

March 25, 1994, Sabbath Eve Boston

### **The Covenant**

The Sabbath is a sign of who God's people are and of everything He has given them. It speaks of God's purpose and His intentions for both His chosen people and all men. There is a sign that *He has chosen* to tell the whole world who His people are. It is like any sign that you might see; it is understandable and points to something. The people who will rest on this day are the people whom He is making holy. That means He is setting them apart to accomplish His purpose on the earth. Apart from this sign you can be sure that you have not found the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This is the same God and Father that the Son of God served and obeyed when He was on this earth.

This God, *Yahweh* is His name, and *Yahshua* is His son's name, accepts nothing less than wholehearted devotion. To not obey His word is also a visible sign. It tells the world that you have another purpose in life than His purpose. This means you have another source for your life, for His purpose, like His word, has never changed. In Hebrew source is *abba*, the same word that is used for father. Those who don't obey His commands and keep His covenant have another *abba*. Every good son obeys his *abba*, his father.

For thousands of years He has looked for a people whom He could give rest to, the rest and peace that comes from having your sins forgiven. He hoped it would be Old Israel, but they did not let His law do its work in them. It would have prepared their hearts for Messiah (Rom. 10:4 and Gal. 3: 23-25). Instead they rejected God's son and His kingdom was handed over to another people.

They were the early church. They had the New Covenant in which the Holy Spirit would write His laws on their heart. This was all they needed to be true sons, but they too fell away. The simple devotion of obeying His word from their heart became too much for them, and they substituted doctrines and rituals and principles of right living instead (2 Cor 11:3,4 and Rom 6:17). This is where the Catholic Church came from, which several hundred years later would officially cut off the sign that they were God's people. This is why Christians worship on the day

of the Sun God, the first day of the week, and do not rest on the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week (Ex 31:15-17).

So now we live in the days when the words of the prophets have to be fulfilled, for the days are desperately evil. Isaiah prophesied 2700 years ago that right before God's salvation would return to the earth, the Sabbath would once again be kept. (Is 56:1,2) This means that there will be a people who will rest because they have peace. Peace with God and peace with their brothers, the perfect peace that comes from being of the same mind, heart, and spirit. The Sabbath is a sign that the sons of God are being revealed, for it was the Son of God who said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

This unity is the sign that God has chosen to communicate to the world that God sent His own son to the earth. It is the *only* way to tell people how much the Father loved them by sending His son, Yahshua, to die for their sins. Where you do not see unity you have not found the people of God. In this unity is the answer to the alienation and strife that separates human beings from one another and from the God who loves them. This desire to be ONE is in man because men and women are made in God's image and He is ONE. Therefore, there must be Peace-Makers who bring peace, who express the very character of their Father. Without these sons of God, the promise of the Sabbath rest remains a doctrine which people obey in dead tradition, or disregard for the same reason. These peace makers call people out of the world and into the Body of Messiah where real PEACE exists.