

# Deuteronomy 5:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day.

## Analysis

The redemptive grounding 'remember that thou wast a servant in Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out' connects Sabbath rest to exodus deliverance. Israel, once enslaved without rest, must grant rest to others. The phrase 'therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath' reveals that experiencing God's redemptive grace produces compassionate obedience. This illustrates gospel ethics: believers, redeemed from sin's bondage, extend mercy to others. Sabbath becomes both memorial of redemption and anticipation of eternal rest in Christ.

## Historical Context

Egypt enslaved Israel approximately 400 years (Genesis 15:13) before God's deliverance through Moses (circa 1446 BC). Hebrew slaves labored continuously making bricks and mortar without rest (Exodus 5:6-19). God's deliverance through ten plagues, Passover, and Red Sea crossing freed Israel from this bondage. The Sabbath command constantly reminded Israel of their redemption, motivating compassion toward servants and strangers experiencing parallel bondage.

## Related Passages

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

## Study Questions

1. How does remembering redemption from bondage motivate compassionate treatment of others, particularly the vulnerable?
2. In what ways should Christians' experience of redemption from sin's slavery through Christ shape how we treat and rest with those in our care?

## Interlinear Text

## Additional Cross-References

**Deuteronomy 5:6** (References God): I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

**Deuteronomy 15:15** (References God): And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt, and the LORD thy God redeemed thee: therefore I command thee this thing to day.

**Deuteronomy 16:12** (References Egypt): And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in Egypt: and thou shalt observe and do these statutes.

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)