

*a sermon on EXODUS 20:8-1*

The Fourth Commandment: Remember The Sabbath Day and keep it holy!

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. A PRAYER

II. A PROPOSITION

III. THE TEXT – EXODUS 20:8-11 – THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

IV. INTRODUCTION

V. REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY TO KEEP IT HOLY!

VI. REMEMBER TO DO ONLY THE LORD'S WORK ON THE SABBATH DAY!

VII. REMEMBER GOD CREATED ALL THINGS & RESTED ON THE 7<sup>TH</sup> DAY!

VIII. REMEMBER GOD BLESSED THE SABBATH DAY AND HALLOWED IT!

IX. SYMPTOMS OF A NATION THAT FORGETS GOD AND HIS SABBATH!

X. THE END OF ALL NATIONS THAT FORGET GOD AND HIS SABBATH!

XI. A VISION OF THE NATION THAT KEEPS THE LORD'S DAY HOLY!

XII. IN CONCLUSION

XIII. REFERENCES

## I. A PRAYER

“Almighty GOD, Who hast created man in Thine own Image; Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil, and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice among men and nations, to the glory of Thy holy Name...” Forgive us for the turning away from Thy Commandments, from being weak soldiers of The blessed Cross, for blaspheming against Thee by not keeping The Sabbath Day of our Lord holy, for all holding of The Law of Moses and The Liberty of CHRIST with cold hearts and lukewarm spirits. O LORD, make us Thy worthy and faithful servants by Thy longsuffering Grace. These things we ask “...through JESUS CHRIST our Lord. AMEN!”<sup>1</sup>

## II. A PROPOSITION

A nation that forgets to remember The Sabbath shall soon forget to remember The LORD Who ordained it, and suffer the consequences thereof! But a nation that remembers The Lord’s Day to keep it holy is a nation that shall dwell in the blessings of His Presence!

## III. THE TEXT – EXODUS 20:8-11 – THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

[1 And GOD spake all these words, saying,]  
8 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.  
9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:  
10 But the seventh day is the Sabbath of The LORD thy GOD: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:  
11 For in six days The LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore The LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 1, Anglican Book of Common Prayer, Prayers, a prayer “For Social Justice,” page 68.

<sup>2</sup> 2, KJV, EXODUS 20:8-11.

#### IV. INTRODUCTION

The Fourth Commandment - “Keep The Sabbath Day Holy!” – commands men to keep The Day of Rest once each week as a day consecrated to the worship of The Creator, Who Himself rested from His labours of creation on The Seventh Day. “Remember!” - says The Almighty to Israel and thus to The Church – “that I blessed The Sabbath Day, and thus should you, o man!” “Remember!” – commands The King of The Universe - “To keep The Sabbath Day holy unto Me, o man!”

As Keil and Delitzsch observe, This Commandment “...presupposes an acquaintance with the Sabbath... [For] from the history of the creation..., Israel must have known that after GOD had created the world in six days, He rested [on] the seventh day, and by His resting sanctified the day.”<sup>3</sup> So we read in GENESIS 2:2-3, “And on the seventh day GOD ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all 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.”<sup>4</sup> See here what The LORD did on The Sabbath Day: He first “ended His work” of creation; He second “rested... from all His [creation] work which He had made;” He third “blessed the seventh day;” and He fourth “sanctified” the Sabbath Day.

So now we begin to see why man is commanded to, as Moses wrote in EXODUS 20:8, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy!”<sup>5</sup> We are to remember and keep holy The Sabbath day because it is the day upon which The blessed Creator rested from His creative work of making the heavens and the earth, and all that is in them! Why shall we obey This Commandment? First because GOD commands it! And second because “...The LORD blessed The Sabbath day, and hallowed it!”<sup>6</sup> It is The LORD’s day! And it is required of us to keep it holy! Therefore, to forget The Sabbath is to forget He Who ordained it as a day consecrated to Himself! It is to rebel against He Who is our Father in Heaven, Who has so blessed us in all things! For a nation that forgets to remember The Sabbath

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<sup>3</sup> 3, Keil and Delitzsch, Volume 1, THE SECOND BOOK OF MOSES, CHAP. XX, Ver. 8-11. The Fourth Word, page 119.

<sup>4</sup> KJV, GENESIS 2:2-3.

<sup>5</sup> 2, KJV, EXODUS 20:8.

<sup>6</sup> 2, KJV, EXODUS 20:11.

shall soon forget to remember The LORD Who ordained it, and suffer the consequences thereof!

V. REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY TO KEEP IT HOLY!

EXODUS 20:8 commands, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy!”<sup>7</sup> Here we are given the first cause to remember The Sabbath Day and keep it holy unto GOD – again, He commands it of us! When we remember The Sabbath Day, we shall hopefully remember that GOD commands it as the one day in each week to be kept set apart and consecrated to Him; to be kept holy! Israel was aware of The Sabbath day and its importance before Moses received The Ten Commandments from GOD on Mount Sinai. For in EXODUS 16:23 we find the people preparing to observe under Moses’ direction the SHABATON SHABAT-QODESH LA[HASHEM]<sup>8</sup> - שַׁבְּתוֹן שַׁבַּת-קֹדֶשׁ לַיהוָה - the Sabbath observance of The sacred Sabbath of The LORD, or from The King James Version, “the rest of the holy Sabbath unto The LORD!”<sup>9</sup>

The Westminster Longer Catechism asks, “What is required in The Fourth Commandment?” The Fourth Commandment, says the Westminster Fathers, “...requireth of all men the sanctifying or keeping holy to GOD such set times as He hath appointed in His Word, expressly one whole day in seven; which was the seventh from the beginning of the world to the resurrection of CHRIST, and the first day of the week ever since, and so to continue to the end of the world; which is the Christian Sabbath, and in the New Testament called The Lord's Day.”<sup>10</sup>

As Keil and Delitzsch note, The Sabbath is to be “...a day of joyous rest belonging to The Lord, and consecrated to Him [in glad worship and fellowship] by the fact that no [needless] work<sup>11</sup> was performed upon it!”<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> 2, KJV, EXODUS 20:8.

<sup>8</sup> 4, BHS, EXODUS 16:23.

<sup>9</sup> 2, KJV, EXODUS 16:23.

<sup>10</sup> 5, WLC, 116, “What is required in The Fourth Commandment?”

<sup>11</sup> We must distinguish here between what we today call “secular” work, forbidden on The Day of Rest, and those works of mercy and those required to sustain life which can not be neglected, which is permissible on The Day of Rest. Our Lord JESUS CHRIST healed men on The Sabbath Day to teach the proper use of The Sabbath Day.

<sup>12</sup> 3, Keil and Delitzsch, Volume 1, THE SECOND BOOK OF MOSES, CHAP. XX, Ver. 8-11. The Fourth Word, page 119.

It is a day appointed to us by The Creator on which we “...might rest from [our routine] toil so oppressive to body and soul, and be refreshed, ...[and that we] might thus possess a day for the repose and elevation of ...[our] spirits...”<sup>13</sup> It is for men “...a foretaste of the blessedness into which [we] the people of GOD are at last to enter...” forever when we come to dwell with our Lord JESUS CHRIST in Heaven!<sup>14</sup> It is a foretaste of what Saint John beheld of That Eternal Paradise Above in REVELATION 14:13, “...Blessed are the dead which die in The Lord from henceforth: ...that they may rest from their [earthly] labours; and their [good] works do follow them” up Above!<sup>15</sup>

The Sabbath is the day each week when men are commanded to remember The LORD GOD, Who alone is The Source of all goodness and joy, as well as our very existence and our breath of life each day! On The Lord’s Day, men are called to celebrate in joyful acknowledgement the Grace of GOD in The Work of our Redeemer JESUS CHRIST! Men are, as Fausset says, “...not [called to all] inaction, ...[nor to] rest from works of neither mercy nor [life sustaining] necessity ...[on The] Sabbath. [Rather,] man's rest is to be like GOD's rest. ...His work did not cease at the close of the six days, nor has it ceased ever since [for He ever sustains everything that is, both in this world and in the next]. GOD's rest was satisfaction in contemplating His work, so "very good," [having] just completed in the creation ...man, its topstone...”<sup>16</sup> So man is to also rest from his work of the week, all having been – if done properly according to Holy Scripture – in faith in GOD, on The Sabbath!

The Sabbath day is to be remembered and kept holy by sanctifying it in the worship and service of The One Who created all things and Who ordained this day to be kept for Himself! This Command is repeated in DEUTERONOMY 5:12, “Keep the Sabbath day to sanctify it, as The LORD thy GOD hath commanded thee!”<sup>17</sup> Remember how The Apostles kept The Lord’s Day, the day on which The Saviour rose from His tomb, as in ACTS 20:7, “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and

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<sup>13</sup> 3, Keil and Delitzsch, Volume 1, THE SECOND BOOK OF MOSES, CHAP. XX, Ver. 8-11. The Fourth Word, page 120-121.

<sup>14</sup> 3, Keil and Delitzsch, Volume 1, THE SECOND BOOK OF MOSES, CHAP. XX, Ver. 8-11. The Fourth Word, page 121.

<sup>15</sup> 2, KJV, REVELATION 14:13.

<sup>16</sup> 6, Fausset’s Bible Dictionary, entry for “Sabbath,” 3053.02.

<sup>17</sup> 2, KJV, DEUTERONOMY 5:12.

continued his speech until midnight!” The Lord’s Day as the Christian Sabbath commands our happy attention in GOD’s service all The Day long – in worship, in studying His Word, in fellowship one with another, in service to His Church and in good works of mercy and charity to those in need!

If we remember to keep This One Day each week set aside as holy unto The LORD, will we not then remember The LORD? And if we cast aside keeping This One Day each week for unholy things, will we not forget The One Who ordained it as holy? So we see today in our land – a people never so blessed by Providence in all of human history as this nation called America - a people running to and fro on The Lord’s Day in pursuit of worldly pleasures, trivial pursuits and sinful lusts! Having forgotten to keep The Lord’s Sabbath Day, we are becoming a people which has forgotten The Lord! But sadly, it is no great wonder, that a people who can not remember to keep The Sabbath holy is a people which soon forgets The One Who commanded it to be so!

#### VI. REMEMBER TO DO ONLY THE LORD’S WORK ON THE SABBATH DAY!

EXODUS 20:9-10 commands, “Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is The Sabbath of The LORD thy GOD: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:”<sup>18</sup> Here we are given the second cause to keep The Sabbath day holy unto GOD – that we as His creatures should follow His example of work. When we remember only to do our own works for self and for worldly gain on The Sabbath day, we remember no more The One Who gives us His Word and His Grace, that we might know Him and be blessed both in this life and the next!

But here we must consider briefly the nature of GOD’s creation work recorded in GENESIS, where it is testified to that The Almighty created all things in six days, and rested upon the seventh day from His creation labours. Fausset offers that “...GOD having divided His creative work into six portions, sanctified the seventh as that on which He rested from His creative work. ...After six periods of [Divine] creative activity, answering to

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<sup>18</sup> 2, KJV, EXODUS 20:9-10.

our literal days..., <sup>19</sup> GOD entered on That Sabbath in which His work is preservation and redemption, no longer creation. He ordained man for labour, yet graciously appointed one seventh of his time for bodily and mental rest, and for spiritual refreshment in his Maker's worship. ...[Thus, the loving gift of GOD to us of] The Fourth Commandment...!" <sup>20</sup>

The doing of worldly works and neglecting The LORD's work appointed to us on The Sabbath is a sin, for that should be evident in the structure of The Fourth Commandment in EXODUS 20:10, "...thou shalt not do any work...!" <sup>21</sup> Therefore The Westminster Longer Catechism instructs us that "The sins forbidden in The Fourth Commandment are, all omissions of the duties required [unto GOD], all careless, negligent, and unprofitable performing of them, and being weary of them; all profaning the day by idleness, and doing that which is in itself sinful; and by all needless works, words, and thoughts, about our worldly employments and recreations!" <sup>22</sup> What work then shall men do on The Sabbath? Not their own works to further their worldly ends, but rather GOD's Works to further His Kingdom on earth and in Heaven!

But we as a people have forgotten The Lord's Sabbath Day! Ours is a nation today where - though we may still profess to place our trust in The LORD alone – we emblazon our money with "In GOD We Trust," but in truth bow down to that money and the passing worldly securities which it buys! For one may see clearly on any given Sunday noontime this sad state of affairs, there being more cars parked in the lots of our local shopping malls than in the lots of our local Churches! Why? Because we as a people have remembered no more neither The Sabbath day, nor The One GOD Who commands us to keep it holy!

As the double-minded and hypocritical ancient Israelites once came to the prophet Ezekiel to feign interest in receiving The Word of The LORD, they in fact had forgotten GOD and set their hearts upon service to themselves and not to The LORD! So the prophet laments of them, as many

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<sup>19</sup> It is not my purpose here to enter into a debate on the length of time of a Day of Creation as recorded in GENESIS. Fausset holds that these were not literal 24-hour days as we know them, but that GOD condescends to our limited human frailty and understanding by making His Days of Creation "analogous" to our own 24-hour days.

<sup>20</sup> 6, Fausset's Bible Dictionary, entry for "Sabbath," 3053.1.

<sup>21</sup> 2, KJV, EXODUS 20:10.

<sup>22</sup> 5, WLC 119, What are the sins forbidden in The Fourth Commandment?



a godly clergyman laments over our own people today, as in EZEKIEL 33:31, “[O LORD,]...they hear Thy Words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness!”<sup>23</sup>

#### VII. REMEMBER GOD CREATED ALL THINGS & RESTED ON THE 7<sup>TH</sup> DAY!

EXODUS 20:11 begins, “For in six days The LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day:”<sup>24</sup> Here we are given the third cause to keep The Sabbath Day as holy unto GOD – we as His creatures should follow His example of rest!

Here The Westminster Fathers instruct us in their Longer Catechism that the good reasons for which The Fourth Commandment is given by GOD to men are taken “...from the equity of it, GOD allowing us six days of seven for our own affairs, and reserving but one [Sabbath day] for Himself ...; from GOD's challenging a special ...[ownership] in that day ...; from the example of GOD [Who made all things in six days and rested on the seventh]... ; and from that blessing which GOD put upon that day, not only in sanctifying it to be a day for His service, but in ordaining it to be a means of blessing [for us] to use in our sanctifying it...!”<sup>25</sup>

See the accumulating reasons for men to remember The Sabbath Day, that they might better remember The LORD! Is man higher than GOD? May the pot dictate to the potter what and how it is to be made? If The King of The Universe rests on The Sabbath day, should not mankind likewise rest on That day, the better to remember The Creator and all that He has blessed us with? So the prophet confesses to GOD in ISAIAH 64:8, “...O LORD, Thou art our Father; we are the clay, and Thou our Potter; and we all are the work of Thy hand!”

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<sup>23</sup> 2, KJV, EZEKIEL 33:31b.

<sup>24</sup> 2, KJV, EXODUS 20:11a.

<sup>25</sup> 5, WLC 120, The reasons annexed to The Fourth Commandment.

VIII. REMEMBER GOD BLESSED THE SABBATH DAY AND HALLOWED IT!

EXODUS 20:11 concludes with these words, “wherefore The LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it!”<sup>26</sup> Here we are given the fourth cause to remember The Sabbath day and keep it holy unto GOD! For He “blessed” The Sabbath day, meaning here “To set apart or consecrate to holy purposes; to make and pronounce holy. ...to invoke a blessing upon; ...to extol for excellencies. To esteem or account happy [and joyful]!”<sup>27</sup> And He also “hallowed” The Sabbath Day, meaning “To make holy; ...to set apart for holy or religious use. ...to treat as sacred. To reverence...”<sup>28</sup> Shall men do any less?

Here the Westminster Fathers sum up for us why we are therefore to remember The Sabbath and The LORD Who blessed and hallowed it: “...because of the great benefit of remembering it, we being thereby helped in our preparation to keep it; ...[and] in keeping it, better to keep all the rest of The Commandments; ...to continue a thankful remembrance of the two great benefits of creation [by GOD The Father] and redemption [by GOD The Son]...; ...because we are very ready to forget it; ...[because] it restraineth our natural liberty in things at other times lawful; ...[because] it cometh but once in seven days, and many worldly businesses come between, and too often take off our minds from thinking of it, either to prepare for it, or to sanctify it; ...[because] satan with his instruments much labour to blot out the glory, and even the memory of it, to bring ...[to all that man does and is] irreligion and impiety!”<sup>29</sup>

PSALM 92 is titled “A Psalm or Song for The Sabbath day” and opens in declaring the purpose of The Sabbath for man, that he remember and be in joyful fellowship with The Almighty! We read in PSALM 92:1-2, “It is a good thing to give thanks unto The LORD, and to sing praises unto Thy Name, O Most High! To shew forth Thy lovingkindness in the morning, and Thy faithfulness every night!”<sup>30</sup> And what song of glad praise should men remember sing our on The Sabbath day? Safe and secure within Covenant with The Most High, our happy hearts should sing as in PSALM

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<sup>26</sup> 2, KJV, EXODUS 20:11b.

<sup>27</sup> 7, Noah Webster’s 1828 Dictionary, “Bless,” verb, entries 4,5,6,7,8. Page BLE – BLI, no page numbers.

<sup>28</sup> 7, Noah Webster’s 1828 Dictionary, “Hallow,” verb, entries 1,2,3. Page HAL – HAM, no page numbers.

<sup>29</sup> 5, WLC 121, Why is the word Remember set in the beginning of The Fourth Commandment?

<sup>30</sup> 2, KJV, PSALM 92:1-2.

92:4-5: “For Thou, LORD, hast made me glad through Thy work: I will triumph in the works of Thy hands. O LORD, how great are Thy works!”<sup>31</sup>

And we who are saved by The Blood of The Lamb – we who are washed clean in His sacrifice Which redeems our souls from sin, suffering, sorrow and death – what song on The Lord’s Day should we remember to sing? Remember what the faithful women encountered at the tomb on the morning of The first Lord’s Day! We read in MATTHEW 28:1-3, “In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulcher. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for The Angel of The Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow!”<sup>32</sup>

Remember what was then first revealed, that JESUS CHRIST is risen! We read in MATTHEW 28:5-7, “And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek JESUS, Which was crucified. He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where The Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell is disciples that He is risen from the dead; and, behold, He goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see Him: lo, I have told you!”<sup>33</sup> For each Sunday that we keep The Sabbath holy we are declaring to this world of lost men, “Behold, The Lord JESUS CHRIST is risen and goeth before you, that men may not perish in their sins, but receive forgiveness, blessing and eternal life!”

#### IX. SYMPTOMS OF A NATION THAT FORGETS GOD AND HIS SABBATH!

What then of the nation that forgets The Sabbath day? Shall they not then also forget The LORD Who ordained The Sabbath as holy, and The Redeemer JESUS CHRIST Who – as JOHN 1:1 reveals - is The Word made flesh that was “in the beginning ...with GOD, and The Word was GOD?”<sup>34</sup> What would such a time and place look like? How close are we in this time and place to the picture of apostate ancient Israel painted by the prophet Isaiah?

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<sup>31</sup> 2, KJV, PSALM 92:3-4a.

<sup>32</sup> 2, KJV, MATTHEW 28:1-3.

<sup>33</sup> 2, KJV, MATTHEW 28:5-7.

<sup>34</sup> 2, KJV, JOHN 1:1.

It would be a land of woe where, as ISAIAH 5:8 says, men “...join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth!”<sup>35</sup> As Matthew Henry comments, such men “...never know when they have enough, but the more they have the more they would have... They cannot enjoy what they have, nor do good with it, but are constantly contriving and studying to make it more. They must have variety of houses, a winter-house, and a summer-house, and if another man's house or field lie convenient to theirs, as Naboth's vineyard to [King] Ahab's, they must have that too, or they cannot be easy!”<sup>36</sup> “Is there a parcel of land which we have not yet developed into a mega-mall or overpriced rental complex?” they cry, “let us have at it, that we may increase our gain!”

It would be a nation of woe where, as ISAIAH 5:11-12 says, men “...rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them,” but where men “...regard not the work of The LORD, neither consider the operation of His hands!”<sup>37</sup> As Matthew Henry laments, this is the nation whose business is the pleasure of the world, the flesh and the devil! They are drunken day and night in intoxicating substances and revelings! Such a people “...neglect [lawful] business, abandon it, and give up themselves to the service of the flesh; for they sit at their cups all day ...[and night, becoming] ...inflame[d in] their lusts, ...[and] inflame[d in] their passions... nor do they seek the shelter of the night for this work of darkness, as men ashamed of it, but count it a pleasure to riot in the day-time!”<sup>38</sup> Is there a football game to watch on a Sunday morning? “Then let us have done with the worship of GOD in our Churches!” they cry, “that we may more enjoy the pleasures of this world!”

It would be a time and place of woe where, as ISAIAH 5:13 says, GOD's own people, along with the heathens around them, “...are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst!”<sup>39</sup> As Mathew Henry observes, “...how should they have knowledge when by their excessive

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<sup>35</sup> 2, KJV, ISAIAH 5:8.

<sup>36</sup> 8, Matthew Henry, ISAIAH 5:8-17, “Worldly-Mindedness Reproved; The Punishment of the Sensual,” I, 1, (1).

<sup>37</sup> 2, KJV, ISAIAH 5:11-12.

<sup>38</sup> 8, Matthew Henry, ISAIAH 5:8-17, “Worldly-Mindedness Reproved; The Punishment of the Sensual,” II, 1, (1).

<sup>39</sup> 2, KJV, ISAIAH 5:13.

drinking they make sots and fools of themselves? They set up for wits; but because they regard not GOD's controversy with them, nor take any care to make their peace with Him, they may truly be said to have no knowledge; ...[for] they are ...[openly] willful [in their ungodliness and rebellion against The LORD's Commandments], and are therefore destroyed for lack of knowledge" of GOD's Word by their own hand!<sup>40</sup> "What need is there to learn of GOD's Laws?" such men cry, "for we – having made gods of our own lusts and perversions – have now our own manmade laws that condone, protect and deliver to us all that our dark hearts desire!"

It would be a country of woe where men are openly proud of their perversions and publicly mock GOD, His Revealed Word and His holy Institutions – where, as ISAIAH 5:18-19 says, men "...draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were with a cart rope: That say, Let Him make speed, and hasten His work, that we may see it: and let the counsel of The Holy One of Israel draw nigh and come, that we may know it!"<sup>41</sup> As Matthew Henry says, "They are, by long custom and confirmed habits, so hardened in sin that they cannot get clear of it. Those that sin through infirmity are drawn away by sin; those that sin presumptuously draw iniquity to them, in spite of the oppositions of Providence and the checks of conscience. Some by sin understand the punishment of sin: [but] they [knowingly and proudly] pull GOD's judgments upon their own heads as it were, with cart-ropes!"<sup>42</sup> "All our lives we have seen great wealth and power as our inheritance by the will of Providence – it belongs to us; it is owed to us!" they boast, "and should we now worry that this will all come to an end, when we have done GOD so many favours?"

It would be a land of woe where, as ISAIAH 5:20-23 says, men would "...call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! ...[Where men] are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight, ...[but where they] justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!"<sup>43</sup> As Matthew Henry notes, these are men "...who not only live in the omission of that which is good, but condemn it, argue against it, and, because they will not practice it themselves, run it down in

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<sup>40</sup> 8, Matthew Henry, ISAIAH 5:8-17, "Worldly-Mindedness Reproved; The Punishment of the Sensual," II, 2, (1).

<sup>41</sup> 2, KJV, ISAIAH 5:18-19.

<sup>42</sup> 8, Matthew Henry, ISAIAH 5:18-30, "Denunciation against Sin," I, 1.

<sup>43</sup> 2, KJV, ISAIAH 5:21-23.

others, and fasten ...[insulting] epithets upon it--not only do that which is evil, but justify it, and applaud it, and recommend it to others as safe and good!"<sup>44</sup> "See that pious man there who loves The Lord JESUS CHRIST!" they demand, "take away from him what GOD has given him and give it to the proud sinner, our cruel confederate and fellow conspirator against The LORD!"

For when GOD's people forget His Commandments and reject his Grace, sin and thus suffering abounds in the land! Theirs are broken pseudo-families of pregnant women without husbands and children without fathers! Violence rules and makes the self as a god! The earth is stained with the shed blood of their innocent! The weak are oppressed! Sound manners are no more! In the halls of The Temple of The LORD, where many a faithful man once stood to worship and praise GOD, there is but silence! And all those woes for which Isaiah pronounced Divine judgement upon ancient Israel, which he clearly saw as the outward rot of a people who inwardly no longer loved The Almighty, flowed from their refusal to live within The Covenant of GOD's Law and Grace! And shall we deceive ourselves into thinking that we do not see this same disease at work in our own people today?

#### X. THE END OF ALL NATIONS THAT FORGET GOD AND HIS SABBATH!

Such were the nations of ancient Israel and Judah - both of whom fell at last, each in their own time under Divine judgement - into utter destruction, the first to be wiped from off the face of this GOD's earth and the second to be exiled into bondage and then reemerging as only a shadow of its former glory - and that only for The Almighty's prophetic purposes! To such was the Old Testament prophet Isaiah sent by the arm of The LORD, but to what avail? Such is also this present time and place called "The United States of America!" And to such are faithful clergymen sent by the arm of The LORD, but to what avail?

And what is the end of such nations who forget to remember keep The Sabbath day and who thus forget The LORD GOD, Who alone made all things and Who decreed and hallowed This day? Shall their ends be any less than that of ancient Israel and Judah? As we read the words of the prophet

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<sup>44</sup> 8, Matthew Henry, ISAIAH 5:18-30, "Denunciation against Sin," I, 3.

Isaiah for that time and place in ISAIAH 5, so had we also best read them for our own! As ISAIAH 5:24-25 warns, “Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away The Law of The LORD of Hosts, and despised The Word of The Holy One of Israel! Therefore is the anger of The LORD kindled against His people, and He hath stretched forth His hand against them...!”<sup>45</sup>

What becomes of the nation that forgets to keep holy The Lord’s Day, that no longer trusts for its salvation in The Lord JESUS CHRIST, but rather in the passing things of this world and in the vanity of its own imagination? What does the prophet Isaiah say? We read in ISAIAH 5:26 that The Almighty “...will lift up an ensign to the nations from far, and will hiss unto them from the end of the earth: and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly!”<sup>46</sup> Recall from our Old Testament history that The Northern Kingdom of Israel was utterly wiped away by the Assyrian invading hordes in 722 BC. Recall also that Jerusalem was overcome and Judah carried away into exile by the invading Babylonian might in 586 BC.<sup>47</sup> Matthew Henry concludes that such Biblical examples of Divine judgement upon Israel and Judah should “...be looked upon also as a threatening of the like desolation of [all] those countries which harbour and countenance those sins mentioned in the foregoing verses [of ISAIAH 5]; it is an exposition of those woes ...[for which] GOD designs the ruin of a provoking [, haughty and impious] people!”<sup>48</sup>

#### XI. A VISION OF THE NATION THAT KEEPS THE LORD’S DAY HOLY!

But what does the nation look like that keeps The Lord’s Day holy? First, it is a place where men know that their true wealth lies in “the joy of The Lord.” Where men lay up for themselves treasures in Heaven, which shall not pass away. Where men are content with what The LORD blesses them with in material wealth. Where men employ those blessings to do the good works of Christian love which GOD has set before them to do!

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<sup>45</sup> 2, KJV, ISAIAH 5:24-25.

<sup>46</sup> 2, KJV, ISAIAH 5:26.

<sup>47</sup> 9, Walvoord and Zuck, “An Overview of Old Testament History,” Assyria conquers Israel – 722 BC; Babylon conquers Judah – 586 BC, page 13.

<sup>48</sup> 8, Matthew Henry, ISAIAH 5:18-30, “Denunciation against Sin,” II, 5.

Second, it is a place where men are filled with the knowledge of GOD in their hearts as well as in their minds. Where they with responsible sobriety provide for themselves and their loved ones, but not to excess. Where the innocence of children and the chastity of young people are protected from unsavory influences. Where their elders teach them with joy the Christian virtues. Where The Churches are full every Sunday morning, and where men long for The Sabbath each week, that they may go up in glad thanksgiving to The House of The LORD!

Third, it is a place where men are liberated from sin and suffering by salvation in JESUS CHRIST. Where Godly men teach the precepts of The Almighty, that the young might walk in the paths of righteousness all the days of their lives. Where men humbly confess their sins before The Creator and repent of their sins at The Cross. Where man confesses himself as mere man and where The Saviour is confessed as “The Way, The Truth and The Life!”

Fourth, it is a place where righteousness flows in the streets, and not the blood of the innocent. Where the weight of upright laws of man, modeled on The Word of GOD, restrains evil, protects the weak and encourages the just. Where evil is called evil and punished. Where good is called good and extolled. Where Biblical families are the favored building block of society. Where the home is led by Christian men as priests to their wives and children. Where Christian women adorn as precious jewels of virtue the fruit of their wombs, settled securely under the loving arms of their husbands. Where children are respectful and proper, guided in The Ways of CHRIST by a vibrant Church and upright parents!

Fifth, it is a place where, though men long for their eternal home up above, live thankfully and piously in this life every day as a charge from The Redeemer’s loving hands. Where men happily keep the Christian Sabbath Day of our Lord JESUS CHRIST every Sunday, come what may. Where the stores, the shopping malls and sporting events are deserted because every man is in The Church in glad worship of The Almighty. Where the songs of the redeemed in The Messiah is heard in every street on The Lord’s Day throughout the land. Where the sweet song of hallelulah may heard every day and in every place:



## XII. IN CONCLUSION

We have seen of The Fourth Commandment that The Almighty requires all men to, as EXODUS 20:8 says, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy!”<sup>49</sup> The Creator Himself made all things that exist in six Days, and on the seventh Day He ceased His creation labors and rested. Therefore The LORD “...blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.”<sup>50</sup> To give men a day of rest from their own earthly labors, to joyfully worship Him and humbly fellowship with Him, GOD has thus commanded us to remember and keep The Sabbath day! For The Sabbath day is His day, and when we are His, it is therefore also our day!

We have also asked, “What does the nation look like that forgets The Sabbath day?” For such a people will soon forget The LORD GOD Who appointed That day for Himself and for man, The King of The Universe Who blessed and hallowed it, The Divine Ruler Who alone made the heavens and the earth, and all that is in them, Who came as The Saviour JESUS CHRIST to redeem and give eternally joyful rest to men’s souls in Heaven Above! And can we not see the woes in our own time and place which the prophet Isaiah prophesied against in ancient Israel and Judah? For as they forgot to obey The Fourth Commandment to keep The Sabbath day unto The LORD, so they soon forgot to keep all The other Commandments, because they forgot The Most High GOD Himself! And shall we escape any less than they? For a nation that forgets to remember The Sabbath shall soon forget to remember The LORD, and suffer the consequences thereof!

But we have also asked, “What does the nation look like that remembers The Sabbath day?” As Christians we now keep The Lord’s Day as our Sabbath day, rejoicing that on that morning our Redeemer JESUS CHRIST arose from the grave! Thus as Saint John declares in REVELATION 14:13 of those who are saved by The Blood of The Lamb, “...Blessed are the dead which die in The Lord from henceforth: ...that they may rest from their [earthly] labours; and their [good] works do follow them” up Above!<sup>51</sup> The joyous keeping of the Christian Sabbath Day of our Lord JESUS CHRIST is heard in the words of Charles Wesley’s famous hymn, “CHRIST The Lord Is Risen Today!” It is a Sabbath song of our celebration which, GOD forbid, that we ever cease to sing:

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<sup>49</sup> 2, KJV, EXODUS 20:8.

<sup>50</sup> 2, KJV, EXODUS 20:11.

<sup>51</sup> 2, KJV, REVELATION 14:13.

Soar we now where CHRIST has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours The Cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia! <sup>52</sup>

Let us then part with this truth ever before the eyes of our hearts, that a nation that forgets to remember The Sabbath shall soon forget to remember The LORD Who ordained it, and suffer the consequences thereof! But a nation that remembers The Lord's Day to keep it holy is a nation that shall dwell in the blessings of His Presence! Let us again be a people and a nation that remembers The Lord's Day, and He Who sanctified it by His resurrection, that we might be saved from sin and death! Let us therefore now and always, as EXODUS 20:8 commands us, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy!" <sup>53</sup> In the Name of GOD The Father, The Son and The Holy Ghost, AMEN!

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<sup>52</sup> 10, Hymnsite.com, Charles Wesley's hymn "CHRIST The Lord Is Risen Today!" stanza 4.

<sup>53</sup> 2, KJV, EXODUS 20:8.

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