

Exodus 20:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Analysis

For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

The Sabbath's foundation is Creation—God's pattern becomes humanity's rhythm. 'Made' (עָשָׂה, *asah*) recalls Genesis 1's 'created' (*bara*). 'Heaven and earth, sea, all' (שָׁמַיִם וְאֶת־הָאָרֶץ אֶת־הַיָּם, *shamayim ve'et-ha'aretz et-hayam*) comprehensively covers existence—all creation testifies to Creator. God 'rested' (וַיָּנַח, *vayanach*) not from exhaustion but completion—He ceased creative work because it was 'very good.' His rest invites ours. 'Blessed and hallowed' (בֵּרַךְ וַיְקַדְּשׁ, *berakh vayqaddesh*) the Sabbath—God's blessing makes it beneficial; His hallowing makes it holy. Observing Sabbath aligns human rhythm with divine pattern, creation ordinance with covenant command.

Historical Context

Genesis 2:2-3 records God's primordial rest. The Sabbath command at Sinai takes creation pattern and makes it covenant requirement. Sabbath roots in Creation, not just Sinai, giving it universal significance.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does grounding the Sabbath in Creation (not just Sinai) give it universal rather than merely Jewish significance?
2. What does God's rest teach about the purpose and nature of work—why do we work?

Interlinear Text

הָאָרֶץ וְאֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם אֵת יְהוָה עָשָׂה יוֹם שֵׁשֶׁת כִּי
H3588 For in six day made the LORD H853 heaven H853 and earth H776
H8337 H3117 H6213 H3068 H8064
אֵת הַיָּם וְאֵת כָּל אֲשֶׁר בָּם וַיָּנַח יוֹם
H853 the sea H853 H3605 H834 H0 and all that in them is and rested day
H3220 H5117 H3117
הַשַּׁבָּת יוֹם אֵת יְהוָה בְּרֵךְ כִּי עַל הַשְּׁבִיעִי
the seventh H5921 H3651 blessed the LORD H853 day the sabbath
H7637 H1288 H3068 H3117 H7676
וַיְקַדְּשֵׁהוּ
and hallowed
H6942

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 31:17 (Creation): It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

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