June 18

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE **Bible** LESSON 27

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

REST—on God's SABBATH Day!

DO YOU know GOD HAS A DEFINITE "SIGN" BY WHICH HE RECOGNIZES and KNOWS PERSONALLY EVERY TRUE CHILD OF HIS? Do you know ONLY those having this true SIGN will ever be really BORN of Him, and enter into His ruling family?

That vital, OVERWHELMINGLY IMPORTANT SIGN is GOD'S SABBATH DAY!

Yes— GOD'S Sabbath!

NOT a "Sabbath of the Jews," or any "day" that seems more or less important to a man, or any group of men — but THE Sabbath of Almighty God Himself!

"But," you might ask, "what does any 'day' have to do with entering into the happy, glorious world tomorrow, the very Kingdom of God?"

IT HAS A GREAT DEAL to do with it!

To human beings—using only fallible HUMAN reason, it may seem indeed "strange" that God would place stress and importance on A SPECIFIC "*DAY*" OF THE WEEK!

"WHY," some might *reason*, "would God want me TO REST ON ONE day any more than any OTHER?" "What real DIFFERENCE does it make?" ask others.

It MAKES a TREMENDOUS DIFFERENCE.

You are about to learn the different, the surprising, the truly SATISFYING *plain truth* about God's own SABBATH day!

God Is Our Personal Friend

Noah "walked" with GOD (Gen. 6:9). They were that close, that friendly! And because NOAH "walked" in OBEDIENCE TO God, look what God did for him! He transferred Noah and his family from the Old World of wickedness to the New World of peace and rest (Gen. 6:11-14). That's REAL FRIENDSHIP!

And after the flood, we know that ABRAHAM also became a *lovingly* OBEDIENT friend of God (Jas. 2:23, 21). Abraham and Christ (Melchizedek) were very close (Gen. 14:18-20; Heb. 7:1-3) — yes, right here on this earth — at the present very site of Jerusalem in the land of Palestine! Picture that! And what was the RESULT OF this CLOSE FRIENDSHIP? Understand!

Because Abraham continued in this obedient fruitful relationship with God (Gen. 26:5), God promised Abraham the greatest and most abundant blessings imaginable — the WHOLE EARTH FOR AN INHERITANCE, and eternal friendship and ETERNAL LIFE WITH WHICH TO ENJOY IT!

But God honored Abraham *even more* in return for his loving obedience and mutual friendship! God placed before ABRAHAM'S OFFSPRING — us, we who are his "SEED" BY ADOPTION, THROUGH CHRIST — the SAME OPPORTUNITY — to receive the same great blessings.

He is still, as always, the VERY CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND OF THOSE WHO *OBEY* HIM. He says, "YE ARE MY *FRIENDS*, IF YE *DO* WHATSOEVER I COMMAND YOU" (John 15:14). It is within God's plan to become a very close friend of all who lovingly obey His wishes now. And God shows great love in return by DOING WONDERFUL THINGS FOR SUCH ONES!

Yes, God is going to shower those of us who learn our lessons of good behavior, loving compatibility, and obedience. Shower us with far more blessings than we, of our carnal selves, can possibly provide!—He says, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that *love* Him" (I Cor. 2:9). But God reveals His goal to His obedient friends: "Let Us

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE
Bible
CORRESPONDENCE COURSE
LESSON 27
Herbert W. Armstrong, *publisher and editor*
Dr. C. Paul Meredith, *director*
Sent FREE to all who request it, as the Lord provides.
Address all communications to the editor,
Box 111, Pasadena, California 91109
© 1961 Ambassador College 264
Printed in U.S.A.

NOTICE: Be sure to notify us immediately of any change in your address. IMPORTANT!

make man in *Our* image, after Our likeness . . . ," He says! (Gen. 1:26). How wonderful! Yes, God's plan is to create out of us, *Gods* — very Sons of God with the same bodies that both the Father and Son possess!

Notice CHRIST'S great EARNEST DESIRE TO MAKE FRIENDS of people: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man LAY DOWN His LIFE FOR his *friends*," Christ said (John 15:13). And then Christ proceeded to show the extent of His loving friendship for His friends by laying down His own life for them — laying down His life for His OBEDIENT friends — laying down His life for you and me! Christ is overjoyed to be a close friend of us all and will do great things for us if we will only let Him!

Gift of Glorious Eternal Rest To Be Bestowed

In addition to doing this great thing for us, what did Christ say? — it is very important. Notice! He said "COME UNTO ME, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, [BE MY OBEDIENT FRIENDS] AND I WILL GIVE YOU *REST*"! (Mat. 11:28). A *gift!* And what kind of rest is this? — "GLORIOUS REST"!!

Yes, as our friend, God wants to give to each of us His greatest gift of all — eternal life — glorious, eternal "rest"! When born into God's Kingdom, when we become very Gods, we will possess the same kind of gloriously radiant and powerful spirit body that Christ and the Father now have! It is then that we will possess the powerful capacity to do an infinite amount of work with our SUPREMELY EFFICIENT SPIRIT BODIES — bodies that will, in comparison to our old mortal bodies, be gloriously efficient and gloriously effortless — *DIVINELY* RESTFUL!!

All of this in glorious closeness to God, as His *sons!* Astonishing what God will do for us if we will but just become His loving obedient friends, isn't it?

Eternal Rest Open To ALL

The Apostle Paul brought this same message of God's promised *rest* (Heb. 4:1-11). God included all who have become "Abraham's seed" by surrendering themselves to the will of Christ and are, as a result, begotten of the Holy Spirit. So ETERNAL REST is AVAILABLE TO ALL PEOPLES of the earth! "If ye be CHRIST'S, then ARE ye ABRAHAM'S SEED AND HEIRS ACCORDING TO the PROMISE" (Gal. 3:28-29).

As Abraham's "seed," we may now become heirs of the same promise made to Abraham — the promise of eternal life in the Kingdom of God and eternal rest in the restful efficient spirit bodies we may have. BUT ONLY IF we now keep — "ACT OUT" — the SABBATH REST WHICH PICTURES the glorious FUTURE, by not doing any work on it — only REST.

This great truth God reveals to those who have completely repented of keeping their old pagan ways and have surrendered self to His will, as revealed in the Bible, and are fervently desirous of obeying Him. He reveals it as a friend to a friend. But UNLESS we obey God's commandment to KEEP the SABBATH, we will NEVER become a participant IN this FUTURE, intimate, "*RESTFUL*" RELATIONSHIP with God the Father and Christ the Son for all eternity!

No Sabbath Keeping—No Holy Spirit

God, the friend of all mankind, has a supreme and priceless gift. A gift which gives peace, joy — ! All the human heart really longs for. Yes, and ETERNAL REST!

All these God offers us as A GIFT! But the RECEIVER MUST BE *WORTHY* OF THE GIFT.

Who is worthy? Worthiness MUST BE SHOWN BY *ACTION!!* ACTION IN *OBEDIENCE* TO GOD. And this is where the *Sabbath Day rest* comes in! Those who KEEP THE SABBATH DAY *REST SHOW* TO GOD, by their *action* that they are *WORTHY* TO RECEIVE God's highest gift of peace, joy, REST, THROUGH the gift of the eternal life-giving HOLY SPIRIT . . . "the HOLY SPIRIT . . . God hath GIVEN to THEM THAT *OBEY* HIM"! (Acts 5:32).

There is SEEMINGLY, TO CARNAL MAN, NO EARTHLY REASON WHATEVER for him TO KEEP a sequence of SABBATH DAYS. Man, so he reasons, could rest as well on other days.

BUT — KEEPING — OR NOT KEEPING — these days SHOWS an *ATTITUDE. Keeping them* shows a *WILLING* attitude TO LEARN and a *willingness* to FORSAKE *OWN* THOUGHTS for periods of time specified by *God;* and a willingness to study and to think and to meditate on the really important matters of the universe — and an ATTITUDE TOWARD DEVELOPMENT OF GOD-LIKE QUALITIES. And OBEDIENCE to keep the Sabbath rests because *God* says so, although all unrepentant carnal *human reasoning* says "no." It's a test against all rebellious carnal human nature within us! (Although to the *repentant* mind these days are eagerly looked forward to.)

THIS IS *WHY* GOD HAS SELECTED sequences of time that, to the carnal unrepentant mind, seems so unfathomable, unnecessary, and sometimes annoying, to be kept as a supreme test for our *worthiness* to receive God's greatest gift of joy and rest through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

It is a test of our *attitude* that God wants! And its keeping is a "*Sign.*" So now let us understand how God formed these spaces of time which are to be kept Holy, and *why* they are so valuable to us.

LESSON 27

Origin of the Weekly SABBATH Day REST

Now let's understand the *ORIGIN* of the important SABBATH DAY, on which our future so much depends.

1. Who created everything that exists? John 1:1-3; Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:16.

COMMENT: Jesus CHRIST is described as THE "WORD"— the "Spokesman," as the original Greek may be more properly rendered. Jesus has been with the Father from the beginning, and all things were MADE by Him — made by Jesus Christ!

2. What did God create the *first* day? Gen. 1:3-5.

COMMENT: God the Father and God the Son constitute the present God Family. It was God who later became the Son who is spoken of here. He did the actual creating, with the sanction of Him who became the Father.

3. And what was created the *second* day? Gen. 1:6-8. And did God use a *third* day to create another class of things? Verse 13. And a *fourth* day to create still another class of things? Verse 19. And a *fifth* day for yet another class of things? Verse 23. Then did God CREATE animals and MAN ON the *SIXTH* DAY? Verses 24-26, 31.

COMMENT: We see by the foregoing verses that God created all this *physical* creation of the earth in six days — in just the first six days of the week.

4. What did the Divine Person, who later became the human Jesus Christ, do on the day immediately following His creation of Man? Gen. 2:2-3. Christ did not rest because He was tired and weary from His work of creating, did He? Isa. 40:28. Then He did it for *another reason,* did He not? Did this final *act* of God — Christ — on the seventh day *complete* the works of God's creation? Refer to Gen. 2:2 again and write down Heb. 4:3.

COMMENT: The Sabbath had never existed prior to this time. Therefore, God had to bring it into existence. He did so BY *RESTING* ON the *SEVENTH* DAY. This act of *resting* therefore *MADE* the SABBATH DAY a part of God's creation. Notice: ". . . On the *seventh* day (not before or after it) God ended His work [of creation] which He had *made* . . ." (Gen. 2:2).

The scriptures plainly show us that the Sabbath was made during the same seven day period of time that man was made. And it was made by the Divine Person who later became Jesus Christ. It was MADE ON the *LAST* OF SEVEN LITERAL 24-HOUR DAYS and was made as an intrinsic part of the environment which surrounded man!

5. What did God do to the seventh day? Gen. 2:2.

COMMENT: Notice that God "*BLESSED*" the seventh day AND "*SANCTIFIED*" IT. *Such an honor was not conferred upon any of the preceding six days.* When God *blesses something,* He bestows His divine *favor* upon, and His *divine presence* in that thing. He is especially near at that time. The very word "SANCTIFY" MEANS *TO SET APART* FOR A *HOLY USE* OR PURPOSE! By *resting* on the seventh day, God "sanctified" it—set it apart—from the other six days of the week; thus making the *seventh* day *holy!*

Thus, we see that in the very act of resting on the seventh day, Almighty God PUT HIS DIVINE FAVOR UPON and set apart for holy use and purpose the most enduring thing there is— a CERTAIN SPACE OF TIME WHICH COMES AROUND *REGULARLY EVERY SEVEN* DAYS. And by setting aside the first Sabbath in this way, God thus made *every* future Sabbath—*EVERY SEVENTH* DAY OF THE WEEK—HOLY ALSO!

6. Was God's resting on the seventh day AN EXAMPLE TO SHOW Adam—MAN—that HE SHOULD REST from his work ON THIS DAY? Ex. 20:11.

7. Did God make the Sabbath for Adam only, or just for the Jews, or for ALL of MANKIND? Mark 2:27.

COMMENT: Christ said that at the very creation the Sabbath was made for *man*—for *all* mankind! Adam was the first man, therefore he stood as the *representative of the WHOLE human RACE* which has descended from him. It is wrong to think that the Sabbath was made only for the Jews, since the first Jew was not born until over 2,000 years *later!* Judah, a son of Jacob, was the father of the Jewish nation—Gen. 29:35.

8. Why was the Sabbath made for man?—how did God intend it to specifically serve man's needs? Ex. 20:8-11.

COMMENT: Notice that God made the seventh day of the week holy—and on His authority as our Creator He commands us to keep it that way! The SABBATH, then, is *holy* time. Yet it was made for man, for *all* mankind—to be A GREAT BLESSING for *all* mankind!

OUR CREATOR KNEW that WE *mortals* WOULD NEED a PERIOD OF REST FROM PHYSICAL LABOR AND FOR WORSHIP OF GOD every seventh day. This is the *basic purpose* for which the Sabbath was created. Each of us tends to become overly absorbed in our daily cares, our work, our pleasures during the week. Our Creator foresaw we would need a time set apart—His Sabbath Day—as a consecrated time when we can completely forget our daily routine and DRAW CLOSER TO the Creator GOD IN STUDY, MEDITATION, and PRAYER—ENTER, FOR A "MOMENT" INTO OUR GLORIOUS FUTURE ETERNAL REST.

MODERN MAN NEEDS DESPERATELY THIS PERIOD of time in which to have real communion with the One who is creating him to have a restful eternity, his maker—God! Time in which to think upon God, to worship Him, to pray, to study, and MEDITATE UPON the PURPOSE of his human EXISTENCE, and upon GOD'S REVEALED LAWS of life, and upon God's GOAL FOR MAN; all this adding great strength and meaning to man's life the other six days of the week.

The Sabbath is truly ONE OF THE GREATEST *BLESSINGS* GOD HAS BESTOWED UPON THE HUMAN FAMILY!

Yes, when we keep the Sabbath day, we are SHOWING our FAITH—our belief—IN God's PROMISE OF a FUTURE ETERNAL REST with a glorified spiritual body in the Kingdom of God; just as we illustrate in baptism our faith in the *past* death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

In essence then, by resting on the Sabbath, we are actually "ACTING OUT" the Kingdom of God and what it will be like to be very Sons of God in that RESTFUL KINGDOM!

DO NOT FAIL TO KEEP THE SABBATH —*or you will not be ready at Christ's soon coming!*

Sabbath-Keeping Rest A "SIGN"!

Why is the KEEPING of the SABBATH REST by us considered by God as A *"SIGN"* ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY FOR our SALVATION? Let us understand!

1. Was not Abraham given the greatest blessing any human being ever received from God?

COMMENT: We know that God gave Abraham this entire earth as an eternal inheritance because of his outstanding willing attitude and great obedience to God. And not only this, but God also blessed Abraham by offering to Abraham's descendants the same blessing if they would also conduct themselves obediently.

2. Later ABRAHAM'S DESCENDANTS, THE ISRAELITES, because of famine in their own land, WENT DOWN INTO EGYPT. They were gradually enslaved there. Egypt God considered as A TYPE OF *SIN*. Did God, because of His love for Abraham when he was alive, raise up a deliverer to bring the Israelites out of Egypt—"sin"? Ex. 3:10-12.

3. And IN DELIVERING THEM OUT OF "SIN," did GOD GIVE *ABRAHAM'S "SEED,"* THE ISRAELITES, A *"SIGN"?* Ex. 31:13. *What* was this "Sign"?—was it not to be a piece of *time*—THE SABBATH? Same verse. Who was it to be between? Same verse. *How* were they to be able to HAVE this SIGN—BY RESTING? Verse 15. How were the Israelites to BENEFIT by *resting* on this particular day, the *Sabbath Day*—would they BE KEPT IN REMEMBRANCE, *as long as they kept it, that* GOD was THE *TRUE* LORD?

4. How long was Israel, *Abraham's seed,* to keep the *Sabbath rest* SIGN—FOREVER? Ex. 31:16, last four words. The word PERPETUAL means *forever.*

COMMENT: The Sabbath is a "sign" because it IDENTIFIES GOD AS the One who is CREATOR of all things!

In order that Israel—the descendants of Abraham, Abraham's *"seed"*—would never forget that God is Creator, Sustainer, and Supreme Ruler over all creation, God revealed to them the one great sign by which they could always remember who He is.

That sign is a constantly recurring piece of time—the *seventh* day of the week, the Sabbath.

It was, and is, SO *IMPORTANT* A DAY to rest on that God DOUBLY COMMANDED the

Sabbath Day rest keeping by making this special and SEPARATE COVENANT with His people Israel which we find here in Ex. 31:13. FOR it was ALREADY COMMANDED IN the TEN COMMANDMENTS which God had given them (Ex. 20:8)!! Yes, here is an everlasting covenant to identify the true Creator God of Israel!

ALL OTHER NATIONS had FORGOTTEN GOD BECAUSE they had FORGOTTEN the keeping of His SABBATH DAY *REST*. ISRAEL ALONE HAD the SIGN to PROVE that GOD— the Lord of Heaven and earth— was THEIR GOD AND CREATOR.

5. But now notice something additional. Was resting on the Sabbath Day to be ALSO a "*Sign*" to Abraham's "seed," these blood Israelite descendants of Abraham, of something else than the identification to them of the true God? Ex. 31:13, the last five words. Doesn't this verse show that they would—IF they RESTED ON the SABBATH Day—*KNOW* that the Creator GOD was SETTING THEM APART FOR a PARTICULAR *HOLY USE?*

COMMENT: The WORD *SANCTIFY* MEANS to *SET APART* OR *MAKE HOLY*.

6. Were not the ISRAELITES TO BE A *HOLY* NATION—a KINGDOM OF *PRIESTS?* Ex. 19:6.

COMMENT: THEY WERE TO BE SANCTIFIED—BE SET APART, AND BE MADE HOLY—as a Kingdom of priests, and a Holy "nation" and WERE TO LEAD OTHERS TO THE SAME CONDITION OF HOLINESS. Abraham's "seed," the Israelites, were thus *SET APART* FOR THIS *SPECIAL* HOLY *MISSION* and duty. No other people who did not have this "Sign" given by resting on God's Sabbath Day were to be of God's chosen people selected for this purpose.

God called Abraham's "seed," the Israelites, out of Egyptian sin—sin of this "world," to perform a special mission, the most important calling any nation has ever been given in all the history of mankind. God called them SO THAT, *THROUGH THEM*, HE COULD reveal Himself TO THE *WORLD*. SHOW that HE IS CREATOR and RULER of the universe, AND REVEAL HIS LAWS, COMMANDMENTS, BLESSINGS, and GREAT PLAN!

7. But *note!* Were not these called "seed" of Abraham to *become* a Holy people? Deut.7:6-9.

COMMENT: Note that the *italicized* large word "*art*" has been wrongly added by the translators —these OLD COVENANT ISRAELITES WERE *NOT* HOLY; THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO *BECOME* HOLY.

8. Did the OLD COVENANT FLESHLY "SEED" OF ABRAHAM *FAIL* TO BECOME HOLY? Ezek. 20:13. Note the word "*REBELLED*." And what did they do regarding *resting* on God's Sabbaths? Same verse.

COMMENT: Had Old Covenant Israel kept the Sabbath Day rest as God had commanded them, He would have established a priesthood of Holiness — ministers of True Holiness — who would have instructed the Israelites *in the ways* to true Holiness as they rested on the Sabbath Day. And they would have become, thereby, a Holy nation fit and able to teach others. But the Old Covenant Israelites would *not* keep the Sabbath and thereby did *not become Holy*.

SO, GOD SET UP ANOTHER TYPE OF PRIESTHOOD—the Levitical priesthood—which MINISTERED THINGS OF *NO VALUE*—ministered a rigamarole of sacrificial RITUALS WHICH LED PEOPLE TO NOTHING THEY *REALLY* WANTED.

COMMENT: The Old Covenant Israelites FAILED TO *REST* ON THE *SABBATH*, so failed to remember who the true Creator God is, and that they were to become a Holy people and, as a kingdom of priests, reveal to the world the Creator God, His blessings and plan. They failed BECAUSE they DID NOT HAVE the POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT TO AID THEM, AND FOR THIS REASON THEY *COULD NOT HAVE SALVATION EITHER for the Holy Spirit was not yet given.*

Same Sabbath Rest "Sign" APPLIES TODAY

WHAT has *the* RESTING ON the SABBATH SIGN TO DO WITH the SALVATION of ALL PEOPLES TODAY? It is vital that we know. Let us see.

1. Doesn't the Bible plainly reveal that to become a true CHRISTIAN TODAY one MUST BECOME A *SPIRITUAL* ISRAELITE— BECOME ABRAHAM'S "SEED" THROUGH CHRIST—IN ORDER TO INHERIT the SAME Covenant PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE that was MADE TO ABRAHAM AND "HIS SEED"? Rom. 4:16; 9:4; and Gal. 3:28-29.

2. SO TODAY MUST not a Spiritual Israelite, a Holy Spirit-begotten Christian HAVE TO POSSESS GOD'S *SIGN—KEEP GOD'S SABBATH*—in order to be "sanctified," be set apart TO BE MADE *HOLY?*

COMMENT: God made the Sabbath covenant with the ancient Israelites—Abraham's "seed" (Ex. 31:13). It was to be obeyed "*throughout*" their generations. Same verse. Today, all true Christians are Abraham's "seed" through Christ. So today every true Christian must keep the Sabbath rest. He must keep it in order that he may remember that it is the Creator *God* who *makes* man Holy—he must have the Sabbath "Sign" in order that he *may be made Holy*. For after we are begotten we are to grow, *through the aid of God's powerful Holy Spirit*, until we are born of God! —*God* makes us Holy!

3. TODAY, to what PURPOSE are such

TRUE CHRISTIANS—SPIRITUAL-BEGOTTEN ISRAELITES, that is, Abraham's "seed" —especially "set apart" from this present evil world and USED IN GOD'S SERVICE?

COMMENT: *The truth is astonishing!* The OLD COVENANT ISRAELITES *FAILED* to respond to their calling BECAUSE THEY WOULD NOT REST ON THE SABBATH AND RECEIVE INSTRUCTION IN HOLINESS. NOR did they HAVE the *POWER* of the HOLY SPIRIT TO AID them recognize, or understand this call. Nor did they have the power of the Holy Spirit to *enable* them to *carry it out.*

But *WE,* NEW COVENANT ISRAEL, *DO* HAVE the *POWER* OF the HOLY SPIRIT TO AID PERFORM all that the Old Covenant Israelites failed to perform. We *do* have the *power,* through the Holy Spirit of begettal, to RECOGNIZE and UNDERSTAND and CARRY it OUT. Old Covenant Israel *never* became "a kingdom of priests, and an Holy nation." It is we who are a relatively holy and competent "nation" which was never possible until the coming of the Holy Spirit. And it is WE WHO WILL BECOME THE *COMPLETELY* HOLY "NATION" OF "KINGS AND PRIESTS" that God vowed to make of Abraham's "seed" (Ex. 19:6). This "nation" we will become WHEN we are TRANSFORMED INTO the GREAT KINGDOM OF GOD AT CHRIST'S SOON COMING. Christ will have made of us "kings and priests" unto Himself and His Father (Rev. 1:6). God's purpose will stand!

WE New Covenant Israelites *DO* HAVE the *POWER* OF the HOLY SPIRIT TO *SAVE* US. FOR WE REST ON *GOD'S* SABBATH DAY—*not* man's, *NOT* A DAY *MAN HAS* DECIDED WE MUST REST ON, but *God's* Sabbath Day —and SO *DO* RECEIVE INSTRUCTION IN TRUE HOLINESS. It is GOD'S PRESENCE that is WITH US upon THIS DAY. AND WE SHOW BY OUR *KEEPING* OF *GOD'S ORDAINED "SIGN"—THE SABBATH REST*—THAT WE *KNOW* OUR GOD, and that He is our Creator, and that we *know* OUR MISSION and OUR GOAL, and that we are, at Christ's soon coming, to be transformed into immortal beings and as such are to be made kings and priests (Rev. 1:5-6; 5:10; 20:6), and serve throughout the millennium AND BE SAVED FOR ETERNAL RESTFUL SERVICE IN the KINGDOM OF GOD.

So it is *WE* WHO are *now* SPREADING the GOSPEL, the Good News, TO all the WORLD —TELLING OF GOD our Creator, His divinely just LAWS, His BLESSINGS, and His PLAN —thundering these to the world just before Christ's imminent return! It is we who are spreading the Gospel to the millions of the glorious restful beings God is creating mankind to be.

THIS is exactly THE GOAL YOU WISH, IS IT NOT? THEN KEEP THE "SIGN" BY WHICH YOU MAY *receive instruction and* BE SAVED — keep the SABBATH DAY rest! — *SATURDAY.*

Only in these last few years has God revealed these things to man — and then only to and through His OWN true Church — the (Radio) Church of God!

Sabbath REST Specifically Commanded Today!

Does God specifically command that the Sabbath be kept as a rest day today? He certainly does. *Understand fully!*

1. Does GOD COMMAND the SABBATH be kept today? Ex. 20:8.

COMMENT: This is the FOURTH COMMANDMENT of the Ten great Commandments.

2. What warning is given to those who do not keep the Sabbath? Ex. 31:14.

COMMENT: This solemn warning applies to all people *today.* This verse gives, in detail, the DEATH PENALTY FOR NOT KEEPING the Sabbath—the fourth of the great Ten Commandments. This penalty APPLIES as well NOW as then, for the Ten Commandments have been in force from the creation of the world!

3. Are we to BE OBEDIENT to the command of God to observe His Sabbath *rest* AND *NOT* BE REBELLIOUS as were the OLD COVENANT ISRAELITES who would not *do* the ways God commanded — including their REFUSAL TO KEEP the SABBATH REST? Heb. 3:8-10. Did God, for this reason, PREVENT THEM from entering His *rest?* Verse 11, and Ezek. 20:13.

COMMENT: We know that Old Covenant Israel was rebellious and that God never did allow those of that rebellious generation to ENTER the land of PALESTINE, a land God uses as a TYPE of ETERNAL REST.

4. Was it because they wouldn't *believe,* and therefore wouldn't *do* this command? Heb. 4:1, 2. But if *we believe,* and therefore *DO* this COMMAND, may WE not ENTER? Verse 3—first nine words. And aren't we thus FOLLOWING the EXAMPLE GOD SET for us BY HIS RESTING on the SEVENTH CREATION DAY? Verse 4.

COMMENT: How clear it is that we *must* keep the Sabbath day if we are to enter eternal rest.

5. So IF WE are *REALLY* GOD'S PEOPLE we WILL KEEP GOD'S REST, will we not? Heb. 4:9.

COMMENT: The word appearing as "rest" here is a mistranslation. In the original script it is

"*Sabbath.*" There remains still a keeping of the Sabbath if we *really* are *God's* people. IF we are NOT KEEPING the Sabbath, we really are *NOT* GOD'S PEOPLE for we WILL NOT BE BEARING GOD'S SABBATH "*SIGN*" of keeping it, and SO will NOT BE TRANSFORMED AT CHRIST'S COMING!!

Yes, the *Sabbath* is the sign between us and God that shows *us* that He is the One who is sanctifying, separating us from this present evil world and is making us into His Holy people. And the ONLY WAY WE CAN "SHOW" TO *GOD* THE SABBATH AS a "*SIGN*"— a piece of Holy time—IS to *DO* WHAT HE SAYS ON THAT DAY, *SATURDAY* — REST from our physical labors!

COMMENT: The EVIDENCE that we are to KEEP the SABBATH is OVERWHELMING. The word "Sabbath" APPEARS SIXTY TIMES IN the NEW COVENANT PART—the NEW TESTAMENT PART—of YOUR BIBLE!

"The Devil is come down to you with great wrath, because he knoweth he has but a *short* time" (Rev. 12:12).

That time is *now!* BEWARE OF his FALSE MINISTERS who teach a day other than the Sabbath is to be kept (II Cor. 11:13-15). This is a SERIOUS WARNING! *For no one will be saved unless they are keeping the Sabbath.*

Six Days And Sabbath Give God's TIME PLAN

Do you know that GOD HAS an OVER-ALL *TIME PLAN* FOR TRANSFORMING His MORTAL MANKIND creation INTO HOLY SPIRITUAL BEINGS? And that it is BASED ON God's SEVEN DAY CREATION WEEK? And that we are *much nearer* to the end of this plan than you may realize? Let us understand!

1. Did GOD WORK at creating this earth SIX DAYS? Gen. 1:3-5, 6-8, 13, 19, 20-23, 24-26, 31. And did God REST the SEVENTH day? Gen. 2:2. Then there were SEVEN CREATION DAYS, were there not? For God created the seventh day by *resting*—it being named by Him the *Sabbath,* for "Sabbath" means *rest.* The six days and the Sabbath CONSTITUTED the SEVEN DAY CREATION *WEEK.*

2. But GOD'S PLAN IS *DUAL:* It is *based* on these six twenty-four hour work days and one twenty-four hour Sabbath Day which God established at creation. Let us understand this duality. It is *very* important! Does the weekly Sabbath fore-shadow the *one thousand year* Millennium? II Pet. 3:8. A THOUSAND YEARS, IN GOD'S SIGHT, IS AS A DAY.

COMMENT: So God planned the WEEKLY SABBATH to foreshadow, or be a TYPE OF, the 1,000 YEAR MILLENNIAL PERIOD when He, in His supreme plan of creating carnal mortal mankind into perfect Spirit Beings like Himself, is going to set Himself *vigorously* to bring man to repentance so he can be begotten and be born into the God Family. (After a short period of rebellious turmoil at its start, this 1,000 year Millennial period will become a time of *rest* —a VERITABLE 1,000 YEARS "SABBATH" *REST!*

And the TOTAL OF THE OTHER SIX DAYS OF the CREATION WEEK naturally CORRESPOND TO the 6,000 YEAR PERIOD which WE NOW find ourselves WITHIN. This, then, constitutes God's six thousand year and one thousand year *Time Plan* — A GREAT "WEEK" OF 7,000 YEARS! SO we FIND OURSELVES WITHIN A *VERY* FEW YEARS OF the END OF THIS AGE, and CLOSE TO the COMING OF CHRIST!

It's LATER Than You Think!!

WITHIN the *SEVEN ACTUAL DAYS* CREATION WEEK, when God was making this earth complete, GOD MADE an ASTOUNDING STATEMENT!! It is SO IMPORTANT that it is PUT BY GOD IN the VERY FIRST CHAPTER OF YOUR BIBLE. And, note this carefully,—He made this statement *within* the time of the *seven* actual *days* creation *week.* What astounding thing did He say? GOD SAID, "LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE" (Gen. 1:26). GOD SAID, *in effect,* that HE WOULD CREATE MAN TO BE SPIRITUALLY COMPLETE JUST LIKE HIMSELF WITHIN "A WEEK"— within a 7-1,000 year "days" "week." WITHIN a period of seven one thousand year "days"— *a total of* SEVEN THOUSAND YEARS. Yes, in the very Spirit body and Spiritual mind image of God Himself!! FOR a day, with God, is as a thousand years, and GOD'S PLAN is *DUAL* (II Pet. 3:8).

"Let *US* make man in OUR image"— MAN COULD NEVER CREATE HIMSELF TO BE LIKE GOD. NEVER! BUT *GOD* WILL, AND WITHIN THIS *TIME!!*

It is the FATHER AND SON WHO are DOING the CREATING of us into Holy Spiritual Beings. "Let *US* make man in . . ." WE CAN ONLY DESIRE with all our hearts to be as righteous as God—we can only *choose* to be made so with all our being—we can ONLY *SURRENDER* ourselves to God's will and let *Him,* through the power of His Holy Spirit, crush out our evil nature of unrest so that we may become like God, and be born very Sons of God.

SO — HUMANITY *LABORS* SIX LONG ONE THOUSAND YEAR PERIODS, both physically and mentally, LEARNING LESSONS TOWARD our goal of the SPIRITUAL

PERFECTION OF GOD within the 6-1,000 year "days" of God's *Great* "week." This IN ORDER that it may ENTER the ENSUING 1,000 YEAR MILLENNIAL "SABBATH" *REST*. AND ON INTO *ETERNAL REST*. So now we see the complete goal of man.

No wonder it is that God insists above all that we keep the Sabbath by *resting*—the one day—A *MEMORIAL DAY*—that God *emphasizes* our keeping so that we may keep *Him* constantly in mind as our Creator! For this reason Sabbath *keeping*—the keeping of the *seventh* day, *Saturday*—and *not* Sunday, is emphasized again and again in *your* Bible.

This *commanded rest* to man from God calls a halt to puny little man's *restless activities* on the weekly Sabbath Day—activities which lead man to nowhere but only to sorrow and grief. God calls a halt so that the Sabbath, if properly used by man for *resting* and *studying* of God's word, will identify to man *God* as the truly Supreme Creator of all things. And, transcending all else, it will IDENTIFY GOD TO US AS the GREAT SUPREME *SPIRITUAL* CREATOR, THE ACTUAL GREAT FORCE WHO, THROUGH the miracle-working POWER of HIS HOLY SPIRIT, is in the process of CREATING OF US very SONS OF GOD who will have the *restful* power of their own Creator!! Yes, RESTFUL BODIES, through a God who *can* become our Father! How wonderful!

To us goes the *favor* of God's creating us into His very own household, and to God goes the *glory* for doing so. It is a just claim of God that He receive the credit. For it is *He* who did the original thinking necessary to create man, and *He* who did the work of creating and sustaining, and for this reason TO HIM SHOULD GO THE *HONOR*. *At the peril of losing your life*, DO NOT NEGLECT *the* KEEPING *of* THIS DAY! It's *much* later than you think!! *Many Bibles, on their very first page, point the beginning date of the creation* in the Creation Week *as being* 4004 B.C. A mass of evidence shows *this* to be *not greatly wrong*.

The *TIME* left for preparing to be transformed at Christ's coming is growing *VERY* SHORT!!

COMMENT: If we are NOT doing, because of *unbelief*—lack of *faith*, in what God says—if we are not *RESTING* ON the SABBATH DAY, AND PERSIST in it, we will be showing God the wrong attitude which points to a different type of eternal rest, the eternal rest of *death*—ETERNAL DEATH! (Rev. 21:8). This is the destiny of those who persist in keeping any other day of the week than God's ordained Holy Sabbath! Beware of religious leaders—or *anyone*—who urge any other day's keeping than God's Holy Sabbath (II Cor. 11:13-15). *Sunday* is the *first* day of the week!—your *Bible* commands keep the *seventh!*

FAITH—The KEY

Today, many find that they, of themselves, cannot have enough *faith* to rest on the Sabbath week in and week out. And some think they cannot REST UPON the SABBATH at all. Why? Don't THEY SAY various PRESSURES OF the WORLD would absolutely PREVENT IT? —THEY SAY PRESSURES OF BUSINESS, pressures of FRIENDS, pressures of CHILDREN, pressures of PLEASURE, and pressures from other sources? They just do not, *of themselves*, have the FAITH in God that all will *turn out much better for them* if they *do* resist world pressures and *do* rest on the Sabbath than if they do not. *FAITH??? Stop right here!!*—

Do you know that such people—and this may include YOU—ARE BEING PUT TO GOD'S *SUPREME TEST* in His challenge, his *command*, to rest on the *Sabbath??*

Nowhere does God promise that if you will only rest upon the Sabbath that you will receive eternal life—eternal rest. But God does say, "If thou wilt enter into life [eternal life—eternal rest], keep the Commandments"—*one* of which is "keep the *Sabbath*"! (Matt. 19:17).

Then *why* is it that God singles out *one* of these Ten Commandments—the *Sabbath*—and insists again and again that we must *rest* on it? It's mentioned sixty times in the New Testament alone. And many more times in the Old Testament.

The reason? Here is the great reason for God *insisting* that we rest upon this all-important day! Grasp it fully!!

OF ALL GOD'S COMMANDMENTS, SABBATH-KEEPING is the one that APPEALS *LEAST* TO CARNAL-NATURED MAN TO KEEP. Carnal man just does not want to keep it.

Carnal man rebels against God and is unhappy.

In repenting of our old unhappy and miserable way of life we MUST be so broken up that we REALIZE ABSOLUTELY that the *POWER* OF ATTAINING HAPPINESS AND ETERNAL *REST* away from our carnal selves DOES *NOT* LIE WITHIN US OR WITHIN THE POWER OF ANY MAN, AND that OUR *ONLY* HOPE—OUR ONLY *FAITH*—MUST BE IN the *wisdom*, and the *POWER* OF *GOD* to give us eternal rest. We must come to the point where in blind, *TRUSTING FAITH* IN OUR *CREATOR* TO FASHION US to our *real* desires, we WILL *SAY* AND *FEEL*, "*YES*, LORD," TO *WHATEVER* HE COMMANDS. And WHEN we come to the one Commandment our carnal natures like the *least* and GOD, *in effect*, SAYS "IF thou WILT ENTER INTO ETERNAL LIFE, KEEP the *SABBATH* COMMANDMENT," we will have so much *faith* in the *wisdom* of God that WE WILL *KNOW* that His insistence on compliance means we MUST *SUBMIT* OR NEVER BE FASHIONED INTO Spirit beings, and so never achieve OUR *GOAL!*

We will say, "*Yes*, Lord" and *rest* upon the Sabbath ALTHOUGH we HUMANLY SEE *ABSOLUTELY NO EARTHLY REASON* FOR *RESTING* ON THE *SABBATH* DAY, resting one-seventh of our lives away "wasting" time (although we *really* are not, for on that day we are receiving Divine knowledge on how God is sanctifying us). The Sabbath comes around to keep again and again and again—week in and week out. *How exasperating its keeping would be to the UN*REPENTANT CARNAL MIND *that has not sensed or tasted of its beauty or goodness!*

And especially irritating to the carnal reluctant unrepentant mind is that these rests are spaced—they must be rested on at exact *intervals*—intervals of inactivity often found very irritating to the carnal self which would like to use such times for its *own* pleasure and activities.

NO WONDER that GOD has CHOSEN the SABBATH REST AS the *SUPREME* KEY TEST TO ASCERTAIN OUR *COMPLETE*, BLIND, TRUSTING, SURRENDER of OUR WILL TO HIS!!

If we will *completely surrender* to God in trusting continuous *faith—faith* in Him that if we will only *do* as *He* commands, He can and will do far more for us and give us far more of the pleasures we *really* desire than we could ever provide for ourselves.

And now comes the important part:—GOD, for His part, WILL KNOW FOR A CERTAINTY that IF WE, *IN FAITH*, COMPLETELY *SURRENDER* OUR WILLS to His IN THIS GREAT KEY *TEST COMMANDMENT* which goes against the carnal *desires* of our human nature much more than any of His other Commandments WE WILL, *IN FAITH, SURRENDER* ourselves TO HIM IN ANY AND *ALL* THINGS FOREVER! And He *will save us* for restful service! How wonderful!

Keeping the *Sabbath* Rest—*resting* on *Saturday*—is the *Commandment which Satan wishes above all things* that *we would not do.* Now you know the reason *why!!* Satan would *lose* us.

COMMENT: The SABBATH-KEEPING REST COMMANDMENT is *DIFFERENT*, IN *INTENT*, FROM all the OTHER of THE GREAT TEN COMMANDMENTS. It is different in these ways:

The constantly recurring Sabbath rest is almost a "mechanical" reminder to us of the *existence of our God*, our *Creator*, and a MEMORIAL to His creation and the works therein.

Too, our keeping of the rest on the Sabbath CALLS OUR ATTENTION particularly TO the OTHER THREE OF the FIRST FOUR great COMMANDMENTS—commandments which we are apt to overlook—that we should *do them.* For *these* first four Commandments are directed toward THE *HONORING* of GOD for His greatness and goodness, because He is Creator, Ruler, and Sustainer of His Creation.

And third, it SHOWS to God, by our obedience in keeping the Sabbath, OUR DEEP *FAITH* IN HIM AS our ONLY SAVIOR of us from our present bodies of *un*rest.

It SHOWS to God by our constant faithful obedience in keeping His key test Commandment that we will tend to always *remain* OBEDIENT, so are WORTHY OF TRANSFORMATION.

TO SUMMARIZE the Ten Commandments: THE *FIRST FOUR* OF THE TEN ARE TOWARD GOD—they show what our relationship toward Him should be, and the *Sabbath* is the *Key* one of these, for without it we would not even *know* the *true* God so that we *could* have this relationship! How *extremely* important the Sabbath—*Saturday*—is!! AND THE *LAST SIX* of the Ten *ARE TOWARD MAN*—how men must conduct themselves toward each other if they are to have happiness.

Let's study now the Scriptures that exhort us to step out on Faith and rest on Saturday, the Sabbath rest day of God, whatever may be the seeming odds against us!! Are you ready?

1. We know that a generation of OLD Covenant ISRAEL DID NOT ENTER the land of Palestine, a land which God uses as a symbol for eternal REST. They *died* without entering. *Why?*—was it BECAUSE OF unbelief, LACK OF FAITH? Heb. 3:10-12. Verse 12 especially. Do not verses 18 and 19 verify also that it is *Faith* that is required to enter the eternal rest which God is preparing us for? Note the words "*believed not.*"

2. Does Heb. 4:1-3 also prove that it is *FAITH* which GOD REQUIRES that WE SHOW in Him BEFORE HE WILL LET US ENTER into ETERNAL REST?

COMMENT: Note the words "*faith,*" in verse 2, and "*believed,*" in verse 3.

3. Doesn't Heb. 4:6 show that people will not enter God's eternal rest if they do not have *Faith*—belief? Doesn't verse 7 warn us against showing lack of *Faith by* "hardening our hearts"? And does verse 11 also show that WE MUST STEP OUT IN *FAITH* AND REST ON THE SABBATH?—note the warning against *un*belief. Lack of *Faith!*

COMMENT: How clear it becomes that FAITH is THE GREAT THING we must exercise in keeping the Sabbath.

4. Does Christ verify that *WE* MUST TAKE THE *FIRST* STEP IF WE ARE TO OBTAIN ETERNAL REST? Mat. 11:28.

COMMENT: Notice carefully that Christ did *not* say that He would take the *first step!* Christ said rather "[*YOU*] COME TO ME"— come to Christ—that is, *obey* and *follow* His examples and commandments as well as you humanly can, and seek the *manner* in which you may draw

close to Him, and He promises *THEN* "I WILL GIVE YOU *REST*"!

We must take the first step—step out in *faith* —*faith*—whatever may *seem* to be the overwhelming cost—*then* God will begin to give us rest! Give us His Holy Spirit of rest.

5. If we run into difficulty in being able to keep this all-important day's rest—think we are going to lose our job because of our keeping of it, or whatever—what *special* instruction does God give us in order that we may RECEIVE *DIVINE AID* IN KEEPING THIS day's rest, and in doing what we are taught on this Day? Heb. 4:14, 16. Are we not to COME BOLDLY TO GOD IN PRAYER and ask guidance in overcoming obstacles which would seem to prevent us? Same verse. The whole chapter of Hebrews 4 is about keeping the Sabbath! And it closes with *how* we may have Divine aid in keeping it. And how we may receive Divine aid in doing the things which are taught on it!

COMMENT: Even the Apostles who had the *starting* faith, of themselves, to follow Christ, found they did not have *enough* faith for their needs —"The apostles said unto the LORD, *INCREASE* OUR FAITH" (Luke 17:5). But Christ replied, "Serve Me [first step out on your own faith and rest upon the *Sabbath* Day] . . . and *afterward* thou shalt eat and drink [and afterward you may be given Divine faith]" verse 8. *You* must keep the Sabbath through your *own* faith *first* —"*FROM* FAITH" OF *SELF* "*TO* FAITH" OF *GOD*. ". . . from [your own] faith *to* [the *Divine powerful*] *faith* [which God will miraculously place within you to bolster you.]: as it is written, The just shall live by [*God's*] faith" (Rom. 1:17). You must make the first move, then God will aid you.

COMMENT: How abundantly clear that we ourselves must take the initial move of resting on the Sabbath by stepping out *in faith*, and then continue to keep it through the *Divine* faith which God promises to supply us when the odds against us keeping it seem hopeless.

What To Do

We are practically at the tip end of *six* one-thousand-year "days" of God's *seven* one-thousand-year "day" week. And the *seventh* one-thousand-year "day" will very soon be ushered in by the appearance of Christ. The time is *very short!*

IF YOU HAVE *TRULY REPENTED* and abhor your old unhappy life of disobedience you will be zealously desirous to begin keeping God's Sabbath Day at once. YOU WILL STEP OUT IN FAITH, AND REST ON THIS DAY! You will quite keeping any day other than the Sabbath. *Only* the keeping of God's *Sabbath* in the way *He* ordains will fit you for your eternal destiny—the goal of an eternal life of rest as one of God's glorified Sons! God will *condition* you for this marvelous future. One day out of each seven—the Sabbath Day—you will be *close* to God, and grow mightily in grace and knowledge.

But keeping the Sabbath as God commands you to do does not mean that you must attend church. You may KEEP THE SABBATH RIGHT IN YOUR OWN HOME FOR THE PRESENT. Why? BECAUSE there are certain churches into which YOU MIGHT BE *MISLED*. Churches that happen to keep the Seventh-day Sabbath—churches whose NAMES even bear, in part, the name "SEVENTH DAY . . ." *But don't be deceived!* Just because such churches bear a *form* of Godliness (II Tim. 3:5) have an *OUTWARD* LIKENESS OF GOD'S SABBATH—does *not* mean you may attend their service! You must not!—for in reality, these churches *disobey* God in most points of His law—which extends also to their *improper* keeping of God's *Sabbath!!*

ALSO, there are SEVERAL SMALL RELIGIOUS SECTS that claim to keep the Sabbath, but they are NOT the CHURCHES OF GOD EITHER—even though they may recognize and *appropriate* the true Bible name "Church of God"!

You definitely should *not* meet with such who ARE BLINDED to the truth! The Apostle Paul commanded Christians "BE ye NOT UNEQUALLY YOKED together WITH UNBELIEVERS; for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness and what communion hath light with darkness?" (II Cor. 6:14). You cannot afford to fellowship with Satan, his ministers, or his churches who refuse to obey all of God's commandments! The price is *too high!* And the length of such "enjoyment" is far *too short!*

Already you have seen by the "*fruits*" that **only this Church, The (Radio) Church of God, with world-wide headquarters in Pasadena, California, is God's true Church which is faithfully keeping, with the help of God's own Holy Spirit, the testimony of Jesus Christ** (Rev. 12:17). Yes, and only this church is carrying out God's great commission to preach the *true* Gospel to the world as a witness (Mat. 24:14). God has only *one* church—*not* many denominations.

This is the only Church God is using to continually feed you the true spiritual food of God's Holy inspired word so you may grow spiritually and overcome in this life and be *ready* to be born into God's Kingdom—to receive glorious and joyous eternal rest as a son in God's Family!!

So, keep God's Sabbath right in your own home by resting, studying your Bible with the help of the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course and the Plain Truth magazine, and by praying to God! And remember, the "World Tomorrow" radio broadcast can be heard in most areas.