



[Genesis 2:1-3](#)

(1) Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. (2) And by *the beginning* of the seventh day God finished His work which He had made. And He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made. (3) And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it because on it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

A Faithful Version

Because the [Sabbath](#) is from creation—and the Creator Himself set the pattern for man by resting on it—it has universal validity. It is not from one of the patriarchs or [Moses](#) or from the Jews because none of these existed when it was created. The Bible shows three times in two verses that [God](#) very clearly inspired *the* seventh day, not a seventh day.

God could have ended His creative work at the end of the sixth day because it seemed at that point as though He had provided everything man needed for life. But He did not complete it then because all man needed was *not* yet created! The Sabbath is, in fact, THE VERY CROWN of the creation week. It is vital to man's well-being. So God created a period of rest and holy time—a very specific period, as the context shows.

God draws our attention to four things He did on that first Sabbath. He (1) ended His work, (2) rested, (3) blessed the seventh day, and (4) sanctified it. He created something just as surely as He created physical things on the other six days. He is instructing us that, on the Sabbath, creation continued but in a different form, one not outwardly visible. To those with understanding, the Sabbath symbolizes that God is *still* creating. [Jesus](#) confirms this in [John 5:17](#), when a dispute arises over how to keep the Sabbath. He replies, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."

The Sabbath is an integral part of the process of creation. God finished the physical part at the end of the sixth day. The spiritual aspect began with the creation of the Sabbath and continues to this day. Through the sequence of events on the first six days, God

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Genesis 2:1-3 (<http://www.theberean.org>) created an environment for man and life. But God shows through the creation of the Sabbath that the life-producing process is not complete with just the physical environment. The Sabbath provides an important part in producing spiritual life—life with a dimension the physical cannot supply.

The Sabbath is not an afterthought of a tremendous creation, but a deliberate memorializing of the most enduring thing man knows: time. Time plays a key role in God's spiritual creation. It is as if God says, "Look at what I have made and consider that I am not yet finished creating. I am reproducing Myself, and you can be a part of My spiritual creation."

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[The Fourth Commandment \(Part One\) \(1997\)](#)

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