

Calgary L'chaim Bible Fellowship

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A study series with Saskatchewan & Bontoc Ekklesia group

Text: Exodus 20:8-10, Isaiah 56:3-7, 66:23

Date: _____

Yeshua and the Sabbath

Introduction:

Every Sabbath is traditionally welcomed with the Erev Shabbath Kiddush (cups and bread), just like Passover. In Deuteronomy 5:15 the Scripture instructs us to keep the Shabbath as a remembrance of the Exodus from Egypt (in the same mind our personal journey of Grace from Sin). In the same manner Shabbat is like a Passover Feast, Yeshua told us to take the wine and the bread in remembrance of Him. Therefore everytime we keep the Sabbath it is a remembrance of our Messiah Yeshua. He is our Sabbath Rest – and we rest on the Shabbath in Him.

Did Jesus broke the Sabbath?

In many instances in the narration of the synoptic gospels it appears that Yeshua did not follow or observed the Sabbath with His disciples, the disciples plucked grain, Yeshua healed a man on the Sabbath, He told a man to carry his mat on the Sabbath, He made mud and applied it on a blind man's eyes – isn't it that these are violations of the Sabbath? Wrong! According to Leviticus 18:5 "Life takes precedence over Shabbath." Pikuach Nefesh is a Hebrew for "saving life" this is the principle behind it. Basically the Sabbath may not be observed if necessary to save a life this includes the alleviation of human suffering. The penalty of breaking the Sabbath is death (Numbers 15:32ff) that is why the enemies of Yeshua that time claimed that Yeshua broke the Torah by not keeping the Sabbath (John 9:16) in order to prove that He was not the Messiah.

Jesus moved the Sabbath to Sunday?

The popular verse that many use to prove that the believers that time met on a Sunday is Acts 20:7. This passage very clearly means that the meal was a reference towards the end of the Sabbath day (Saturday night), even in our modern times the Jewish people practice this Saturday evening meal – it is called "Havdalah." To review the timeclock that the Bible uses in regards to days and hours (time), the day begins in the evening. The first day of the week begins on Saturday night, not Sunday morning (Acts 20). It is customary to the first century bible believers and the whole Jewish community to gather and study the Torah on Saturday night. That is why the Troas Congregation did the same with Apostle Paul preaching and teaching that night (not day) a reason that Eutychus fell asleep and fell out of the window.

What did Jesus do?

In the Synoptic Gospels it clearly shows us that among the many scripture references that Yeshuas custom (practice) is to go to the synagogue every Shabbath (Luke 4:16). That is because the Sabbath is supposed to be the day of Assembly (Gr. Community gathering) of all the believers (Lev 23:3) with meals (Luke 15:1) and spending it with the disciples. Yeshua taught the early disciple to put on high regard the Shabbath (Mark 2:27, Matthew 11:28-30, Matthew 24:20, Luke 6:5) – this passages clearly are evidence that Yeshua kept and observed the Sabbath day!

Jesus resurrected on Sunday (the first day of the week) that is why the Sabbath is not already observed?

Let us take a closer look what happened on the day of Yeshua's burial (Luke 23:54-56). To His disciples, the Sabbath was so holy that they would not violate the commandment of observing the Shabbath for the sake of attending to His body.

In closing it is not wrong to worship and assemble on a Sunday (the Tabernacle and the Temple was open for worship every day and the priests and the levites do their thing, and everyone is welcome to pray and worship any day of the week), but Sunday is NOT the Shabbath, and it was not Yeshua's idea to change Sabbath to Sunday. (Review again Exodus 20:8-10, Isaiah 56:3-6, 66:23 and Acts 15:21)

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