

THIS STUDY IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The Sabbath, Old covenant, New covenant

Assertions/Conclusions of this Article

To discern that there is a difference in observing the Sabbath under the old covenant versus the new. The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. It was intended to force man to take a break once a week, to ensure that man would allow his workers and beasts of burden to rest also.

Supporting Evidence

This is the old testament law concerning the Sabbath;

>>"Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you. Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: **every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death**: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: **whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death**.

(Exo 31:13-15)

Here is a case of man being put to death under the Law of Moses for simply gathering sticks.

>>"And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, **they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day**. And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation. And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him. **And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones** without the camp. And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the LORD commanded Moses.

(Num 15:32-36)

Today, we are under a NEW covenant;

>>"And to **Jesus the mediator of the new covenant**, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

(Heb 12:24)

In this Hebrews passage we see that He has made a new covenant and by the new covenant being ratified with His death on the cross, the old was made obsolete. No longer in force, no longer the law of the land. Both covenants cannot stand simultaneously. The new being ratified at His death set the old covenant aside so that the new covenant is the rule of law now.

>>"For this is the covenant which I shall covenant with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I

will put My laws in their mind, and I shall inscribe them upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. And by no means will they teach each one his fellow citizen, and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I shall by no means remember anymore." **By the saying "new," He has made the first obsolete. And the one becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish.**

(Heb 8:10-13)

Jesus is our High Priest now;

>>"Therefore if perfection were by the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the Law), what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchizedek, and not be called after the order of Aaron? **For the priesthood being changed, there is of necessity a change made in the law also.**

(Heb 7:11-12)

His death ratified the new covenant and made the old covenant obsolete.

This passage in Romans uses the marriage covenant to explain how we are set free from the previous covenant when it dies...we CANNOT be under both covenants simultaneously. The old has passed, the new has come.

>>"Or are you ignorant, brothers; for I speak to those who know the Law; that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? For the married woman was bound by law to the living husband. But if the husband is dead, she is set free from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband lives, she is married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress. But if the husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is no adulteress by becoming another man's wife. So, my brothers, you also have become dead to the law by the body of Christ so that you should be married to Another, even to Him raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit to God. For when we were in the flesh, the passions of sin worked in our members through the law to bring forth fruit to death. **But now we having been set free from the Law, having died to that in which we were held, so that we serve in newness of spirit and not in oldness of the letter.**

(Rom 7:1-6)

And here we see that we are not to judge one another based on observance of days, including Sabbath days...

>>"**Let no man therefore judge you** in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the **sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come;** but the body is of Christ.

(Col 2:16-17)

...because we each see certain days in one regard or another to ourselves and before God.

>>"One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the

day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

(Rom 14:5-6)

...and that is because Jesus is Lord of the even the Sabbath day...when His own disciples were questioned about doing work on the Sabbath by the pharisees...

>>"At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn, and to eat. But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that **which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day**. But he said unto them, **Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him; How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests? Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless?** But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple. But if ye had known what this meaneth, **I will have mercy, and not sacrifice**, ye would not have condemned the **guiltless. For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.**

(Mat 12:1-8)

Powerful statement. I would have preferred mercy instead of sacrifice. God wanted for man to just do the right thing so that sacrifice wouldnt be necessary...for if He had preferred sacrifice, there was no reason for His Son to be the end of sacrifice for sin. This point further shows us that the OLD covenant and its requirement DIED when Christ died on the Cross to ratify this NEW covenant.

Here we see the same sentiment. Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath....Jesus who defends His disciples doing work on the Sabbath. Jesus is teaching his NEW covenant...and also exposing the pharisees and their lack of understanding of the Law of Moses and its intent.

>>"And it came to pass, that he went through the corn fields on the sabbath day; and his disciples began, as they went, to pluck the ears of corn. And the Pharisees said unto him, Behold, why do they on the sabbath day that which is not lawful? And he said unto them, **Have ye never read what David did, when he had need, and was an hungred, he, and they that were with him? How he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and did eat the shewbread, which is not lawful to eat but for the priests, and gave also to them which were with him? And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.**

(Mar 2:23-28)

The law was not meant to starve man out....to punish him. It was meant to guide man. To expose his weaknesses and prove why he was in need of the Savior.

>>"**Why then the Law? It was added because of transgressions**, until the Seed should come to those to whom it had been promised, being ordained through angels in the Mediator's hand.

(Gal 3:19)

And here Paul tells the Gentiles what they need to observe from the Law when some pharisees demanded that they keep the law of Moses...

>>"But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses...

(Act 15:5)

...and what Paul and the apostles said that the gentiles were to adhere to where the Law is concerned...

>>"Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren: And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia: Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment:

It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth. **For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication:** from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

(Act 15:22-29)

Notice there is no mention of keeping the Sabbath here. Very odd thing if this is such a terribly important issue for the Gentile churches.

We are not saying that there should be no observance at all of the Sabbath. We believe, as Jesus clearly shows, that there has been a change in how the Sabbath is observed in that under the law a man was put to death for simple gathering sticks, likely for some need he had...building a fire, perhaps.

And yet Jesus disciples not only were doing the same kind of level of 'work', and the pharisees calling them out on doing it, but Jesus defends them doing so even though it is the sabbath, bringing the story of David up when he broke the law by eating forbidden bread that was for the priests alone.

Some Christians believe that just having a day of rest each week, one day in 7, is how one can honor the Sabbath in this day and age. Im inclined to agree, even if I would never pretend that it is teachable doctrine. More of a personal way of observing the Sabbath under this covenant, a personal choice.

