

## 11. THE MEMORIAL OF CREATION

### 1. The Institution of the Sabbath.

Genesis 2: 1-3. The Sabbath was instituted at the close of the Creation week. The foundations upon which it was established were:

- (1) Six days of creative activity.
- (2) Rest on the seventh day.
- (3) God's blessing of the seventh day.
- (4) The seventh day sanctified

The Revised Standard Version reads "hallowed" for "sanctified" in verse 3. The Sabbath was made a holy day by God. Later, at Sinai Israel was reminded of this fact in the command, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." Exodus 20: 8-11. The reason for the observance of the Sabbath is connected with creation. This makes the keeping of the Sabbath a universal obligation. Its institution precedes Judaism by over two millenniums.

### 2. The Purpose of the Sabbath.

Mark 2: 27. The Sabbath was made for man's good. It was not provided originally for his physical needs but for his spiritual good to remind him of his dependence upon, and his obligation to his Creator.

Exodus 20:8-11. The Sabbath was a memorial, or reminder of God as the Creator.

"It is to be remembered and observed as the memorial of the Creator's work. Pointing to God as the maker of the heavens and the earth, it distinguishes the true God from all false gods. All who keep the seventh day, signify by this act that they are worshippers of Jehovah. Thus the Sabbath is the sign of man's allegiance to God as long as there are any upon the earth to serve Him." Patriarchs and Prophets, page 307. Webster defines a memorial as "anything intended to preserve the memory of a Person or event; something which serves to keep some person or thing in remembrance, as a monument or a practice."

Revelation 14: 6, 7.

The attention of the whole world is to be drawn to the fact that God is the Creator.

Exodus 31: 17;

Ezekiel 20: 20.

The keeping of the Sabbath was a sign or token of the worship of the true God.

Exodus 31:13;

Ezekiel 20:12.

The Sabbath was also a sign of sanctification. It symbolized the fact that God was holy in character, and would enable His people to be holy.

Because the work of sanctification is a work of creation (Ps 51:10; John 3: 3; Ephesians 2. 10), the Sabbath, which reminds us of God as the Creator' becomes a symbol of redemption to every converted soul. In this respect it serves as a link which binds us to Christ.

### 3. The Results of Forgetting the Sabbath.

Since the Sabbath was intended to preserve the knowledge of the true God as Creator, its neglect naturally results in a loss of this great truth together with the related truth of God's saving grace. (Jeremiah 10:10-12.) The true God is distinguished by His creative power.

Forgetfulness of the true God as the Creator has given rise to the modern theory of Evolution. No such theory could ever have been propounded had men been faithful Sabbath-keepers. In the field of religion the acceptance of the evolutionary theory, with its doctrine of progress to an ever-higher plane of life has produced what is sometimes called Higher Criticism, which, in its extreme form, sees no need of a Savior. It is certainly significant that neither evolution nor higher criticism originated with Sabbath-keepers, and find no sympathy with them.

### 4. The Sabbath an Enduring Memorial.

## Bible Doctrines

(a) Since the Sabbath was instituted in Eden for man's good even before he sinned, its purpose cannot be temporal. Its foundations rest upon eternal truths, and its purpose is based upon an eternal need-man's need of God.

(b) There is no hint anywhere. in the Bible that the Sabbath was abolished.

Luke 4: 16. Christ kept the Sabbath.

Matthew 24: 20. Christ taught His followers to regard the sacred ness of the Sabbath after His ascension.

Revelation 1:10. John speaks of "the Lord's day," which could be none other than the Sabbath (Mark 2:27, 28; Exodus 20:8-11; Isaiah 58: 13, 14).

(c) The Sabbath will be observed in the new earth. Isaiah 66: 22, 23.

MEMORIZE: Exodus 20: 8-11.

### Questions on the Lesson

1. When was the Sabbath instituted? On what four facts is it based?
2. What shows that the Sabbath was not established as a Jewish institution?
- 3: Why was the Sabbath instituted?
4. Of what is the Sabbath a memorial? A symbol?
5. How is Sabbath-keeping related to the gospel?
6. What truth is to be proclaimed to all the world?
7. Describe the results of forgetting the Sabbath.
8. Give proofs that the Sabbath is an enduring memorial.

### For Further Study

1. Make a list of some other divine memorials besides the Sabbath, and state what each was intended to commemorate. Genesis 9: 12-17; Exodus 12: 14; 1 Corinthians 11 : 23-25; Romans 6: 3-5.
2. Distinguish between a memorial and a type. Is the Sabbath a type? Name some memorials which are also types.
3. What is a symbol? Is the Sabbath a symbol?
4. Why did sinless man need a Sabbath? See "Patriarchs and Prophets," page 48.
5. Collect some information on how and when Sunday became known as "the Lord's day."