



## “What does the Bible say ?”

1. Where does the Bible talk about this ?
2. What is the context of each passage ?  
(refer to the 7 basic questions of context)
3. How can I apply this to my life today ?

### For whom & what is the “sabbath” ?

The word “Sabbath” (Hebrew שבת, Greek σάββατον) means simply “seventh”, not “day of rest”. It occurs 82 times in the Old Testament and 68 times in the New Testament of which 56 are in the Gospels, before the birth of the church.

The first occurrence of the word “Sabbath”, explains its meaning in Ge2v2. It should be noted that “day” and “rested” are added words not included in the sense of ‘Sabbath’. Ge8v4 uses the word ‘Sabbath’ adding the word ‘month’ so it is not always the 7<sup>th</sup> DAY.

It should also be noted that God rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> Day, not on the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of the week, so ‘Sunday’ is NOT ‘the Sabbath Day’.

Of the Ten Commandments (Ex20v1-17) given to Israel, only the keeping of a Sabbath day is NOT a repeated commandment for Christians. On the contrary, the Sabbath is NOT to be kept by those who are NOT Children of Israel (Co2v16), just as male circumcision is not to be done for a religious reason, except by the Children of Abraham (Ga5v3-4). Both these signs of the Covenant with Abraham may be kept by Hebrew Christians (Ac13v15, 16v13, 18v4 & 16v3) just as Americans can keep celebrating the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, but not impose it on people of other nations !

The keeping of the Sabbath is a sign of the Covenant between the Children of Abraham and God (Ex31v13, 17, Ez20v12 & 20), as is circumcision (Ge17v9-14, Ac7v8).

The New Testament, or New Covenant, has its own unique symbols. Rather than keeping the Sabbath (Saturday) as a day of rest, or even pretending that Sunday is our Sabbath, the application of this study should motivate us to keep The Lord’s Table (Lk22v20 & 1Co11v25) on “the Lord’s Day” (Ac20v7, 1Co16v2 & Re1v10). The early Christians kept the Lord’s Table as often as they met, sometimes daily (Ac2v42 & 46), so why not do it every Sunday ?