

“The Sabbath (2)” — “The Three Act Play”

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□ Genesis 2:1-3

- ◆ M. L. Andreasen: “The heavens and the earth were indeed finished [Genesis 2:1], but God’s work was not ended. He had yet to make the Sabbath, and this He could do only on the Sabbath. And so God made the Sabbath on the Sabbath, and He made it by _____. That *ended* His work. The Sabbath was the finishing touch. Only when He had made the Sabbath was His work _____ Whoever believes in a finished creation must of necessity believe in the Sabbath.” (*The Sabbath* 44)
- ◆ God ended his work on the seventh day, which means that in some significant way the seventh day is utterly _____ to both the divine Creator and the human race.

□ The three divine acts of the seventh day

- ◆ #1—God _____ the seventh day.
 - Numbers 6:24, 25—“The LORD *bless you* and keep you; the LORD make His _____ shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.”
 - Psalm 67:1—“God be merciful to us and *bless us*, and cause His _____ to shine upon us.”
 - When God blesses something or someone, he turns his _____ toward it to give it his _____ attention.
- ◆ #2—God _____ the seventh day.
 - *The Message*: “He made it a _____ Day.” (Genesis 2:3)
 - Thus the first object in Creation history that God declared holy was _____.
 - What is it that makes the seventh day holy? The very _____ and glory of Almighty God.
 - God is present _____ (not on) the seventh day Sabbath.
 - Which is why Abraham Heschel, the great mystic and theologian, could write: “The seventh day is like a _____ in time with a kingdom for all.”
 - For it is God’s very presence in the seventh day that makes it both _____ and _____ his.
- ◆ #3—God _____ on the seventh day.
 - “The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is _____.” (Isaiah 40:28)
 - Sakae Kubo: “Thus fittingly the Sabbath for Adam and Eve was the _____ full day after their creation. It was not because they had labored for a week and needed rest that God invited them to celebrate it. God met them on their first day. Man’s history with God thus begins on the Sabbath, the seventh day of the Creation week, not on the first.” (*God Meets Man* 24, 25)
 - Thus the Sabbath has ever been the first day of the _____ of our lives.
 - John Kellman: “Every time the Sabbath came round, while it would of necessity bring before the minds of [humanity] the glory of God’s wisdom,

power, and goodness, as manifested in His works of creation, it would bring still more prominently before [our] minds, and present in special splendour and attractiveness, the crowning glory of His _____, manifested in His coming so very near to [us] in friendship . . . as man's glorious _____.” (Kubo 16, 17)

□ **Exodus 20:8-11**

- ◆ “Remember”—because this is the one commandment the human race has known from the _____ of time.
- ◆ “The Sabbath command is the only commandment in the observance of which God could _____ man. . . . Man can keep it; God can keep it. Thus the Sabbath is the _____ place of God and man.” (Andreasen 32)
- ◆ “Yes, but the Sabbath was for the Jews, since there is no biblical record of Sabbathkeeping or explicit divine command for Sabbathkeeping until Mt Sinai and the children of Israel.”
 - #1—When God gave the Sabbath to humanity, _____ were not even in existence—just the human race.
 - #2—In a perfect world wouldn't the _____ of the Creator be command enough?

“What is it that makes any divine precept moral and universal? Do we not regard a law moral when it reflects God's nature? Could God have given a stronger revelation of the moral nature of the Sabbath than by making it a rule of His divine conduct? Is a principle established by divine *example* less binding than one enunciated by a divine *command*? Do not actions speak louder than words?” (Samuele Bacchiocchi, *Divine Rest for Human Restlessness* 34, 35)
 - #3—Seven times Genesis refers to the seven-day _____ (Gen. 2:2,3; 7:4, 10; 8:10, 12; 29:27; 50:10).
 - #4—The divine provision of the _____ clearly presupposes the people's knowledge of the sanctity of the seventh day Sabbath (Ex. 16:21-30).
 - #5—The very language of the 4th commandment presupposes a knowledge of the Sabbath—“_____” vs. “Thou shalt keep the seventh day holy” (Ex. 20:8).
 - #6—_____ of the other Ten Commandments is commanded in Genesis either—does that mean they were not applicable to humanity and unknown until Sinai?

*The gift
of the Sabbath
is the friendship of God.*

Resting, done, essential, blessed, face, face, face, full, sanctified, Holy, time, presence, in, palace, holy, wholly, rested, weary, first, rest, love, Friend, beginning, join, meeting, Jews, example, week, manna, “Remember”, None