

The 33rd verse in the Scriptures

If I asked you what the 33rd verse in the Scriptures is and how important it is, I would not expect you to give a correct answer. That is not a criticism. I only want to draw your attention to how soon the Scriptures make a momentous declaration. For in Genesis 2:3 we read:

"And Elohim blessed the seventh day and set it apart, because on it He rested from all His work which Elohim in creating had made."

Effectively, by this act, Elohim was still creating. He completed all His work on the seventh day by blessing and then resting from His work. Nowhere in all the Scriptures was this blessing ever rescinded, altered or expanded to include all seven days. The seventh day has been set apart from the beginning of creation until this very day.

Some two and a half millennia later, very possibly in the year 1447 BC, the seventh day rest was re-established with the seed of Abraham. For at Mount Horeb, YHWH spoke out of the smoke and fire to His set-apart people:

"My Sabbaths you are to guard, by all means for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, to know that I, YHWH, am setting you apart. And you shall guard the Sabbath, for it is set-apart to you.....And the children of Yisra'el shall guard the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as an everlasting covenant. Between Me and the children of Yisra'el it is a sign forever. For in six days YHWH made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed." (Gen. 31:13-17)

My friends I can almost hear what you are saying to yourselves: "But we're not Israel", "But in the New Testament that is all changed", and the old favorite, "But the law has been nailed to the cross." Nothing could be further from the truth. As I wrote earlier, nowhere in all the Scriptures was this blessing ever rescinded, altered or expanded to include all seven days. The seventh day Sabbath is still set apart and blessed. As Yeshua said:

"Do not think that I came to destroy the Torah or the Prophets....For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle shall by no means pass from the Torah until all is done. Whoever, then, breaks one of the least of these commands, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the reign of the heavens; but whoever does and teaches them, shall be called great in the reign of the heavens." (Matt 5:17-19)

This is what Yeshua, the living Torah, said. Now it may seem like an odd juxtaposition, but what did the Catholic Extension Society say in a 1934 publication? "Regarding the change from the observance of the Jewish Sabbath to the Christian Sunday, I wish to draw your attention to the facts:...That Protestants, who accept the Bible as the only rule of faith and religion, should by all means go back to the observance of the Sabbath. The fact that they do not,

but on the contrary observe Sunday, stultifies them in the eyes of every thinking man." And also, what did the Catholic Universe Bulletin write in 1942?

"The Church changed the observance of the Sabbath to Sunday by right of the divine, infallible authority given to her by her founder, Jesus Christ.

The Protestant claiming the Bible to be the only guide of faith, has no warrant for observing Sunday."

Certainly, if we look back to the first century AD, we see Yeshua Messiah upholding the Sabbath along with His disciples and followers. A little later, Paul and the early church continued to assemble and worship on the seventh day.

There was never any doubt in the first century that the Sabbath was a set apart day, with its own special

requirements and associated blessing. And so it remains until this very day.....today!

My brethren and our Companions, I do hope that you will give some consideration to the sacredness of this day, to avoid unnecessary labor and financial transactions. This is a day of blessing and a time to reflect on the millennial Sabbath that is to come. At the least, acknowledge Elohim for what He did on the seventh day of creation. For you are Israel and the Sabbath is your covenant sign.