

God's Relationship Seal

AIM:	To explain why the Sabbath is connected to the seal of God.
THEME:	Christ as Creator.
OUTLINE:	<p>Go to Rev 7:1 and Rev 14:1 and observe the context of this seal or mark being placed in the forehead. 2 Tim 2:19 tells us that a seal contains two aspects: (1) A relationship between God and man that (2) causes man to depart from iniquity. This process is shown in the table in the middle of the chart. The Sabbath represents the relationship of God and his people. Ezek 20:12,20. The Sabbath in a literal sense provides a time for a relationship to develop thus fulfilling the first part of the seal. In a symbolic sense it reminds us of the power that God has to perform in us the second part of the seal – to depart from iniquity.</p> <p>The seal can also be seen in a political sense. Any governmental or royal seal contains three elements: (1) Name (2) Title (3) Dominion. These three elements are found in the Sabbath. The text at the bottom of the chart is colour coded to show where the seal occurs in the fourth commandment.</p> <p>The pictures on the left hand side illustrate the fact that those who are sealed have the mind of Christ. This makes sense because only those who know the mind of Christ can know Him and only those who know Him will have eternal life. John 17:3.</p>
NOTES:	<p>SEALING THE LAW God's law (a reflection of God's character) is written into the minds of His people as He promised in the second covenant. Heb 8:10. This process is accomplished by faith in God's recreative power to restore humanity. Rom 4:22. This faith is signified by Seventh-day Sabbath observance. This is the seal of ownership for it contains God's right to worship and service. The Sabbath provides the best opportunity to bring every thought captive to Christ (2 Cor 10:5) and in this process become like Him. 1 John 2:2.</p> <p>CONNECTING RELATIONSHIP TO THE SABBATH So how do you connect a relationship with God to the Sabbath? My wife and I, have certain special events in our "Marriage Calendar". We set aside certain days that figured prominently in the development of our relationship. Each time we revisit those special days, they take on more meaning and depth. Why? Because our relationship has grown, and because these events are symbols of our relationship, they grow in meaning directly proportional to the meaning of our relationship. In the same way the Sabbath is a special day that symbolises the relationship of God with His people. It is significant that the first day that Adam and Eve spent with God was the Sabbath. Man and woman first celebrated their relationship with their loving Creator on Friday evening to really get acquainted. Up to this point there was naming animals and meeting Eve and the adjustment to new surroundings. Then in the Sabbath Adam and Eve could just behold their Creator and simply spend time with Him. For this reason God has used the Sabbath to symbolise the process by which we will be restored to open fellowship with God, like the first time that God and Adam and Eve spent time together on Friday evening. In Exodus 20:8-11 we see the Creator-creation relationship. In Deuteronomy 5:15 we see the Deliverer-delivered relationship connected to the Sabbath. Lastly we see the Sabbath used to symbolise the final freedom from sin when God comes to take us home and celebrate a millennial Sabbath of rest.</p>
FURTHER STUDY:	<p>The Great Controversy, Chapter 26 – "A Work of Reform". The Seal of God – Sermon by Glen Hughes. On CD-ROM. The Relationship Between Sabbath and Eschatology – Essay by Adrian Ebens. On CD-ROM. See Chart on CD-ROM "God's Memorial of Creation and Redemption".</p>