

Polluting the Sabbath

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God's Commandments to His chosen people are to keep His Sabbaths, and to keep them in the way that He told us. God sanctified these days and made them Holy. They are His days and are to be kept through all generations.

Eze 1:1 Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth *month*, in the fifth *day* of the month, as I *was* among the captives by the river of Chebar, *that* the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.

In starting, it is interesting to note that the elders came to inquire of the Lord on the 5th of Av, just ahead of a Jewish fast day and ironically the 9th of Av which is a day when many hardships were placed upon the Jewish nation, with both the first and the second temple being destroyed as well as other catastrophes occurring throughout history.

Eze 20:19 I *am* the LORD your God; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them;

Eze 20:20 And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I *am* the LORD your God

Eze 20:21 Notwithstanding the children rebelled against me: they walked not in my statutes, neither kept my judgments to do them, which *if* a man do, he shall even live in them; they polluted my sabbaths: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the wilderness.

In the above verses God's Sabbaths are both the weekly Sabbaths and the Holy Day annual Sabbaths according to those given in God's statutes. If you do not keep these in the manner that God directed then you pollute His Sabbaths.

Holy Day Sabbaths

Unleavened bread – two annual Sabbaths, and also contains one weekly Sabbath. All others (Pentecost, Trumpets, Atonement, Tabernacles, Last Great Day) contain one annual Sabbath. Passover and First fruits are not annual Sabbaths. In total there are seven annual Sabbaths each year.

God calls these annual Holy Days by different terms all describing the same thing, according to the following;

Lev 23:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, *Concerning* the feasts of the LORD, which **ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts.**

Lev 23:3 Six days shall work be done: but the **seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation**; ye shall **do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.**

(note that Lev 23:3 identifies the first feast of the Lord as the weekly Sabbath)

(the following are from various annual Feasts of the Lord)

Lev 23:7 In the first day ye shall **have an holy convocation**: ye shall **do no servile work therein.**

Lev 23:8 But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD seven days: in the seventh day *is* an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work *therein*.

Lev 23:21 And ye shall proclaim on the selfsame day, *that* it may **be an holy convocation** unto you: ye shall **do no servile work therein: it shall be a statute for ever** in all your dwellings throughout your generations.

Lev 23:24 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first *day* of the month, shall **ye have a sabbath**, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, **an holy convocation.**

Lev 23:25 Ye shall **do no servile work therein**: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

Lev 23:27 Also on the tenth *day* of this seventh month *there shall be* a day of atonement: it shall **be an holy convocation** unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

Lev 23:28 And **ye shall do no work** in that same day: for it *is* a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God.

Lev 23:31 **Ye shall do no manner of work: it shall be a statute for ever** throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

Lev 23:32 It *shall be* **unto you a sabbath of rest**, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth *day* of the month at even, from even unto even, shall **ye celebrate your sabbath.**

Lev 23:39 Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of

the land, ye shall keep **a feast unto the LORD** seven days: on the **first day *shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day *shall be a sabbath.****

The above are defined by God as Holy Convocations where no servile work is to be done, within the specific Holy Days, these are the Feasts of the Lord. They include the weekly Sabbath and also the annual Sabbaths within the Holy Feast Days. They are statutes to be kept forever, until God tells us otherwise. To date God has not told us otherwise.

The above verses show us the word Sabbaths includes both weekly and annual Sabbaths, they are Holy Convocations directed to us from God, where no work is to be done, the same definition applies to both the weekly Sabbaths and the annual Sabbaths. The annual Sabbaths are also known as High Days by the Jews.

Instructions on the weekly Sabbath

Exo 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Deu 5:14 But the seventh day *is* the sabbath of the LORD thy God: *in it* thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that *is* within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou.

Jer 17:22 Neither carry forth a burden out of your houses on the sabbath day, neither do ye any work, but hallow ye the sabbath day, as I commanded your fathers.

Isa 58:13 If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, *from* doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking *thine own* words:

Isa 58:14 Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.

The manner in how we are to keep the Sabbath days are quite clear, the focus is entirely on God and His creation, on study of God's Word, prayer or fellowship with God, reflection in His creation and rest for our body and mind. We are not to do any work nor to do our own pleasure on the Sabbath. We are not to be focused on ourselves and our activities we did throughout the week or what we are planning for next week. We can worship and praise God together as well as study and discuss scripture together. The focus needs to be kept on growing closer to God. It is a day for us to interact with God, to thank Him and praise Him and grow close to Him. Jesus showed us that it is acceptable to do good and help others on the Sabbath, such as those in need and the elderly.

It is a 24 hour period starting at sunset and going till sunset the following day. For the weekly Sabbath it starts on Friday evening and ends on Saturday evening. This is God's timing of nights and days.

The weekly Sabbaths are an important Commandment from God, they are a commandment of obedience as well as of taking time out of the week with one day to grow closer to God, to rest, to meditate on God, His creation and our way forward through life in growing more like Him. A day to develop our personal relationship with Him.

The Sabbath is not a day to do any work or to do our own thing.

In our not following the directives God gave us pertaining to the Sabbath means we pollute His Sabbath. Obedience to God is extremely important, God is very sensitive to whether we are obedient to Him and demands that we follow in obedience to what He has told us.

Exo 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Isa 66:23 And it shall come to pass, *that* from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.
