

# Deuteronomy 5:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou.

## Analysis

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The Sabbath command extends rest to 'thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger.' This comprehensive inclusivity demonstrates covenant compassion—even slaves, foreigners, and animals must rest. The prohibition of work extends to subordinates under one's authority, preventing exploitation. This verse reveals God's concern for the vulnerable and Creation-wide scope of Sabbath blessing. The Reformed tradition sees this as establishing principles of humane labor practices, concern for workers' wellbeing, and rest as universal human right, not class privilege.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern societies had no concept of universal rest—slaves and servants worked continuously. Israel's Sabbath was revolutionary in mandating rest for all: family, servants, foreigners residing among them, and even livestock. The Year of Jubilee extended this principle, freeing Hebrew slaves and returning ancestral lands (Leviticus 25). These laws demonstrated Israel's calling to model justice, mercy, and compassion flowing from covenant relationship with Yahweh.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does the universal scope of Sabbath rest (including servants, foreigners, animals) demonstrate God's compassion for all creation?
2. What principles can Christians draw from this command regarding humane labor practices, rest, and care for those under our authority or employ?

## Interlinear Text

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ל	א	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	יְהוָה	הַשַּׁבָּת	תֵּן	הַשְּׁבִיעִי	י	וְיוֹם
		thy God	of the LORD	is the sabbath		But the seventh		day
		H430	H3068	H7676		H7637		H3117
	וּבִנְךָ	אֶתְּ	הַמְּלָאכָה	כָּל	תַּעֲשֶׂה	הִיא		
	thou nor thy son		any work		in it thou shalt not do			
	H1121		H4399		H6213			
	וְשׁוֹרְךָ	וְאִמָּתְךָ	עַבְדְּךָ	וּבִתְּךָ				
	nor thine ox	and thy maidservant	nor thy manservant	nor thy daughter				
	H7794	H519	H5650	H1323				
	אִשְׁרָךְ	וְגֵרְךָ	בְּהֵמַתְּךָ	וְכָל	וְחִמְרְךָ			
		nor thy stranger	nor any of thy cattle		nor thine ass			
		H1616	H929		H2543			
	וְאִמָּתְךָ	עַבְדְּךָ	יֹגֵד	לִמָּעַן	בִּשְׁעָרֶיךָ			
	and thy maidservant	nor thy manservant	may rest		that is within thy gates			
	H519	H5650	H5117		H8179			
					כִּמּוֹ, וְכִי:			
					H3644			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hebrews 4:4** (References God): For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.

**Genesis 2:2** (References God): And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

**Exodus 23:12** (Parallel theme): Six days thou shalt do thy work, and on the seventh day thou shalt rest: that thine ox and thine ass may rest, and the son of thy handmaid, and the stranger, may be refreshed.

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