

Transcript – Sabbath—The Day of Our First Love

Shabbat shalom! Alright, this day is an awesome day. We have Shabbat, a day of rejoicing, of feasting, a day of worship and praise, right? It's a day of rest, and it's a day of fellowship. And it's even a day of rehearsing the Kingdom. Each Shabbat is like a little Sukkot. Every seventh day, we can rehearse the Kingdom and come before our Heavenly Father, which is awesome ... I'm just going to lower the volume a little.

And it's nothing less that I want to speak about today, the awesomeness of this day. Because this day is full of blessings. And still, in our human nature, we often tend to think that we regularly and often have, to don't cherish them as much and forget what the day is really about.

And in my early years when I came into the truth, I was looking for a congregation back in Germany. And most congregations I went to I found a lot of ceremonies and rituals, but the real blessing that Yahweh had prepared for us at this day I couldn't find there. For many, it was even just a hobby. Like if you don't have to do work, you would come and celebrate the Shabbat with other people together.

But this day is so awesome, and today I want to look together with you into Scripture what it says and why this day is so special. It's a day full of blessings that Yahweh had prepared for us, and it's a day that's vitally important for us. We're going to see that soon. And isn't it interesting that although our primary task that Yahweh had given us was to bear fruit, physically and spiritually, He chose to sanctify the one day, and not only sanctified but even blessed the one day where we rest?

Also, we have many of the commandments, which would say a moral, you understand it from a human nature already, that if you hurt somebody, if you lie, if you steal, maybe you'll think it's bad, but you know that way is selfish what you do. The Sabbath, if Yahweh doesn't teach you about it and if He doesn't reveal His truth to us, we wouldn't know how important it is.

But still, we see that there are ... Well, like stealing, you can give restitution the Torah says. With the Sabbath day, we know it takes you directly out of the covenant. In the Old Covenant, it was stoning to death. And if you don't keep the Sabbath today, there's no way to be in the family of Yahweh.

So, let us see, let us find out why this day is so special to Yahweh from the very beginning till the end of time, and what's the real blessing, the deep blessing He has prepared for us on this day, which is awesome. And I think if all people just knew what this day is about and what Yahweh had prepared, it could never come into ritual or into a ceremony, but it would be life every seventh day.

So, I want to start at the very beginning, because this is where we need to start to find out what the Sabbath is about. We know Yahweh created Shabbat on the seventh day, right? But before that, He was creating six days already, and was doing magnificent and awesome things.

And we have people today that say, "Sabbath is a day of rest. All I need is to do is rest." And rest is an important part. But the same way, we need fellowship. We know that it's important. We learn so much about unity, which you can't have when you're alone. Other people say it's about praise. "This day is that we bring praise to Yahweh," and they're right. But we read in **Ezekiel 46** that all people in the covenant in the Millennium will appear before Yahweh every Sabbath in the gate, through the eastern gate, and come into His presence to worship Him.

But is this the core meaning of the Sabbath day? Let's think about it a moment. Did Yahweh create mankind for receiving praise or glory, for us to tell Him how great He is? If we think so ... I mean, I love worship, but I know I miss the tunes, and everything I do is imperfect. The universe that Yahweh created is huge. We can't even imagine.

And somewhere in the universe is this little planet, we call it Earth. It's like a little dust particle, compared to the greatness of the universe, the dimensions. And on this little Earth, there are living small people. They're tiny as microbes. And everything they do is imperfect. And compared to the glory of Yahweh, the faithfulness of Yahweh, the love of Yahweh, all they can offer is nothing compared to Him. So actually, there's nothing really we can give Him. All we can do is reflect what He's giving us, right?

So, we know, we were taught often that what you focus on becomes most real to you. And Yahweh chose to focus on this little dust particle, and on those microbes living on there. And in His eyes, of course, we're no microbes, but we're so valuable to Him that He even sacrificed the most special thing He had—His only Son.

We see in **1st John 4:16**, it says *Yahweh is love*. And in **1st Corinthians 13** it says that *love doesn't pursue its own things*. So, Yahweh is the love in perfection. And everything He does is not to receive. He doesn't do anything to get something from us. But when He created us, it was because He wants to give something—His outpouring love. And He wishes us to come into the same likeness like He is, that we will give.

So, we also see when we look into creation, how it continues, that Yahweh and Yahshua, They made everything so beautifully. We have learned about unity, and Yahweh and Yahshua are the perfect unity. We see from **Genesis 1**, where it says, *and Yahweh made*. Yahweh said, and Yahweh made. Or it says Elohim first has said and then made.

Like for instance, and Elohim said, *let there be light, and Elohim made the lights*. Here is we have the Father sending out His word, and we have the Word, the right arm of Yahweh, going and performing. Like it says in **Isaiah 55**, *none of the words He's sending out will come back void, but will fulfill what He has sent it out to do so*. So, we see Yahweh and Yahshua in unity creating everything. And how do we see Them creating everything? Perfectly beautiful, full of love.

Look, we wouldn't have to have all this good food, all these nice tastes, all these beautiful colors. But He made it beautiful for us, like parents do when they expect a baby. They prepare a room, or maybe the crib, or make a nice blanket. And the very same way, Yahweh created everything beautifully for us because He loves us so much. So, everything Yahweh did was out of love.

And the very same way, Sabbath is an expression of this love. Remember when Yahshua was asked what is the greatest commandment? He answered, *Love Yahweh with all your heart, your soul, and all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. These are the two commandments. And on these hang all the Torah and the prophets*. Right?

So of course, the Sabbath is just an expression of love, like everything else He did. But also from our side, it's so important that for us Sabbath is not a ceremony where we know, "Okay, I wake up. It's Sabbath. Oh, okay. We have a message. Then we're going to sing. We're going to pray, and we maybe have testimonies." That's not what it's about. Rather we see that everything, these things, we owe Yahweh all respect, all praise and honor and worship. But these are much more reflections of the love, of the relationship we have to Him. And **the way we esteem the Sabbath day is a direct indication of our relationship to Yahweh. Because what it really is, is that we seek His presence.**

And it is quite interesting when Yahweh entered the first time into covenant with Israel. I want to read from Exodus 24:16, because there we see a pattern starting. Actually, it started earlier. There it says:

Exodus 24:16 *And the glory of YAHWEH dwelt on the mountain of Sinai. And the cloud covered it six days. And He called to Moses **on the seventh day** from the midst of the cloud.*

In the Hebrew, we have the perfect article *ha shevii*, on *the seventh day*, he was called into the presence of Yahweh. Yahweh was speaking to the sons of Israel, and on the seventh day He invited Moses to come into His presence.

We see from **Ezekiel 46** that everyone in the Kingdom who is in the covenant will come into the presence of Yahweh on every Sabbath, also every New Moon. In **Isaiah 66**, for all time all flesh will come and worship Him. But we see also from the very, very beginning that this is the pattern that was always there, that **this day is about the fellowship between Yahweh and His people**. In Jeremiah 10:12, it says:

Jeremiah 10:12 *It is He who made the earth by His power, who established the world by His wisdom, and who stretched out the heavens by His understanding.*

So, everything He did was perfect. Every creation He put all the six days, they were in a perfect order. And it was by no chance that He created man on the sixth day. We know that on the sixth day He created all the beasts on the field. So, the day went on, and maybe somewhere in the afternoon, I don't know, but in the end, when He did all the other things, He created Adam.

And the first thing that Adam probably saw when he opened his eyes, and Yahweh blew His spirit into him, he became a living soul, Yahweh [should be Adam] saw his Creator, his beloved One. And very shortly after that, the sun was setting, maybe the beautiful moonrise in the evening, and the first day started that Yahweh and Adam (which also means, in general, *mankind*) had together. Yahweh and Adam. This was their first day they spent together in Eden. So, we see from the very beginning it was about fellowship with the Father and His people, in Eden already was the first day.

And it's quite interesting that Yahweh gave us a lot of things around us that we learn to understand Him. He gave us concepts. He made us in a specific way so we can understand how He is and how He feels. Two of the most important things are He taught us what a family is. He created us as families. So, we as parents, as fathers, know how He feels about us in us feeling for our children. I'm sure Greg knows very well how the Father feels and how he would give up everything, even yourself, for your children.

We have husband and wife, which is as important how He created us. Because in Scripture we read that as a man is to cleave to his wife, we are to cleave to Yahweh. And as man and wife, husband and wife become echad, we are to become echad with Yahweh. So, all these things, they are teaching us about Him. And why am I quoting these things right now? Because about the Sabbath at the very beginning we can learn something really precious about it, what this day is really about.

When a mother gives birth, the Torah tells us that she would stay back with the baby about 30 or 60 days for purification, but science also tells us that these times, especially the first hours to first days, that they are really important because they are the time of bonding between the mother and the child. We have the same thing with a marriage and the honeymoon. We know they become echad. And science also tells us there that our brain is programmed toward our partner. They are like burnt into our brain. They are written into our hearts.

And we see this even with the animals. We have the storks here once or twice a year settling in the fields up north, and the fields are covered wide with those storks, and they have lifelong relationship those storks, two of them. And by the clapping of their spouse, they're able to hear them out of ten thousands of storks. They are becoming one this time when they consume [should be consummate] their marriage.

We know with penguins when they have the babies, like the mother and the child, they hear the babies crying, many birds out of thousands of different babies crying. I couldn't do that, but they do it. So, we really see they become echad. It's a time of bonding. And it's so important this time, these first hours.

And the same thing happened with Yahweh and Adam at the very beginning. When Yahweh walked with Adam in Eden, it was their time of bonding, where they became echad. They were to be echad. You can just picture how, I mean, Yahweh was preparing everything beautifully and seeing how Adam would react, and how Adam probably was in awe in seeing all the great things and was just praising and worshiping Yahweh. And Yahweh was holding him in His arm, Yahshua walking with him through the garden. It must have been awesome. It was the time where they were to be echad. But we know mankind later chose differently.

But we know that the marriage is a blood covenant; and very similar, also birth. There's no birth, even the cesarean or whatever you do, there's always a shedding of blood. So, very similar to a blood covenant that we have in marriage, also mother and a child are bonded together. And there's no mother which would forget her child. Like it says in Scripture, *can a mother forget a suckling child?* Nowadays maybe they can. But in general, they will never forget their child. And if they lose their child, the father or mother will never forget this child.

And we know that the Sabbath ... This is very interesting. You know the phrase a statute for ... how is it called? I wrote it down so I will be finding it ... *a never-ending statute*. We have of these 26 times in the Torah, and we have only two times where it says, a never-ending covenant. And like we said, we had a blood covenant with being husband and wife, mother and child. Guess what these two never ending covenants, a ***berith olam***, refers to. Well, the one is in Exodus 31:6 [should be 31:16].

Exodus 31:16 *And the sons of Israel shall guard the Sabbath, to observe and do the Sabbath for their generations; it is a never ending covenant.*

And the other one is in **Leviticus 24**, where it says, where it talks about the showbread, which is actually called the Bread of the Presence, which is like 12 cakes representing the tribes of Israel, His people, which are in the presence of Yahweh, and they're to be served on the Shabbat. They're to be in His presence. So, we see even there, the never-ending covenant, the Sabbath from the very beginning was for His people to be in His presence, which is vitally important.

Because what do we know? When husband and wife, if they separate, what are you left with? Two broken people. If a mother and a child are separated, if she loses her baby, if it's taken from her, won't the mother mourn and will do everything to get it back? And the baby without the mother's milk is determined to die.

So, Adam chose, or mankind chose in the very beginning to choose sin over the presence of Yahweh, and even today we often do that. Our sin gives us more pleasure than choosing to be close to Yahweh, and we have to overcome that. We see that in Genesis 3:8 it says:

Genesis 3:8b *And the man and his wife hid themselves from the face ... which also is translated as the presence ... of YAHWEH in the middle of the trees of the garden.*

And in **Isaiah 59** it says, *His hand is not too short, or His ear from hearing, but it's your sins that are separating from Him* and taking you out of the presence, making Him hide His face from you. So, we see men chose to take this path, which can only lead to death, because if we're out of the presence of Yahweh, there's no way we will ever grow into His likeness.

But from that time when Adam and Eve had to leave Eden—the presence of Yahweh ... which we know was quite here, was quite out there [pointing to Jerusalem] because the last river we still have left is the Gihon, which is quoted there, and so many things fit perfectly that Eden was right in this spot out here. And when Adam had to leave this place, of course, Yahweh's no failure and He did everything as a Father to get back His people, His creation, His beloved ones, and He had the plan of salvation. He put this into practice. And we will see that Sabbath was a very vital part of this.

We see that when the Israelites also they failed, Yahweh told them in **Exodus 23**, *I will put My Messenger before you. Obey His voice. He will lead you into your rest*, which in Hebrew is called **manoach**. But we know the Israelites, when they saw the giants, they were walking by sight, and not at all by faith, although they should have had all measures of faith, that Yahweh swore because of that and the things they did that they will never enter into My rest, **manoach**.

And it's quite interesting when we read what this word *rest* means, because it means “a home,” “a peace,” “a place.” Once you've found it, you will never want to leave it again. This is your goal. Like you come from all over the earth and you find this rest and you will not leave it again. This is your resting place. And the same way we read how David says in **1st Chronicles 28:2**, *With my heart I desired to build a house of rest, **manoach**, for the Ark of the Covenant of Yahweh*. It's a resting place. And we heard already in Psalm 132, verse 13, the beautiful verse where it says:

Psalm 132:13-14 *YAHWEH has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His dwelling-place. This is My rest ... **manoach** ... till forever; I will dwell here; I have desired it.*

And like He said to Solomon when he built the sanctuary in this place, *My eyes will be on this place and My heart will be here forever*. So, Yahweh has chosen this place. This is His resting place that He has chosen. And now it's very interesting. In **Hebrews 4** we read how Paul equates this Sabbath day with this resting place. And He always repeats, *therefore it remains a Sabbath of rest* or a keeping of rest. And Yahweh said, *there is a rest*. And *Yahweh rested*. And it always says rest, but in Greek there are two different words and in Hebrew there are two different words.

The one ... and this is where Paul binds it together. And only somebody who's taught by Pharisees would probably know about this. That everywhere in the Scriptures, where we look where it talks about Yahweh resting on the seventh day, *it's a Sabbath of rest*, it says it's the Shabbat of **shabat**, which the same word, *resting*. And we find it over and over and over again. Because in Hebrew we have the two words, we have **shabat** for resting, and we have **manoach** for resting.

But shabat comes from **sheva**, *seventh*, noting the time of the rest, like a resting time. And **manoach** is the resting place. So, and we find it always says that Shabbat ... Yahweh rests on Shabbat. He shabats on Shabbat. So, it's the time of resting. But what Paul now says, he says there's one place ... And I'll read it from Hebrews 4:4.

Hebrews 4:4 *For He spoke in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, and Elohim did rest the seventh day from all His work.*

And there he used the word **manoach**, not shabat, like the *resting place*. It's quite interesting. It's right in the very beginning when Yahweh covenants with Israel, when He speaks from Mount Horeb down to them, and they all hear the Ten Words; and one of those Ten Words is this, what I just read. It's in Exodus 20:11.

Exodus 20:11 *For in six days YAHWEH made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all which is in them, and He rested ... **manoach**, not shabat ... on the seventh day; on account of this YAHWEH blessed the [Sabbath] day and sanctified it.*

He rested. We know from the beginning Yahweh's Spirit was on the face of the waters. His fingers were fixing the skies in heaven, **Psalms 8**. But on the seventh day He rested in His resting place; He was in Eden. Before, He was all around the world creating it. But on the seventh day He was in His resting place, with Adam, together in unity, dwelling there. So, this is an awesome thing that Paul tells us there; he connects these two.

And we'll see it throughout Scripture, how the Sabbath and Jerusalem, the sanctuary, Eden is all connected. What the one means in space—the sanctuary, Eden, Jerusalem, the resting place, the place of the presence of Yahweh—is what the Sabbath means in time. And they're interconnected. All the time we'll see that.

We have in **Exodus 34**, very interesting, after the golden calf incident, Moses pleads to Yahweh, “Please don't send us up if Your presence and face is not with us.” And Yahweh tells him, “My presence will be with you Moses, and I will lead you into your rest. I will give you rest.” But Moses pleads. And so, Yahweh says, “Okay, cut out those two tablets and come up again.”

And now it's very interesting what Yahweh tells Moses. Because Yahweh is a restorer, and He wouldn't let Israel just disappear. He loves them too much. And He loves His people too much. So, in **Exodus 34** now, we read Moses goes up and rather Yahweh writes with His finger again on those tablets. But what does He tell him? What do we read? He gives them Feast for Feast for Feast for Feast. He reveals His whole plan of salvation to restore the sons of Israel to Moses.

And now in **Exodus 35**, Moses goes before the people. And does He give them all the Ten Commandments again, “This is what Yahweh says”? No, He only gives them one single commandment: *Keep the Sabbath day holy*. And now take all your gold and silver and everything precious you have and build the sanctuary of Yahweh. So, Yahweh, whenever mankind is choosing to leave His presence, He is for those that seek Him with all their hearts. He will build a bridge back into His presence because it's vital that we can be connected to this life-giving Spirit. In Leviticus 19:30, it says:

Leviticus 19:30 *You shall keep My Sabbaths; and you shall revere My sanctuary. I am YAHWEH.*

The Sabbath, the time of rest, and the place of His rest, of His presence, always belongs together. And isn't it quite interesting that He speaks very similar about the Garden of Eden and the day of the Sabbath? In Genesis 2:15, we read:

Genesis 2:15 *And YAHWEH Elohim took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden, to work it and ... to guard ... to keep it.*

And the word “work,” **oved**, literally means *to serve*. And we know the priests on Shabbat ... We don't do any work, but we serve Yahweh. And the priests, probably on Sabbath day more than any other day of the week,

they were serving in the sanctuary. And so, we have here, we have to guard and keep the garden. And what do we read in Leviticus 26:5 [should be 26:2]?

Leviticus 26:2 *You shall ... guard ... keep My Sabbaths, and revere My sanctuary; I am YAHWEH.*

Again, the same phrases He uses. And now Nehemiah ... Remember, they all were sent out of the presence of Yahweh into the Babylonian captivity, because they were defiling the time of the presence of Yahweh. And so, there was no way they were allowed to stay in the place of the presence of Yahweh. You can't have the one without the other. If you want to be in the Land, you better keep the Sabbath or you won't be here for long.

And Nehemiah, he grew up in the Babylonian captivity, and he came back and he knew how important it was. And do you remember, it says in **Nehemiah 13:22** is the story? And all the people tried to come into Jerusalem at the Sabbath day. They wanted to sell things. He told them don't do, and then they camp outside. And what did he do? He put a guard outside to guard the gate to don't let anyone come into, and he was protecting the place of the presence of Yahweh (Jerusalem) at the time of the presence of Yahweh (on Shabbat). We see them throughout Scripture all being connected.

We know, of course, in the Millennium, which we're waiting so much, both of them will be united. We will be in the appointed time and the appointed place. And this Messenger of Yahweh, which Israel once chose not to follow, this Messenger would come back to restore them. And the Sabbath day is the very symbol of that. We read in Isaiah 56, one of the greatest scriptures about the Sabbath day.

Isaiah 56:1 *So says YAHWEH: Keep justice and do righteousness, for My Y'shua is coming soon, and My righteousness will be revealed.*

Comment: So, we have Yahshua here, which we know is the Master of the Sabbath, the King of the kings and the Prince of Peace, also connecting the Sabbath and the Land. So Yahshua is coming soon. And what does it continue to talk about?

Isaiah 56:2-4 *Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who lays hold on it; keeping the Sabbath, from defiling it; ... So, Yahshua is coming, and now we start to talk about the Sabbath ... and keeping his hand from doing every evil. And do not let the son of the foreigner speak, he who joins himself to YAHWEH, saying, surely, YAHWEH separates me from His people; and do not let the eunuch say, Behold, I am a dried tree. For so says YAHWEH to the eunuchs who keep (Aleph/Tav) My Sabbaths and choose things I am pleased with, and take hold of My covenant:*

Comment: The Sabbath is like the beginning of the covenant. We read it here and in **Isaiah 58**. This is why, so many of us, the first thing we did when He brought us into the truth was the Sabbath. Because it says right here, if we take hold of His covenant, if we revere the Sabbath day, He will graft us in.

Isaiah 56:5 *I, even I will give to them in My house and My walls a hand and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name which shall not be cut off.*

Comment: So, we see again the Sabbath day, and where does He give us the time of His presence. And where does He give them a place? In His house, in the place of His presence.

Isaiah 56:6-8 *And the sons of the foreigner, who join themselves to YAHWEH, to serve Him, and to love the name of YAHWEH, to be His servants, everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and takes hold of My covenant:*

even them I will bring to My holy mount ... Mount Zion; Eden ... and make them joyful in My house of prayer ... the place of His presence ... Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted on My altar, for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the people, states Adonai YAHWEH, who gathers the outcasts of Israel; ...

And it's quite interesting. That's the very same thing we read in **Ephesians 2**. I just quote various verses from there, but you can compare it later. Because it says the very same thing that we've just read. It says:

Ephesians 2:11 ... *remember that you, the nations, were then in the flesh from the beginning and you were called Uncircumcision, different from those called Circumcision, ...*

Ephesians 2:12 ... *having no hope and without YAHWEH in the world.*

Ephesians 2:13b-14a ... *you who were then were afar off, are brought near by the blood of Messiah ... Remember, everything started with Messiah, then came the Sabbath blessing ... He is our peace.*

Ephesians 2:18-22 *Through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. So, then, you are no longer strangers ... but children of the family of YAHWEH ... Yahshua Messiah Himself being the cornerstone of the building, in whom all the building being fitted together grows into a holy sanctuary in YAHWEH ... into a dwelling place of YAHWEH in the Spirit.*

So, it says the very same thing, that **through Yahshua's sacrifice we can enter the presence of Yahweh**. Like He says, *no one comes to the Father except through Me*. And we have these nice olive doors right in front of the Holy of Holiest, the olive wood representing somebody filled with the Spirit of Yahweh. Like we have the two olive trees at the side, representing the one to the left and to the right of Yahshua standing.

So, *no one comes to the Father except through Me*. And the same thing here, through Yahshua's sacrifice, we enter His presence. And He is the Master of the Sabbath day. Through Him we can enter the presence of Yahweh, and we can literally walk with Yahweh, like He walked with Adam in Eden on the Sabbath day. We can enter His presence, and this is awesome. Because now the baby is back to its mother's milk. This brings us ... We are nurtured on this day. We are refreshed on this day.

We see it throughout the Sabbath year, everyone who is in the covenant will be set free. He also says, *I brought you out of Egypt, therefore keep the Sabbath day. It's the day of our restoration*. And of course, all these blessings that we read, they were a noble later idea, but they were set up from the very beginning. For in **Genesis 2**, it says, *and Yahweh sanctified the Sabbath. He blessed the Sabbath day, and He sanctified it*. So, **this blessing He had prepared from the very beginning**.

From the very beginning He chose this day to be the day when mankind can enter into the presence of Yahweh, which is vitally important. Because without the presence of Yahweh there's no way for us. And Yahweh knew we will have to leave this Land because of our defilement, and we will be all around. We won't be in the presence of Yahweh, the resting place of Him.

And there will be times where we won't be able to meet here again because the enemy are dwelling here and we can't come into this resting place that He had chosen, but no man ... They might be able to keep us from here, but no man can stop time. So, there will be always a seventh day where we can enter into His presence, like Adam was in the presence of Yahweh in Eden. So that's an awesome thing.

So, the Sabbath pretty much is for us ... It means **it is the day of our first love. It is the day that mankind and Elohim spent together, the first day. And week for week, we are allowed to enter His presence in the very same manner. And this is what gives us life—to be in His presence.** And Yahshua said, I will be with you every day until the end of time; and He is. And He blesses us, and we know He is with us. And by His Spirit He is dwelling in us. Elohim is with us. But this blessing that He had prepared on the Sabbath day goes far above that, the peace that He is giving, that we literally can walk as Adam walked in Eden with Elohim.

In Revelation 2:4 He spoke to the congregation in Ephesus.

Revelation 2:4 *Nevertheless, I have something against you, because you left your first love.*

And I know I often left my first love. I mean, yesterday evening was a very special time and the weeks we prepared for that. Because we realized that we didn't live up to the commitment we made and for the sacrifice that He gave for us. It was almost as kicking it with our feet, because we didn't live up to it. We didn't give Him what He deserved. But now we chose to, to give Him our everything. And we want to keep to our first love.

And also, the Sabbath day, which is all about this first love, this intimate relationship. It's not about ceremonies and about customs that we do. It's about this relationship. When we sing songs, we don't want to sing songs, we want to praise Yahweh. When we pray, we don't want to repeat something, but we want to pour out our heart to our Heavenly Father. When we rest on the Sabbath day, we want to feel like resting in His arms, to spend time with Him. It's all about this time; this is what is refreshing us. And there's a beautiful blessing we have in Isaiah 58, verse 13 and the following.

Isaiah 58:13-14 *If you turn your foot away because of the Sabbath, from doing what you please on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, to the holiness of YAHWEH, glorified; and shall glorify Him, to the holiness of not doing your own ways, and finding your own pleasure or speaking your own words; then you shall delight yourself in YAHWEH. And I will cause you to ride on the heights of the earth, and make you eat with the inheritance of your Father Jacob ... See, again, the time of the presence and the place of the presence ... For the mouth of YAHWEH has spoken.*

How awesome is this? If we choose His day over our own ways, we will delight in Yahweh. We will know Him intimately. And in Jeremiah it says something very interesting. It's in Jeremiah 29:13. It says, where they are in the Babylonian captivity, He speaks through Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 29:13-14 *And you shall seek and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. And I will be found by you, says YAHWEH. And I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places where I have driven you, says YAHWEH. And I will bring you again into the place from which I have sent you into exile, from there.*

So, we know Judah had to leave the place of the presence of Yahweh, the resting place. And even all means of worship, the sanctuary was torn down, and all things brought into captivity. There was no means anymore to enter into His presence in this place. Because of them defiling the Sabbath day they were not allowed to be in His resting place anymore. But He said, *if you seek Me with all your hearts, if you repent, then I will bring you back into this place ... into this place.*

And what did we just say? This was true for them then, but it has much bigger meaning. This place where man was exiled from was at the very beginning of time. Adam had to leave the presence of Yahweh. And like Nehemiah guarded the doors of His resting place, Yahweh guarded His place with a messenger with a fiery sword,

and there was no way to enter back into that place, or Adam to come back into it.

But He said, He promised, ***if you seek Me with all your hearts***. There's why it's so important. The Sabbath day is not something about being lukewarm, meeting in a congregation and just doing traditions. If we seek Him with all our heart, if we want to be with Him, He's longing so much that we want to be with Him. If that's the case, He promised that He will bring us back into the place where He exiled us from, from that place.

And we know in the very end of time, He will bring us back into Eden. He will restore Eden. The last chapter of the Bible like the first chapter of the Bible, the Tree of Life in the middle of the garden, Yahshua and Elohim dwelling with mankind. But even every Sabbath if we seek Him with all our hearts, we are able to enter this rest.

So, I want to close here. And for me, it was so awesome to realize that, yes, we want to worship Yahweh, and we want to give Him everything. We want to serve Him like it says. But He didn't create the Sabbath day for us to serve Him. It says, *man wasn't created for Sabbath, but the Sabbath for mankind*. He is restoring us on this day. He is pouring out His love on us on this day. We are connected to a life-giving Spirit. He says, *I am knocking at the door. If you choose to open, I will dine with you*.

So, every Sabbath is an invitation to the presence of Yahweh, which is awesome, which we need, and which will change our lives. So how special is it for us right now in this moment to be in the appointed time, in the appointed place? It's a double blessing. So, praise Yahweh for all His great miracles and wonders and His plan of salvation He's given us, even the Sabbath day.

And there is one last meaning, which Don will talk about now, the rest of this day. Manoach doesn't only mean a resting place; it means matrimony. The rest He wants us to enter in, this word ***manoach***, where He wants us to enter in, also means matrimony. It's a marriage. So, I'm sure we'll hear a lot about this here and the awesome plan that Yahweh has. Praise Yahweh.