



# INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Dr. Peter D. Wyns

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## The Sabbath Door

The Sabbath is the most under-estimated Christian doctrine; few have grasped its purpose. The Pharisees of Jesus' day were using the Sabbath as a tool to control people. They rebuked the disciples for picking and eating grain on the Sabbath. Jesus defended His disciples and revealed an essential truth about the Sabbath. He said, *"The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath."* Mk. 2:27

From eternity, God designed the Sabbath for man. It is a doorway that leads to His provision and power. The children of Israel wandered in the desert, refusing to enter in through the Sabbath door. Hebrews 3 and 4 refer to their time in the wilderness as 'the rebellion.' Because of unbelief, God said that they would never enter their Sabbath rest. After recording the indictment against that generation, scripture reveals an opportunity for us who live under the New Covenant. It says, *"There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his."* Heb. 4:9-10

Like the Jews of old, believers today are called to enter through the Sabbath door to find God's provisions.

### AN ETERNAL TEACHING

The word Sabbath means rest or intermission. It is however, more than stopping work, it is also a time to focus on the Lord. Sabbath is a destination designed for reflection and restoration. It is a Holy event given to connect us with the Lord of the Sabbath. It is a gateway to God.

We first see this teaching in the 7 days of creation. For 6 days God worked to create the heavens and the earth. He separated the water from the land, put the sun, moon and planets in the sky and made plants,

animals and man. On the 7th day, it seems that God folded His hands and did nothing. He had set everything in motion, then stepped back and everything continued. The laws of physics and life perpetuated His work after He stopped.

We must learn to do the same, for creation was an example for us; the Sabbath was made for man. We are called to work hard, but then stop, focus on the Lord and watch His miraculous power at work in our lives. God rested on the 7th day, not because He was tired; He did it for us. *"God, the creator ... will not grow tired or weary,"* Isa. 40:28

Through creation, God began to teach us a powerful message. We must enter through the Sabbath door by putting all our trust in Him. Then we will find our rest from fear and worry. If we lack Sabbath faith we cannot enter through the Sabbath door to find our rest and we will not please God or receive His blessings. Jesus said, *"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me ... and you will find rest unto your souls."* Mt. 11:33

In the Old Testament, the Sabbath was a specific day. The message behind the day was so vital that God made it one of the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:8). The first mention of the word Sabbath in the Bible is in Exodus 16. There we find the Jews wandering in

the wilderness. God told them to enter into His Sabbath by putting their trust in Him. He gave them a 40 year, object lesson, a miracle to help them connect with His provision and power. Unfortunately, they did not have faith so they could not enter through the Sabbath door.

Every morning God provided two million Israelites with manna; they woke up and found bread lying on the ground. Like many American restaurants, it was an all you can eat buffet, but they were not allowed to store any at home for the next day.

Then, every evening the ground was covered with quail, so the Israelites had meat on the menu. The people were instructed not to take more than they could eat that day or it would become maggot infested.

On the 6th day however, they were instructed to collect enough for the 7th day. Miraculously, the 6th day double portion would keep for the Sabbath; it would not go bad.

Then, on the 7th day neither manna nor quail would appear on the ground because it was a holy day of rest. God's food distribution program was given to teach the people to have faith. He was telling them to enter through the Sabbath door that He had provided. This was much more than a food line; it was an opportunity for the Jews to discover that God was their Father.

As a further indicator that God was present to care for them, He told the Jews to take some of the manna and quail and put in a clay jar as a memorial for future generations. Those portions would not go bad.

Here are 5 miracles given to teach the Jews about the Sabbath door.

1. Manna appeared on the ground 6 out of 7 mornings of every week.
2. Quail was miraculously provided 6 out of 7 evenings every week.
3. The food became rotten after 24 hours - except the food that was kept for the 7th day.
4. No food appeared on the 7th day, even though it was there on all other days.
5. The food in the memorial jar never went bad.

Even though God told the Jews not to collect extra food except on day 6, many disobeyed and the food became maggoty. And even though they were told not to look for food on day 7, but collect extra on the 6<sup>th</sup> day, many did not collect extra when told to, but went looking for it on the 7<sup>th</sup> day. Perhaps they thought that the appearance of the food was not a miracle, but just a natural phenomena. Even today, some who see miracles try to explain it away scientifically.

The Children of Israel were so hard-hearted and full of unbelief that over many years, God became angry with them and said they would never enter

the Sabbath door into their rest. Finally God told the Jews that they would be cut off from His people and be killed if they did not obey His Sabbath day commandment.

### THE NEW COVENANT

The Sabbath door is not just for Jews, but also for gentiles. Are you ready to go through? The Colossians were told to reject judgments regarding the Sabbath. It is deeper than an observance of a holy day and if we have no living faith in the Lord, we miss the whole point. Scripture says, *"Do no let anyone judge you by what you eat ... or with regard to a religious festival ... or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of things that were to come; the reality ... is found in Christ."* Col. 2:16-17

In the New Covenant the Sabbath door still connects us with God; people are still invited to enter. God tells us to work hard, but then stop, take an intermission, focus on Him, have faith and let Him work for us. The Sabbath was made for us.

Under God's Sabbath we begin to find His friendship, instruction, financial provision and power. The Sabbath door takes us from seeing God at a distance, to being connected with Him intimately. The Sabbath moves us from Old Covenant shadows to New Covenant life. The Sabbath door leads us to a personal relationship with the powerful Lord of the Sabbath. A Ω



## Christians for Messiah Ministries

**Instructions in Righteousness** is produced monthly by Christians for Messiah Ministries. Dr. Peter D. Wyns is Director of Ministry for Christians for Messiah Ministries. After 35 years of extensive ministry in more than 30 nations, he is now living in the USA. This ministry continues because of your prayers and financial support. Your partnership is greatly appreciated. For information of Dr. Wyns availability to minister at your church, please contact us.

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