
Memory Lapse and Monkey Business



WHILE CAMPING high in the mountains on a crystal clear night, you look up at the canopy above, blazing with stars and stretching from horizon to horizon. The stars are breathtaking, the view overwhelming. You feel your smallness and the vastness of the universe, and you wonder just how big the universe is.

All through time, human beings have looked up at the sky and wondered. Because the sky seems to promise answers to the three most important questions of our existence: Where did we come from? Why are we here? Where are we going? We instinctively know that if we answer the first question, it will provide answers to the other two questions. Origins are a driving force in scientific research and endeavor.

Do you sense how sad and lonely our search is? The answer is given and our loneliness is resolved in the first words of the Bible.

Thoughts to Remember:

- ♦ **"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth"** (Genesis 1:1). How have we forgotten these words? Why this memory lapse? Why do we prefer to believe we descended from monkeys than from the hand of God?
- ♦ In His wisdom and mercy, God knew we'd tend to forget His existence, His creation—everything—without a regular reminder. So during creation, He gave us the reminder: a day set aside each week to remind us of our Creator...the Sabbath.
- ♦ Satan hates the Sabbath because he knows its power to help us remember God. He works tirelessly to discredit and destroy the Sabbath; so nearly 2,500 years after creation, humanity had almost completely forgotten the Sabbath. God wrote His law on tablets of stone at Sinai.
- ♦ **"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it; because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made"** (Genesis 2:1-3). God *sanctified* the Sabbath—set it apart for holy use—from the very beginning. It's not the "Jewish Sabbath;" it's God's Sabbath, from creation onward.
- ♦ **"Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor**

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your stranger that is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it" (Exodus 20:8-11).

• Every seventh day God invites us to flee from stress; to come and get connected with the God of the universe; to find belonging, rest, purpose, and refuge. God's Word says He did three things on the Sabbath:

- **He rested.** We follow His example in resting (putting aside work, problems, and stresses) because the Sabbath is a symbol of His love and care for us.
- **He blessed it.** God placed a special blessing on the Sabbath day. We can gain a blessing from worshipping Him on other days, but this special blessing can only be gained by keeping His Sabbath.
- **He sanctified it.** He set it apart for the holy purpose of reminding us about creation and communing with us.

• Because God Himself *chose* the day, gave it His blessing, and set it apart for a holy purpose—yes, the day does matter! This day is a test of whether we're willing to submit to His sovereign authority or whether we'll ignore His laws and go our own way.

• "Moreover I also gave them my Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and me, that they might know that I am the Lord who sanctifies them" (Ezekiel 20:12). It directly connects us to God.

• Satan has created confusion. Some Christians think Christ came to change the Sabbath. "Do not think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets. I did not come to fulfill" (Matthew 5:17). Jesus Himself kept the Sabbath: "And He [Jesus] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read" (Luke 4:16). It was Sabbath when He announced in the synagogue that He was the Messiah. The Bible record shows that Jesus kept it, Adam and Eve kept it, Abraham kept it, Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Daniel kept it. And wouldn't Christ have changed the Sabbath during His life on earth, if He meant for people to change days after His death?

• "If you love me," Christ said, "keep my commandments" (John 14:15). Many texts in Acts make it clear the disciples continued to keep Sabbath after Christ's death. "And he [Paul] reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks" (Acts 18:4).

• So, has the calendar been changed? Do we know which day the Sabbath is anymore? Both the United States observatory and the British Royal observatory confirm the authenticity of the weekly cycle beyond doubt.

• "I was in the spirit on the Lord's day" (Revelation 1:10). Which day is that? "For the Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath" (Matthew 12:8, Mark 2:28, Luke 6:5). Sabbath is the Lord's day; Christ is Lord of the Sabbath—the seventh day Sabbath of creation.

The "take-home" message for you . . .

Just between you . . . and God:

• No one pretends it's easy to make a change in your life. But Jesus promises that His Sabbath will be a day of peace and rest, beauty and warm fellowship with Him. He promises to be your refuge and friend. You may have people—family, friends, your boss—who will try to talk you out of keeping the Sabbath. I can only counsel you to follow Jesus, follow the Bible, follow the truth.

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