

PACKS Saturday's Wisdom Journal

September 4, 2021

BHC PACKS SATURDAY'S WISDOM

Day Seven (Genesis 2:1-4a)

Rediscovering The Day To Honor Elohiym

The importance of Day Seven in the first story in the Bible was lost soon after the Second Temple was destroyed in 70 CE.

Connect With The Bible's Wisdom of the Beginnings Every Day!

Day Seven is a day unlike any of the previous six days. The importance of **Day Seven**, in the first story in Bible, *was lost soon after the Second Temple was destroyed in 70 CE. Temple Judaism and the original Jesus movement ended with the loss of the Temple.* It took centuries, but eventually **Gentile Christianity** and **Rabbinic Judaism** emerged from its ashes.

- Today is **Shabbat** for observant Jews.
- Today is **the Sabbath** for members of a few Christian denominations.
- Today is **the first day of the weekend** for many Americans.
- Today is **just another day of the week** for most Americans.

Discovering the importance of **Day Seven** requires *knowledge of the ancient cultures of the Babylonians, Persians, Canaanites, and Egyptians.* While **the exiles from Judea** were still living in Babylon *under the authority of the cruel Babylonian leaders.* They were also *surrounded by the temples of the Babylonian gods.* In that environment one phrase in the **Story of Day Seven** would have immediately caught every one's attention:

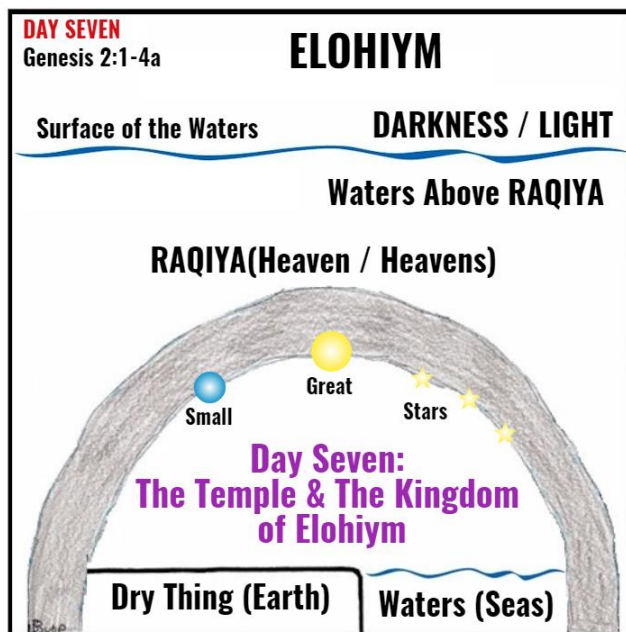
*“ . . . and **elohiym rested on Day Seven** . . . ”*

A reader from the ancient world would know immediately what that meant.

- **Elohiym Now Had A Temple** -- *Temples were built for only one thing – to be the place where a god rested. A god could only rest in its temple when its construction was finished.*
- **Elohiym Now Had A Kingdom** – *When a god rested it signaled that the god was taking command and mounting to his throne to assume his rightful place and his proper role.*

THE BIBLE'S WISDOM OF THE BEGINNINGS

- **A Place Now Existed For People to Honor Elohiym and Hear His Wisdom** -- *The completed temple became the place where people gathered at designated time to worship and honor the god.*



Four of the **Ten Commandments** in Exodus 20 (vv. 3, 7, 8-11, and 12) are directly linked to this story:

- *You shall have no other **elohiym** before Me.*
- *You shall not take the name of . . . your **elohiym** in vain.*
- *You shall remember the Shabbat . . . For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested Day Seven . . . and blessed the Shabbat day and hallowed it.*
- *Honor your father and your mother.*

Jesus was clearly well acquainted with this story. His parable about the **Great Day of Judgment** (Matthew 25:34) has a direct reference to it.

“Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

Over the next few weeks, **BHC PACKS Saturday's Wisdom** will provide much more information about **Day Seven**. Today, I would close this email by inviting you do something ancient hearers of this story would have done on this day -- read the entire **Story of the Creation of Elohiym's Temple**. It only takes a few minutes.