

# Exodus 20:10

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, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

## Analysis

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**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, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:**

The Sabbath belongs to YHWH ('sabbath of YHWH thy God')—it's His day, His gift. The comprehensive list (you, son, daughter, servants, animals, strangers) universalizes rest—no one is exempted, including slaves and foreigners. Ancient Near Eastern masters might rest while slaves worked; God prohibits this. The Sabbath is democratizing—servant and master equally cease labor. Even animals rest (humane treatment centuries before animal rights movements). 'Stranger within thy gates' (גֶּרֶךְ אֲשֶׁר בְּשָׁעָרִים, gerka asher bish'arekha) includes resident aliens—God's mercy extends beyond covenant community. This models Christ's rest available to all.

## Historical Context

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The inclusion of servants, animals, and foreigners in Sabbath rest was revolutionary. Ancient economies depended on slaves' continuous labor; God's Sabbath challenged systemic exploitation.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. What does the inclusion of servants and strangers in Sabbath rest teach about God's heart for the vulnerable?
2. How might modern Christians practice Sabbath in ways that benefit others, not just themselves?

## Interlinear Text

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לֹא אֶלְקַח יְמִינֵי וְיְמִינֵךְ

**day**    **But the seventh**    **is the sabbath**    **of the LORD**    **thy God**    H3808

H3117

H7637

H7676

H3068

H430

H3808

וְבָתְבַע, אַתָּה מֶלֶךְ הָכָל מְעַשְׁךָ ה

**in it thou shalt not do**    **any work**    **thou nor thy son**

H6213

H3605

H4399

H859

H1121

וְבָתְבַע מִתְבָּבָת בְּבָבָת בְּבָבָת בְּבָבָת

**nor thy daughter**    **thy manservant**    **nor thy maidservant**    **nor thy cattle**

H1323

H5650

H519

H929

בְּשַׁעַר יְמִינֵךְ אַשְׁר יְגַנְּבֶךְ

**nor thy stranger**    **that is within thy gates**

H1616

H834

H8179

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 34:21** (Parallel theme): Six days thou shalt work, but on the seventh day thou shalt rest: in earring time and in harvest thou shalt rest.

**Nehemiah 10:31** (Parallel theme): And if the people of the land bring ware or any victuals on the sabbath day to sell, that we would not buy it of them on the sabbath, or on the holy day: and that we would leave the seventh year, and the exaction of every debt.

**Exodus 31:13** (References Lord): Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.

**Luke 23:56** (Parallel theme): And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.