

# Exodus 20:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

## Analysis

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### **Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.**

'Remember' (זִיכָּר, zakhor) implies forgetting's danger—sabbath-keeping requires intentional memory. The Sabbath principle predates Sinai (Genesis 2:2-3), but here becomes covenant requirement. 'Keep it holy' (לִקְדָּשׁוּ, leqadesho) means set apart, sanctified—one day different from six. The Sabbath testifies to Creation (God rested) and redemption (Deuteronomy 5:15). It's God's gift of rest to weary workers, slave-drivers not exempted (v. 10). Jesus declares Himself 'Lord of the Sabbath' (Mark 2:28) and fulfills it—He is our rest (Matthew 11:28). The New Covenant shifts Sabbath from law to principle: we rest in Christ's finished work, not our efforts.

## Historical Context

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Sabbath observance distinguished Israel from surrounding nations. No ancient Near Eastern culture practiced weekly rest from labor—Israel's Sabbath was countercultural witness to a Creator who rests and grants rest.

## Related Passages

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

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does Sabbath-keeping combat both workaholism and laziness?
2. In what ways is Christ the fulfillment of Sabbath rest (Hebrews 4:9-10)?

## Interlinear Text

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לְקַדְשֵׁנִי תִּשְׁבֹּת שְׁבָת יְמִינָת אֶת יְמִינָת זֶכֶר  
Remember day the sabbath to keep it holy

H2142 H853 H3117 H7676 H6942

## Additional Cross-References

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**Leviticus 26:2** (Parallel theme): Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD.

**Leviticus 19:3** (Parallel theme): Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my sabbaths: I am the LORD your God.

**Genesis 2:3** (Holy): And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

**Leviticus 19:30** (Parallel theme): Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD.

**Leviticus 23:3** (Holy): Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.

**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.