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Old Testament Literature

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Written Assignment – Extra Credit

The book of Exodus recorded that the Lord gave the Sabbath. Exodus 20 says the Israelites should work six days but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord. Verse 11 goes on to say that in six days the Lord made the heaven and the earth and rested the seventh day, wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it. Exodus 35 gives the same instructions as Exodus 20. Exodus 35 said, for six days work should be done but the seventh day is for rest, and it should be kept holy. This scripture went on to say whoever works on the Sabbath should be put to death.

Comparing these two scriptures with Deuteronomy 5:12-15, Deuteronomy also stated about working on six days and resting on the seventh. However, Deuteronomy said something further that the other 2. Deuteronomy 5:15 KJV says And remember that thou was a servant in the land of Egypt and that the Lord thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the Lord thy God commanded thee to keep the Sabbath day. This scripture was reminding the Israelites how the Lord victoriously carried them out of Egypt, out of their bondage, and therefore now they were able to keep the Sabbath and to rest, this the Lord commanded them to do.

Exodus 20:8-11 gave the instructions of not working on the sabbath but instead to rest and keep it holy. This scripture also listed in detail that everyone in the household should obey this command. The owner, sons, daughter, manservant, maidservant, cattle, and even the stranger that is within the gate. Exodus 20 gives instructions for the sabbath and so does Numbers 15:32-36, Jerimiah 17:21-22, and Nehemiah 13:15-16. Number, Jerimiah, and Nehemiah however give details of persons not upholding the sabbath even after being instructed. The scriptures di don't just highlight not working but they mentioned not bearing any burden, not carrying anything in nor out.

The Sabbath the on a Saturday and not a Sunday. A Sunday was the start of the week and the bible noted rest on the seventh day which would have been a Saturday. Over the years as Jesus came and abolished the law, he also lived and showed examples of how we are required to live as a result of His coming. From this, we recognize that the Sabbath was more of a guide, but it was now not mandatory to adhere to. As a result, I believe some people worship on a Sunday because per how our week is set up per the calendar year it would appear that Sunday is the seventh day, therefore a lot of Christians refer to it as their Sabbath. From reading through the scripture the ridge emphasis that was placed on adhering to the Sabbath and the penalty of not adhering to it no longer stands.

I believe the command to obey the Sabbath was a covenant between God and the Israelites. I believe one of the reasons why the Lord enforced the sabbath as seen in Deuteronomy 5:15 was to help to lift all the strain they have been experiencing over time. Hence why he mentioned them now being delivered from Egypt there was no longer that pressure to work on the Sabbath, but they could now rest. The Bible said in Mark 2: 23 that the Pharisees questioned why Jesus' disciples were picking grains on the Sabbath. Jesus responded to the

Pharisees in Mark 2:27 Then he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. There are also several instances in the bible where Jesus did what was considered as work on the sabbath John 9:14 Jesus caused the blind to see. Over the years of reading through the scriptures that has given a sense of comfort is St. Matthew 11:28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavily laden, and I will give you rest”.