

History of the Sabbath

Chapter 3, “The Sabbath Committed to the Hebrews”

Study Questions, James White
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Answers are found on pages 33-43 in the book.



1. What is the record concerning Abraham?
2. How is the Sabbath next mentioned among his posterity?
3. What is it only necessary to do to vindicate the Sabbath from the reproach of being Jewish?
4. What were the reasons for separating the family of Abraham to be the depositaries of divine truth?

5. What means did God take to distinguish them from the heathen around them?

6. What foreshadowed to Abraham the bitter servitude of Egypt?

7. How long after the promise to Abraham was the deliverance from Egypt?

8. God brought Israel from Egypt to give them his Sabbath, his law, Ps. 105:43–45, and himself, Num. 15:41. Why did he enter into this formal transaction with them? (See top of page 37. Although God thus became the “God of Israel,” yet he is “the God of the Gentiles also” Rom. 3:29; and in like manner the Sabbath did not thus become Jewish, but still continues to be the Sabbath of the Lord and the law to be the statutes of the Most High.)

9. At what point in the narrative of Moses, do we find the second mention of the Sabbath?

10. In Ex. 16:4–30, we have a circumstantial narrative touching the Sabbath. What is the first point proved by this record?

11. In what respect did God test his people by giving them bread from heaven?

12. How do we know that the holy Sabbath was a part of that existing law?

13. Did Moses here give any new precept respecting the Sabbath?

14. What did the people do on the sixth day?

15. Did they do this of their own accord?

16. What did they show by this act?

17. What proves that the reckoning of the weeks had been correctly kept up to that time?

18. What assurance did God give on this point?

19. Was there any act of instituting the Sabbath in the wilderness?

20. Did God then make it his rest-day?

21. Did God then bless and sanctify the day?

22. What does the record show to the contrary?

23. Give the substance of the following texts:
Genesis 7:4, 10; 8:10, 12; 29:27, 28; 50:10; Ex.
7:25; Job 2:13.

24. Does the language of the record show that the obligation to observe the Sabbath existed and was known before the fall of the manna?

25. When some of the people violated the Sabbath, what did the language in which they were reprovved imply?

26. What was the effect of this rebuke of the Lawgiver?

27. What does the language of Ex. 16:29 imply? (See footnote 1 on page 42.)

28. Every man was commanded to abide in his place on the Sabbath; to what did this have reference? (See footnote 2 on page 42.)

29. What proves this?

30. What texts of scripture show that religious assemblies were to be held on the Sabbath?

31. Did the act of God in committing the Sabbath to the Hebrews as a special trust imply that they had not before observed it?

32. Moses is said to have given circumcision to the Hebrews, yet how long had they had it before his time? (See in connection, note, p. 41.)

33. What does the language, “The Lord hath given you the Sabbath,” imply?

34. As no act of instituting the Sabbath here took place, how could God give them the Sabbath?

35. In what sense was the Sabbath a sign to the Hebrews?