

# The Creation Covenant

## Cosmic Controversy Series: Part 6

### Study Guide

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## I. THE OLD COVENANT

### Hebrews 4:4, 9

<sup>4</sup> For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way, “And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.” <sup>9</sup> So then, there remains a sabbath rest for the people of God.

### Genesis 2:1-3

<sup>1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. <sup>2</sup> And on the seventh day God finished his work which he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done. <sup>3</sup> So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all his work which he had done in creation.

### Ezekiel 20: 12

Moreover I gave them my sabbaths, as a sign between me and them, that they might know that I the LORD sanctify them.

### Exodus 20:11

for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it.

### **A. God’s Language of Love**

1. There is a piece of time carved into every week that is a sign and a seal signifying that God can be found by the restless seeker.
2. God spoke the language of love into the seventh day and left it there forever so that for all eternity we would never be alone.
3. God left a sign in time to show that love is real, love lasts, and love finishes what it starts (Hebrews 4:4, 9). [See also: Hebrews 4:5-8.]

4. As soon as there was a man and a woman to know Him, God separated the seventh-day and blessed it (Genesis 2:1-3).
5. In the beginning, God made the Sabbath holy and God hallowed the seventh day. We are holy because it is holy (Genesis 2:3; Exodus 20:11). [See also: Exodus 20:8-10.]
6. The Sabbath is a sign that God has made us to be wholly His. We come to know God because in the beginning He chose the Sabbath as the way to know Him (Ezekiel 20:12).

#### Revelation 14:8

*Another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of her impure passion."*

### **B. Rejection of God's Holy Sabbath**

1. For many Christians, the Sabbath represents slavery. They have come to believe that the seventh day is a sign of legalism or a Jewish relic that must be rejected to be free in Christ.
2. Hatred of the Sabbath goes all the way back to the ancient Babylonians who taught their people to despise the seventh day as something evil in this world.
3. The following inscription was found on an ancient Babylonian monument as testament to their hatred of the Sabbath:
 

*"The seventh day is a feast of Marduk and Zarpanit. An evil day. The shepherd of the great peoples shall not eat flesh cooked on coals, or smoked. The garment of his body he shall not change, nor put on clean raiment. An offering he shall not make. The king shall not ride in a chariot. He shall not speak as a victor. A seer shall not utter an oracle in a secret place. The physician shall not lay his hand on the sick...At night the king shall bring his gift before Marduk and Ishtar, and pour out a libation. The lifting up of his hand will then be acceptable to his God."* [A Babylonian inscription quoted in, *The Monuments and the Old Testament*, by Ira Maurice Price, Ovid r. Sellers, and E. Leslie Carlson, Philadelphia, The Judson Press, 1958, page 110.]
4. For the Babylonians, the only good thing about the Seventh-day was its end:
  - It was not a time for a king of his subjects to be happy.
  - It was not a time for people to be healed.
  - It was not a time to pray and experience the joy of Heaven.
5. There are Christians alive today who share the same sentiment that cursed the seventh day in ancient Babylon.

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Exodus 31:12-13

<sup>13</sup> *“Say to the people of Israel, ‘You shall keep my sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the LORD, sanctify you.*”

Genesis 2:2-3

<sup>2</sup> *And on the seventh day God finished his work which he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done. <sup>3</sup> So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all his work which he had done in creation.*

Exodus 20:11

*For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it.*

### **C. God’s Love in Action on the Seventh Day**

1. According to the Bible, the Sabbath is a sign that God can be found and that God is holy and can make you Holy (Exodus 31:13).
2. In Genesis 2, God performed four actions on the seventh day that embedded its meaning of love in time:
  - **Action Number One: God finished all His work that He had done on the seventh day.** Life is not complete and God is not done unless we come to rest in him and with him on the seventh day (Genesis 2:2).
  - **Action Number Two: God sanctified the seventh day. That means He made it holy.** The Hebrew word “qodesh” for holy means “to set apart.” God made the seventh day for a different purpose than that of the other six days (Genesis 2:3).
  - **Action Number Three: God rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done.** Man and woman were made on the sixth day. Life on the sixth day is unfinished existence and imperfect living without the blessing of the seventh day (Genesis 2:2).
  - **Action Number Four: God blessed the seventh day.** The word blessing means to make happy. God programmed happiness into time on the seventh day (Genesis 2:3).
3. Eternity comes to Adam and Eve on the seventh day with a tender touch in unmistakable tones.
4. The seventh day is the day eternity stepped into time and pressed with passion the kiss of love and blessing on Adam and Eve.

5. The Bible is clear that there is life in the Sabbath, because God's love is in the day.
  6. When God created the world in the beginning, He spoke seven times and on the seventh time He blessed the seventh day (Genesis 2:3). [See also: Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24-26.]
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#### Exodus 25:8, 40

<sup>8</sup> *And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. <sup>40</sup> And see that you make them after the pattern for them, which is being shown you on the mountain.*

#### Exodus 31:12-14

<sup>12</sup> *And the LORD said to Moses, <sup>13</sup> "Say to the people of Israel, 'You shall keep my sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the LORD, sanctify you. <sup>14</sup> You shall keep the sabbath, because it is holy for you; everyone who profanes it shall be put to death; whoever does any work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people....'"*

#### Exodus 31:15-16

<sup>15</sup> *Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD; whoever does any work on the sabbath day shall be put to death. <sup>16</sup> Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the sabbath, observing the sabbath throughout their generations, as a perpetual covenant.*

#### Isaiah 56:4-5

<sup>4</sup> *For thus says the LORD: "To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, <sup>5</sup> I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name which shall not be cut off.*

#### Luke 13:14-17

<sup>14</sup> *But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." <sup>15</sup> Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? <sup>16</sup> And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" <sup>17</sup> As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.*

### **D. The Sabbath and God's Holy Sanctuary**

1. God commanded Moses to build a sanctuary because he desired to live close to His people (Exodus 25:8, 40).

2. In the Book of Exodus , God gave Moses specific instructions on how to make His sanctuary. Seven times the text says, and “the LORD said to Moses” (Exodus 25:1; 30:11, 17, 22, 34; 31:1, 12).
3. The seven statements are like the seven days of creation, because in the Bible the Sabbath and God’s holy sanctuary are united concepts.
4. The seventh time God spoke to Moses in reference to building the sanctuary is recorded in Exodus 31:12. The passage is relaying that life does not last unless life is found in a meaningful and continual relationship with God, which is rooted in the seventh day.
5. The seventh day is about God ministering to us to give us life. As far as God is concerned, the Sabbath day is a life and death matter to your soul (Exodus 31:14-15; Isaiah 56:45).
6. The seventh day is an avenue God has chosen to share **grace, love, and life** with you (Luke 13:14-17).

## II. THE NEW COVENANT

### Mark 2:27-28

<sup>27</sup> *And he said to them, “The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath; <sup>28</sup> so the Son of man is lord even of the sabbath.”*

### Matthew 12:7-8

<sup>7</sup> *“And if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless. <sup>8</sup> For the Son of man is lord of the sabbath.”*

### Galatians 3:29

<sup>29</sup> *And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.”*

### Hebrews 4:4, 9

<sup>4</sup> *For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way, “And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.” <sup>9</sup> So then, there remains a sabbath rest for the people of God;*

### Isaiah 56:6-7

<sup>6</sup> *“And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, every one who keeps the sabbath, and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant—<sup>7</sup> these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.*

### **A. The Lord’s Day**

1. According to Jesus, the Sabbath was made for everyone, and He is the Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:27-28; Matthew 12:7-8).

2. If Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath, then the Sabbath is the Lord's day. And anything good enough for Jesus Christ is good enough for all.
3. According to the New Testament, if you belong to Jesus you are a son of Abraham, and an heir according to the promise (Galatians 3:29).
4. There is a Sabbath rest for Old and New Testament believers who cease from their labors on the seventh day as God did from all His works on the seventh day (Hebrews 4:4-9).
5. The idea that the Sabbath is for everyone was understood in early Bible times (Isaiah 56:5-7).

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Galatians 3:28-29

<sup>28</sup> *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.* <sup>29</sup> *And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.*

Romans 9:6-8

<sup>6</sup> *But it is not as though the word of God had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel,* <sup>7</sup> *and not all are children of Abraham because they are his descendants; but "Through Isaac shall your descendants be named."* <sup>8</sup> *This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are reckoned as descendants.*

Galatians 3:16-17

<sup>16</sup> *Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings", referring to many; but, referring to one, "And to your offspring," which is Christ.* <sup>17</sup> *This is what I mean: the law, which came four hundred and thirty years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to make the promise void.*

Galatians 6:14-16

<sup>14</sup> *But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.* <sup>15</sup> *For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.* <sup>16</sup> *Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God.*

Exodus 31:16-17

<sup>16</sup> *Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the sabbath, observing the sabbath throughout their generations, as a perpetual covenant.* <sup>17</sup> *It is a sign for ever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.*

Romans 2:28-29

<sup>28</sup> *For he is not a real Jew who is one outwardly, nor is true circumcision something external and physical.*

<sup>29</sup> *He is a Jew who is one inwardly, and real circumcision is a matter of the heart, spiritual and not literal. His praise is not from men but from God.*

#### 1 Peter 2:9-10

<sup>9</sup> *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were no people but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy but now you have received mercy*

### **B. The New Testament Church**

1. In the New Testament, the Church is Israel (Galatians 3:28-29; Romans 9:6-8).
2. According to Galatians 3:16-17, the promises of God were given to Abraham and to his seed, "singular," which is Jesus Christ.
3. If you belong to Christ, according to Paul, you share in the blessing of Abraham (Galatians 3:29).
4. If you belong to Christ, you belong to Israel and you are a new creation (Galatians 6:14-15).
5. God is not a racist, there is only one people of God in the Bible. There is no such thing as two peoples of God in the Bible (Galatians 3:28).
6. The Sabbath is the sign of God's covenant between the people of Israel and Himself (Exodus 31:16-17).
7. When God commands the Sabbath to be kept by the children of Israel throughout their generations, as far as the New Testament is concerned, it's for Christians to keep as well because they are Israel (Romans 2:28-29; Galatians 14-16; 1 Peter 2:9-10).

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#### Hebrews 9:15-18

<sup>15</sup> *Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred which redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant. <sup>16</sup> For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. <sup>17</sup> For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. <sup>18</sup> Hence even the first covenant was not ratified without blood.*

#### 1 Corinthians 11:25

*In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."*

#### Galatians 3:15

*To give a human example, brethren: no one annuls even a man's will, or adds to it, once it has been ratified.*

### C. Ratification of The New Covenant

1. In the Bible, a covenant must be ratified or inaugurated by the shedding of blood (Hebrews 9:18).
2. One cannot add to a covenant once the blood has been shed and the covenant has been ratified (Galatians 3:15).
3. The Bible teaches that Jesus shed his blood as the blood of the New Covenant. That means he ratified the New Covenant with his blood (1 Corinthians 11:25).
4. Logical Conclusion: Since Jesus never spoke of a change in scripture before he ratified the New Covenant by his death on the cross, Sunday comes three days too late to be in the New Covenant (Hebrews 9:15-18; Galatians 3:15).

## III. THE ETERNAL COVENANT

### Ezekiel 20:12

*Moreover I gave them my sabbaths, as a sign between me and them, that they might know that I the LORD sanctify them.*

### Exodus 31:17

<sup>17</sup> *It is a sign for ever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.*

### John 17: 3

*And this is eternal life, that they know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.*

### Mark 2:27-28

<sup>27</sup> *And he said to them, "The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath;*  
<sup>28</sup> *so the Son of man is lord even of the sabbath."*

### A. The Seventh Day

1. The seventh day is the day of promise. It is the covenant day (Ezekiel 20:12).
2. The seventh day is the anniversary that renews the covenant day.
  - It is the day God promised to never leave us.
  - It is the day God promised to give us rest.
  - It is the day God promised to finish His work.
  - It is the day God blessed us with Himself, because God is in the day.
3. Exodus 31:17 states that on the seventh day the Lord rested and was refreshed. The Hebrew reads, "On the seventh day he rested, and it

[meaning the Sabbath] was given a soul” or “it was filled with life” (John 17:3).

4. The life of the seventh day is Jesus Christ, Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:27-28).

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Matthew 24:14, 20

<sup>14</sup> *And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, as a testimony to all nations; and then the end will come.* <sup>20</sup> *Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a sabbath.*

Genesis 2:2-3

<sup>2</sup> *And on the seventh day God finished his work which he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done.* <sup>3</sup> *So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all his work which he had done in creation.*

John 19:30

*When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, “It is finished”; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

Hebrews 4:4, 9

<sup>4</sup> *For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way, “And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.”* <sup>9</sup> *So then, there remains a sabbath rest for the people of God;*

Isaiah 66:22-23

<sup>22</sup> *“For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before me, says the LORD; so shall your descendants and your name remain.* <sup>23</sup> *From new moon to new moon, and from sabbath to sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, says the LORD.*

## **B. The Sabbath and the New Testament Believer**

1. Jesus was concerned about the Sabbath and its connection to the end of time (Matthew 24:14, 20). When Jesus was dying on the cross for your sins and mine, He remembered the promise He made in Eden. His mind journeyed back to Genesis 2:2.
2. As the sun was setting on Good Friday, and Sabbath approached, Jesus hung upon the cross remembering the promise He made in Eden. He remembered the everlasting covenant of the seventh day (Genesis 2:3).
3. The burden of Jesus’ heart was to save you and me. Yet, He remembered the promise He made in Eden. Jesus quoted the words of the seventh day in Genesis 2:2 crying out, “It is finished” and He died (John 19:30).

4. The One who made us saved us and then rested on the seventh day to prove it. When we keep the seventh-day Sabbath, we do more than just rest on the seventh day. We rest in what Jesus has done for us on that day (Hebrews 4:4, 9; Isaiah 66:22-23).

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Exodus 31:16

*Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the sabbath, observing the sabbath throughout their generations, as a perpetual covenant.*

Isaiah 56: 6-8

<sup>6</sup> *“And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, every one who keeps the sabbath, and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant—<sup>7</sup> these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; <sup>8</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered.”*

Isaiah 56:2-3

<sup>2</sup> *“Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who holds it fast, who keeps the sabbath, not profaning it, and keeps his hand from doing any evil.” <sup>3</sup> Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say, “The LORD will surely separate me from his people.”*

John 10:16

*And I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd.*

Mark 2:27-28

<sup>27</sup> *And he said to them, “The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath; <sup>28</sup> so the Son of man is lord even of the sabbath.”*

Matthew 26:27-28

<sup>27</sup> *And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you; <sup>28</sup> for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.*

Hebrews 13:20-21

<sup>20</sup> *Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

1 Corinthians 11:25

*In the same way also [he took] the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”*

### Matthew 11:28

*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

### Hebrews 4:9-10

*<sup>9</sup> So then, there remains a sabbath rest for the people of God; <sup>10</sup> for whoever enters God's rest also ceases from his labors as God did from his.*

### Revelation 21:2-3

*<sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; <sup>3</sup> and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them."*

## **C. The Eternal Covenant**

1. According to the Bible, the Sabbath is God's eternal covenant. The Hebrew literally reads, "Eternal Covenant." Some bibles translate the word "lasting covenant" (Exodus 31:16; Isaiah 56:6-7).
2. The Hebrew word "seven" is taken from the verb that means "to swear an oath". The word "seven" literally means "oath."
3. An oath and a covenant are synonyms that mean the same thing. The "seventh day" is literally the "oath day". It is the covenant day.
4. According to Isaiah, the Gentiles would be gathered unto Jesus Christ and keep the Sabbath because of Jesus Christ. There are no two peoples of God in the Bible (Isaiah 56:6-8, 2-3; John 10:16).
5. The eternal covenant is the promise God made in Eden, and He kept it at the cross. The eternal covenant is what brought Jesus Christ to the cross to save us from sin (Mark 2:27-28; Matthew 26:17-28).
6. Jesus shed His blood as the blood of the eternal covenant (Hebrews 13:20). Jesus' blood is called the blood of the new covenant (1 Corinthians 11:25). So if Jesus' blood is the blood of the eternal covenant, and Jesus blood is the blood of the new covenant, then the eternal covenant is the new covenant.
7. God gave us the Sabbath as a covenant and a sign that He can give us rest forever (Matthew 11:28; Hebrews 4:9-10).
8. The Sabbath is the sign of righteousness by faith (Hebrews 4:10).
  - It is the everlasting covenant of rest.
  - It is the sign that God can finish the work He started.
  - It is the sign that Jesus died for us and opened Eden's door at the cross.
9. God made the seventh day because He wants you close to His heart forever (Revelation 21:2-3).