

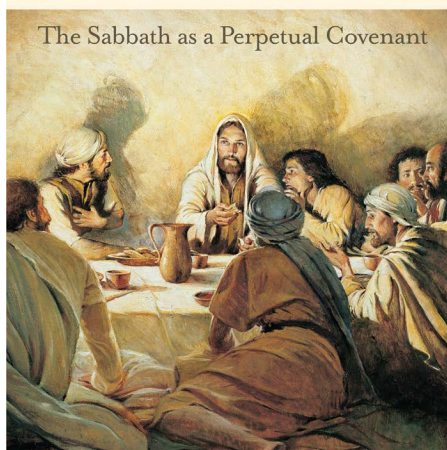
NEW FROM THE RELIGIOUS STUDIES CENTER

SACRED TIME

The Sabbath as a Perpetual Covenant

SACRED TIME

The Sabbath as a Perpetual Covenant



Edited by Gaye Strathearn

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

GAYE STRATHEARN is an associate dean of Religious Education at BYU. She is also a professor in the Department of Ancient Scripture and in the Ancient Near East Studies program. She has taught at BYU since 1995, including a year at BYU's Jerusalem Center for Near Eastern Studies. Dr. Strathearn received her bachelor of physiotherapy from the University of Queensland in Australia, a BA and an MA in Near Eastern studies from BYU, and a PhD in religion (New Testament) from the Claremont Graduate University. Her research centers primarily on New Testament topics, especially those of interest to Latter-day Saints.

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PROVO, UTAH, AND SALT LAKE CITY—Time: sixty seconds in a minute, sixty minutes in an hour, twenty-four hours in a day, seven days in a week. Time is a precious commodity. For many religious people there is also the desire to include sacred time—often by following the commandment to keep the Sabbath day holy.

During this “sacred time,” individuals and communities can intentionally set apart moments that transcend the hustle and bustle demanded by our busy mortal lives. But how can a person really live this commandment to keep the Sabbath day holy when our modern world is so different from the commandment’s original context with Moses on Mount Sinai?

This volume’s essays, carefully curated, explore the Sabbath throughout time—from both the Old and New Testaments, the post-New Testament Christian Church during the second through the fourth centuries, rabbinic teachings, and modern efforts to keep the Sabbath relevant, including the Restoration and other Christian and Jewish efforts. They offer historical connections to Christian and Jewish predecessors, offering potential solutions that can help us access the

renewing, peace-giving power available through the observation of sacred time.

This collection of essays is designed to help modern Latter-day Saint readers better understand how the Sabbath day was understood and practiced by Jews and Christians throughout the centuries leading up to and including the modern day. While the specific cultural and economic circumstances that modern Saints face are different from those in the ancient world, the chapters in this book argue that there is still a sense of shared experience. Latter-day Saints, along with other Christians and Jews, also face the challenge of determining what constitutes work in their modern context and of discovering ways to find meaning in the Sabbath day.

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DETAILS

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