

# Expectations On Shabbat

Sabbath Workshop 3/1/07

We have been diligently “keeping” Sabbath for a few years now. During that time we have noticed that some keep Sabbath differently from others. While I am perfectly okay with getting my mail out of the mailbox on Sabbath, I know of someone who won’t do that. Others watch television on Sabbath, some don’t. All consider themselves to be “keeping Sabbath”. However, the guidelines look very different for each of them. How does Father wish for us to keep Sabbath and what are His expectations on His set apart day?

We are aware of the multitude of books and resources written during Biblical days and therefore research them as well. In that multitude of resources, the book of Jubilees is most known for it’s detailed instructions on how to keep Sabbath. In addition to that it complements the canonized Scripture.

## **Scripture Reading: Isaiah 58**

Yahweh’s Expectations according to Isaiah 58:

- Remember the Sabbath Day (do not turn your foot away).
- Call the Sabbath a delight.
- Do not find your own pleasure, nor speak your own words.

## **Scripture Reading: Exodus / Shemoth 16:26-30**

- Stay in your place and rest, do not leave your house.

## **Scripture Reading: Exodus / Shemoth: 20: 9-11**

- Do not work, hire any one else to work, encourage or cause anyone else to work including your animals.
- \*Midrash Point \* When we go to the store on Shabbat we are causing someone to work on our behalf..selah.

## **Scripture Reading: Exodus 31:13-18**

- It is an everlasting covenant and sign.
- Breaking Sabbath leads to eternal death.
- It is not to be profaned (cursed or spoken badly of)

## **Scripture Reading: Numbers: 15:27-41**

- Wear tzit tzit’s to help you remember.
- If you defiantly disobey, you shall be cut off and shall die.

**Scripture Reading: Jeremiah/ Yeremeyahu 17:19-27**

- Do not bear a burden on Shabbat, nor take it out of your house. (Perhaps Sabbath is truly about Yahweh, bearing a burden or concern, or sharing problems on Sabbath is against the law.)
- Disobedience regarding Shabbat means destruction for Jerusalem.

**Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 20:10-24**

- The day you worship determines the Elohim you serve.

Scripture Reading: Nehemiah 13:15-22

- No buying or selling on Shabbat, neither sit around on Sabbath and wait for it to be over so that you can go buy and sell.

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*The Book Of Jubilees*

**Historical Background:** Written between 135 BCE and 105 BCE

*The Book of Jubilees*, probably written in the 2nd century B.C.E., is an account of the Biblical history of the world from creation to Moses. It is divided into periods ('Jubilees') of 49 years. For the most part the narrative follows the familiar account in Genesis, but with some additional details such as the names of Adam and Eve's daughters, and an active role for a demonic entity. The anonymous author had a preoccupation with calendar reform, and uses *Jubilees* as a platform for proposing a solar calendar of 364 days and 12 months; this would have been a radical departure from [the Jewish Calendar](#), which is lunar-based. There are also a couple of messianic, apocalyptic passages, although quite a bit less than the Book of Enoch.

The only complete version of *Jubilees* is in Ethiopian, although large fragments in Greek, Latin and Syriac are also known. It is believed that it was originally written in Hebrew. If at times one gets the impression that you are reading a first draft of Genesis, you are in good company. R.H. Charles, the translator, a distinguished academic Biblical scholar, concluded that *Jubilees* was a version of the Pentateuch, written in Hebrew, parts of which later became incorporated into the earliest Greek version of the Jewish Bible, the Septuagint.

--John Bruno Hare, July 22, 2004

For more information visit: <http://www.sacred-texts.com/bib/jub/index.htm>

## **Laws regarding the Jubilees and the Sabbath (l. 1-13).**

L. And after this law I made known to thee the days of the Sabbaths in the desert of Sin[ai], which is between Elim and Sinai. [5](#) 2. And I told thee of the Sabbaths of the land on Mount Sinai, and I told thee of the jubilee years [6](#) in the sabbaths of years: but the year thereof have I not told thee till ye enter the land which ye are to possess. 3. And the land also will keep its sabbaths while they dwell upon it, [7](#) and they will know the jubilee year. 4. Wherefore I have ordained for thee the year-weeks [8](#) and the years and the jubilees: there are forty-nine jubilees from the days of Adam until this day, and one week

and two years and there are yet forty years to come (lit. "distant for learning the commandments of

[p. 212](#)

the Lord, until they pass over into the land of Canaan, crossing the Jordan to the west. 5. And the jubilees will pass by, until Israel is cleansed from all guilt of fornication, and uncleanness, and pollution, and sin, and error, and dwelleth with confidence in all the land, and there will be no more a Satan or any evil one, and the land will be clean from that time for evermore. [1](#)

6. And behold the commandment regarding the Sabbaths--I have written (them) down for thee and all the judgments of its laws. 7. Six days wilt thou labour, but on the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. [2](#) In it ye shall do no manner of work, ye and your sons, and your men-servants and your maid-servants, and all your cattle and the sojourner also who is with you. 8. And the man that doeth any work on it shall die: [3](#) whoever desecrateth that day, whoever lieth with (his) wife [4](#) or whoever saith he will do something on it, that he will set out on a journey thereon [5](#) in regard to any buying or selling: [6](#) and whoever draweth water thereon [7](#) which he had not prepared for himself on the sixth day, and whoever taketh up any burden to carry it out of his tent [8](#) or out of his house shall die. 9. Ye shall do no work whatever on the Sabbath day save that ye have prepared for yourselves on the sixth day, so as to eat, and drink, and rest, and keep Sabbath from all work on that day, and to bless the Lord your God, who has given you a day of festival, and a holy day: and a day of the holy kingdom for all Israel is this day among their days for ever. 10. For great is the

[p. 213](#)

honour which the Lord hath given to Israel that they should eat and drink and be satisfied on this festival day, and rest thereon from all labour [1](#) which belongeth to the labour of the children of men, save burning frankincense and bringing oblations and sacrifices before the Lord for days and for Sabbaths. 11. This work alone shall be done on the Sabbath-days [2](#) in the sanctuary of the Lord your God; that they may atone for Israel with sacrifice continually from day to day for a memorial well-pleasing before the Lord, and that He may receive them always from day to day according as thou hast been commanded. 12. And every man who doeth any work thereon, or goeth a journey, or

tilleth (his) farm, [3](#) whether in his house or any other place, [4](#) and whoever lighteth a fire, [5](#) or rideth on any beast, [6](#) or travelleth by ship on the sea, and whoever striketh or killeth anything, or slaughtereth [7](#) a beast or a bird, or whoever catcheth an animal or a bird or a fish, or whoever fasteth or maketh war on the Sabbaths: [8](#) 13. The man who doeth any of these things on the Sabbath shall die, so that the children of Israel shall observe the Sabbaths according to the commandments regarding the Sabbaths of the land, as it is written in the tables, which He gave into my hands that I should write out for thee the laws of the seasons, and the seasons according to the division of their days. Herewith is completed the account of the division of the days.