

Native New Day 20



What God Has Asked Us to Remember

Almost 200 years ago there lived an Alaskan Native Eskimo by the name of Maniilaq who was regarded as a prophet. He lived years before the white missionar-

ies reached the northern routes to his country with the good news of the Bible. These missionaries found God had already spoken to the people of that country through Maniilaq.

To the surprise of his people, he predicted many things that came to pass. For example, he prophesied that their home of Ambler, Alaska, would someday become a large town. This later happened in 1975 when copper was discovered and Ambler became a booming mining town.

He foretold new developments such as motorboats and airplanes that would fly in the sky for transportation. These were things that people in his day never imagined could happen.

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Maniilaq also predicted many spiritual things that would take place, like the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven. He foretold it would be more glorious than even the great lighted displays of the aurora borealis, or northern lights. Maniilaq was deeply respected by all his people. One of the things he was respected for was his reverence for the holy day that God

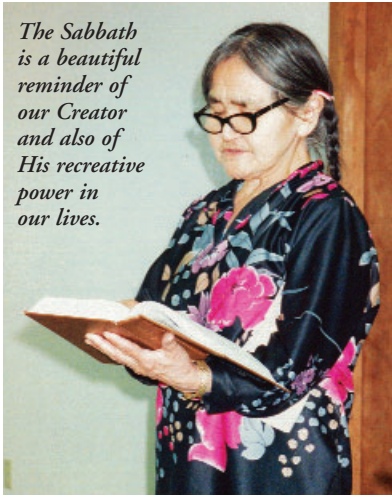
instructed him should be “remembered.” On the “seventh day” each week, he refrained from his secular labors and pleasures to celebrate God’s blessings and promises. It was a day of healing and rest for Maniilaq.

When traveling up and down the Kobuk River on trading trips, it was Maniilaq’s custom to stop on the seventh-day Sabbath and camp along the shore to rest and meditate. People who went by in their boats could see him sitting on the riverbank between two poles he had erected with white flags on the top. On the ground between the poles he sat beating his drum in rhythm to spiritual songs that he composed and sang. To Maniilaq the seventh day was a day of meditation, prayer, and remembering God’s power of creation.

Source: *Maniilaq the Eskimo Prophet*. LLT Productions, 1998, Angwin, CA.

The seventh-day Sabbath was observed by many Native people of his country many years before white missionaries came and showed this to be one of the teachings of the Bible. The missionaries taught that they were to “remember” the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days they were to work, but the seventh day was the day they were to cease their work and remember to keep it holy (Exodus 20:8-11).

On a regular basis God wants us today to remember where our strength and help come from. When we don’t forget this, we are



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more encouraged to turn to God for all our daily needs. We will find strength for times of trouble and answers to life's deeper questions. By observing the Sabbath the way God has asked us to do, we will be more open to the work of the Holy Spirit. As a result God is able to better prepare us for citizenship in the new earth which He has promised to give us soon. God sees that we need this special time with Him in order to do this.

It is wonderful to know that God revealed His plan to our forefathers like Maniilaq, even before the printed page of the Holy Scriptures reached us.



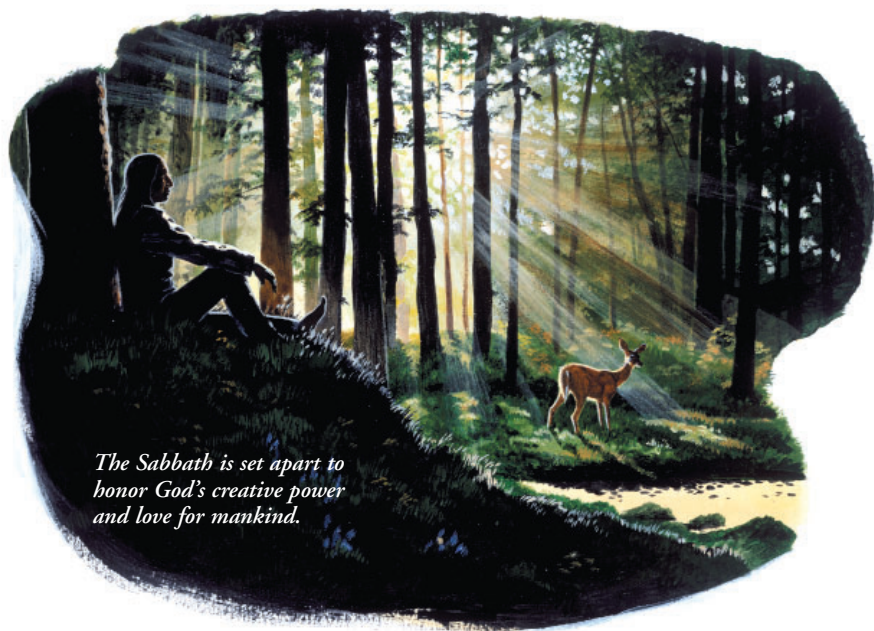
Rest is needed from physical work. We also need a “time-out,” to allow God to realign our lives spiritually.

Key Thought. “Rest” is a word we all understand. Rest is something we need after a day of hard work. It’s important for us to have time for physical rest. We also need spiritual rest, “a time out” when we can spend extra time turning our thoughts to spiritual things. Observing God’s Sabbath day allows God to weekly realign our lives spiritually as the Great Spirit prepares us for His eternal kingdom. This activity can be strengthened by joining other believers in formal or informal worship each Sabbath. It is part of God’s plan for those who desire to follow Jesus. (See Hebrews 10:25.)

BIBLE ANSWERS

1. When was the Sabbath first given to us? Genesis 2:1-3. (Circle one.) (1) At Creation. (2) At Moses' time. (3) During New Testament times. *(All quotations from the Bible in these lessons are taken from the New King James Version (NKJV) unless otherwise noted.)*

Note. After God created the world in six days, He set aside the seventh-day Sabbath at the close of the Creation week. God knew when He created man that we would need this regular time off each week for spiritual renewal. He knew that in our busy life of making a living it would be easy to overlook and forget important spiritual facts of life. The command to keep the seventh day of the week holy was given right at the beginning of time, long before the time of Moses and the writing of the Ten Commandments on tables of stone.



The Sabbath is set apart to honor God's creative power and love for mankind.

2. Which day of the week is the Sabbath? Exodus 20:10. “The _____ day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God.”

Note. God felt that it is so important to observe the Sabbath that He placed it right in the heart of the Ten Commandments. This fourth commandment tells us that we are to keep holy the seventh day of each week. We are to recognize it as a special time set aside by God for our spiritual growth.

On the calendar, the seventh day of the week is Saturday. Often people ask if we can trust our calendar. How accurate is it? Can we know which day of the week is the seventh day? Yes. The weekly cycle has not been lost track of since God instituted it when He created our world. (See Genesis 1:1 to 2:3.) We know this because the weekly cycle in all calendars is kept track of by the

regular systematic movement of the stars and planets that circulate around the earth. Though adjustments have been made to the calendar in the past, the weekly cycle has always been preserved. We can trust our calendars today.

3. What did God do to the seventh day to make it so special? Genesis 2:3. “Then God _____ the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He _____ from all His work.”





The Creator set aside the seventh-day Sabbath at the close of creation week.

Note. The Bible says God “blessed” the Sabbath or placed special significance on this day of the week and “sanctified it,” which means He set it apart for a holy purpose. He then “rested” on it. By His example God set the Sabbath apart to be continually observed in honor of His creative power and love for mankind.

By worshiping on the Sabbath we show that we remember that God is the source of all creation. He “created” us. We didn’t evolve from apes or tadpoles. It’s through God that everything about us has its beginning (Genesis 1:1).

It is true worship to remember our Creator as the strength and the source from which our every heartbeat and breath comes today. Likewise, He is our help in trouble. Only from Him comes the power to change our hearts, minds, and bodies to be better people.





The Sabbath reminds us that God is the source of all creation. That He is responsible for our every breath and heartbeat.

4. How did Jesus keep the seventh day holy? Luke 4:16. (*Circle one.*) (1) Worshiped. (2) Read Scripture. (3) Both of these.

Note. In this Scripture we find the example that Jesus gave when on the earth. Jesus went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day to worship as “His custom was.” A custom is something you do all the time on a regular basis.

The Bible mentions more than a dozen instances of Paul’s custom of keeping the Sabbath day holy.

5. Did Jesus want His followers to keep the Sabbath after His death and resurrection? Matthew 24:15-20; Acts 17:2. (*Circle one.*) (1) Yes. (2) No.

Note. Jesus expected His followers to be keeping the Sabbath day holy even after Jerusalem would be destroyed (Matthew 24:15-20). The destruction of Jerusalem happened about 40 years after Jesus’ resurrection and His return to heaven.

The Bible mentions more than a dozen instances of the apostle Paul’s custom of keeping the Sabbath day holy.

6. Some say we are to keep Sunday holy as the Sabbath day in honor of Jesus’ resurrection, but what ordinance did Jesus give us to remind us of His resurrection? Romans 6:3-5. (*Circle one.*) (1) The Lord’s Supper (2) Water baptism.

Note. In Romans 6:3-5 the Bible teaches that the ordinance of baptism is a memorial of Christ's resurrection. When we are baptized we show our belief in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection for us personally. We also believe the power that raised Jesus from the dead is the same power that will help us live righteously today (Philippians 3:10). Sunday observance is never taught in Scripture. It is never presented in Scripture as a God-given memorial of Christ's resurrection.

A "memorial" is something designed to preserve the memory of an idea, a person, or an event. God's eternal memorial is the Sabbath day, always reminding us of His great power of creation and re-creation (compare Exodus 20:8-11). The Bible says that this memorial is to continue throughout all generations. Scripture tells of no change in the day of worship after Christ's resurrection.

7. In God's plans for heaven and the new earth, on what day will everyone come before God in worship? Isaiah 66:22-23. "The new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me," says

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The Sabbath memorial continues through all generations, even in the earth made new, a land with no fences (Isaiah 66:22–23).

the Lord, . . . ‘And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, And from one _____ to another, All flesh shall come to worship before Me.’ ”

Note. Not only was the Sabbath kept at Creation and repeatedly taught throughout the Old Testament, but we find that it was also a strong teaching of Jesus and His disciples throughout the New Testament.

God made the Sabbath a memorial of His creation of this earth in the beginning, and when He recreates this old earth “new,” the Sabbath (the memorial of His creative power) will remain. His faithful children will continue to abide by the principles of His eternal law throughout eternity (1 John 5:2-3; Exodus 20:8-11).

Closing Thought. Today many Native people from different nations across North America follow a unique custom. When hunters kill a deer, a moose, or an elk, many of them will pause after the death of the animal and offer a prayer of thanksgiving to the Creator for the gift of life that has been given to sustain them.

When asked why many Native people follow this custom, the reply is, “This is a custom we keep so that we never forget where our food comes from and who watches over us day by day.”



When God recreates the earth, the Sabbath will remain as the memorial of His creative power.

To many Christian Native hunters this custom is also a reminder. It reminds them that a long time ago the God of heaven, Jesus Christ, gave His life so that we today and in the future will not have to die eternally. Because of His gift of life we are guaranteed life without end.

Today thousands of people have found the seventh-day Sabbath to be not only a correct Bible teaching but also a source of incredible blessing to their own lives and the lives of their children. Today many are returning to the great principles and memorials that God our



Many are returning to the great principles and memorials that the Creator has asked us to remember.

Creator gave to us, long ago, principles He asks us to “remember.” God knows we need time and customs that will help us remember the important facts of life. Won’t you pray about this matter? God invites you today to come and worship Him every seventh day of the week.

Next Lesson. Have you ever wondered where Sunday-keeping or first-day worship came from? Why do some claim that seventh-day Sabbath observance was changed to the first day of the week? This is the subject of our next lesson.



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