

THE SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH – 24 HOURS OF HEAVEN’S LIFE: -

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NOTE: - All Bible texts are from the King James Version; and the compiler has supplied all emphasis throughout this article.

SELF-DENIAL IS THE RULING PRINCIPLE OF HEAVEN: -

- God’s holy angels who dwell in heaven keep God’s Commandments; and they also do his pleasure or will. (In other words, they are self-denying, not doing their own pleasure or wanting their own way, but desiring to fulfill the will of God.)

Psalms 103:20 & 21: - **“Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. Bless ye the LORD, all [ye] his hosts; [ye] ministers of his, that do his pleasure.”**

NOTE: - The hosts of the Lord mentioned in VS. 21 are the angels of God – See Genesis 32:1 & 2 & Luke 2:13 - 15.

- Lucifer who was cast out of heaven, wanted to exalt himself above the other heavenly angels. He wanted to be exalted equal to the place of God. In other words, he was not self-denying as the angels of God were, but wanted to do his own pleasure or will. So much so, that he started the first war in the Universe so that he could retain his place in heaven. He refused to be self-denying, but wanted his own way at all costs.

Isaiah 14:12 - 15: - **“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! [how] art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.”**

Revelation 12:7 - 9: - **“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”**

THE FIRST STEP IN CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP IS SELF-DENIAL WHICH AS WE KNOW IS THE RULING PRINCIPLE OF HEAVEN: -

Even Christ pleased not himself, but gave himself in service to others. He practiced self-denial; and because of his example, we are to deny ourselves and serve others. This is the first step to be taken in Christian discipleship.

Romans 15:1 - 3: - **“We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please [his] neighbour for [his] good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.”**

Matthew 16:24: - “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, **If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.**”

Mark 8:34: - “And when he had called the people [unto him] with his disciples also, he said unto them, **Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.**”

Luke 9:23: - “And he said to [them] all, **If any [man] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.**”

KEEPING HOLY GOD’S SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH IS FOUNDED UPON THE HEAVENLY PRINCIPLE OF TOTAL SELF-DENIAL: -

Isaiah 58:13 & 14: - “**If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, [from] doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking [thine own] words:** Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken [it].”

God commands us to do deny ourselves in the following ways on his Holy Sabbath day: -

- We are not to do our own ways;
- We are not to do our own pleasure (just like the holy angels in heaven – See Psalms 103:20 & 21);
- We are not to speak our own words.
- God rested from his own works upon the seventh-day of the week at the Creation of the world. We are to follow in God’s Own example of Sabbath-keeping by resting from our own works upon the Sabbath Day in the Sabbath Observance that still remains for the people of God. This is based upon the heavenly principle of self-denial. Not doing our own ways, pleasure or speaking our own words on the Sabbath day is a wonderful aid in our Christian walk, and is also helping to prepare us for Heaven, where self-denial is the ruling principle.

Hebrews 4:4: - “For he spake in a certain place of the seventh [day] on this wise, **And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.**”

Hebrews 4:9 & 10: - “**There remaineth therefore *a rest to the people of God.** For he that is entered into his rest, **he also hath ceased from his own works, as God [did] from his.**”

NOTE: - * The Greek word that is translated as “a rest” in VS. 9, is “sabbatismos” – See Strong’s Concordance; Greek No. 4520. It is defined as “Sabbath rest, Sabbath observance” – A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature, by Walter Bauer, page 739.

VERSE 9 literally reads, “**There remains a Sabbath observance to the people of God.**”

Paul exhorts us to test ourselves to see if we are truly in the faith.

2 Corinthians 13:5: - “**Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.** Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”

The seventh-day Sabbath is a weekly test for each one of us, to see if we are really fit for heaven, and to see if the principle of self-denial in obedience to God's will dwells within our hearts; or do we just want to do our own will? It is a training aid in helping to prepare us to be fit to dwell in eternity with the Commandment-keeping angels of God, who delight in doing God's will and not their own. This is the **REALITY** of what heaven is really like, and not the different fantasies of the churches.

Isaiah 66:22 & 23: - **"For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, [that] from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD."**

ENTERING INTO THE TRUE EXPERIENCE OF KEEPING THE SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH HOLY IS A PREPARATION FOR DWELLING IN HEAVEN, WHERE THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DENIAL RULES!