



## The Weekly Sabbath

### Leviticus 23:1-3

#### **Characteristics:**

1. Regular on the 7<sup>th</sup> Day
2. Rest – limited distractions
3. Weekly gathering for worship (Convocation)
4. For everyone (not optional)
5. Reminder of Creation (Exodus 20:11)
6. Reminder of responsibility (Genesis 2:2)
7. Relationship building

#### **Lessons:**

1. We should never be far from worship
2. We should remain faithful in worship
3. We should remain aware of our relationship

## Shabbat

*Main article: [Shabbat](#)*

Jewish *Shabbat* (*Shabbath*, *Shabbes*, *Shobos*, etc.) is a weekly day of rest, observed from sundown on Friday until the appearance of three stars in the sky on Saturday night; it is also observed by a minority of Christians (as in [Messianic Judaism](#)). [Thirty-nine activities prohibited on Shabbat](#) are listed in Tractate *Shabbat* (*Talmud*). Customarily, *Shabbat* is ushered in by lighting [candles](#) shortly before sunset, at [halakhically](#) calculated times that change weekly and geographically. [Judah ha-Levi](#) (12th century) proposed a nascent Jewish [date line](#) for dating of *Shabbat*, later calculated to fall between [China](#) and [Japan](#) (other lines exist, and travelers are expected to note both personal and local *Shabbat*); and [Pinchas Elijah Horovitz](#) (18th century) stated that polar regions should observe *Shabbat* based on calculating 24-hour days, although without establishing a date line. *Shabbat* is a widely noted hallmark of Jewish peoples. [Subbotniks](#) (literally, Sabbatarians) are a Russian sect, categorized as either Jews or [Judaizing](#) Christians, that became particularly branded by strict *Shabbat* observance; (Hungarian-born [Reform](#) rabbi Ignaz Einhorn even culturally shifted his congregation's *Shabbat* worship to Sundays.) Several weekly *Shabbats* per year are designated as [Special Sabbaths](#), such as *Shabbat haGadol*, prior to [Pesach](#) (literally, "the High Sabbath", but not to be confused with other [High Sabbaths](#)); and *Shabbat Teshuvah*, prior to [Yom Kippur](#) ("Repentance Sabbath"). It should be pointed out that true Sabbath can not be observed on the pagan solar calendar in use today because true Sabbath fell on a Hebrew Lunar calendar of 13 months with exactly four weeks each month.