

# Deuteronomy 5:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Keep the sabbath day to sanctify it, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee.

## Analysis

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The fourth commandment 'Keep the sabbath day to sanctify it' establishes weekly rest as covenant obligation. The Hebrew 'qadash' (sanctify/make holy) indicates setting apart time for sacred purposes. God commanded Sabbath observance, grounding it in creation (Exodus 20:11) and redemption (Deuteronomy 5:15). The Reformed tradition sees Sabbath as moral law continuing under the New Covenant, fulfilled on the Lord's Day (Sunday). Sabbath rest typifies the eternal rest believers enter through Christ (Hebrews 4:9-10). The day teaches trust in God's providence—ceasing work demonstrates that God sustains, not human effort.

## Historical Context

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Israel's Sabbath was Saturday (seventh day), beginning Friday sunset. No work was permitted—gathering manna (Exodus 16:22-30), kindling fire (Exodus 35:3), carrying burdens (Jeremiah 17:21), buying/selling (Nehemiah 13:15-22). Sabbath violation merited death (Exodus 31:14-15, Numbers 15:32-36). The early church shifted to Sunday (first day) commemorating Christ's resurrection (Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 16:2, Revelation 1:10). The principle—one day in seven for worship and rest—continues.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does Sabbath observance demonstrate trust that God provides, freeing believers from anxious self-reliance?
2. What does the shift from Saturday to Sunday Sabbath teach about how Christ fulfills Old Testament ceremonial law while maintaining moral principles?

## Interlinear Text

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אַתָּה	שְׁמָךְ	וְרָא	יְמִינְךָ	תִּשְׁבֹּת	הַשְׁבָּת	וְלִקְדָּשׁ	רְקִדְשָׁה	אָמֵן	אָמֵן
<b>Keep</b> H8104	<b>day</b> H3117	<b>the sabbath</b> H7676	<b>to sanctify</b> H6942					<b>commanded</b> H6680	
אֱלֹהִים	יְהֹוָה								

it as the LORD      thy God  
H3068                    H430

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 58:13** (References Lord): If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words:

**Isaiah 56:6** (References Lord): Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant;