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Old Testament Literature BIB102 OB

03/29/2023

Writing Assignment #5, "The Sabbath in the Old Testament: Exod 20:8-11, 35:2-3: Num 15:32-36: Deut 5:12-15: Jer 17:21-22 and Neh 13:15-16"

God commanded the people of Israel to observe the Sabbath rest on that day and keep it holy because God himself after making in six days the heavens and the earth, rested on the seventh day blessing it and making it holy. According to Exodus 35:2-3 if someone broke that commandment and worked on the Sabbath day would face death and in Num 15:32-36 we can learn an actual example of someone that was gathering wood on a Sabbath day, while the Israelites were still in the wilderness, he was brought to Moses, Aaron and the whole assembly. They inquired the LORD who told them that the man must die. And the man was stoned as the LORD commanded Moses. Breaking that command meant that person will face a death punishment.

Comparing Exodus 5:12-15, Numbers 15:32-36, Jeremiah 17:21-22 and Nehemiah 13:15-16, we can see how the commandment of keeping the Sabbath holy, seems that become a lighter transgression of the Law. Jeremiah does not talk about death punishment and limits it just to the prohibition of carrying loads forbidden on the Sabbath day. While in Nehemiah, it is evident that the commandment of keeping the Sabbath was being broken in Judah, because the people in Judah were trading grains, wine, figs, and grapes, loading all of this in donkeys. This trading culture was also brought to Jerusalem on the Sabbath day.

I think God commanded His people to observe the Sabbath because we were created in his image, as his people we also need to follow his command and rest on the seventh day as he did. Even He being the all-powerful rested on the seventh day, who are we to do not follow God's commandment and rest? Supposing that we ignore completely God's teachings...we as human beings still need to rest because if we do not rest, we will perish out of tiredness. We can get overtired if we do not rest once in a while. God wants us His children to enjoy His creation. If we completely rest one day, we can get time to reflect on our own lives and our relationship with our creator, we also can have time to spend with our family and community without worrying about day-to-day occupations.

For me as a Christian, the holy day is Sunday, from my understanding, Jesus with His resurrection converted the Sabbath to a new day The First day of the week, is Sunday. We rest and go to church on Sundays. Reflecting on this command of observing the holy days, nowadays it is incredible how broke is generally this command (especially in this country). I still remember when in my country (El Salvador) on Sundays we cannot find any business open, but little by little our country had become influenced by USA culture and has been adapting to a new

way of doing business where the places are open 7 days a week. This new business culture brought a complete broke to the commandment of observing the Sabbath day especially if you are an employee and have no option if want to keep your job. Even though you still get a day off during the week, that day is not the same as the people who work for public offices. In this country is the same, people who work in restaurants, or business-related for tourism, you got to work on Saturday or Sunday because the weekends are the busiest days. I think that nowadays the corporate world is who ruled most places in the world, but we can still find some exceptions like the Jewish communities that observe Saturday as the Sabbath day. There is also some business that closes all their stores on Sundays like Chick-fil-A. I think will be good to go back and observe the Sabbath day for the whole world even though will be so difficult for the accustomed we are to having things available on Saturdays or Sundays.