### By Steve Berkson

## Part 1 – Quick Review

Let us approach this critically important teaching with open minds, hearts and spirits so that we can truly receive what Yahweh desires from us in our guarding, keeping and remembering the Shabbat.

#### From Exo 31:12-18 we learned:

- Shabbat is a sign between Yahweh and His people
- We are to "guard" Yahweh's Shabbatot (Sabbaths)
- It is a sign between Yahweh and the children of Israel forever throughout their generations
- It is an everlasting covenant to be observed throughout our generations
- It is to let us know that it is Yahweh that is making us Kadosh / Holy / Set-apart
- We are to guard the Shabbatot for they are to be Kadosh / Holy / Set-apart to us
- Those that desecrate / profane the Shabbatot were to be put to death (earned the death penalty)
  - o M'chaleleyha to descrate, to reneg or break an agrement
  - O Desecrate to treat with violent disrespect
  - o Profane to treat in an irreverent / disrespectful way
  - o Eze 22:25-26 "...they have hidden their eyes from My Shabbats, and I am profaned..."
- The nephesh / living creature that does work (melachah) on the Shabbatot was to be cut-off from among the people
  - o "To be cut-off" the Hebrew context here appears to be best translated as excommunication being excluded from participation in the services and rituals of Israel. Being treated (relationally) as being outside the covenant, as a goy/gentile
- Six days work is to be done
- On the seventh day is a Shabbat Shabbaton (of rest) Kadosh / Holy / Set-apart to Yahweh
- The Shabbatot witness and attest to what Yahweh did in creation week and that He created / worked for six days and then rested / abstained from work on the seventh day
- On the seventh day (the Shabbat) Yahweh was "refreshed"
  - The hebrew word here is naphash which means to breathe or be breathed upon or refreshed as by a current of <u>air</u>



O Could it be that it was on the seventh day (Shabbat) that Yahweh "breathed" and "refreshed" creation and that this is exactly what He does every Shabbat...He breathes refreshment on His people who are observing the Shabbat.

The 4th Commandment in Exo 20 and Deut 5 taught us to:

- Remember the Shabbat day to set it apart, sanctify it, make it holy...
  - o Be mindful of, bring to mind, bring to remembrance
    - **John 14:26** The Ruach brings to remembrance all that Yeshua had said
- Guard the Shabbat day to set it apart, sanctify it, make it holy...
  - o Be careful, beware, be aware of, defend, careful to keep, stand watch over
- Do all of our labor and work in 6 days
  - o Avod / Labor to labor first mentioned in Gen 4:12
    - Gen 4:12 If you "till" the ground, it shall no longer yield...
      - To do work to produce a yield
  - Melachah / Work as connected to occupation or craftsmanship and their related tasks
- The seventh day is a Shabbat to Yahweh, your Elohim
  - o A day of rest / refreshing directed toward Yahweh
- You shall not do any work you, your children, your servants, your animals, and the
  convert/proselyte within your gates Those that you have responsibility for and authority over are
  to rest and be refreshed as you do
  - o Reference back to creation week All creation is to rest
    - Gen 2:1-3
- Yahweh blessed the Shabbat day and set it apart / sanctified it / made it holy
  - o Yahweh did something to the space of time referred to as Shabbat
- Shabbat observance is to help us to remember that we were slaves in Mitsrayim and that Yahweh delivered us out of that slavery.
  - Reference back to the exodus from Mitsrayim / Egypt His chosen people are to rest
  - O We are to remember that when we were delivered from Mitsrayim we were not set free to do whatever we wanted...we were set free from one master to serve Yahweh
  - o Rom 6:16 ... you are servant to the one you obey



# Part 2 – More about "Guarding" Shabbat

Lev 19:1-3 – Guard My Shabbats – Link to 5th Commandment

Lev 19:30 - Guard My Shabbats - linked to Yahweh & His set-apart place

- Repeated in Lev 26:2 Guard My Shabbats linked to Yahweh & His set-apart place
  - o A "set-apart" place is one that has been declared sacred for a specific purpose
    - 1 Cor 3:16 We are a dwelling place of the Ruach

## Part 3 – The Shabbatot Are Set-Apart (Sacred) Gatherings

Lev 23:1-4 – Lists Yahweh's set-apart gatherings and appointed times starting with Shabbat

- "appointed times" Hebrew moaday appointments, i.e. a fixed times or seasons; specifically, festivals; assemblies (as convened for definite purposes).
- The Hebrew word **moad** comes from the word **ya`ad**; to fix upon (by agreement or appointment); by implication, to meet (at a stated time), to summon, to direct, to engage (for marriage).
- "set-apart gatherings" Hebrew miqra'ay something called out, i.e. a public meeting; also a rehearsal.

There are 7 Annual Shabbatot / High Days listed in Leviticus 23

- The 1st and last days of Unleavened Bread
- Shavuot / Pentecost
- Zichron Teruah / Feast of Trumpets
- Yom Hakippurim / Day of Atonements
- The 1st day of Sukkot
- Shemini Atzeret / The Eighth Day Feast



### Part 4 – How Should Shabbat Be Remembered and Guarded?

**Note:** I believe that Shabbat observance questions can be easily answered for the most part by looking at the questions in the context of Holy / Set-Apart Time

Gen 2:1-3 – The creation and setting apart of the 7th day

#### Exo 16:23-30

- Tomorrow is a rest, a Shabbat set-apart to Yahweh...
- Bake what you wish to bake and cook what you wish to cook and put aside the leftover for you to eat on Shabbat
- Six days are given to gather / work
- Let every man remain in his place...a reference to not going out to gather the manna
  - o They were not told to "stay in his place" till after they went out and disobeyed
  - Let each one "stay in his place"
    - This may not be referring to staying physically in a place, but rather staying in your position as it relates to authority
      - Gen 36:33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39
      - Exo 29:29-30
      - Lev 6:22
      - Deut 10:6
  - O Do not let anyone "go out of his place"
    - This may be referring to staying physically in a place, perhaps in context referring to the "place" he is authorized to go
- The people didn't follow the instructions fully at first
- In verse 30 we see that they did get it eventually

Exo 34:21 – The Shabbat is to be remembered/guarded, kept even in ploughing time and harvest time

Exo 35:1-3 – do not kindle a fire in any of your dwellings

- The Hebrew word t'varu means to kindle
- The Hebrew word t'va'er means to remove
- This was not to be done "in" any of your dwellings

