



LESSON #6 - THE FOUNDATION OF TRUE WORSHIP

Introduction

People from every **nation, kindred, tongue and people** are commanded to worship the **Creator**. This is not a command for the **Jews alone**.

Revelation 14:6, 7: *“Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—⁷ saying with a loud voice: “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”*

Who was this creator?

Colossians 1:15-17: *“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.”¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist [hold together. He is the glue of creation].”*

Why are we commanded to worship?

Ps 95:6: *“Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.”*

Nehemiah 9:6: *“You alone are the Lord; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all things on it, the seas and all that is in them and You preserve them all [hold them all together]. The host of heaven worships You.”*

Romans 1:24, 25: *“Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”*

Revelation 4:11: "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive all glory and honor and power for You created all things and by Your will they exist and were created."

Was **Jesus the Creator** or was the **Father**? The Father was the Architect and the Son was the Master Builder. This becomes clear in Hebrews 1:3 where we are told:

Hebrews 1:1-2: "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds."

Acts 17:24-25, 31: "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. ²⁵ Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath and all things. . . ³¹ He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

If creation is the motivation for worship then we must go back to the **story of creation**.

The First Six Days of Creation

Genesis 1:31-2:1: "Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day. ¹ Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished."

- God made everything in six days
- He finished His work at the end of the sixth day

The Seventh Day of Creation

Genesis 2:2, 3: "And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested [shabbat] on the seventh day from all His work which He had done" ³ Then [after He rested] God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because [he made it holy because he had rested] in it He rested [shabbat] from all His work which God had created and made."

- God did all the work on the first six days. Man did nothing
- God rested on the seventh day and then made it holy
- This was Jesus' week before it was man's week

As an example, an **artist** paints a **work of art** on the **canvas** and then signs his work to identify the maker. God put His signature on Creation when He created the seventh day and made it holy.

The **signature** or **seal** is always at the **end of the document**.

The Sabbath was Christ's **seal on the work of creation**.

What Jesus did at Creation

Jesus **created the first week**—**He worked six** and **He rested** on the seventh. This was first of all **Jesus' week** because He worked and He rested.

He **rested** on the day and **after** He had rested He **blessed** the day and made it **holy**.

What made the seventh **day holy** is that Jesus **rested upon it**. It was his **rest that made it holy**.

Notice the **corroborating evidence** in the **fourth commandment** of God's **holy Law** spoken with His **own voice** and written with His **own finger**:

Exodus 20:8-11: *"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ **Six days you shall labor** and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is the **Sabbath of the Lord your God**. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your man servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates ¹¹ For [motivation clause: "because"] in **six days** the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and **rested** [rested first] the seventh day. **Therefore** [because He rested] the Lord **blessed** the Sabbath day and **hallowed** it."*

Until recently it was an **enigma** to me as to why there is no **direct command** in the **Genesis story** for **Adam and Eve** to keep the Sabbath. But upon **closer examination** of the creation story I **now know why** he did not command Adam and Eve to keep that first Sabbath. He had to **make it holy by His rest first** and then He could **give the holy day to man**.

- Could not **keep holy** until He **made it holy**
- Could not follow the **example** until the example had been given
- Could not keep the seventh day holy until **He had worked six days**

Underline that the Sabbath is **Jesus' Sabbath** before it was given to man. This is why it is called "**the Sabbath of the Lord thy God**" and Jesus calls it "**my holy day**." It is Jesus' day because He **kept it first** and it **belongs to Him**.

*"The Lord himself had worked six days, then rested on the seventh, setting thereby a **permanent pattern** for the benefit of mankind." Henry Morris, Biblical Creationism, p. 62*

The Sabbath became a **sign and reminder** of the Creator:

Exodus 31:17: *"It is **a sign** between Me and the children of Israel forever [it does not say exclusively]; **for** [because] in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He **rested** and was **refreshed**."*

After making the week and the Sabbath Jesus **gave them both to man** (Mark 2:27). **We know** this because of **Exodus 20:11**.

Exodus 20:8-11: The **fourth commandment** of the holy law that God wrote with His own finger reveals clearly that the Sabbath is a **creation institution**.

The **late Henry Morris** who before his death was an Evangelical Christian but was a **staunch defender** of a literal creation in six literal days and the **founder** of the **Institution for Creation Research** remarks about the fourth commandment:

*"The observance of the 'sabbath day' (that is, rest day) was not instituted by this commandment, for it had been practiced by mankind ever since the actual week of creation, when 'God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it: because he had rested from all his work which God created and made' (Genesis. 2:3)." Henry Morris, **Biblical Creationism**, pp. 61, 62*

*"Not only is there considerable evidence that Sabbath observance existed in both Israel and in other nations long before Moses, but the Word of God makes it plain that it was established by God himself, in commemoration of his completed creation, and that it has been observed as a special day at least by some, ever since." Henry Morris, **Biblical Creationism**, p. 251.*

*"With the passing of the centuries, the Sabbath eventually became almost exclusively associated with the religious ceremonies of the nation of Israel, even though the Creator had hallowed it originally for all men. When the Creator eventually became man, however, in the person of Jesus Christ, he stressed that it had never been intended as a mere Jewish religious ritual, as the Pharisees had distorted it, but for the good of all men." Henry Morris, **Biblical Creationism**, p. 253.*

Israel's Redeemer

Now let's go **ahead** in human history. **Jesus Christ** was the one who **redeemed** Israel from **Egypt** and gave the **Ten Commandments**:

Exodus 3:13, 14: *"Then Moses said to God, 'Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?'" ¹⁴ And God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM**." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: **I AM** has sent me to you.'"*

The Creator is also the Redeemer

John 8:58, 59: *"Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.'" ⁵⁹ Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by."*

The Creator is the Redeemer

John 1:1-3, 14: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God..² He was in the beginning with God.³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made”¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

The Passover Lamb

Perfect lamb of the Passover will now be **sacrificed**. Jesus lived a **perfect sinless life** and wove a **robe of perfection** for us and the moment he died on the cross paying the **penalty for our sins** He said: **“It is finished”** just like He did **at creation**.

The key question is: What **day** and **hour** did He say **“it is finished”**?

Matthew 27:46: *“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”*

John 19:30: *“So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”*

Luke 23:46: *“And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.” Having said this, He breathed His last.”*

Jesus died as the fulfillment of the **sacrifice of the Passover lamb**

At **what time** was the Passover lamb sacrificed?

Exodus 12:6: *“Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight.”*

Though most Bible versions translate **“evening”** or **“twilight,”** the Hebrew literally says that the Lamb was killed **“between the two evenings”**

When the sun began to **descend from the meridian** it was the first evening and when the sun set was the second evening. It was the evening of the sixth day. Jesus had just **finished His work of redemption** for the human race. The **debt** for sin had been **fully paid**.

Jesus died at precisely **three o’clock** in the afternoon on what Christians call **Good Friday**.

The Day of His Death

Let’s take a closer look at the sequence of days of the passion of Christ:

Jesus died on **Friday**, rested in the **tomb on the Sabbath**, and resurrected on the **first day** of the week:

Luke 23:54-56: “That day was the Preparation, and the Sabbath drew near.⁵⁵ And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid.⁵⁶ Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.”

What did Jesus do on that same Sabbath? We must go back to **Exodus 16** to find out.

Exodus 16:19-20: “And Moses said, “Let no one leave any of it till morning.”²⁰ Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them.”

Exodus 16:23-24: “Then he said to them, “This is what the Lord has said: ‘Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord. Bake what you will bake today, and boil what you will boil; and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning.’”²⁴ So they laid it up till morning, as Moses commanded; and it did not stink, nor were there any worms in it.”

The **key question** is this: What did the Manna **symbolize or represent**?

John 6:51: “I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

What **most commentators** have missed is that this was a beautiful **Messianic prophecy**

Psalms 16:8-10: “I have set the LORD always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope.¹⁰ For You will not leave my soul in Sheol [“abandon me to the grave”, NIV] nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption [“decay”, NIV].”

Why didn’t the flesh of Jesus experience corruption?

The flesh of Jesus saw no corruption as He rested in the tomb on Sabbath because he was the living Manna. He explicitly said “my flesh shall **rest** in hope.” (**Psalms 16:9**) They were to **rest in what Jesus had done**.

Acts 2:25-27: “For David says concerning Him: ‘I foresaw the LORD always before my face, for He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken.’²⁶ Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; moreover my flesh also will rest in hope.²⁷ Because You will not leave my soul [“Me” in the NIV] in Hades [grave in the NIV], nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption [decay in the NIV].”

Acts 2:31 “Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay.”(NIV)

Argument: Sabbath was a sad day but Sunday was a happy day. First, Jesus had tried to tell them that he would die and resurrect the first day. Second, Sunday was not a happy day because they did not even believe that Jesus had resurrected until Sunday night

If they had truly understood the Manna episode, **how they rested** would have been different; it would have been a rest of **joyous expectancy**. They would have **truly entered God's rest**. The Creator was Jesus so this was **Jesus' rest**. The problem is that they read the Old Testament **without Christ**.

And then He resurrected on the **first day of the week**

Some say that Jesus chose **Sunday** as the day of His resurrection because He **wanted His church to observe Sunday** as the day of rest to commemorate the resurrection. But we see now that the significant day was **not Sunday but the Sabbath!** If He rested in the tomb he would **have to resurrect on Sunday** and **Pentecost 50 days later would also have to be on Sunday!**

The **key day was not Sunday** but the Sabbath. Christians think that Jesus resurrected on Sunday because He wanted to make **Sunday special** but the real reason is that He **had to rest in the tomb on the Sabbath** from His works of redemption and this necessitated him resurrecting the day after the Sabbath.

- He **died at 3 pm** (between the two evenings)
- His body was then **taken down** from the cross and **prepared for burial** as the Passover lamb was prepared
- **Shortly before sundown** His body was buried
- **He rested** from His **works of redemption** in the tomb all day Sabbath and His body did **not see corruption** because He was the living Manna
- He resurrected early the **first day of the week**

Christians talk about **Palm Sunday**, **Ash Wednesday**, **Holy Thursday**, **Good Friday**, **Resurrection Sunday** but the Sabbath gets lost in the shuffle

Sunday cannot be holy because that is not the day that Jesus rested. It is the **rest of Jesus** that makes **the day holy**.

Never was lost, it is always the Sabbath of the Lord. If Sabbath today is not the **same day** then Sunday is not the same day either. Jesus would not have kept the wrong day.

Sabbath, worship and **judgment** are linked. **Why** are they linked? We worship God because he is the **Creator** and he has a right to judge us because we are his creatures. He has the right to our **worship** and the right to **judge us**.

Satan has attempted to **erase the memory of Christ** in the contemporary world. He wants to **eradicate** from people's minds the Creator so he tries to **erase the sign**. He wants people to

think that they are **not accountable** to the Creator and therefore they will not be judged as creatures.

All types of theories of origins have been proposed:

- Darwinian Evolution
- Intelligent design
- Punctuated equilibrium
- Progressive Creation
- Theistic Evolution
- New Age theories

The tragic truth is that these **philosophies** are no longer merely the belief system of **secular humanists, skeptics, agnostics, atheists, materialists and evolutionists**.

The theory of evolution has been embraced by the **Roman Catholic Church** and by some **Protestant Evangelical scholars** and even some teachers in **Seventh-day Adventist universities**

*“God himself created the visible world in all its richness, diversity, and order. Scripture presents the work of the Creator **symbolically** as a succession of six days of divine ‘work,’ concluded by the ‘rest’ of the seventh day.” **Catechism of the Catholic Church** (1994), p. 87 (paragraph 337) emphasis supplied*

Message of **John Paul II** given at the **Pontifical Academy of Sciences** on **October 22, 1996**:

*“It is indeed remarkable that this theory has been progressively accepted by researchers, following a series of discoveries in various fields of knowledge. The convergence, neither sought nor fabricated, of the results of work that was conducted independently is in itself a **significant argument in favor of this theory.**”*

*“In a major statement of the Roman Catholic Church’s position on the theory of evolution, Pope John Paul II has proclaimed that the theory is ‘**more than just a hypothesis**’ and that **evolution is compatible with Christian faith**. In a written message to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, the pope said the **theory of evolution has been buttressed by scientific studies and discoveries since Charles Darwin**. . . **If taken literally, the Biblical view of the beginning of life and Darwin’s scientific view would seem irreconcilable**. In Genesis, the creation of the world, and Adam, the first human, took **six days**. Evolution’s process of genetic mutation and natural selection—the survival and proliferation of the fittest new species—has taken **billions of years**, according to scientists. . .” **Chicago Tribune**, 10/25/96 **“Pope Bolsters Church Support for Evolution.”** By Stephen Swanson, Tribune staff writer.*

Many scholars are **reinterpreting the days** of creation as long periods of time. Many Biblical scholars who use the **historical critical method** don’t even believe that **Moses wrote Genesis**.

Many of them are willing to admit that the **writer of Genesis believed** that the days of creation were literal, consecutive, contiguous 24-hour days but they say that the **writer was wrong**.

- The **Hebrew Lexicons** (Holladay, Brown-Driver-Briggs) define the days of Genesis as literal **24 hour days**
- **Evening and morning**
- Word “day” with a **numeral adjective** (about 150 times in the Old Testament) it always refers to a literal day, no exceptions
- **Fourth commandment**

The bottom line is simple: Do you have faith in the Bible as God’s Word

The Sabbath a Future Sign

Isaiah 66:22-23: *"For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me," says the Lord, "so shall your descendants and your name remain. ²³ And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me," says the Lord."*

Revelation 22:1, 2: *"And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ² In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month."*

There will be **months** in the new earth so this must mean that there will also be **days** and **years**. What do we do with **Revelation 21:23**?

Revelation 21:23: *"The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light."*

We will see the **creation** of the new heavens and the new earth. Then we will come from **month to month** and **Sabbath to Sabbath** to worship before the Lord.

The final issue will be over worship

Revelation 14:7: *"... worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."*

Revelation 14:9, 10: *"...If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation."*

You cannot speak about worship without speaking about the Sabbath. **Two rival signs**, a **genuine** and a **counterfeit**. They stand at **opposite ends of the week**. One was established by

God before sin and the other by the **man of sin in the early Christian centuries**. **The day you keep determines whose authority you accept and who you worship!**

If God has a **sign of true worship**, Satan must have a **counterfeit** which looks very **close to the original**. It must be a day that purports to honor God. The counterfeit comes **after the genuine** in time.

God's true people in the last days will preach a literal, consecutive, contiguous seven day creation week and **keep the Sabbath** to commemorate it.