

The Sabbath of Ages

The teacher had invited me and a handful of students to join him in his living quarters for a Sabbath meal. The sun had just set. We sat around a table filled with food as one of the students lit the two Sabbath candles and the teacher gave thanks for the meal. We began to eat.

“What is the Shabbat,” asked the teacher, “the Sabbath day?”

It’s the day set apart from all other days of the week,” said one student.

“Yes,” said the teacher. “And what else?”

“The last day of the week,” said another. “It’s what comes at the end.”

“And what else?” he asked.

“The day of the Lord,” I said, “the day of rest, the holy day.”

“And what do the Jewish people do on the Sabbath?” asked the teacher.

“They rest from all their weekly labors,” said one of the students, “and devote the day to prayer, to the Word, to worship...and to God.”

“The Sabbath holds a mystery,” said the teacher, “a shadow of what lies ahead. The age to come is the age of Shabbat, the Sabbath age. For as the Sabbath day comes at the end of the week, so the Sabbath age will come at the end of history. And as the Sabbath day is set apart from all the other days of the week, so the Sabbath age will be set apart from all other ages. It will be the Sabbath of ages, the age of the Lord, the age of rest. It is then that the nations will rest from war, and the Jewish people will rest from their burdens, and peace will cover the earth, and the lion will lie down with the calf. And as the Sabbath is Israel’s day, so the Sabbath age will be Israel’s age...a holy age, an age wholly consecrated to God and blessed. When Messiah spoke of the Sabbath and His relationship to it, what was it that He said?”

“He said, ‘The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath,’” I replied.

“Yes,” said the teacher. “And so with the Sabbath age, the Son of Man, Messiah, will be Lord over it. And therein lies the key. Even before the coming of the Sabbath age, you can live in its blessings now. If Messiah is Lord of the Sabbath, then if you will truly make Him the Lord over every part of your life, then the Sabbath age will begin for you now. For where Messiah is Lord...there is the kingdom...and the age of Shabbat.” (Sabbath is a taste of The Age to Come)

The Mission: Make the Lord of the Sabbath all the more the Lord of your life. And learn the secret of dwelling in the Sabbath age even now.

The Three Purposes of Shabbat

1. To commemorate God's creation of the universe, on the seventh day of which God rested from (or ceased) his work;
2. To commemorate the Israelites' Exodus and redemption from slavery in ancient Egypt;
3. As a "taste" of Olam Haba (the Messianic Age).