



**Sabbath Blessing: Part Three**  
**“Festival of Freedom”**  
Deuteronomy 5:12-15

**The Deuteronomy Variations** (see reverse side)

Context of Deuteronomy

“Second Law”

About to enter the promised land and warning of dangers ahead with instructions

**Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now**, Walter Brueggemann

The particular danger of plenty: Deuteronomy 6:10-12

Remember! Deut 7:18, 8:18, 16:3, 16:12, 24:18, 24:22

Greed and exploitation, production and consumption, competition, oppression

Turning from YHWH culture back to Pharaoh culture

**The Coercive Culture of Pharaoh and the Covenant Culture of YHWH**

<b>Exploit:</b> <i>Let us deal shrewdly with them:</i> Ex 1:10	<b>Love:</b> <i>The Lord is merciful:</i> Deut 4:31
<b>Oppress:</b> <i>Afflict them with heavy burdens:</i> Ex 1:11	<b>Bless:</b> <i>He will love, bless, multiply you:</i> Deut 7:12-15
<b>Scarcity:</b> <i>Store cities for Pharaoh:</i> Ex 1:11	<b>Abundance:</b> <i>Flowing with milk and honey:</i> Deut 11:8-15
<b>Fear:</b> <i>Egyptians were in dread:</i> Ex 1:12	<b>Security:</b> <i>You shall not be afraid of them:</i> Deut 7:17-19
<b>Coercion:</b> <i>Ruthless work &amp; slavery:</i> Ex 1:13-14	<b>Freedom:</b> <i>7 year release of debts &amp; slaves:</i> Deut 15:1-15
<b>Death:</b> <i>Kill the Hebrew baby boys:</i> Ex 1:22	<b>Life:</b> <i>You shall not murder:</i> Deut 5:17

**Sabbath Practice as Value Clarification and Muscle Practice**

Sabbath practice is the embodied antithesis (resistance) to Pharaoh culture

An egalitarian identity: “as well as you” (the slave, the immigrant, the widow, the poor)

Under a benevolent Ruler is in control Who will care for us

Who provides what we all need while He provides rest for all

We live in an abundance, as opposed to a scarcity, context

Set free from anxiety or self-protective competition, we are free for neighbor’s good

Democracy built on individual rights will collapse for failure of advocating for common good

Sabbath practice is a festival of freedom from anything that controls and diminishes life

## **EXODUS 20:8-11**

**8** "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

**9** Six days you shall labor, and do all your work,

**10** but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant,

or your livestock,

or the sojourner who is within your gates.

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**11** For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day.

Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

## **DEUTERONOMY 5:12-15**

**12** "Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you.

**13** Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

**14** but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant,

or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock,

or the sojourner who is within your gates,

that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you.

**15** You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.

Therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

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A Sabbath Bibliography: ***Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now***, Walter Brueggemann; ***The Sabbath***, Abraham Joshua Heschel; ***Sacred Attunement: a Jewish Theology***, Michael Fishbane; ***Sacred Rhythms***, Ruth Haley Barton; ***Sabbath***, Wayne Muller; ***Mudhouse Sabbath***, Lauren Winner