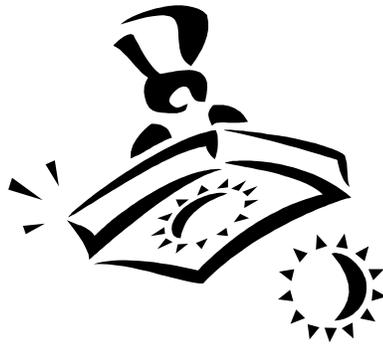


THE VALUE OF THE  
SABBATH  
AS A SEAL OR SIGN IN  
GOD'S  
LAW

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**NYRON MEDINA**

## ***Introduction***

*Here is a wonderful and deep study on the Sabbath. Since we are to “preach the Sabbath more fully”, we need to understand the real nature and value of it; and even as the **seal** of God, it contains much truth for preaching.*

*This study explains to us the wealth and strength of meaning found in the word “Seal”, it shows us that as the **Seal of God**, the Sabbath has a meaning from the point of what God is saying about Himself. It has a “God-ward side”. It also has a meaning from the point of what God says in the converted man who keeps the Sabbath, in other words, it has a “man-ward side”. This study provides pointers for further personal studies, that all may know how to use the **Sabbath Covenant-power Seal** when they want to show things to people from the **God-ward side** or from the **man-ward side**, it helps all to use the various nuances of meaning of the word seal to the right situations and the relative people.*

*May God help all who study this booklet to use its truths in their obedience to God’s command to “preach the Sabbath more fully”, may all have an adequate Sabbath theology for the end, in Jesus’ holy name. Amen.*

## THE VALUE OF THE SABBATH AS A SEAL OR SIGN IN THE LAW OF GOD

1. The Sabbath clause in the Ten Commandments is referred to by God as God's **authoritative signal** when He commands various things. It is placed in various contexts to signify God's authority in commanding.
  - a. He gave Moses the tables of the Law to give Israel. Ex. 31:18.
  - b. But before that, God emphasized the Sabbath. Ex. 31:13-17.
  - c. He decrees the symbols of redemption of the firstborn, and also of harvest-time rests, while referring to the Sabbath rest. Ex. 34:20,21.
  - d. Moses tells all Israel of the words God wants them to obey which is the Ten Commandments. (Ex. 34:28-35; Ex. 35:1).
  - e. But Moses refers to the Sabbath first. Ex. 35:2.
2. In various places, after referring to the Sabbath, God makes authoritative statements about His Name associating it to the Sabbath. Lev. 19:3,30; Lev. 26:2.

## THE SEAL OF GOD

3. This means that the Sabbath is clearly seen to be God's **seal** in the Law of the Ten Commandments. Ex. 20:8-11.
  - a. The Word "**seal**" in this instance means an authoritative expression of who God is, His name, His position of authority and the territory over which He assumes His authority. Observe the dictionary's meaning of the word "seal".

".. A piece of wax, lead or other material, stamped with a device and attached as a means of authentication or attestation ..." **The Wordsworth Concise English Dictionary**, p. 898.

"... a mark or sign which authenticates, confirms, ratifies, or pledges; the symbols of a high office ..." **The Lexicon Webster Dictionary Vol. 11**, p. 866.
4. We are further told about an angel in the Bible having the seal of the living God. Rev. 7:2.
5. Of this seal we are told.

"The original word in this text is defined, "A seal, i.e., a **signet** ring; a **mark**, stamp, **badge**; a **token**, a **pledge**." The verb signifies: To secure to anyone, to make sure; to set a seal or mark upon anything in token of its being genuine or approved; to attest, to confirm, to

establish, to distinguish by a mark'... A seal is **used** to render valid or authenticate any enactments or laws that a person or power may promulgate." Uriah Smith, **Daniel and the Revelation**, pp. 416-417. (Emphasis supplied).

6. Further understanding about the fact that the Sabbath is the seal of God in the Ten Commandments can be gleaned from the following scriptures that uses "seal" in connection with law-making or making decrees. 1 Kins. 21:8; Esther 3:12; Esther 8:8.

"A seal is used in connection with some law or enactment that demands obedience, or upon documents that are to be made legal, or subject to the provision of law. **The idea of law is inseparable from a seal.**" **Ibid**, p. 417. (Emphasis supplied).

7. We are further told about the seal of God.

"The seal of God is found in the law of God ... The seal of God is that part of His law which contains **His name**, or **descriptive title**, showing **who He is**, the **extent of His dominion**, and **His right to rule.**" **Ibid**, p. 418. (Emphasis supplied).

8. In the Sabbath commandment we can see the following:

- a. God's name.
- b. His high office.
- c. The extent of His authority.
- d. His Right or authority over all.
- e. His claims upon all. Ex. 20:8-11.

9. Observe what the Sabbath clause shows, truly identifying it as God's seal.

- i. **God's Name:** "YHWH ... God ..."
- ii. **God's High office:** "... YHWH made ... YHWH blessed ... and hallowed ..." (**Creator** and **Holifier**).
- iii. **The extent of God's authority:** "... the heavens and earth, the sea, and all that is in them ..." (The created universe).
- iv. **God's Right or authority over all:** "YHWH made ..." (He is the Creator thus ruler of all).
- v. **God's claims upon all:** "... YHWH thy God ..." (He is the **only** true and legitimate God over all).

## GOD'S COVENANT

10. It is now fitting to ask what kind of seal is YHWH's Sabbath? This is because the use of the word "seal" is too **weak**, and needs other words to give strength to it. To understand this, we need to first understand that the Bible calls the Sabbath **the Covenant**. Ex. 31:16,17; Isa. 56:4,6.

11. What does the word "covenant" mean? We are told that it is not a proper translation of the Greek word "diatheke", it should be translated "will" or "testament" (testimony).

"Perhaps the most necessary investigation still waiting to be made is that relating to the word diatheke, which so many scholars translate unhesitatingly "covenant." Now as the new texts help us generally to reconstruct Hellenistic family law and the law of inheritance, so in particular our knowledge of Hellenistic wills has been wonderfully increased by a number of originals on stone or papyrus. There is simple material to back me in the statement that no one in the Mediterranean world in the first century A.D. would have thought of finding in the word "diatheke" [Greek letters translated] the idea of "covenant." St. Paul would not, and in fact did not. To St. Paul the word meant what it meant in his Greek Old Testament, 'a unilateral enactment,' in particular "a will or testament.'" Adolf Deissmann, **Light From The Ancient East**, p. 337.

12. So we see, that although the word "covenant" is used, it should be "will" or "testament" (testimony). So God's covenant is better rendered God's will or "God's testimony" of His Will.

"Thus Gesenius-Buhl derives b'rith from the root baraya as it is used in 1 Samuel 17:8, meaning "to decide" or "allot to". These etymologies point toward the giving of an inheritance and favor the meaning "testament.'" J. Barton Payne, **The Theology of the Older Testament**, p. 79.

"Although there may at times appear certain mutually binding conditions so that we call the resultant arrangement a "covenant," these conditions do not represent the essence of the **b'rith** [the word translated covenant in the First Witness].

It is still a sovereignly imposed, monopoleuric injunction ... Hence, God chooses the word **b'rith**, the available term for a legally binding instrument, to describe what is His sovereign pleasure ... When the parties concerned are God in His grace and man in his sin, on whose behalf God acts, the **b'rith** becomes God's self imposed obligation for the deliverance of sinners ... Though essentially monergistic, effectuated by "one worker." (God, not man and god), the **b'rith** required that men qualify ." **Ibid**, p. 81.

"one must conclude that "testament" is the meaning of diatheke ..." **Ibid**, p. 84.

13. As the Sabbath is thus the "covenant seal", it can be called the **seal** that is a **testimony of God's Will**. Ex. 31:13.

## THE SABBATH, GOD'S POWER

14. But the Sabbath as God's Will, and Testimony of that Will also includes the sanctifying / holifying of those who keep it, which is done by the Gospel which is the power of God. (Exodus 31:13; Ezekiel 20:12; John 17:17; Acts 26:18; Philippians 1:27; Romans 1:16,17).
15. Being told to "... keep [the Sabbath] holy ...", and being required to do certain works that **can only be done by Faith**, would mean that the Sabbath Covenant-Seal also includes the Gospel, the power of God as part of it that makes us keep the whole Law. (Exodus 20:8-11; Philippians 1:27; Romans 3:28,30,31; James 2:8-12).
  - a. The following chart illustrates that the "covenant" meaning of the Sabbath involves or also means the Gospel. Isa. 56:4-6.

## SABBATH AS COVENANT-POWER SEAL

KEEPING THE  
WHOLE LAW

THE GOSPEL THAT  
CAUSES LAW-KEEPING

## GOD'S TEACHING SIGN

16. Not only is the Sabbath **God's Covenant-Power Seal**, it is also used as **God's Didactic Sign**, this is also the inherent meaning in the word "seal." The word "didactic" means "intended to teach."  
  
"didactic ... fitted or intended to teach: instructive: perceptive ..." **The Wordsworth Concise English Dictionary**, p. 265.
17. We know that the Sabbath is **God's Didactic (Teaching) Sign** because in scripture the Sabbath is explained as being given that we may "**know**" ... certain things about God. Ex. 31:13; Eze. 20:12,20.

## GOD'S KINGSHIP DECREE

18. Another force of meaning inherent in the word "seal" which is the Sabbath is the fact that it is **God's Kingship Decree**. The word "decree" means an edict or law.

“... decree ... an order by one in authority; an edict or law ...” **Ibid**, p. 248.

19. The Bible identifies God as a King, not a physical King over a nation, but as the “Spiritual King” that rules in men’s lives. Psalms 5:2; Psalms 10:16; Psalms 24:7-10; Psalms 47:6-8; Psalms 74:12.
  - a. Christ as King upon Zion is Christ (YHWH) as king over the church, God’s people. Psalms 2:6; Isaiah. 33:22.
  - b. Christ who is God, clearly shows that He is a **Spiritual King**. (John 20:28,29; John 18:33-37).
  - c. Jesus who is God is also identified as King of Peace and King of Righteousness showing that God is a Spiritual King. (Heb. 5:5,6; Heb. 7:1,2).
20. The Sabbath showing God as “King” making a decree about Himself means that the Sabbath is **God’s decree that He is Spiritual King**. God presents the Sabbath and then authoritatively says He is YHWH. Lev. 19:3; Deut. 5:1-14.
21. When Christ said that He was the YHWH of the Sabbaths, He meant that the Sabbath shows Him to be YHWH; and since Christ is King, the Sabbath shows Him to be YHWH–King. (Isa. 9:6,7; Mark 2:27,28).
22. Thus we can safely say that the Sabbath as God’s seal can best be explained according to this chart:

### **THE SABBATH IS:**

GOD’S  
COVENANT  
POWER-SEAL

GOD’S  
DIDACTIC  
SIGN

GOD’S  
KINGSHIP  
DECREE

### **SYNONYMS OF THE WORD SIGN**

23. There are other words that are synonymous with the word “seal” which explains it even more. The Bible calls the Sabbath a “sign.” Let us look at synonyms of the word “sign” which is what the seal of God is. Ex. 31:13.

“Sign ... mark, token, badge, note, symptom can denote a sensible and usually visible indication by means of which something not outwardly apparent or obvious is made known or revealed.” **Webster’s New Dictionary of Synonyms**, p. 737.

24. We will now look at some of those synonyms that help explain what force the word seal has in it.

- a. We are now looking at that word “**sign**”.

“sign ... objective evidence that serves as a presage or token ... a placard, board, tablet, or card that serves to identify, announce, or direct ...” **Ibid**, p. 737.

- b. We are now looking at the word “**mark**”. The word is used with the meaning of an impress upon something that is seen visibly.

“**mark** ... may be preferred to sign when the distinguishing or revealing indication is thought of as something impressed upon a thing or inherently characteristic of it, often in contrast to something outwardly apparent or displayed ... something that is affixed in order to distinguish, identify, or label a particular thing or to indicate its ownership ...” **Ibid**, p. 737.

- c. We are now looking at the word “**token**”. It can be used as a **pledge**.

“**token** ... can replace sign and also mark except in their specific concrete applications when the sensible indication serves as a proof of or is given as evidence of the actual existence of something that has no physical existence ...” **Ibid**, p. 737.

- d. We are now looking at the word “**badge**”.

“**badge** ... designates a piece of metal or a ribbon carrying an inscription or emblem and worn upon the person as a token of one’s membership in a society or as a sign of one’s office, employment, function ... In an extended use **Badge** often is employed in place of sign, mark, or token when it is thought of in reference to a class, a group, a category of persons, or as a distinctive feature of their dress, their appearance, or their character ...” **Ibid**, p. 737.

- e. We are now looking at the word “**signal**”. It is a sign that is active, a works-sign.

“... **signal** can both mean a motion, an action, a gesture, or a word by which a command or wish is expressed or a thought is made known ... it is used in reference to a bodily motion (as a shrug) or a gesture (as a beckoning) or an action (as a pantomime) by which one conveys a thought, a command, a direction, or a need to another ... **signal** usually applies to a conventional and recognizable sign that typically conveys a command, or direction or a warning ...” **Ibid**, p. 738.

- f. Of the word “**banner**” we are given some synonyms.

“ ... flag, standard, ensign ... pendant ...” **Ibid**, p. 85.

## APPLICATIONS OF SYNONYMS

25. Here are some examples of how these words that all explain the word “**seal**” can be used to explain the Sabbath.

- a. **SIGN:** The Sabbath as a **sign** means the Sabbath is objective evidence that announces something about God, it is a board that identifies things about God.
- b. **MARK:** The Sabbath as a **mark** means that the Sabbath is an engraving in the life of the righteous, a mark of being in an abiding relationship with God. It is a characteristic mark of the faithful.
- c. **TOKEN:** The Sabbath as **token** means that the Sabbath is the expressive, formal evidence of the unseen new birth. It is a token of conversion.
- d. **BADGE:** The Sabbath as a **badge** means that the Sabbath is an emblematic sign worn in the public life of the converted as testimony that they represent God’s values.
- e. **SIGNAL:** The Sabbath as a **signal** means that it is an active sign, a sign lived pointing to the way of God as God has commanded.
- f. **BANNER:** The Sabbath as a **banner** means that the Sabbath is a public headline advertised to the world announcing things about God, or declaring the values He stands for.

26. Here is a chart illustrating these terms all used to explain the word “**seal**”.

27. The Sabbath is a sign **between God and man**, thus it says things about **God** and also about **man** who is converted as seen in this chart. Ex. 31:13.

### T H E   S A B B A T H   I S:

**GOD**  
SHOWING THINGS  
ABOUT GOD.  
[**GOD’S SIDE**]

**A FRUIT IN MAN**  
SHOWING THINGS  
ABOUT GOD.  
[**MAN’S SIDE**]

28. Here are the things God says about Himself through the Sabbath seal or sign.

- a. YHWH is God alone. Eze. 20:20.
- b. YHWH is Creator of the universe. Gen. 2:2,3.

- c. YHWH is Spiritual King of all. Ex. 16:23, 25, 28-30.
  - d. YHWH is the Will-Giver to all. Ex. 34:21.
  - e. YHWH is the Holifier of all. Ex. 31:13.
29. A chart representing the things God says about Himself using the Sabbath Seal. (See the following page).
30. As a **Fruit** Sign in man, the Sabbath also says things about God from man's side. It is man that must keep the Sabbath. Mark 2:27.
- a. The Sabbath is a **Fruit- Sign** of conversion and obedience to God's law. Isa. 56:1,2,4,6.
  - b. The Sabbath is a **visible Societal Action-Badge** of the new birth and of being a true Christian. Ex. 35:2,3.
  - c. The Sabbath is a **public Token** that rebellion has ended and the person has now submitted to the spiritual rule of God. Heb. 4:3,9,10.
  - d. The Sabbath is a **public Banner** advertising that God is YHWH the Creator who rules the person keeping-the Sabbath. Ex. 31:31.
  - e. The Sabbath is a **Divine Character-Mark** of true conversion and of abiding in obedience to all God's Commandments. Rev. 1:10.
  - f. The Sabbath is an **Action-Signal** of what it means to be a true Christian in obedience to the one true God. Ex. 31:16.
31. A chart illustrating what the Sabbath says in the converted man in the form of a seal / sign. (See chart on the previous page).

### VARIOUS SCRIPTURES EVALUATING THE SABBATH SEAL

32. The Sabbath is a testimony that YHWH-God is indeed the Creator. Gen. 2:2,3.
33. The Sabbath is the **token** of **submission** to YHWH. Ex. 16:23,25,28-30.
34. The Sabbath is a **Fruit-Sign** of conversion and obedience to God. It shows God to be **Spiritual King** also. Ex. 16:28-30.

35. The Sabbath is **YHWH's Kingship Decree** showing Him to be the Will-Giver and Spiritual King. Ex. 20:8-11.
36. The Sabbath shows YHWH as the **Holifier** of all. Ex. 31:13.
37. The Sabbath is the **Divine Character-Mark** of conversion or being **Holified**. Ex. 31:13.
38. The Sabbath shows YHWH as the **Spiritual King**. Ex. 31:14,15.
39. The Sabbath is the **Covenant** (Will and Testimony), it is the **Action-Signal** pointing to what it means to be a true Christian in obedience to God. Ex. 31:16,17.
40. The Sabbath is the **Covenant-Power Seal** of YHWH. Ex. 31:13,16,17.
41. The Sabbath is the **Action-Signal** showing God as the **Spiritual King**, thus the **resource-giver**. Ex. 34:20-22.
42. The Sabbath shows YHWH as **Spiritual King**, it is a visible **Societal Action-Badge** of the new birth and of being a true Christian. Lev. 19:3.
43. The Sabbath shows YHWH as the **Holifier**, it is a **Divine Character-Mark** of conversion and of being in obedience to God's Law. Lev. 19:30.
44. The Sabbath is **God's Didactic Sign** to **Holify** a person. Lev. 19:30.
45. The Sabbath is **God's Covenant-Power Seal** of **Holifying** a person. Lev. 23:1-4
46. The Sabbath is God's **Didactic Sign** to **Holify** a person. Lev. 26:12.
47. The Sabbath shows YHWH to be the **Spiritual King**, thus **Commander** by right, it is **God's Kingship Decree**. Deut. 5:12-14.
48. The Sabbath is **God's Didactic Sign** that He is the powerful God able to do all things. Deut. 5:15.
49. The Sabbath is a **Public Banner** revealing that one is submitted to the true God YHWH who is ruler being **Spiritual King**. Deut. 5:15.
50. The Sabbath shows YHWH as the **Holifier** of man. Isa. 56:1,2.
51. The Sabbath is **God's Covenant-Power Seal** that He is **Spiritual King**. Isa. 56:4,5.
52. The Sabbath is **God's Covenant-Power Seal** that He is the **Holifier** of man. Isa. 56:6,7.
53. The Sabbath is a **Public Token** that **rebellion** has ended, and that one is in **submission** to God who is seen as the **Will-Giver** and **Spiritual King**. Isa. 58:13,14.

54. The Sabbath is the **Visible Societal Action-Badge** of conversion and of being a true Christian. Isa. 58:13,14.
55. The Sabbath is **God's Didactic Sign** that He is the **Holifier** of man. Eze. 20:12.
56. The Sabbath is **YHWH's Didactic Sign** that He is **YHWH-God** alone. Eze. 20:20.
57. The Sabbath is **God's Didactic Sign** that He is **Spiritual King**, thus the **resources-giver** of man. Mk 2:27.
58. The Sabbath is a **Public Banner** advertising Jesus as the YHWH of the Sabbath. Mk 2:28; Matt. 12:8.
59. The Sabbath is a **Public Token** that **rebellion** has ended and one is now in **submission** to God. Heb.4:3.
60. The Sabbath is a **Public Token** that **rebellion** has ended so that one is now submitted to God. Heb. 4:9-11.
61. The Sabbath is a **Divine Character-Mark** of conversion and obedience to YHWH therefore showing Him to be the **Holifier**. Rev. 1:10.
62. The Sabbath is the **Action Signal** of being a true Christian in obedience to YHWH God. Rev. 1:10.

## CONCLUSION

63. Here are a few quotations explaining the Sabbath seal.

“By keeping His Sabbath holy we are to show that we are His people. His word declares the Sabbath to be a **sign** by which to distinguish the commandment-keeping people.” Ellen G. White, **Selected Messages Book 2**, p. 160. (Emphasis supplied).

“There is the highest reason for us to prize the true Sabbath and stand in its defense, for it is the **sign which distinguishes the people of God from the world.**” **Ibid**, p. 369. (Emphasis supplied).

“The Sabbath is God’s memorial of His creative work, and it is a **sign that is to be kept before the world.**” **Ibid**, p. 384. (Emphasis supplied).

“But the Sabbath of the Lord thy God is to be a sign to show the difference between the obedient and the disobedient.” **Ibid**, p. 385.

“The Sabbath memorial, declaring **who the living God is, the Creator** of the heavens and the earth, has been torn down ... His memorial, the Sabbath, will endure through eternal ages, **pointing to the only true God in distinction from all false gods.**” **Ibid**, pp. 106,107. (Emphasis supplied).

64. This study was meant to equip true Sabbatarian Christians with the means of preaching the Sabbath more fully. It is clearly seen that the Sabbath as the **seal of God** has much depth of meaning. It shows the wide use of **seal** or **sign** in the Bible and what it means from God side and from the side of converted man. May we all see the various meanings in one text in Jesus holy name Amen.







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