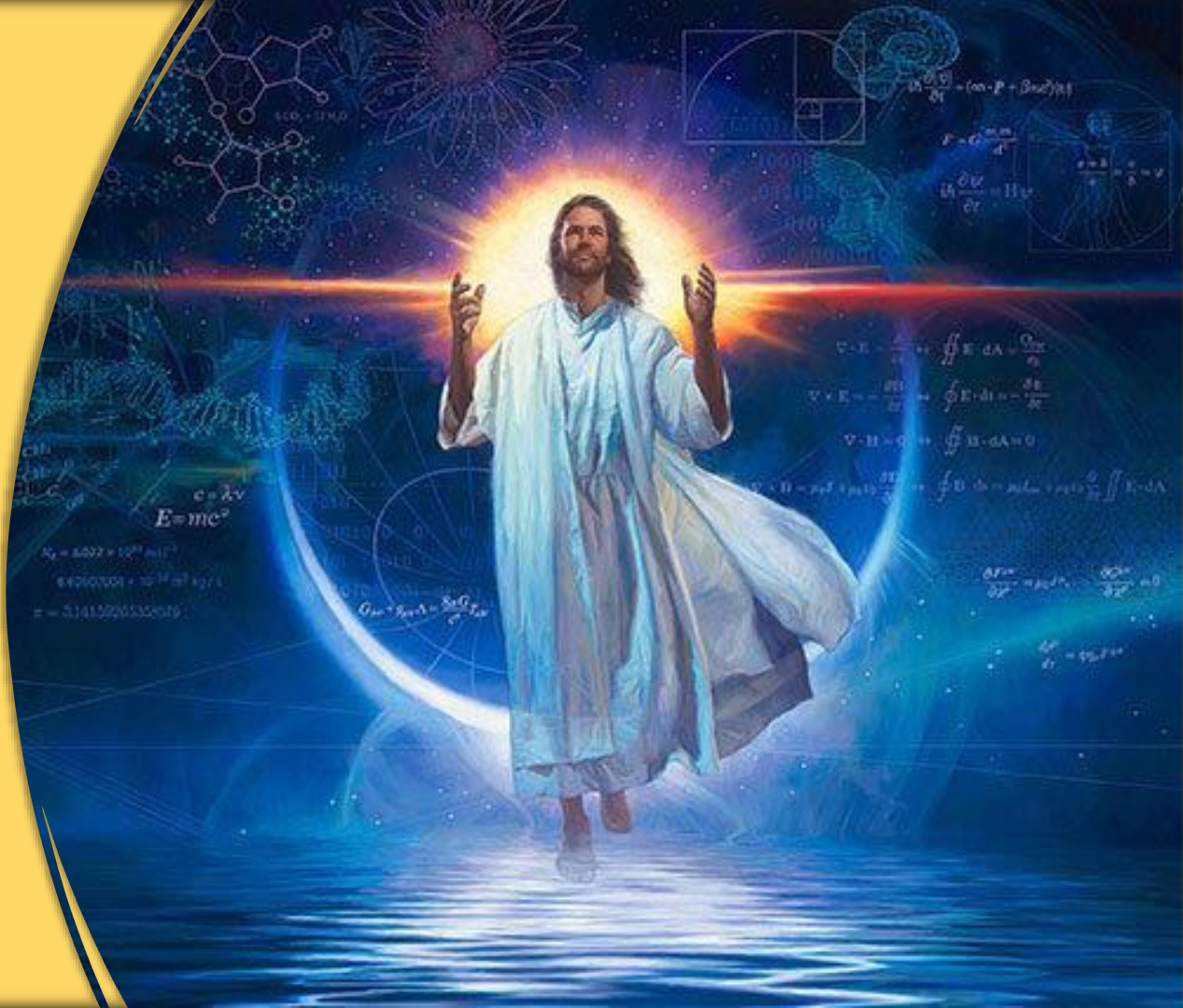




THE SABBATH AND THE END

Lesson 8 for May 20, 2023

“And to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ”
(Ephesians 3:9)





The famed Jewish author Abraham Heschel calls the Sabbath “a palace in time.”

Sabbath is a moment in time to meet personally with our Creator and Redeemer, and to worship Him.

It’s a moment to acknowledge that we’ve been created as unique beings. It’s the time to remember that God loves us and that we’re immensely important for Him.

-  **Sabbath and moral freedom**
-  **Sabbath and Creation**
-  **Sabbath and Evolution**
-  **Sabbath and the End Time**
-  **Sabbath and eternity**

SABBATH AND MORAL FREEDOM

"For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ." (Romans 14:10)

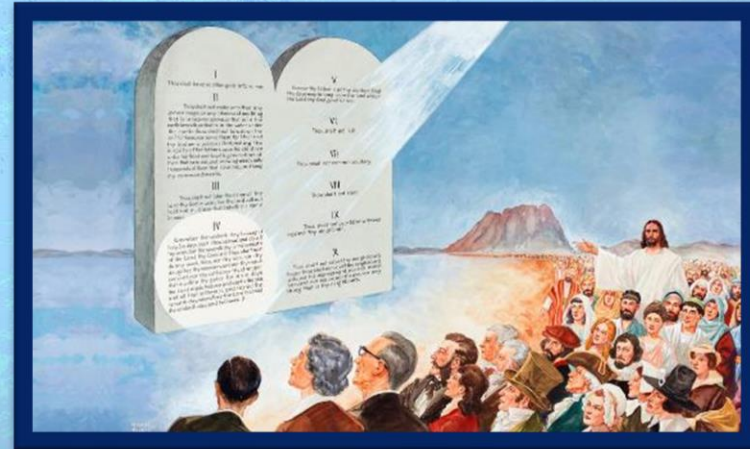


God will judge everyone. Therefore, He considers every person morally responsible for their own actions. We are accountable before God for everything we do and think.

Why does God have the right to hold us accountable for how we use our moral freedom?

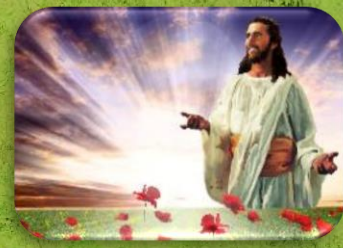
God is our Creator, and He made a moral Law (the 10 Commandments) that determines which moral decisions are right (James 2:8-12).

The fourth commandment (the Sabbath) reminds us of the reason we should keep the Law: God created us (Ex. 20:8-11).



SABBATH AND CREATION

"Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made." (Genesis 2:3)



After finishing the creation of Earth and all living beings on it, God created a day: the Sabbath (Gn. 2:1-3).

Sabbath was created for a sinless world. It was a moment of special relationship with God. After sin, Sabbath became special for several reasons.

It's a token of loyalty to the Creator

It reminds us that we're children of God

It encourages us to rest in God and rejoice in Him

It's a reminder of our redemption

It allows us to rejoice in God's kindness

It's a special moment to worship our Creator and Redeemer

It's the link between Eden and the New Earth

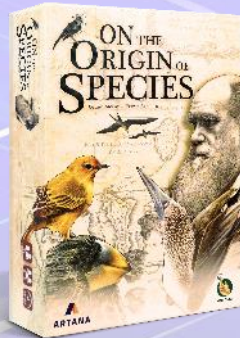
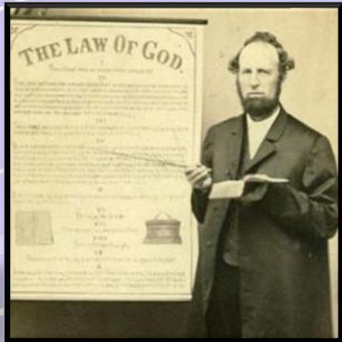
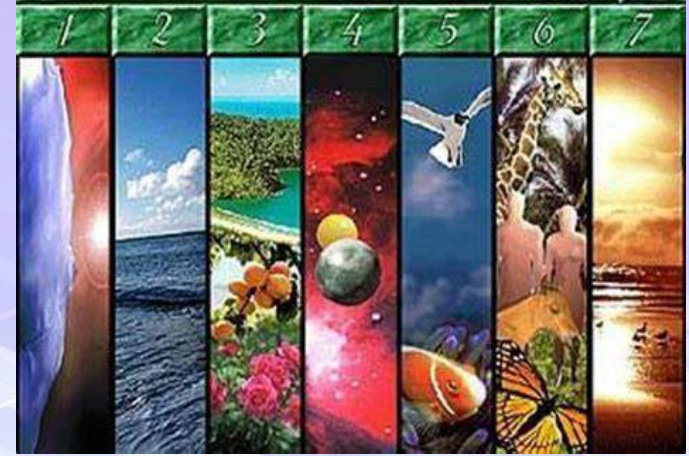


SABBATH AND EVOLUTION

"For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast." (Psalm 33:9)

The Bible explains how God created the world. The Hebrew word for day ("yom") with a number (e.g. "first"), p. e. "primero") is always used for a 24-hour period. There are no exceptions.

The Genesis account of Creation cannot support the idea that it took extended periods of time. On the contrary, Sabbath is emphasized because God created our world in six days and rested in the seventh (Ex. 20:11).



The founders of the Adventist Church were especially interested in the Sabbath in the mid-nineteenth century (1845). The Theory of Evolution arose in that same moment, attacking the foundation of the Sabbath (1859). Satan has tried to destroy this memorial of Creation.

“The Bible recognizes no long ages in which the earth was slowly evolved from chaos. Of each successive day of creation, the sacred record declares that it consisted of the evening and the morning, like all other days that have followed. At the close of each day is given the result of the Creator's work. The statement is made at the close of the first week's record, ‘These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created.’ Genesis 2:4. But this does not convey the idea that the days of creation were other than literal days. Each day was called a generation, because that in it God generated, or produced, some new portion of His work.”

SABBATH AND THE END TIME



“Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.” (Revelation 14:12)

The final message is a call to worship the Creator and not the enemy. This call is closely related to observing the Ten Commandments (Rev. 14:12).

The conflict itself is not related to loving our neighbor (the last six commandments), but to loving God (the first four commandments).

The mark we will receive in the End Time will show who we worship: God (Sabbath) or the beast (Sunday).



Ex. 20:3
Rev. 13:4



Do not
have
other
gods

Ex. 20:4-6
Rev. 13:14-15



Do not
make
carved
images

Worship
the
Creator

Honor
the name
of God

Ex. 20:8-11
Rev. 13:16



Ex. 20:7
Rev. 13:17



SABBATH AND ETERNITY



“And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me,” says the Lord.” (Isaiah 66:23)

Each week we set our worldly worries aside and enter God’s rest: the Sabbath.

Why will Sabbath still exist in the New Earth if there will be no more worries and we’ll be living close to God’s throne (Rev. 22:3)?

Remember that Sabbath as the day of rest and communion with God was introduced in a sinless world (Gn. 2:1-3).

Once the Earth is recreated, Sabbath will still be a day of rest and communion with God (Is. 66:23).

Each of our Sabbaths anticipates our eternity with Jesus in the New Earth.



“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 worshipers 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.”

E. G. W. (Patriarchs and Prophets, cp. 27, p. 307)