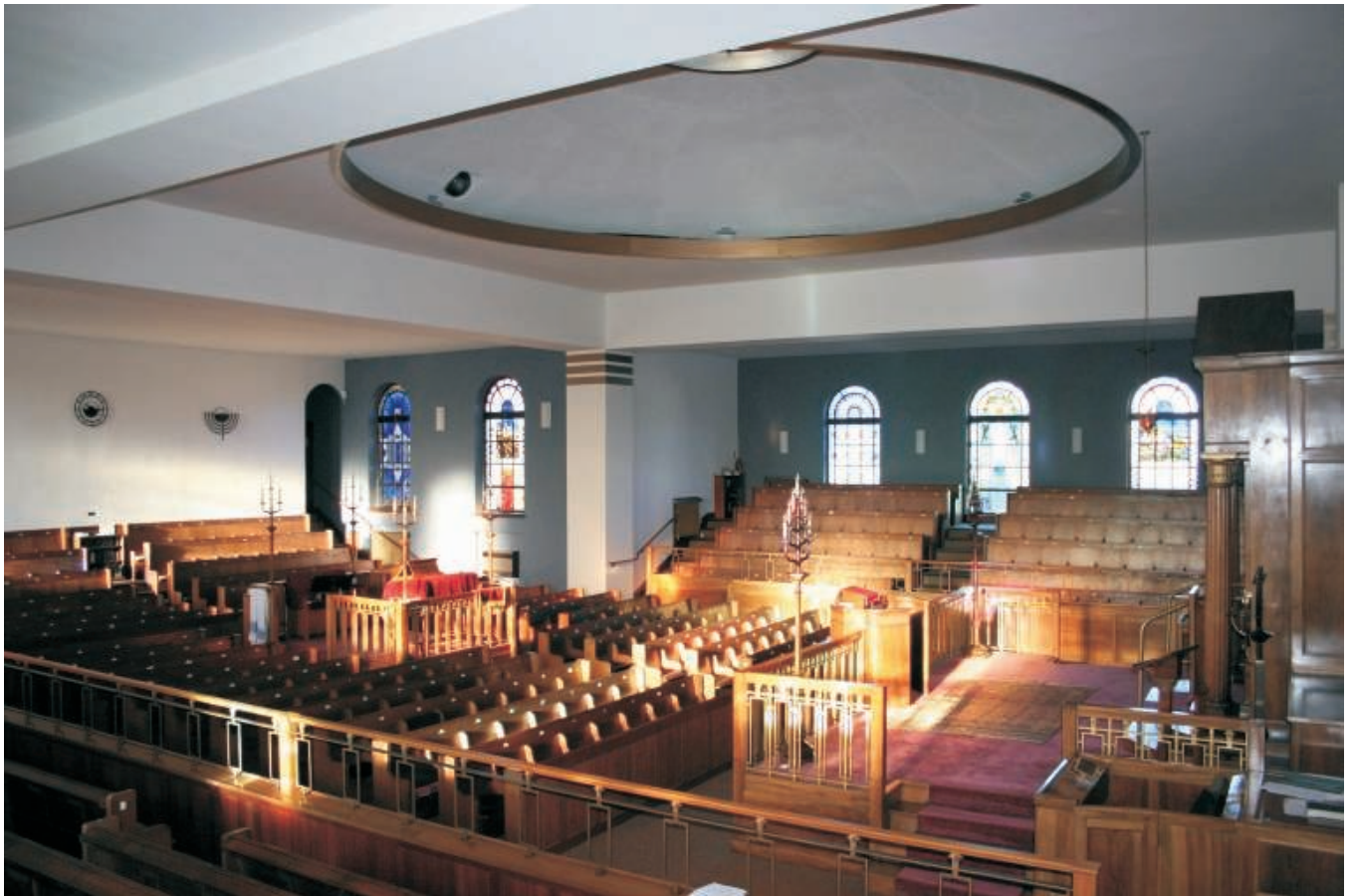


**HOPE OF
ISRAEL
MINISTRIES**

BIBLE

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE



Jewish Synagogue in Edinburgh, Scotland.

YEHOVAH God's TRUE Sabbath Day -- Part 1

Lesson 7

An Open Letter from the Staff...

Do YOU know that YEHOVAH God has a “sign” by which He RECOGNIZES His spiritual children? And do you know that only those having this SIGN will become sons (and daughters) of YEHOVAH God?

That vital, OVERWHELMINGLY IMPORTANT “sign” is YEHOVAH’s SABBATH DAY!

Yes -- YEHOVAH GOD’S Sabbath!

Not a “Sabbath of the Jews,” or any “day” that seems more or less important to any man, or group of men -- but THE Sabbath of YEHOVAH God Almighty Himself!

“But,” you might ask, “what does any ‘day’ have to do with entering into the happy, glorious world tomorrow and the very Kingdom of YEHOVAH God?”

IT HAS A GREAT DEAL TO DO WITH IT!

To human beings using only fallible HUMAN reasoning, it may seem “strange” indeed that YEHOVAH would place stress and importance on a SPECIFIC “DAY” OF THE WEEK! “WHY,” some might REASON, “would YEHOVAH God want me to rest on ONE day of the week more than any other?” “What real DIFFERENCE does it make anyhow?” ask others.

If there is no God -- if we were to leave YEHOVAH God out of the picture -- then it would make no difference!

But the Almighty Creator God DOES exist! His existence is easily proved. YEHOVAH is emphatically *IN* the picture, and He has set in living, inexorable motion invisible LAWS respecting this very question. That God and those laws EXIST -- they LIVE -- they are ACTIVE! And their existence does not depend on mankind realizing their existence. YES, it makes a TREMENDOUS DIFFERENCE -- TO YEHOVAH GOD!

You are going to learn the surprising and truly satisfying PLAIN truth about YEHOVAH’s true SABBATH DAY!



HOPE OF ISRAEL MINISTRIES BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE LESSON 7

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About Our Cover...

Jews worldwide attend synagogues such as this on *their* sabbath day. WHICH day is the **true** Sabbath of YEHOVAH God? WHY does YEHOVAH command man to rest on His holy Sabbath today? And HOW do we make it a “delight”? Learn the wonderful truth in this revealing lesson!

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YEHOVAH God's TRUE Sabbath Day -- Part 1

LESSON 7

WHY REST ON YEHOVAH'S SABBATH DAY?

Noah "walked" with YEHOVAH GOD (**Genesis 6:9**). They were that friendly! And because Noah "walked" in OBEDIENCE to YEHOVAH, He saved Noah and his family from the great flood that destroyed sinful mankind (**Genesis 6:11-14**). That was REAL FRIENDSHIP!

And after the flood we know that Abraham also became an OBEDIENT friend of YEHOVAH God (**James 2:23, 21**).

And what was the RESULT of this close friendship?

Because Abraham continued in this OBEDIENT relationship with YEHOVAH God (**Genesis 26:5**), YEHOVAH promised him the greatest and most abundant blessings imaginable -- this WHOLE EARTH for an inheritance, SONSHIP IN YEHOVAH'S FAMILY, and ETERNAL LIFE with which to enjoy it!



Moslems praying in a mosque on *their* sabbath day -- Friday.

But YEHOVAH God blessed Abraham EVEN MORE because of his loving obedience and mutual friendship! YEHOVAH placed before Abraham's spiritual offspring -- we who become his "seed" through the Messiah -- the SAME OPPORTUNITY to receive these SAME GREAT BLESSINGS!

YEHOVAH is always the close, loving friend of those who obey Him. It is within YEHOVAH's plan to become a very close friend of all who lovingly obey His wishes. And YEHOVAH shows great love in return by doing WONDERFUL THINGS for them!

YEHOVAH God is going to shower those of us who now learn our lessons of loving obedience with far GREATER blessings than we can imagine! He says, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that LOVE Him" (**I Corinthians 2:9**).

YEHOVAH's Purpose for Mankind

YEHOVAH God is LOVE (**I John 4:8**).

And the way of YEHOVAH's love is GIVING and SHARING. As our loving Friend and Father, YEHOVAH wants to SHARE with us the glory and riches of His Kingdom -- His Divine Family!

And so, YEHOVAH reveals His great PURPOSE for mankind to His obedient friends: "I will make man in MY image, according to MY likeness..." (**Genesis 1:26**, correct translation). And, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us; that we should be called the [SPIRIT-BEGOTTEN] SONS

OF GOD...we know that, when He [YEHOVAH God] shall appear, we shall be LIKE HIM...!" (**I John 3:1-2.**)

YEHOVAH's plan is to create family members out of mortal mankind -- very Sons of YEHOVAH'S DIVINE FAMILY!

Notice the Messiah's earnest desire to also make friends of humanity so they may become YEHOVAH's spirit born Sons: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his LIFE for his FRIENDS," Yeshua said (**John 15:13**).

Then the Messiah proceeded to show the extent of his great love for mankind by laying down his OWN LIFE for the world -- laying down his precious life for all who would become his OBEDIENT brothers and sisters -- FOR YOU AND FOR ME!

The Messiah is overjoyed to be our friend and elder brother and will do GREAT THINGS for us if we become his obedient brothers and sisters. "SUBMIT yourselves therefore to [YEHOVAH] God [OBEY HIM]...Draw nigh [NEAR] unto God [through Yeshua the Messiah]," James was inspired to write, "and He will draw nigh unto you [because of our friendship with the Messiah]" (**James 4:7-8**).

Sabbath Pictures Eternal "Rest"

In addition to the Messiah's great sacrifice for us, what else did he say he would do? Notice:

Yeshua said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden [be my friends by OBEYING YEHOVAH God], and I will give you REST!" (**Matthew 11:28.**) A GIFT! And what kind of rest is this? -- "GLORIOUS REST"!! (**Isaiah 11:10.**)

As our loving Father, YEHOVAH wants to give each of us His greatest gift of all -- ETERNAL LIFE -- glorious, eternal "rest" in the



"Christians" attending services on *their* Sabbath -- Sunday.

KINGDOM OF YEHOVAH GOD!

In the fourth chapter of Hebrews, the apostle Paul plainly shows us that RESTING from our daily labors on YEHOVAH's Holy Sabbath Day PICTURES our glorious future as spirit-born sons in YEHOVAH's Family! He shows that Sabbath keeping actually pictures "REST" FROM OUR STRUGGLES AGAINST SIN which YEHOVAH God promises to give His obedient children (**Hebrews 4:1-11**).

When born of YEHOVAH's Spirit, we will no longer suffer the DOWNWARD PULLS of our carnal flesh and SINFUL human nature. We will then possess the MIND OF YEHOVAH GOD in full. We will have the ability to remain PERFECTLY OBEDIENT to YEHOVAH's will FOREVER! (**I John 3:9.**)

And when born into YEHOVAH's Kingdom -- when we become very sons of YEHOVAH God -- we will also possess the same kind of gloriously radiant and POWERFUL spirit body that Messiah and the Father now have! We will no longer be LIMITED by our weak mortal bodies. For it is then that we will possess the powerful capacity for infinite accomplishment with our supremely efficient SPIRIT BODIES! Bodies that will be, by comparison to our weak mortal bodies, GLORIOUSLY EFFICIENT AND EFFORTLESS!

YEHOVAH God promises to give us all of this when we become His spirit-born sons! Isn't it astonishing what YEHOVAH will do for us if we now become His OBEDIENT and SPIRIT-BEGOTTEN children?

Eternal Life Offered to ALL Mankind

YEHOVAH God promises His gift of eternal life to all peoples of the earth who become, SPIRITUALLY speaking, "Abraham's seed" -- those who surrender themselves to the will of the Messiah and are SPIRITUALLY BEGOTTEN by the holy spirit. "If ye be Christ's, then are ye ABRAHAM'S SEED and HEIRS according to the promise" (**Galatians 3:28-29**).

As Abraham's "seed," we become heirs of the same promise made to Abraham -- the promise of eternal life and sonship in the Kingdom of YEHOVAH God. But only if we obey YEHOVAH and REST from all our labors on YEHOVAH's weekly Sabbath Days which PICTURE this glorious future.

YEHOVAH reveals this great SPIRITUAL truth to those who have become sick of the pagan ways of this world and have begun to OBEY Him.

But only those who CONTINUE TO OBEY YEHOVAH's command to keep the Sabbath will finally enter the glorious "rest" of YEHOVAH's Kingdom and receive the gift of eternal, spiritual life!

No Sabbath Keeping -- No Holy Spirit

YEHOVAH God offers us the priceless gift of His holy spirit. A gift which imparts all the peace and joy the human heart really longs for. Yes, and ultimately ETERNAL LIFE -- eternal "rest" from this carnal, mundane life!

But to WHOM will YEHOVAH give the precious gift of His holy spirit? What does YEHOVAH expect of those who are recipients of His spirit? Notice the answer in **Acts 5:32**: "the Holy Spirit...God hath given to them that

OBEY HIM" -- OBEY His TEN COMMANDMENTS, which includes SABBATH KEEPING!

To carnal man, there is SEEMINGLY no earthly reason whatever to keep a sequence of Sabbath Days. Man, so he reasons, could rest as well on other days he would choose for himself.

But KEEPING, or NOT keeping YEHOVAH's Sabbath Days REVEALS AN ATTITUDE! Keeping them shows a WILLINGNESS to forsake our OWN thoughts for periods of time specified by YEHOVAH God. It shows a WILLINGNESS to learn -- to study, to think and to meditate on the really important matters of the universe -- and an ATTITUDE TOWARD DEVELOPMENT OF YEHOVAH-LIKE CHARACTER!

And keeping YEHOVAH's Sabbath reveals an attitude of SIMPLE OBEDIENCE just because YEHOVAH says so! -- although all carnal HUMAN REASONING says "no." To the carnal, unrepentant mind, Sabbath keeping seems so unfathomable, unnecessary, and sometimes ANNOYING! (Although to the REPENTANT, spirit-begotten mind, the Sabbath is eagerly looked forward to every week.)

Sabbath keeping plainly is a TEST of our ATTITUDE to reveal whether we REALLY want to OBEY and DEPEND on YEHOVAH God and RECEIVE His holy spirit!

So now let's understand exactly how YEHOVAH God created the weekly Sabbath, HOW it is to be kept holy, and WHY it is so valuable to us today.

LESSON 7

Origin of YEHOVAH's Weekly Sabbath

1. Who created everything that exists? John 1:1-3; Ephesians 3:9 and Colossians 1:16.

COMMENT: While many believe the "word" mentioned in **John 1:1-3** is Yeshua the Messiah in a "pre-existent" form -- this is simply

UNTRUE! The bias of the early translators crept into these verses as they tried to promote their pagan Catholic concepts. CORRECTLY translated, these verses read: "In the beginning was the PLAN of YEHOVAH, and the PLAN was WITH YEHOVAH, and the PLAN was YEHOVAH's. The same PLAN was IN THE BEGINNING with YEHOVAH. All things were done according to IT, and without IT nothing was done, that was done."

These verses could also be an indication of YEHOVAH's **Shekinah Glory** (the visible dimension of YEHOVAH God that human beings can actually see). Replace "logos" with "Shekinah Glory" and the picture becomes clear. Bottom line -- the "logos" was NOT Yeshua the Messiah!

The last part of **Ephesians 3:9** ("by Jesus Christ") is NOT found in the oldest manuscripts and was inserted at a later date to promote the idea of a "pre-existent" Messiah.

Then, in **Colossians 1:16**, we find another BLATANT mistranslation to further the deception just mentioned. This verse is CORRECTLY translated: "Because BEFORE him [Yeshua the Messiah] all things were created that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or rulerships, or principalities, or powers; all things were created ON ACCOUNT OF him [the Messiah], and FOR him."

2. What did YEHOVAH God do on the FIRST day of what we call Creation Week? **Genesis 1:3-5**.

3. And what was done on the SECOND day? **Genesis 1:6-8**. And did YEHOVAH use a THIRD day on which to do something else? **Verses 9-13**. And a FOURTH day to make still other things? **Verses 14-19**. And a FIFTH day for creating another class of things? **Verses 20-23**. Then did YEHOVAH create animals and MAN on the SIXTH day? **Verses 24-26, 31**.

COMMENT: We see by the foregoing verses that YEHOVAH God made and created all these things in just the first SIX DAYS of the CREATION WEEK.

4. What did YEHOVAH God do on the day IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING His creation of man? **Genesis 2:2-3**. YEHOVAH did not rest because He was tired and weary from His work of creating, did He? **Isaiah 40:28**. Then He obviously did it for ANOTHER REASON! Did this final ACT of YEHOVAH God on the SEVENTH day COMPLETE the works of YEHOVAH's creation? Refer to **Genesis 2:2** again, and write down **Hebrews 4:3-4**.

COMMENT: The Sabbath had never existed prior to this time. Therefore, YEHOVAH had to bring it into existence. He did so by RESTING on the SEVENTH day. This act of resting therefore MADE the Sabbath Day A PART OF YEHOVAH'S CREATION! Notice: "...On the SEVENTH DAY [not before or after it] God ended His work [of creation] which He had MADE..." (**Genesis 2:2**).

The scriptures plainly show us that the Sabbath was made during the SAME seven-day period of time that man was made. And it was made by YEHOVAH God the Father. It was made on the LAST of SEVEN LITERAL 24-HOUR DAYS, and was made an intrinsic PART of man's environment!

5. What else did YEHOVAH God do to the seventh day? **Genesis 2:3**.

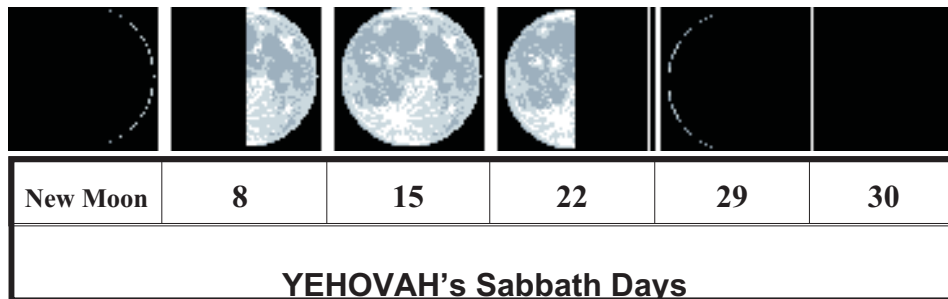
COMMENT: Notice that YEHOVAH God "BLESSED" the seventh day and "SANCTIFIED" it. SUCH AN HONOR WAS NOT CONFERRED UPON ANY OF THE PRECEDING SIX DAYS. When YEHOVAH God BLESSES SOMETHING, He bestows His divine favor upon, and His DIVINE PRESENCE in that thing. He is especially near at that time.

The very word "sanctify" means TO SET APART FOR A HOLY USE OR PURPOSE! By RESTING on the seventh day, YEHOVAH "sanctified" it -- set it apart -- from the other six days of the week. In so doing He made the SEVENTH day HOLY!

Thus we see that by the very act of resting on the seventh day, YEHOVAH God

Almighty put His divine favor upon and set apart for holy use and purpose the most ENDURING thing there is -- a certain space of time which comes around REGULARLY EVERY SEVEN DAYS according to the lunar phases!

And by setting aside the first Sabbath in this way, YEHOVAH also made EVERY FUTURE SABBATH -- EVERY SEVENTH DAY OF THE LUNAR WEEK -- HOLY ALSO!



Made for MAN

1. Was YEHOVAH's resting on the seventh day an EXAMPLE to show Adam -- the first man -- and all mankind that WE SHOULD REST from our work on this day? **Exodus 20:11.**

2. Did YEHOVAH God make the Sabbath for Adam only, or just for those descended from Judah, or for ALL of MANKIND? **Mark 2:27-28.** Is the whole human race COMMANDED to keep YEHOVAH's Sabbath? **Exodus 20:8-10.**

COMMENT: The Messiah said that at creation the Sabbath was made by YEHOVAH God for MAN -- FOR ALL MANKIND! Adam was the first man, therefore he stood as the REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE which has descended from him.

It is RIDICULOUS to think that the Sabbath was made only for the Judahites, since the first Judahite was not born until over 2,000 years LATER! Judah, a son of Jacob, was the father of the Judahite family and nation (**Genesis 29:35**).

3. WHY was the Sabbath made for man? HOW did YEHOVAH intend it to serve man's needs? **Exodus 20:8** and **Deuteronomy 5:12-14.**

COMMENT: Notice that YEHOVAH God made the seventh day of the week HOLY-- and on His authority as our Creator He commands us TO KEEP IT that way! The Sabbath, then, is HOLY time. Yet it was made for man -- for ALL mankind -- to be a GREAT

BLESSING for ALL humanity!

Our Creator knew that we MORTALS would need a period of rest from our physical labors and for the WORSHIP OF YEHOVAH God every seventh day.

This is the BASIC PURPOSE for which the Sabbath was created.

Each of us tends to become overly absorbed in our daily cares, our work and our pleasures during the week. Our Creator foresaw that we would need a time set apart -- His Sabbath Day -- as a consecrated time when we can completely forget our daily routine and DRAW CLOSER to the Creator God in study, meditation and prayer.

Modern man DESPERATELY NEEDS this period of time in which to have real communion with YEHOVAH God Who is creating him to become His glorified son! Time in which to think upon YEHOVAH, to worship Him, to pray, to study and meditate upon the PURPOSE of his human existence and upon YEHOVAH'S REVEALED LAWS OF LIFE. YEHOVAH knew that all of this would add great strength and meaning to man's life during the next SIX days of each week.

The Sabbath is truly one of the greatest BLESSINGS YEHOVAH God has bestowed upon the human family!

When we keep the Sabbath Day as YEHOVAH intends, we are showing our

FAITH, our belief, in YEHOVAH's promise of a FUTURE eternal "rest" -- glorious SPIRIT LIFE in the Kingdom of YEHOVAH God -- just as we illustrate in the act of baptism our faith in the PAST death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Yeshua the Messiah!

By resting on the Sabbath, we are, in a sense, "ACTING OUT" the KINGDOM OF YEHOVAH GOD -- our future as the spirit-born sons of YEHOVAH's glorious Family!



Times Square, New York City, epitomizes man's daily cares, work and pleasures. We desperately need YEHOVAH's Sabbath each week to get our minds off this world's glitter and on YEHOVAH God!

The Sabbath Is YEHOVAH's "Sign"

YEHOVAH God reveals that Sabbath keeping is a special "sign" of IDENTIFICATION between Him and His people. Let's learn how it is a "sign."

1. What great blessing did YEHOVAH God promise to give Abraham? **Romans 4:13.**

COMMENT: We know that at the resurrection YEHOVAH will give Abraham this entire earth as an eternal inheritance, because of his outstandingly WILLING ATTITUDE and great OBEDIENCE to YEHOVAH God.

But YEHOVAH blessed Abraham even more by offering his descendants the SAME BLESSING, if they would also conduct themselves obediently.

2. Later Abraham's descendants, the Israelites, because of famine in their own land, went down into Egypt -- a land which YEHOVAH considers as a TYPE of SIN (**Hebrews 11:24-26**). Israel gradually became enslaved in Egypt.

But because of Abraham's obedience and YEHOVAH's promise to him and his descendants, did YEHOVAH raise up a deliverer to bring the Israelites out of Egypt -- out of "sin"? **Exodus 3:10-12.**

3. After delivering them out of Egypt, did YEHOVAH God give the Israelites a SPECIAL "SIGN"? **Exodus 31:13.** WHAT was this "sign"? Was it a space of TIME -- YEHOVAH'S SABBATH? **Same verse.** Who was this SIGN between? **Same verse.** HOW were they to be able to have this sign -- by RESTING? **Verse 15.** How were the Israelites to benefit by

RESTING on YEHOVAH's Sabbaths -- would they be KEPT IN REMEMBRANCE, AS LONG AS THEY KEPT THEM, that YEHOVAH God is the TRUE LORD? **Verse 13.**

COMMENT: In order that Israel -- the descendants of Abraham, Abraham's "SEED" -- would never forget that YEHOVAH God is Creator, Sustainer, and Supreme Ruler over all His creation, YEHOVAH revealed the one great "SIGN" BY WHICH THEY COULD ALWAYS REMEMBER WHO HE IS!

That SIGN is a constantly recurring

space of time -- the SEVENTH day of the week, the Sabbath.

4. How long was Israel to keep the SABBATH -- forever? **Exodus 31:16**, last four words. The word “perpetual” means FOREVER. Did YEHOUVAH make a special, SEPARATE Sabbath “Covenant” with His people? **Same verse.**

COMMENT: The Sabbath was, and is, so IMPORTANT for mankind, YEHOUVAH DOUBLY COMMANDED Sabbath Day keeping by making this special and SEPARATE COVENANT with His people Israel! (The Sabbath was ALREADY commanded in the Ten Commandments which YEHOUVAH had given them EARLIER -- **Exodus 20:8**.) Here is an EVERLASTING covenant to identify the true Creator God of Israel!

All other nations had forgotten YEHOUVAH God because they had forgotten the keeping of His Sabbath Day. Israel ALONE had the “sign” to prove that YEHOUVAH God -- the LORD of Heaven and earth -- was their God and Creator.

5. But now notice something additional. Was resting on the Sabbath Day to also be a “sign” to Abraham’s descendants of something ELSE? **Exodus 31:13**, the last five words. Doesn’t this verse show that they would have always known -- if they had CONTINUED to rest on the Sabbath Day -- that the Creator God was setting them apart for a PARTICULAR HOLY USE?

COMMENT: The word “sanctify” means to SET APART or MAKE HOLY.

6. Were the Israelites to be a “HOLY nation” and a “kingdom of PRIESTS”? **Exodus 19:6.**

COMMENT: Israel was to be SANCTIFIED -- be set apart and made holy -- as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. They were to LEAD OTHERS to the SAME CONDITION OF HOLINESS!

Abraham’s descendants were thus to be SET APART for this SPECIAL HOLY MISSION AND DUTY. Resting on YE-

HOVAH’s Sabbaths also was to be a “sign” that they were YEHOUVAH’s CHOSEN people, selected for this purpose.

YEHOUVAH God called Abraham’s “seed” out of Egyptian bondage -- the sin of this “world” -- to perform a special mission. It was the most important calling any nation has ever been given in all the history of mankind. YEHOUVAH called them so that THROUGH THEM He could REVEAL HIMSELF TO THE WORLD -- to show that HE is the Creator and Ruler of the universe, and reveal His laws, commandments, blessings and great plan for mankind!

7. But NOTICE! Were they called “seed” of Abraham already holy, or were they to BECOME a holy people? **Deuteronomy 7:6-9.**

COMMENT: The ITALICIZED word “art” in **verse 6** has been wrongly added by the translators. These Old Covenant Israelites were NOT HOLY -- they were supposed to *BECOME* HOLY!

8. Did the Old Covenant fleshly “seed” of Abraham FAIL to become holy? **Ezekiel 20:13.** Notice the word “REBELLED.” And what did they do regarding RESTING on YEHOUVAH’s Sabbaths? **Same verse.**

COMMENT: Had Old Covenant Israel kept the Sabbath Day as YEHOUVAH God

The result of disobedience -- Israelites being deported. YEHOUVAH sometimes punishes His people very severely for rebelling against Him. Sabbath breaking was prominent among ancient Israel’s disobedience.



commanded them, He would have established a Priesthood of Holiness -- ministers of True Holiness who would have instructed the Israelites IN THE WAYS OF YEHOVAH GOD as they rested on His Sabbath Days. And they would have become, thereby, a holy nation fit and able to teach others. But the Old Covenant Israelites would NOT keep the Sabbath, and therefore did NOT BECOME HOLY.

YEHOVAH therefore set up another type of priesthood -- the Levitical Priesthood -- which ministered things of NO LASTING VALUE -- ministered a rigmarole of sacrificial rituals which led the people to nothing they REALLY wanted then and there!

Since the Old Covenant Israelites failed to REST on the Sabbath, they failed to remember the true Creator God, and that they were to become a holy people -- a kingdom of priests who were to reveal to the world the Creator God, His blessings and His plan.

They failed because they did NOT have the HOLY SPIRIT to empower them. And for this reason they could NOT HAVE THE PROMISE OF SALVATION AT THAT TIME EITHER, "for the Holy Spirit was NOT YET GIVEN" (**John 7:38-39**).

YEHOVAH's "Sign" Necessary for Salvation Today

What has resting on the Sabbath -- having YEHOVAH's Sabbath "Sign" -- to do with salvation today? It is vital that we understand. Let's see what the Bible says.

1. Doesn't the Bible plainly reveal that to be a true Christian today one must become a SPIRITUAL Israelite -- become Abraham's "seed" through the Messiah -- in order to inherit the SAME covenant promise of eternal life that was made to Abraham and "his seed"? **Romans 4:16; 9:4** and **Galatians 3:28-29**.

2. So today must a spiritual Israelite (a Holy SPIRIT-BEGOTTEN Christian) have to possess YEHOVAH's "sign" (KEEP YEHOVAH'S SABBATH) in order to be

"sanctified" -- be set apart to be MADE HOLY? **Exodus 31:13**.

COMMENT: YEHOVAH God made the Sabbath Covenant with the ancient Israelites -- Abraham's physical "seed." It was to be obeyed "THROUGHOUT" their generations. Today, all true Christians are Abraham's SPIRITUAL "seed" through the Messiah.

So today every true Christian MUST ALSO KEEP THE SABBATH! He must keep it in order to remember it is the Creator GOD who MAKES man holy. He must have the Sabbath "Sign" in order to be MADE HOLY HIMSELF. For after we are spiritually begotten we are to GROW in YEHOVAH's holy character, THROUGH THE HELP OF HIS POWERFUL HOLY SPIRIT, until we are born of YEHOVAH God! Yes, YEHOVAH ALONE can make man holy!

3. Today, to what PURPOSE are such true Christians -- spirit-begotten Israelites, that is, Abraham's "seed" -- especially "set apart" from this present evil world and USED in YEHOVAH's service?

COMMENT: THE TRUTH IS ASTONISHING! The Old Covenant Israelites FAILED to respond to their calling because they would NOT REST on the Sabbath and receive instruction in YEHOVAH's Holiness. They did not have the holy spirit to help them RECOGNIZE or UNDERSTAND this call and CARRY IT OUT!

But WE, if we become spirit-begotten New Covenant Israelites, DO HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT to help us recognize this call and obey YEHOVAH God. We have the SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION to UNDERSTAND YEHOVAH's calling and the SPIRITUAL POWER TO CARRY IT OUT.

Old Covenant Israel NEVER became "a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation." But WE can now become a relatively holy and competent "nation" by the POWER of the holy spirit! And it is we who can become the COMPLETELY HOLY "nation" of "kings and priests" that YEHOVAH vowed to make of Abraham's

“seed” (**Exodus 19:6**).

We will become this “nation” when we’re BORN into the great KINGDOM OF YEHOVAH GOD at the Messiah’s soon coming. The Messiah will then have made us “kings and priests” unto His Father YEHOVAH God (**Revelation 1:6**). Then YEHOVAH’s purpose will be COMPLETELY FULFILLED in us!

Yes, we -- if we are spirit-begotten New Covenant Israelites -- DO have the POWER of the holy spirit to save us. And we are receiving instruction in YEHOVAH’s Holiness as we REST on His Sabbath Days.

We show by our KEEPING of YEHOVAH’s ordained Sabbath Day that we KNOW our God, that He is our Creator, and that we KNOW our MISSION and our GOAL. We know that we are, at the Messiah’s SOON coming, to be CHANGED into immortal spirit beings and as such are to be made kings and priests (**Revelation 1:5-6; 5:10; 20:6**) to serve the world throughout the Millennium as members of the Kingdom of YEHOVAH God!

So it is YEHOVAH’s True Church -- composed of spirit-begotten Christians -- which is NOW spreading the GOSPEL, the GOOD NEWS, to all the world -- telling of YEHOVAH God our Creator, His divinely just laws, His blessings, and His plan for mankind -- just before the imminent return of BOTH Yeshua the Messiah and YEHOVAH God!! And YEHOVAH’s Church is SPIRITUALLY NOURISHING those He has called to become His glorified Sons in the Kingdom of YEHOVAH God.

This is YOUR GOAL, ISN’T IT? Then keep the DAY on which you may RECEIVE INSTRUCTION IN YEHOVAH’S HOLINESS

-- KEEP THE SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH OF ALMIGHTY GOD ACCORDING TO THE LUNAR CALENDAR!

Sabbath Keeping Specifically Commanded Today!

1. Does one of YEHOVAH God’s great Ten Commandments specifically COMMAND



Sabbath breaking today -- department store business continues as usual on the Sabbath because most people do NOT realize that YEHOVAH’s TRUE Sabbath can fall on ANY day of the week in the Gregorian Calendar we observe today.

US to keep the Sabbath today? **Exodus 20:8**.

COMMENT: YEHOVAH’s great spiritual law has been in full force and effect FROM Adam until TODAY!

2. Are we to be obedient to YEHOVAH’s commands and keep His Sabbath -- NOT being rebellious as were the Old Covenant Israelites who would not DO what YEHOVAH God commanded, or keep His Sabbaths? **Hebrews 3:8-10**. Did YEHOVAH, for this reason, prevent them from entering His “rest”? **Verse 11** and **Ezekiel 20:13, 15**.

COMMENT: We know that Old Covenant Israel was rebellious and that YEHOVAH never allowed those of that rebellious generation to enter the land of

Palestine -- the land YEHOVAH uses as a TYPE of the Millennium and the Kingdom of YEHOVAH God.

3. Was it primarily because they wouldn't BELIEVE, and therefore wouldn't DO the Sabbath command that Israel didn't enter YEHOVAH's "rest" -- the land of Palestine? **Hebrews 4:1-2**. But if WE BELIEVE, and OBEY this and YEHOVAH's other commandments, will we ENTER YEHOVAH's eternal "rest" -- the Kingdom of YEHOVAH God? **Verse 3** -- first nine words. Will we be following the EXAMPLE YEHOVAH God set for us when He rested on the seventh day of

TODAY! Those NOT keeping the Sabbath will NOT be bearing YEHOVAH's Sabbath "sign" which identifies His people, and therefore will NOT BE BORN OF YEHOVAH GOD AT THE MESSIAH'S COMING!

Yes, the SABBATH is YEHOVAH's "sign" showing that He is the One who is separating us from this present evil world and making us into His Holy people. And the only way we can keep the Sabbath as Holy time is by DOING what He commands on that day -- by RESTING FROM OUR PHYSICAL LABORS!

The evidence that we are to keep the Sabbath today is overwhelming. The word "Sabbath," which means REST, appears SIXTY TIMES alone in the New Covenant part -- the "New Testament" -- of your Bible!



Incidence of "natural disasters" continues to rise sharply. YEHOVAH God promises PROTECTION for those who hallow His Sabbaths!

Creation Week? **Verse 4**.

COMMENT: How clear it is that WE MUST keep the Sabbath Day if we are to enter the Kingdom of YEHOVAH God.

4. If we are REALLY YEHOVAH's people, will we CONTINUALLY keep YEHOVAH's "rest" -- His weekly Sabbath Day? **Hebrews 4:9-10**.

COMMENT: The word appearing as "rest" in **verse 9** is not translated properly. In the original Greek it is "Sabbatismos," which means that there still REMAINS A KEEPING OF THE SABBATH FOR YEHOVAH'S PEOPLE

Creation Week the Pattern for YEHOVAH's Plan

YEHOVAH God has ordained an overall period of time in which He is accomplishing His spiritual creation of mankind. The PATTERN for YEHOVAH's little-understood plan is given in the first two chapters of Genesis. It is the LUNAR WEEK of SEVEN days.

YEHOVAH's plan is patterned after the six LITERAL twenty-four-hour work days and one twenty-four-hour Sabbath Day of "Creation Week." It's very important that we understand this vital truth!

1. Was YEHOVAH's work of creation accomplished in SEVEN LITERAL DAYS? **Genesis 2:2**.

2. And does the weekly Sabbath also FORESHADOW YEHOVAH God's one-thousand-year Millennium of rest and peace for the physical people of this earth? **II Peter 3:8** and **Revelation 20:1-5**.

COMMENT: A day in YEHOVAH's PLAN is as "a thousand years," and "a thousand

years” of human civilization is as ONE day in His planned WEEK of SEVEN 1,000-YEAR “DAYS”!

YEHOVAH also planned the weekly Sabbath Day to foreshadow, or be a TYPE of, the 1,000-year millennial period when He is going to bring the world to repentance so man can be begotten and born into His Family. This 1,000-year millennial period will become a time of REST and PEACE for the physical inhabitants of the world -- a veritable 1,000-year “SABBATH” OF REST FROM WARS AND SATAN’S TEMPTATIONS!

And the total of the OTHER SIX DAYS of Creation Week clearly corresponds to the 6,000 year period of human civilization in which we NOW find ourselves. This, then, constitutes YEHOVAH’s six-thousand-year and one-thousand-year PLAN -- a great “WEEK” OF 7,000 YEARS!



It's LATER Than You Think!

YEHOVAH God made an astounding statement within the seven literal days of Creation Week -- in the very first chapter of the Bible.

1. What was the astounding statement YEHOVAH made in **Genesis 1:26**?

COMMENT: YEHOVAH reveals that it is His purpose to create man in the very Spiritual character and composition that He Himself is made of! And YEHOVAH said, IN EFFECT, that He would create man spiritually within a “week” -- within a period of SEVEN THOUSAND YEARS.

YEHOVAH has allotted carnal mankind

the first 6,000 years of His 7,000-year Plan to EXPERIENCE the “fruits” of his own labors.

Man has been learning, by hard experience, that the “fruits” of his own ways -- living by his OWN laws and under his OWN governments -- has produced nothing but SIN, SUFFERING and DEATH! YEHOVAH has allowed all this so that when He finally sets His hand to save the world, men will KNOW BEYOND THE SHADOW OF A DOUBT THAT YEHOVAH’S WAYS ARE BEST AFTER ALL!

Many Bibles give the DATE of Creation Week as 4004 B.C. There is abundant evidence showing that THIS DATE IS REASONABLY ACCURATE! That means it’s MUCH LATER than you think!!

However, since YEHOVAH God’s week is LUNAR in nature, we might have to add more time to account for the time between the last quarter and the New Moon.

Still, it means we are VERY NEAR the close of 6,000 years of human history and the beginning of YEHOVAH’s 1,000-year Millennium!

The TIME LEFT FOR PREPARING to be born into YEHOVAH’s Kingdom at the Messiah’s coming IS BE-

COMING VERY SHORT!

2. What is to be the ultimate END of all those who will never obey YEHOVAH God and keep His Sabbath Day? **Revelation 21:8**.

COMMENT: If we are NOT obeying YEHOVAH’s Sabbath command because of “UNBELIEF” -- lack of FAITH in what YEHOVAH says in His Word -- if we PERSIST in REFUSING TO REST on the Sabbath Day, we will be showing YEHOVAH God the WRONG ATTITUDE which points to a different type of eternal “rest” -- the rest of ETERNAL DEATH! And those who PERSIST in keeping any day of the week OTHER than YEHOVAH’s ordained Holy Sabbath, are also

showing this same **WRONG ATTITUDE** to **IT!**
YEHOVAH God!

FAITH -- the Key

There are people today who have come to **KNOW** and **UNDERSTAND** the truth about **YEHOVAH's Sabbath**, but are hesitant to begin keeping it. They **EXCUSE** themselves by saying the **PRESSURES** of the world would absolutely prevent it -- pressures of business, pressures of friends, of children, of pleasures and pressures from other sources.

Their problem is a **LACK OF FAITH TO STEP OUT IN OBEDIENCE TO YEHOVAH GOD**, **TRUSTING HIM** to work everything out for their good -- if they would only **RESIST** worldly pressures by **RESTING** from all their own pursuits on the -- Sabbath!

Do you know that such people -- and this **MAY** include **YOU** -- are being put to **YEHOVAH's SUPREME TEST** in His challenge, His **COMMAND TO rest** on the Sabbath?

Nowhere does **YEHOVAH** promise that you will receive eternal life if you **JUST rest** on the Sabbath. But the Messiah does say, "If thou wilt enter into [eternal] life, **KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS** -- one of which is "keep the **SABBATH**"! (**Matthew 19:17**.)

Did you ever wonder **WHY YEHOVAH God** and the Messiah single out **ONE** of the Ten Commandments -- the **FOURTH** -- and insist again and again that we must keep it by resting on the seventh day of the week? The Sabbath is mentioned sixty times in the New Testament alone. And many more times in the Old Testament.

HERE IS THE REASON. GRASP IT FULLY!

Of all **YEHOVAH's** commandments, Sabbath keeping is the one that appeals the **LEAST TO CARNAL-NATURED MAN**. To the carnal, unrepentant mind, Sabbath keeping seems ridiculous and absolutely unnecessary. Carnal man just does **NOT WANT TO KEEP**

No wonder **YEHOVAH God** stresses Sabbath keeping so much in the Bible. It is a **TEST** to ascertain our **COMPLETE, TRUSTING, SURRENDER TO HIS WILL!!**

If we do **COMPLETELY SURRENDER** to **YEHOVAH** in continuous **TRUSTING FAITH** and **DO** all He commands, He promises to shower us with the **REALLY WORTHWHILE** blessings of this life, and glorious spirit life **FOR ETERNITY!**

Let's study now the scriptures which exhort us to step out in **FAITH** and **REST** on **YEHOVAH's Sabbath Day** -- on the seventh day of the **LUNAR week** -- on whatever day it may fall on during the **PAGAN PLANETARY WEEK** we use today -- even though the "odds" may **SEEM** to be against us.

1. We know that a generation of Old Covenant Israel did not enter the land of Palestine, which **YEHOVAH** uses as a **SYMBOL** of the Kingdom of **YEHOVAH God**. They **DIED** without entering. Was it because of "unbelief" -- **LACK OF FAITH** and resultant **DISOBEDIENCE** to **YEHOVAH God**? **Hebrews 3:10-12, 18-19.**

2. Must we have **FAITH** before **YEHOVAH God** will give us eternal "rest" -- eternal life in His Kingdom? **Hebrews 4:1-3, 6.**

COMMENT: Note the words "FAITH," in **verse 2**, and "BELIEVED," in **verse 3**.

3. Are we warned against showing a lack of **FAITH BY** "hardening our hearts"? **Verse 7.** And does **verse 11** show that we must **STEP OUT IN FAITH** and rest on the Sabbath? Note the warning against "unbelief" -- lack of **FAITH** and **OBEDIENCE** to **YEHOVAH God**.

COMMENT: How clear it becomes that we must **EXERCISE FAITH IN KEEPING THE SABBATH**.

4. Does the Messiah verify the fact that **WE** must take the **FIRST STEP** in obeying **YEHOVAH God** through the Messiah, if we are to receive Divine help to do His will? **Matthew 11:28.**

COMMENT: Notice carefully that the Messiah did NOT say he would take the FIRST STEP for us! Rather the Messiah said, “ [You] COME to Me” -- come to the Messiah -- that is, OBEY and FOLLOW his example as he follows the Father -- and keep the commandments as well as you humanly can, and seek the MANNER in which you may draw close to him -- and THEN he promises: “I will give you REST”!

WE MUST TAKE THE FIRST STEP IN OBEYING YEHOVAH GOD. Then YEHOVAH God will give us His holy spirit -- through the Messiah -- which will impart the ADDITIONAL strength and faith we need to obey Him!

5. If we run into difficulty in being able to keep YEHOVAH’s Sabbath -- think we will lose our job because of keeping it, or whatever -- how may we receive DIVINE help in keeping this day, and in doing what we are taught on it? **Hebrews 4:14, 16.** Are we to come “boldly” to YEHOVAH God in PRAYER and ASK FOR HIS GUIDANCE AND STRENGTH in overcoming all obstacles which SEEM TO prevent us? **Verse 16.**

COMMENT: The whole chapter of **Hebrews 4** is about keeping the Sabbath! And it closes with HOW we may receive Divine help in keeping it, and doing the things which are taught on this Day.

Even the apostles who had the human faith to follow the Messiah, found they did not have ENOUGH faith for their needs -- “The apostles said unto the Lord, INCREASE OUR FAITH” (**Luke 17:5**). But the Messiah replied, “Serve Me [first step out on your OWN faith and OBEY me as I obey the Father -- REST upon YEHOVAH’s Sabbath Day]...And AFTERWARD thou shalt eat and drink [afterward you will be given DIVINE FAITH]” (**verse 8**).

You must keep the Sabbath through your OWN faith FIRST -- “FROM faith [of SELF] to FAITH” OF GOD -- “... from [your own] faith TO [the DIVINE POWERFUL] FAITH [which YEHOVAH God will miraculously place within

you to TRUST HIM]: as it is written, the just shall live by [YEHOVAH’S] faith” (**Romans 1:17**). You must make the FIRST MOVE, then YEHOVAH will help you.

How abundantly clear that we must make the initial move by beginning to rest on the Sabbath. YEHOVAH God exhorts us to step out in faith -- even though obstacles to our obeying Him may SEEM insurmountable -- and then CONTINUE TO OBEY YEHOVAH THROUGH THE DIVINE FAITH WHICH HE PROMISES TO SUPPLY!

What to Do

We are practically at the tip end of the SIXTH “day” in YEHOVAH’s “week” of 7,000 years. Very soon the SEVENTH 1,000-year “day” will be ushered in by the appearance of Yeshua the Messiah. The time is indeed VERY SHORT!

YEHOVAH God has shown you in His Word that if you have TRULY REPENTED of your disobedience to His laws, you will want to zealously BEGIN keeping YEHOVAH’s true Sabbath Day. You will want to STEP OUT IN FAITH by RESTING on this day! And you’ll want to QUIT OBSERVING ANY DAY OTHER THAN YEHOVAH’S SABBATH!

ONLY the keeping of YEHOVAH’S SABBATH (as well as His other commandments) in the way HE ordains, will fit you for your goal of eternal life and sonship in YEHOVAH’s glorious Kingdom!

YEHOVAH will especially CONDITION YOU toward this marvelous future on the Sabbath. On this day you will be ESPECIALLY CLOSE to YEHOVAH, and you’ll grow in His SPIRITUAL grace and knowledge through PRAYER and BIBLE STUDY.

But keeping the Sabbath as YEHOVAH God commands does not mean that you must attend a church on this day. You may KEEP THE SABBATH RIGHT IN YOUR OWN HOME for the present.

WHY STAY AT HOME?

Because there are certain churches into which you might be MISLED. Churches which observe the seventh-day Sabbath on SATURDAY -- churches whose NAMES even bear, in part, the words "Seventh Day." BUT DON'T BE DECEIVED!

SHIP hath righteousness with unrighteousness and what communion hath light with darkness?" (**II Corinthians 6:14**). You cannot afford to fellowship with Satan, his ministers (**II Corinthians 11:13-15**), or churches who REFUSE to obey all of YEHOVAH God's commandments!

The Mount of Olives outside Jerusalem -- the site of the Messiah's crucifixion.

To Be Continued



Answers to Questions in Lesson 6

1. Sheep 2. raah 3. Jacob-Israel 4. Pastors, shepherds
5. Lost sheep of the House of Israel 6. Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia 7. Great Shepherd
8. Yes 9. 17 10. House of Israel 11. Sin 12. Israel and Judah 13. Judah 14. gods
15. Babylonians

Just because these churches have a "FORM of Godliness" (**II Timothy 3:5**) -- have an OUTWARD appearance of "keeping" YEHOVAH's Sabbath -- does NOT mean you should attend their services! For in reality, these churches DISOBEY YEHOVAH God in most points of His law -- which includes their IMPROPER observance of YEHOVAH's SABBATH, at the WRONG time!!

There also are several small religious sects which claim to keep the Sabbath. But they are NOT THE CHURCHES OF YEHOVAH GOD EITHER -- even though they may recognize and APPROPRIATE the true Bible name "Church of YEHOVAH God"!

You definitely should NOT meet with those who are BLINDED to the truth! The apostle Paul commanded Christians "BE YE NOT UNEQUALLY YOKED TOGETHER WITH UNBELIEVERS; for what FELLOW-

Additional Reading Material

Why YEHOVAH's People Should Refrain from Going to Restaurants on the Sabbath and Holy Days

YEHOVAH God's Sabbath -- a Day Beyond Space and Time

Thirty Proofs YEHOVAH God's Sabbath Is Still Not Abolished!

For your articles, write to:
Hope of Israel Ministries
 Dept. BCC
 P.O. Box 2186
 Temple City, CA 91780 USA

NOTES:

Check Your Progress...

Question 1: Abraham was promised abundant blessings because of his _____ to YEHOVAH God. (Genesis 26:5).

Question 2: YEHOVAH's PLAN is to create _____ out of mortal mankind.

Question 3: Sabbath keeping is a _____ of our attitude towards YEHOVAH God.

Question 4: WHO created everything that exists? **a.** Satan **b.** Yeshua the Messiah **c.** YEHOVAH God **d.** Melchizedek

Question 5: Was the "logos" or "word" another term for Yeshua the Messiah? _____

Question 6: What did YEHOVAH God do on the seventh day? (Genesis 2:2). _____

Question 7: YEHOVAH's Sabbath day occurs on every 7th day of the _____ week.

Question 8: The Sabbath was made by YEHOVAH God for: **a.** the House of Israel **b.** the Jews **c.** the Gentiles **d.** all mankind

Question 9: The Creation Week is a _____ for YEHOVAH's PLAN (2 Peter 3:8).

Question 10: WE must make the _____ move by beginning to REST on YEHOVAH's Sabbath.

Question 11: Were the Israelites to be a "holy nation" and a "kingdom of priests"? _____

Question 12: YEHOVAH reveals that Sabbath keeping is a special _____ of identification between Him and His people.

Question 13: What does the ENTIRE chapter of Hebrews 4 talk about? _____

Question 14: Those who FAIL to keep YEHOVAH's commandments (including the Sabbath) will enter into the "rest" of _____.

Question 15: YEHOVAH called the Israelites out of Egypt to perform a _____.

Question 16: _____ is the commandment that appeals least to carnal man.

The answers will be found in the next lesson. Approximately 3 weeks after receiving Lessons 5 through 8, you will receive a mail-in test that covers these four lessons. The test will be returned to you after grading. Following the completion of the Hope of Israel Bible Correspondence Course you will receive a **Certificate of Completion**. If you complete the course with a grade of 75% or better you will also receive an **Outstanding Student Award**.

