

What Made a Bush and Mountain Holy?

When Moses was at the burning bush, as recorded in the Exodus 3, the Lord said to him, "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for **the place whereon thou standest is holy ground;**" because **the Saviour - the Creator - was there**. So when Joshua met the commander of the Lord's host, as recorded in Joshua 5, he said, "Loose thy shoe from off thy foot, for **the place whereon thou standest is holy;**" because **Christ was there**.

When the Lord descended on **Mount Sinai** all of the mountain **was made holy by his special presence**. That mountain was in no particular different from any other in the country round about, until the Lord made it holy by his presence. When he had bounded it about in that way and had come down upon it, then that particular portion of the country became holy, because his presence was there.

A Holy Time

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
Exodus 20:8

What is it that makes the day holy? It is the presence of God in Christ in that day, and the encouragement that comes to us in the thought is that, as the presence of God in Christ in the day hallowed that day, so **his presence in us makes us holy**. And the Sabbath is holy because God in Christ has made it holy by putting his presence in that day, just as much as his presence was at Sinai; just as his own presence met Moses in the bush; just as his own presence met Joshua; just as his own presence was in the holy mount. We are to partake of the Holy Spirit; and **if God by his Holy Spirit dwells in us, he will by his presence make us holy, just as he made the Sabbath holy**. And in no other way can holiness in us meet holiness in the Sabbath. In no other way can we keep the Sabbath holy. It is the same presence that makes the Sabbath holy that dwells in us; and God in us meets God himself in the Sabbath. That is the Sabbath idea. That is the essence of the institution of the Sabbath, and what God intended it should be.

The Sign of Sanctification

Now he sanctified the Sabbath; and the same thought comes with that. I need not, however, dwell upon it at any length. Read the scripture in Exodus 29:42, 43:

*"This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the Lord, where **I will meet you**, to speak there unto thee. And **there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory.**"*

The word "tabernacle" is supplied. The margin suggests "or Israel." It is either; it is both. The thought in this is just the same as in the other. **The Lord met them there, and by his presence sanctified them; and so he sanctified the Sabbath. He bounded it about and set definite limits about it - put his presence in the day, and sanctified it. In the same way his presence in us sanctifies us.** Put these two or three scriptures together. **"Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth."** But, **says Christ, "I am... the truth," and he is the word.** So the sanctifying power is in Christ, who is the word; who is truth. So in the same way, it is by his presence in us that we are to be sanctified: and when we are sanctified by his presence and come to the day that has been sanctified, in the same manner - then we truly observe the day. We are then prepared to meet the day when it comes - a sanctified day.

I will read Dr. Young's translation of Ezekiel 20:12: **"And also my Sabbaths I have given to them to be for a sign between me and them, to know that I am Jehovah their sanctifier."**

Read right in connection with that his translation of Exodus 31:13:- **"And thou speak unto the sons of Israel saying, Only my Sabbath ye do keep, for it is a sign between me and you to your generations to know that I, Jehovah, am sanctifying you."**

Do you see the point? It is a progressive work, and God's sign - "I am Jehovah" and his "I am sanctifying you," is the same power and presence that sanctified the day, - that sign is that day itself - that institution itself, the very Sabbath idea.

Spiritual Rest

Again, it was a rest day. He rested on that day. We read in Exodus 31:17: **"It is a sign [referring to the Sabbath] 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."**

He rested on the seventh day, and was refreshed. Now it is plain to all, that that rest must be **a spiritual rest**, and it is a very important idea in connection with the Sabbath idea, because **the Sabbath is not founded on the idea that men must stop work or they will wear out. That isn't the Sabbath idea.** The Sabbath is a spiritual institution, and not a physical institution. It degrades it from the place where God has put it when the Sabbath is attempted to be enforced and justified with the idea that men must rest or they will wear out. It is true that men must rest or they will wear out, but there is no more connection between that and the Sabbath idea than in the fact that men must eat or they will die. God never put the two together. It is not physical rest. He rested and he was refreshed, and it was spiritual rest and spiritual refreshment. Now he puts himself into the day: we meet him in the day.

Extra Blessings?

Exodus 20:11 for *in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

A blessing was placed upon the seventh day. **But is it not true that we have the blessing of God and the presence of Christ on other days besides the Sabbath day? — Most certainly it is.** But there is a difference between the blessing of God upon man and the blessing of God upon the day. In the beginning, speaking of the creation of man, the word says, **"And God blessed them."** When it came to the seventh day, and God in Christ rested from his work, he then blessed the seventh day. Now, there is the blessing upon man, and that blessing has continued for every one who will receive it until the present time; there is the blessing upon the day, and that blessing has continued upon that day, and is there now.

But God in Christ never blessed any other day. **He blesses man upon every day, but he has blessed only one day, and that is the seventh day. So when man, upon whom the blessing of God already rests, comes to the seventh day, upon which a blessing rests, there are two blessings, and both of them for man; and so it is possible upon the seventh day of the week to enjoy a blessing which cannot be enjoyed upon any other day because it is not there.** When the Sabbath goes by us, the Sabbath blessing goes along with it. God's blessing is still with us upon the first day of the week, his blessing remains upon us wherever we go, his blessing remains upon the Sabbath wherever it goes; and when it comes around to us again, the blessing is still upon it, and **it has a blessing in addition to the blessing that God has given us.** This is the blessing of the Sabbath; this is the blessing of Sabbath-keeping.

The Times of Refreshing

"Repent ye, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you." Acts 3:19, 20

The Lord rested and it was a spiritual rest, it was a refreshing. He puts his presence into that day and that will refresh us, not physically, but spiritually. That is what it is designed to be, - a great spiritual refreshment. The times of refreshment shall come. **He will send Jesus Christ, and then there will be a refreshing from the presence of the Lord.** That time is right here. Now is the time of refreshing. **Now is the time of the latter rain.** But it will not come separate from the idea of Christ. It is through him. He received the promise of the Father. All these blessings come through him. Now is the time as never before to exalt Christ, to take Jesus Christ in his fullness; and there is no one institution that God has given us that in every way so calls our attention to Jesus Christ as the Sabbath. It is the very essence of the idea of Christ, the Creator, - Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, - Jesus Christ, the Sanctifier. **Jesus Christ refreshes us by his presence. That is the idea of the Sabbath.**

WHAT DO THE BURNING BUSH,
MOUNT SINAI, AND THE
SABBATH HAVE IN COMMON?
THEY ARE ALL DESCRIBED AS
"HOLY" IN THE BIBLE.

BUT WHAT MYSTERIOUS FORCE
TURNED THESE ORDINARY
ELEMENTS INTO SOMETHING
HOLY?

THE ANSWER TO THESE
QUESTIONS CAN BE THE KEY TO
UNLOCKING EXTRA SPIRITUAL
BLESSINGS IN YOUR LIFE
WHICH OUR HEAVENLY FATHER
IS EAGERLY WAITING TO GIVE
YOU!

For more information, please read
Christ in the Sabbath.
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