

## A Biblical Case for Sabbath Fulfillment and Christian Rest in Christ

*An historical side note (a “trigger warning”) – the “Declaration of Sports,” 1618/33.*

### 1. What is the Sabbath (Genesis 2:1-3)?

- a. “Sabbath” as far as God is concerned, cannot mean “rest” in the way we conceptualize it.
  - i. God does not need repose (Psalm 121:1-4; Isaiah 40:28).
  - ii. At its root, “sabbath” means *cessation*.
- b. God did not stop “working” on the 7<sup>th</sup> day, He ceased from a *particular* work – creation.
  - i. See the completion language of Genesis 2:1-3.

“Completed, completed, done, done...”

[Other notable characteristics: The paragraph contains 35 words which is divisible by 7. The three middle clauses each have 7 words and each contains the adjective “seventh.”]
  - ii. John 5:16-17, “...My Father is working until now...”
- c. There is good reason to believe that the account of creation is an account of redemption.
  - i. Genesis 1:2 “The earth was **formless** and **void**, and **darkness** was over the surface of the waters.”
  - ii. Jeremiah 4:23 – “formless and void...no light” = **judgment** (cf. Isaiah 34:11; 45:18)
  - iii. Genesis 2:15 (cf. 3:1) – “...guard it.”
- d. If so, God’s sabbath is a cessation or completion of this redemptive work (cf. Romans 8:19-23). Note the connection between Deuteronomy 5:15 and God’s redemption of Israel.

### 2. Sabbath celebration is given to the Israelites as a sign.

- a. Exodus 31:13; Ezekiel 20:12, 20.
- b. Signs point to something greater (cf. Colossians 2:16-17, “a mere shadow”).
- c. The Sabbath pointed to sanctification and rest found in God (Exodus 31:13; Hebrews 4:8-10).

### 3. Eden was given to Adam as a place of rest in which he worked.

- a. Genesis 2:1-3, the LORD rested from His work, though He keeps working.
- b. Genesis 2:15
  - i. “Then the LORD God took the man and *caused him to rest* in the garden...” (YLT)
  - ii. “...to cultivate and guard it” – he keeps working.
- c. There is no indication that Adam was commanded to cease cultivating and guarding but this does not preclude resting in the presence of the LORD.

**4. The Promised Land was a place of rest.**

a. Deuteronomy 3:20, "...until the LORD gives you rest..."

b. Deuteronomy 12:9, "...you have not as yet come to the resting place."

c. Psalm 95:11 (cf. Hebrews 4:8-9).

**5. Most of Jesus' recorded healings are on the Sabbath day.**

(cf. Matt. 12:10; Mark 3:2; Luke 13:14-16; John 5:9, etc.).

**6. Jesus proclaims "release to the captives" on the Sabbath.**

(Luke 4:16f)

**7. Jesus declares that the work of redemption is "finished" on the cross.**

(John 19:30)

**8. Hebrews directly connects rest from our works with the Sabbath.**

(Hebrews 4:9-10)

**9. The New Heavens and New Earth are the new Eden and the eternal place of rest.**

a. Revelation 2:7; 21; 22:1-5

b. Revelation 14:11 vs. 14:13

[A question for reflection: *Will the Sabbath be celebrated in heaven?*]