

The Seventh Day: A Day of Rest

Genesis 2:1-3 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. ² And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. ³ Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

Everything that we do must have an end point. Even tasks that we do over and over and over end before we start them over again. Creation worked the same way. Gods work of bringing the world and all that is in it into being had a point of conclusion. This was on the seventh day. For the next few weeks we will look at the seventh day and what implications it has on us and our worship of God.

I. God finished His work

Finished - כָּלָה , calah – Pual – **be complete, at an end, finished, accomplished, spent**

The significance of a *pual* is that it is a passive intensive. In this case the heavens and the earth **were finished**. There was nothing left to be done. There was no unfinished steps. There was nothing that God missed. The whole of creation was done.

-- **Qal 1. a.** *be complete, at an end*, of a period of time; so of action or event, with emphasis on time; vid. also **2 b** infr. **b.** *be completed, finished*, of a work: temple, tabernacle. **c.** *be accomplished, fulfilled*, only of purposed wrath, or prediction of **"**. **d.** *be ideally complete, be determined*, always in bad sense, *plotted*, subj. הִרְעָה : sq. מַעַם of agent; sq. מֵאֵת of agent. **2. a.** *be spent, used up* (prop. *come to an end*), of water, meal. **b.** *waste away, be exhausted, fail*, lit. of fading grass, of vintage, of vanishing cloud; fig. of fleeting days of life; v. also **1 a** supr.; of flesh; once of **"**'s compassion; esp. of eyes exhausted by weeping, strained by looking (fig.) for relief or refreshment, *fail, languish* (of wild asses): sq. אֵל; sq. לְ in spiritual sense; similarly (sq. לְ) of נִפְשׁ exhausted by *longing*. **c.** *come to an end, vanish = perish, be destroyed*, by **"**'s judgment; hyperbol., of severe discipline; of prosperity of a people. **Pi. 1. a.** *complete, bring to an end, finish* a thing task, work, etc., c. acc. rei (+ inf.); acc. om. **b.** *complete* a period of time; *complete* one's days, enjoy the full measure of human life, or *bring one's years to an end*, with added idea of transitoriness. **c.** *finish* doing a thing, usu. sq. לְ inf., where obj. of infin. precedes it; (לְ inf. om.; opp. הִחֵל לְ); (inf. without לְ; but see **Qal 2 c** ad fin.); sq. מִן inf. **d.** *make an end, end*, sq. בְּ *make an end with*, finish dealing with; abs., opp. הִחֵל, *began*; so inf. abs. adverb. הִחֵל וְכֵלָה *a beginning and an ending*, i.e. doing it thoroughly; also עַד-כֵּלָה = *utterly, to extremity* (of **"**'s anger), עַד-לְכֵלָה = *completely (until all had given), (until all were destroyed)*. **e.** *accomplish, fulfil, bring to pass*, a thing; c. acc. of **"**'s wrath (חֲמָתוֹ); so (אֲפִי, חֲמָתִי) + בּ pers. **f.** *accomplish* in thought, *determine* (cf. **Qal 1 d**) sq. רָעָה. **2. a.** *put an end to, cause to cease*. **b.** *cause to fail*,

exhaust, use up, spend; exhaust one's strength **נָפַח**; the eyes (by weeping; cf. **Qal 2 b**); of a disease, *consume* the eyes. **c. destroy**, sts. *exterminate*: (1) men subj., c. acc. pers. (2) God subj., c. acc. pers. (Assyrian host, under fig. of forest); acc. + **ב** instr. (by sword, famine, and pestilence); sts. the instrument of **י**'s judgment becomes grammat. subj.; subj. **הִחָרַב** (obj. **בְּרֵייו**, of city), subj. flying roll (obj. house). **Pu. Be finished, ended; be completed. (pg 477)**

This word is used 255 times in the OT and a majority of them have the meaning of “destroyed” or “consumed.”

Note the work that was finished:

1. The heavens – this could be the idea of “space” or it could refer to one or all of the three heavens Kevin referred to on days two and four (sky, outer space, dwelling place of God). I personally think it is the second idea, mainly the second and third heavens.
2. The earth – All the matter which was created or the physical earth. Once again I am inclined to think it is the second idea.
3. All the host of them – this statement is a statement of completeness, like “if I failed to mention anything, let me make it clear – everything was done by the seventh day.” All the host of them has the idea of everything which fills the heavens and the earth:
(Stars, planet, comets, etc., birds, air, animals plants, sea creatures, etc.)

II. God ended His work

Ended - **כָּלָה** , calah – Piel.

The significance of a *piel* is a active intensive. It is hard to think of stopping as an active verb, but the point is that God stopped or ended His work. He made a decision that at day seven, it was time to stop.

When God saw his work was done, God was done with His work.

III. God rested from His work

Rested - **שָׁבַת** vb. **cease, desist, rest -- Qal 1. cease**: of seasons; manna. **2. desist** from labour, *rest*

We usually think of rest as the idea of being tired or worn out. However, the Hebrew word here carries the idea of ceasing to do activity. When God rested, He was choosing to cease from creating anything else.

Isaiah 40:28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

Genesis 8:22 "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease."

Deuteronomy 32:26 I would have said, "I will dash them in pieces, I will make the memory of them to cease from among men,"

Joshua 5:12 Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.

Nehemiah 4:11 And our adversaries said, "They will neither know nor see anything, till we come into their midst and kill them and cause the work to cease."

Nehemiah 6:3 So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I *am* doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?"

Job 32:1 So these three men ceased answering Job, because he *was* righteous in his own eyes.

Psalms 46:9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariot in the fire.

Proverbs 18:18 Casting lots causes contentions to cease, And keeps the mighty apart.

1. All His work –

There is the idea of ownership attached to creation. It is all of God's work. He is the Creator and the one who owns all of creation.

Psalms 102:25 Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens *are* the work of Your hands.

Psalms 148:5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Revelation 4:11 "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

2. Which He had done –

Again there is an emphasis on the Lord being the creator. He has made all things and He alone has created.

Isaiah 40:26 Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these *things*, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of *His* power; Not one is missing.

Isaiah 42:5 Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it:

Isaiah 45:12 I have made the earth, And created man on it. I -- My hands -- stretched out the heavens, And all their host I have commanded.

Isaiah 45:18 For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: "I *am* the LORD, and *there is* no other.

Colossians 1:16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

Revelation 10:5-6 The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven ⁶ and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer,

Implications of God's completed work:

1) There is nothing new being created after the seventh day.

There is a finishing point, an end point. After six days God had created everything which he had set out to create. Unlike evolutionary theories, where new things are being formed or evolved, the Bible teaches that God finished and that everything which was created was created in six days.

2) God's plan is perfectly completed (in terms of creation).

- God did not need to create anything else. He completed creating everything which needed to be created.

3) God was satisfied with what he had created.

Genesis 1:31 Then God **saw everything** that He had made, and indeed *it was very good*. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

God reflected on His work the first six days and as he looked back on it, He saw not that it was good, but that it was very good.

Very - מְאֹד , mi'od - **muchness, force, abundance, exceedingly**

4) God's work had a time when it was finished

- God had seen His work, that He accomplished what he set out to accomplish and then stopped working.

Application:

- We worship God because He is the creator.
- We should work until our tasks are finished.