

### **Q3: Can Man Make A Day Holy?**

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Can man make a day holy? Can men change a day that God declared is holy and move it to another day? Should the Christian respect what God has already declared holy? These are the questions that arise time and time again when the subject of the Sabbath is discussed.

Will it really make any difference whether we keep the day God blessed?

*“Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed. And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.” Ex 31:16-18 KJV*

Let's examine a biblical pattern found in Exodus chapter three and let the word of God reveal to us a pattern about something He declared is holy. By doing this we will find answers to the above questions.

God's word records an effective pattern in an experience that Moses' had. Moses had been raised from a baby as a prince by Pharaoh's daughter, but he had killed an Egyptian guard who had been beating a Hebrew slave. He was forced to flee for his life to the land of Midian. There, after some time, he had married a daughter of Jethro the priest of Midian. One day as he led a flock of sheep, Moses came to Mount Sinai, where he saw a large bush burning, yet the flames did not consume it. While pondering this strange sight, the Lord called to Moses out of the burning bush: *“Moses, Moses . . . Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground” (Exodus 3:1-5).*

Why did God tell Moses to take off his shoes? Because the ground where he stood was *holy*. God required him to treat holy ground with a respect he did not treat other common plots of ground. Why was this ground holy? Because God's presence was there. God is holy and His presence in the bush made the place holy.

In the same way, God's presence is in His Sabbath. He rested on the seventh day of Creation to put His presence in that day, making it a holy time. Four thousand years later, when God came in human flesh as Jesus Christ, He still honored the seventh day with His presence. He went into the synagogues *“as His custom was . . . on the Sabbath day” (Luke 4:16).*

Jesus Christ is the same today as He was yesterday, and will forever be (Hebrews 13:8). He has not changed in the least. He is still putting His presence *in* His Sabbath, making it holy.

God commanded Moses to take his shoes off that holy ground. Likewise, the same God commands mankind to take his foot off from trampling and profaning the Sabbath. God expects His children to treat that day with a respect *not* required on other days. Notice in Isaiah 58:1-14 how the people are described who celebrate the Lord's Sabbath. He speaks of restoration, repairers of wasted places and raising up many generations . . . "if" you turn and honor Him on the Sabbath. In this portion of scripture we are given behavioral insights about a holy day. He says that we are to *not trample* on this holy day with our feet and then explains what that means.

We need to take heed concerning these exhortations and instructions because the Prophet says in the last six words of this chapter, that the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

*"Those from among you Shall build the old waste places; You shall raise up the foundations of many generations; And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In. "If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, From doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, The holy day of the Lord honorable, And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking your own words, Then you shall delight yourself in the Lord; And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the Lord has spoken." Isa. 58:1-14 NKJV*

To turn away your foot is a reference to not trampling the Sabbath with our normal six days of earthly pursuits. We honor God by keeping holy those things that He has made holy, and He honors us if we do it. We dishonor Him when we speak our own words, saying, Well, I think the ideas and ways of men must be right. I'd rather do as they do, and have them think well of me. This is legalism. Any day can be a Sabbath day. I am not Jewish why do I have to do this? All of these arguments are from men, the bible is clear about the Sabbath and what day it is. Yet we still trample it with such wrongheaded thinking.

In reality one has to *adopt a fairly elaborate Greco-Roman-Western theology* to trample on "His Holy Seventh Day - Called The Sabbath."

God commands in Isaiah to take your foot off My holy time. Quit trampling all over that which is holy and sacred to Me. Quit *profaning* (irreverent & disrespecting) My holy days. The disobedience is represented by being *irreverent* and *disrespecting* what God made holy.

God has never made any other weekday holy. Mankind has no authority to sanctify a day of the week. One cannot keep a day holy, unless God has first made it holy, any more than one can keep cold water hot *unless* it is was made hot in the first place. God

made this period of time holy, and He commands us to *remember* (mark, Ex.20:8-9) and *observe* (guard, protect & attend to, Deut.5:12-14).

*“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. These are the **feasts** of the Lord, even **holy** convocations, which ye shall proclaim in **their seasons**. Lev 23:3-4 KJV*

I submit to you that the original deception is the same deception that diverts man from obeying the “Fourth Commandment.” It is the believer’s responsibility to find out what mark, guard, protect and attend to means (Ex.20:8-9 & Deut. 5:12-14). God made it simple and crystal clear in the whole bible that He wanted His creation to honor what he said about the Sabbath.

*“Now the serpent was more crafty than any wild animal which Adonai, God, had made. He said to the woman, “**Did God really say**, ‘You are not to eat from any tree in the garden?’” Gen 3:1 CJB*

Did God really say....., “The Seventh Day?” Surely you can rest on any day and eat from any tree?

God said it, Jesus did it, I believe it, that settles it!

*Blessings, Pastor Bob Hill*