings of this life, and glorious spirit life **FOR ETERNITY!**

Let's study now the scriptures which exhort us to step out in *faith* and **REST** on God's Sabbath Day — Saturday, the seventh day of the week — whatever may be the *seeming* "odds" against us.

1. We know that a generation of Old Covenant Israel did not enter the land of Palestine, which God uses as a *symbol* of the Kingdom of God. They *died* without entering. Was it because of "unbelief" — *lack of faith* and resultant **DISOBEDIENCE** to God? Heb. 3:10-12, 18-19.

2. Must we have *faith* before God will give us eternal "rest" — eternal life in His Kingdom? Heb. 4:1-3, 6.

COMMENT: Note the words "*faith*," in verse 2, and "*believed*," in verse 3.

3. Are we warned against showing a lack of *faith* by "hardening our hearts"? Verse 7. And does verse 11 show that we must **STEP OUT** in *faith* and rest on the Sabbath? Note the warning against "unbelief" — lack of *faith* and *obedience* to God.

COMMENT: How clear it becomes that we must **EXERCISE FAITH IN KEEPING THE SABBATH.**

4. Does Christ verify the fact that *we* must take the **FIRST STEP** in obeying Him, if we are to receive Divine help to do His will? Mat. 11:28.

COMMENT: Notice carefully that Christ did *not* say He would take the *first step* for us! Rather Christ said, "[You] *come* to Me" — come to Christ — that is, *obey* and *follow* His examples and commandments as well as you humanly can, and seek the *manner* in which you may draw close to Him — and *then* He promises: "I will give you *rest*!"

WE MUST TAKE THE FIRST STEP IN OBEYING GOD. Then God will give us His Holy Spirit which will impart the *additional* strength and faith we need to obey Him!

5. If we run into difficulty in being able to keep God's Sabbath — think we will lose our job because of keeping it, or whatever — how may we receive *Divine* help in keeping this day, and in doing what we are taught on it? Heb. 4:14, 16. Are we to come "boldly" to God in **PRAYER** and *ask for His guidance and strength* in overcoming all obstacles which *seem* to prevent us? Verse 16.

COMMENT: The whole chapter of Hebrews 4 is about keeping the Sabbath! And it closes with *how* we may receive Divine help in keeping it, and doing the things which are taught on this Day.

Even the apostles who had the human faith to follow Christ, found they did not have *enough* faith for their needs — "The apostles said unto the Lord, **INCREASE our faith**" (Luke 17:5). But Christ replied, "Serve Me [first step out on your *own* faith and **OBEY** me — *rest* upon the Sabbath Day] . . . and *afterward* thou shalt eat and drink [afterward you will be given *Divine faith*]" (verse 8).

You must keep the Sabbath through your *own* faith *first* — "*from* faith [of *self*] to **FAITH**" OF God — " . . . from [your own] faith to [the *Divine powerful*] faith [which God will miraculously place within you to **TRUST HIM**]: as it is written, the just shall live by [God's] faith" (Rom. 1:17). You must make the *first move*, then God will help you.

How abundantly clear that we must make the initial move by beginning to rest on the Sabbath. God exhorts us to step out in faith — even though obstacles to our obeying Him may *seem* insurmountable — and then **CONTINUE TO OBEY GOD THROUGH THE DIVINE FAITH WHICH HE PROMISES TO SUPPLY!**

What to Do

We are practically at the tip end of the *sixth* "day" in God's "week" of 7,000 years. Very soon the *seventh* 1000-year "day" will be ushered in by the appearance of Jesus Christ. The time is indeed *very short!*

God has shown you in His Word that if you have *truly repented* of your disobedience to His laws, you will want to zealously *begin* keeping God's Sabbath Day. You will want to *step out in faith* by **RESTING** on this day! And you'll want to **QUIT OBSERVING ANY DAY OTHER THAN GOD'S SABBATH!**

Only the keeping of God's *Sabbath* (as well as His other commandments) in the way *He* ordains, will fit you for your goal of eternal life and sonship in God's glorious Family!

God will especially *condition* you toward this marvelous future on the Sabbath. On this day you will be *especially close* to God, and you'll grow in His *spiritual* grace and knowledge through **PRAYER** and **BIBLE STUDY.**

But keeping the Sabbath as God commands does not mean that you must attend a church on this day. You may **KEEP THE SABBATH RIGHT IN YOUR OWN HOME** for the present.

Why stay at home?



Ambassador College

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong (right) and Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong (left) broadcast the dynamic WORLD TOMORROW program to the English-speaking world. Millions hear it every day!

Because there are certain churches into which you might be *mised*. Churches which happen to observe the seventh-day Sabbath — churches whose *names* even bear, in part, the words “Seventh Day.” *But don’t be deceived!*

Just because these churches have a “*form of Godliness*” (II Tim. 3:5) — have an *outward* appearance of “*keeping*” God’s Sabbath — does *not* mean you should attend their services! For in reality, these churches *disobey* God in most points of His law — which includes their *improper* observance of God’s *Sabbath*!!

There also are several small religious sects which claim to keep the Sabbath. But they are *not the churches of God either* — even though they may recognize and *appropriate* the true Bible name “Church of God”!

You definitely should *not* meet with those who are **BLINDED** to the truth! The apostle Paul commanded Christians “**BE YE NOT UNEQUALLY YOKED TOGETHER WITH UNBELIEVERS**; for what *fellowship* hath righteousness with unrighteousness and what communion hath light with darkness?” (II Cor. 6:14). You cannot afford to fellowship with Satan, (his ministers (II Cor. 11:13-15), or churches who *refuse* to obey all of God’s commandments!

Already you have seen by the “*fruits*” that only The Worldwide Church of God, with headquarters in Pasadena, California, is *faithfully keeping* “the testimony of Jesus Christ”

(Rev. 12:17) with the help of God’s Holy Spirit. And only this church is carrying out God’s great commission to preach the *true* Gospel to the world as a “*witness*” (Matt. 24:14).

GOD HAS ONLY ONE CHURCH — *not* many differing denominations and sects!

You have seen by the “*fruits*” that this is the only Church God is using to continually feed you the true spiritual food of His Holy, inspired Word — the Bible. This is the only way you may *grow spiritually* and overcome in this life, and be *ready* to be born into God’s Family — to receive glorious and joyous eternal life!

Remember, the “World Tomorrow” radio broadcast can be heard in most areas. You are, in a sense, attending the greatest church service on earth which is “*attended*” by *millions* of others when you listen!

(We are happy to announce that it is now possible for many more to *attend* Worldwide Church of God Sabbath services in the U. S. and abroad. If you would like more information, write to the Editor in care of our office nearest you. See page 2 for the address. Be sure to mention you have completed lesson 27 of the Ambassador College Correspondence Course.)

(To Be Continued)

What our STUDENTS SAY

(Continued from page 2)

mine after only three lessons of the Correspondence Course. I then questioned him regarding the keeping of the Sabbath Day. He readily admitted that he knew that Saturday was the true Sabbath, but custom dictated that Sunday be kept.

"I then visited the local . . . Minister. This man is a Doctor of Divinity and I thought he would know the Bible backwards. I asked him the same questions and he admitted that he knew very little of the Book of Revelation, but did not believe in the prophecies.

"I returned home and went back to my notes and reread all the information sent by Mr. Armstrong. Everything that was written was backed up to the hilt by repeated references to the Bible, not in one place, but in many. My conclusion is that the two alleged ministers of God are among the prophesied false prophets. I can only thank God that I heard of Mr. Armstrong and through him rediscovered God before it was too late."

— David B., Manitoba, Canada

• "By their *FRUITS* ye shall know them," said Jesus (Mat. 7:20).

Keeps God's Sabbath

"I want to tell you how much I appreciate your home study Correspondence Course. I have learned more from the Correspondence Course than I have from going to church. I do not go to church now as I am out too far from one and do not have a car. So I just study and hear you on the air, and hope God will forgive me for not going to church. But they do not teach you what is in the Bible. They always talk about someone or what has happened in some other city. They do not concern themselves with the Bible of Jesus Christ our Lord.

"I have read the Bible so many times, but never understood it like I do now. But I could not understand all that was in the Bible. Now as I go along with my Bible Study Course, it is so much clearer and I love it. I am now keeping Saturday as a holy day, not Sunday. I am sure you're right. And I want to thank you all for the Correspondence Course. Do not get me wrong. I can learn a lot more. But thanks to you I am doing so much better."

— Mrs. E. V. S., Madison Heights,
Michigan

Was In a Rut

"Up until 18 months ago I still attended a local organized church with my wife and children. But after continuing my studies through your Course, I began to realize we were not receiving the truth concerning salvation, and of course, not getting any satisfactory answers as to why we existed in the first place.

"When I would confront someone with a verse from the Bible that contradicted the teaching of this particular church, he would either try to explain it away or evade the question entirely. As a matter of fact, our pastor gave a sermon on why we keep Sunday instead of the Seventh Day and he was so vague on the subject I almost felt sorry for him. So instead of staying in a rut, I simply quit going and shortly afterward my wife quit attending also."

— Man, Glen Burnie, Maryland

Obeys God in Faith

"Something very special and wonderful has happened since I last wrote. I was teaching an Adult Sunday School class and the minister came in one Sunday morning to sit in on the class. I brought up some subjects that weren't in the lesson such as, What are we? And I read Genesis 2:7. He said it didn't mean what I thought it meant. And he said the soul of Christ didn't die, just His body died and was buried — that the soul couldn't die because it was immortal. And many other things were brought out contrary to Bible teachings.

"When I got home that day, the words fairly jumped out at me, from Lesson 27 of the Ambassador College Correspondence Course, to come out from among the blind and unbelievers. So, I stepped out in faith knowing that I would be persecuted for doing so. I withdrew all connection with the church. How I praise God for raising up ministers and true servants as a witness, for His soon coming in these end times."

— Mrs. W. H. C., Mt. Sterling, Ohio

College Student

"I am trying very hard to study my Correspondence Course here at college, even with all my subjects, which seem so worthless compared to my Correspondence Course. It is a relief to study the Bible after studying 'evolution in biology' and English literature.

"I am also trying hard to keep the true Sabbath. I used to believe that I couldn't possibly complete all my studies if I rested the whole Sabbath day, but I find that I not only complete my subjects just as easily, but that I make just as good or even better grades than before!! I also find that I am more rested and relaxed."

— James L., Natchitoches, Louisiana

• God promises to bless those who *TRUST* and *OBEY* Him!