

GOD'S ETERNAL REST

Last week we learned that Gen.2:1-3 was a colophon – “An inscription placed at the end of a book or manuscript usu. with facts related to its production.” (Webster 9th Collegiate Dictionary)

The Book of Genesis is actually two Hebrew manuscripts combined in one book. The first manuscript is the original creation-restoration recorded in Gen.1:1-2:1-3. The second manuscript is Generations of the messianic lineage recorded in Gen.2:4-50:26 (Luke 3:26-38).

Moses combine the two manuscripts with a messianic prophesy in the colophon of Gen.2:1-3 (Mk.2:27-28).

This lesson will study seven aspects of God's Eternal Rest promised in The Seventh Day of creation.

God blessed the 7th Day because he had provided a grace way for mankind to enter His eternal rest (Gen.2:3).

1. It is important to distinguish between the Hebrew words seventh and shabbath. People tend to confuse them theologically.

Seventh is the last ordinal number in the series of days of creation-restoration (Mk.2:27).

Shabbath is the Hebrew word for **rest**. It was used on the Seventh Day of creation to introduce the eternal rest of God through sanctification in Christ (Mk.2:28).

2. The grace way God provided into His eternal rest was sanctification in Christ.

(Gen.2:3) “Thus God blessed the seventh day and **sanctified HIM, because in HIM** He rested from all His work which God had created and made.” (John 1:1-2, 14)

(1 Cor.6:11) “Such were some of you; but you were **washed**, but you were **sanctified**, but you were **justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.”

(2 Thess.2:13) “But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for **salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.**”

3. The Seventh Day was blessed because, in Christ, fallen man can find rest for his soul.

(Matt.11:28-31) “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” (John 14:6)

(Mark 2:27-28) “Jesus said to them, ‘The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.’”

Therefore, the 7th Day became connected theologically with the eternal rest of God through sanctification in Christ (Ex.20:8, 11).

4. Mankind enters into God's eternal rest by means of faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

(Heb.4:3) "For we who have believed enter that rest." (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16)

(Heb.4:6; 3:19) "Therefore, since it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news (gospel) preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience."

(Heb.4:10) "For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His." (Gal.2:16; John 19:30)

(Eph.2:8-9) "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is **the gift of God**; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."

5. A Sabbath system was developed to teach shadow Christology in the Mosaic Law of the Old Covenant.

- **Weekly Sabbath** (Ex.20:8-11)
- **Sabbatical Year** (Ex.23:10-11; Lev.25:1-7)
- **Sabbatical Jubilee** (Lev.25:8-24)
- **High Sabbath** (Ex.23:14-17; 34:18-24; John 19:31, 42) (Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, Pentecost/ Ex.12:1-20; Lev.23)

The primary shadow Christology doctrine of the Sabbath system was sanctification in Christ.

6. The historical coming of Jesus Christ completed shadow Christology of the old Covenant.

(Rom.10:4; 3:10) "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes."

(Heb.10:14) "For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified."

(Heb.10:10) "By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

The Church Age Believer (CAB) is under the New Covenant historical Christology.

(Heb.8:13) "When He said, '**A new covenant**,' He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear."

Therefore, the CAB does not observe the Old Covenant system of shadow Christology.

(Col.2:16-17) "Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to festival or a new moon **or a Sabbath day** – things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ." (Gal.4:9-10; Heb.10:1)

7. Under the New Covenant, the first day of the week is CAB's Memorial Day.

(Acts 20:7) "On **the first day** of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight."

(1 Cor.16:2) "On **the first day** of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come."

(Rev.1:10) "I was in the Spirit on **the Lord's day**."