


# Why is it wrong to buy and sell on the Sabbath and Holy Days? And how that compares to the Sabbatical Year . . .

 [sightedmoon.com/why-is-it-wrong-to-buy-and-sell-on-the-sabbath-and-holy-days-and-how-that-compares-to-the-sabbatical-year/](http://sightedmoon.com/why-is-it-wrong-to-buy-and-sell-on-the-sabbath-and-holy-days-and-how-that-compares-to-the-sabbatical-year/)

By Joseph F. Dumond

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3rd day of the 10th month

5849 years after the creation of Adam

The 10th Month in the Fourth year of the third Sabbatical Cycle

The Third Sabbatical Cycle of the 119th Jubilee Cycle

The Sabbatical Cycle of Earthquakes Famines, and Pestilences

December 7, 2013

Shabbat Shalom Brethren,

In this festival of lights season, the season when Satan fools the world into keeping the false light of Chanukah or Christmas which is all to the glory of Satan, we now come to the time when the sun sets early on Friday evening and some of you may still be at work. The weekly Sabbath begins at sunset and ends at sunset Saturday evening.

Here in Southern Ontario sunset is now 4:42 but some of you may still be working until 5 pm. It is once again the time of testing. Will you keep the Sabbath Holy, or will you work on it just a little bit or buy the milk on the way home after the Sabbath has begun? It is a time of testing. The exact same way the manna was used to test the people in the wilderness.

Exo 16:4 Then Jehovah said to Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from the heavens for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain amount every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My Law or not.

The question you need to determine is if you have past the test this week or failed it again.

At Sukkot I showed the brethren one of the first places that the Sabbatical years is mentioned in the bible and it is in direct comparison with the weekly Sabbath in Exodus 23.

Exo 23:10 And you shall sow your land six years, and shall gather in the fruits of it. 11 But the seventh *year* you shall let it rest and let it alone, so that the poor of your people may eat. And what they leave, the animals of the field shall eat. In the same way you shall deal with your vineyard *and* with your olive yard. 12 You shall do your work six days, and on the seventh day you shall rest, so that your ox and your ass may rest, and the son of your handmaid, and the stranger, may be refreshed.

At Sukkot I was showing the brethren that the Sabbatical years were every 7th year the same as the weekly Sabbath is every 7th day, week after week with no added extra days. It is always the 7th day and it is always the 7th year.

But something I had not realized was WHY? Why was Yehovah comparing the weekly Sabbath to the Sabbatical years?

Then while reading an article by Alex Fox written on 11/26/2013 · <http://putoff.org/why-is-it-wrong-to-buy-and-sell-on-the-sabbath-and-holy-days/>

He said some things that caused me to rethink the Sabbath and Sabbatical years once again. I shared it with him and he has included them in this rewritten article.

Let's get right into scripture:

“And the rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the Nethinim, and all those who had separated themselves from the peoples of the lands unto the Torah of Elohim, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, all who had knowledge and understanding, (29) were joining with their brothers, their nobles, and **were entering into a curse and into an oath to walk in the Torah of Elohim**, which was given by Mosheh the servant of Elohim, and to **guard and do all the commands of ??? our Master, and His right-rulings and His laws**, (30) and that we would not give our daughters as wives to the peoples of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons, (31) and that if the peoples of the land bring **wares or any grain to sell** on the Sabbath day, we would not **buy** it from them on the **Sabbath**, or on a **setapart day**, and we would forego the seventh year and the interest of every hand.”  
(Nehemiah 10:28-31)

The above passage, along with Nehemiah 13:15-21, are very clear passages that show, at minimum, that there is something about buying and selling on the Sabbath day that Judah believed was wrong.

Now, the question is, **why** did they believe that buying and selling were things that they could not do? We can look through the whole Torah (first 5 books of the Bible) and not find anything that specifically addresses buying or selling on the Sabbath. Yet, in verse 29, we see that they are talking about entering into an oath, or a vow, to walk in the Torah. Then, they listed three things that they were going to change:

They would no longer intermarry with nations that YHWH had forbidden for marriage  
They would no longer buy nor sell anything on the Sabbath (note: the word for “wares” is literally related to “buying” in the sense that it means **anything that can be bought**) They would obey the commands for the Sabbatical years.

Proving the first and third items are pretty easy: Intermarriage is covered in the following verses: Exodus 34:12-16, Deuteronomy 7:1-5, Deuteronomy 23:2-4. Basically, it was forbidden to intermarry with the Ammonites and Moabites, and even the children of those marriages down to the tenth generation were prohibited from coming into Israel. That is why they had to be removed from Israel in Nehemiah 13 and Ezra 9-10. Those nations were **specifically** prohibited from being intermarried with.

The Sabbatical year requirements are also very clearly laid out in the Law in several places: Exodus 23:10-11, Leviticus 25:1-7, Deuteronomy 15:1-6. As an aside, this is a subject that we need to learn more about today. One website with a lot of info on the subject of figuring out when the Sabbatical years actually are today is Joseph Dumond's site, [https://sightedmoon.com/sightedmoon\\_2015](https://sightedmoon.com/sightedmoon_2015). I recommend his book on Sabbatical years. It is very inexpensive in PDF form.

### So, why is it wrong to buy or sell on the Sabbath?

Let's look a little more closely at some of the Hebrew words used in Nehemiah 10:30. They are:

1. **ware (maqqachah – #4728)** “From H3947; something **received**, that is, **merchandise** (purchased):—ware.” Note that “maqqachah” comes directly from 3947, the word in the same verse used for “buy!”
2. **buy (laqach – #3947)** “A primitive root; to **take** (in the widest variety of applications):— accept, bring, buy, carry away, drawn, fetch, get, infold, X many, mingle, place, receive (-ing), reserve, seize, send for, take (away, -ing, up), use, win.” This is literally the action of taking something from another person. In context with merchandise (ware), it is specifically to **buy** something — anything!
3. **sell (makar – #4376)** “A primitive root; to **sell**, literally (as merchandise, a daughter in marriage, into slavery), or figuratively (to **surrender**):— X at all, sell (away, -er, self).”

Buying and selling, also known as **trading**, is where we need to start, to figure out the answer to this question. If we look at any dictionary definition of trading, or perhaps Wikipedia, we can see that trading is a type of commerce.

“**Trade**, also called goods exchange economy, is the transfer the ownership of goods from one person or entity to another by getting something in exchange from the buyer.”

“Retail trade consists of the sale of goods or merchandise from a very fixed location, such as a department store, boutique or kiosk, or by mail, in small or individual lots for direct consumption by the purchaser.<sup>[1]</sup> Wholesale trade is defined as the sale of goods that are sold merchandise to retailers, to industrial, commercial, institutional, or other professional business users, or to other wholesalers and related subordinated services. <sup>[2]</sup>”

(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trade>)

More specifically, buying and selling can be related to **sales**.

“A **sale** is the act of selling a product or service in return for money or other compensation.<sup>[1]</sup> Signalling completion of the prospective stage, it is the beginning of an *engagement* between *customer and vendor* or the extension of that engagement.” (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sales>, *emphasis added*)

“The **seller** or **salesperson** – the provider of the goods or services – completes a sale in response to an acquisition or to an appropriation<sup>[citation needed]</sup> or to a request. There follows the passing of title (property or ownership) in the item, and the application and due settlement of a price, the *obligation* for which arises due to the seller’s requirement to pass ownership. Ideally, a seller agrees upon a price at which he willingly parts with ownership of or any claim upon the item. The purchaser, *though a party to the sale*, does not execute the sale, only the seller does that. To be precise the sale completes prior to the payment and *gives rise to the obligation of payment*. If the seller completes the first two above stages (consent and passing ownership) of the sale prior to settlement of the price, the sale remains valid and gives rise to an obligation to pay.” (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sales>, *emphasis added*)

These are some very basically understood concepts about buying and selling. Note above that “goods or **services**” are what are actually being **sold**. Let’s dive into this a little more:

“In economics, **goods and services** are the outcome of *human efforts to meet the wants and needs of people*. Economic output is divided into physical **goods** and intangible **services**. Goods are items that can be seen and touched, such as books, pens, salt, shoes, hats, and folders. Services are provided by other people, such as doctors, lawn care workers, dentists, barbers and waiters. Consumption of goods and services is assumed to provide utility(satisfaction) to the consumer.” ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goods\\_and\\_services](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goods_and_services), *emphasis added*)

None of this should really be rocket science or “wow!” moments for anyone. This is all common sense; trading, bartering, sales: the same thing that has happened in human culture for thousands of years. There is a provider (the seller) and the consumer (the buyer). **The provider is the one that provides the goods or service to the consumer, who has paid for those goods or services.**

Let’s put that in biblical terms: In sales, **the consumer is the master**, and **the provider is the servant**. After all, if you are dissatisfied with the product you have purchased, do you not typically have the right to refuse payment? Or to return the item and get your money back? You are the master, when you are the customer.

There is a very common phrase in sales: **The customer is always right**. This is because the customer is the **master** in the sales master-servant relationship. When the **master** has given a directive to do something, the **servant** is obligated to obey that directive, unless it will cause them undue harm or loss. Even then, sometimes the master wins out, in the servant’s desire to please. ***This should ring a few bells, for we are literally bought-and-paid-for servants of our Father, and we have each made sacrifices in our lives to obey His instructions.***

Biblically speaking, many people automatically think of slavery or “ownership” when they think of “servants.” Most people think that “ownership” is not something that really exists in today’s culture. However, that is really not the case. We might not call it “ownership” today when we have a business relationship with someone, but there are certain penalties that can happen when one does not live up to their side of the master-servant relationship, even today. They can even include jail!

Let’s ask a “modern” question: If you decided to stop paying your home mortgage and continued to live there, then **refused to leave when evicted**, what would happen to you? You would be thrown in jail. What would happen to your house? It would be lost back to the bank, would it not? The bank has provided a service, and you haven’t paid. They are the master of you, because you owe them. This is very similar to a biblical situation:

“And that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred pieces of money. And he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ (29) “Then his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I shall pay you all.’ (30) “But he would not, and went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt.” (Matthew 18:28-30)

While the larger context of this passage clearly shows this servant’s lack of appreciation of the blessing of his Master removing his debt, and a lack of compassion for his fellow servant... the point is, **the fellow servant is not owned by the servant that threw him in prison!** Yet, it was still lawful to put that person in prison until he paid the debt (even though the first servant should have forgiven the debt instead). This is the same case that exists today in a masterservant relationship. **Once money is owed for a service or product rendered, that money must be paid or there are consequences that happen.** As usual, there is nothing new under the sun.

If this hasn’t quite clicked for you yet, let’s make this very clear. **It is wrong to buy and sell on the Sabbath and Holy Days because buying and selling is a master-servant relationship.**

Let’s prove this a little further. In Exodus 20:10, we know that we are not to work, nor our manservant, maidservant, animal, or even the stranger within our gates (obviously not your servant). The word for manservant is **ebed** (#5650). The root of ebed is **abad**(#5647). Now, that might look familiar to some of you, because abad is the root word of abodah (#5656), which is the word used in Leviticus 23 for all the Holy Days except Sabbath and Atonement, as “servile.” It means work done by a servant.

Look at the definition for **abad** (#5647): “A primitive root; to **work** (in any sense); by implication to **serve, till**, (causatively) **enslave**, etc.:— X be, keep in bondage, be bondmen, bond-service, compel, do, dress, ear, execute, + husbandman, keep, labour (-ing man), bring to pass, (cause to, make to) serve (-ing, self), (be, become) servant (-s), do (use) service, till (-er), transgress [from margin], (set a) work, be wrought, worshipper.”

This word is translated as “serve” more than any other meaning, 227 times in the KJV. But, does ebed (or its root, abad) exclusively connote an **owned** servant giving that service? No!

In fact, Jacob called himself a “servant” (ebed) to Esau, as a measure of respect and submission: “And he lifted his eyes and saw the women and children, and said, “Who are these with you?” And he said, “The children with whom Elohim has favoured your **servant** [ebed].” (Genesis 33:5)

Did Esau **own** Jacob? Obviously not.

All of this is to point out that the 4th commandment’s prohibition of having male or female servants work for you is **not isolated to a relationship where you “own” that person**. Of course, if you just read the rest of the 4th commandment, it even mentions the “stranger within your gate,” which is clearly not someone you own.

**Buying and selling, very simply, is a master-servant relationship, where goods or services are paid for and received.** To do this on the Sabbath Day or on a Holy Day, where having servants work for us is clearly prohibited, is to profane the Sabbath by disobeying YHWH’s direct instructions.

It has nothing to do with **what** is being bought or sold, nothing to do with **how much** is being bought or sold, and nothing to do with whether Nehemiah was dealing with a “going to the market day” type of situation, as many of the COGs like to claim. Buying and selling **anything** on a Sabbath or Holy Day is wrong, because having a servant work for you on the Sabbath is wrong. We are supposed to **remember** that we came out of Egypt and we should desire the same for anyone that would “serve” us, as well!

“**And you shall remember that you were a slave** in the land of Mitsrayim [Egypt], and that  
???? your Elohim brought you out from there by a strong hand and by an outstretched arm.

Therefore

???? your Elohim commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.” (Deuteronomy 5:15)

There are no degrees of “buying and selling.” This is exactly the same as with the seventh commandment — there is no “degree” of adultery that is OK.

Interestingly, **this example in the book of Nehemiah is proof that some of YHWH’s people DID understand some of the magnified intent of at least some of the Law**, before the Messiah came and explained more about murder and adultery in Matthew 5.

**[Update 11-28-2013 – Added below section with connection to sabbatical years from feedback from Joseph Dumond]**

The really amazing part about all of this master-servant relationship understanding with buying and selling on the Sabbath is that it also is completely connected back to the Sabbatical years! **Remember, out of three things Judah specifically listed that they were going to change, TWO of them have to do with no longer profaning the Sabbath** (weekly and seventh-yearly), and it turns out that both of the two are **related!** Take a look at one of the things that was commanded to be done **every seventh year**:

“When you buy a Hebrew servant, he serves six years, **and in the seventh he goes out free, for naught.**” (Exodus 21:2)

“At the end of every seven years you make a **release of debts.** (2) “And this is the word of the release: Every creditor is to release what he has loaned to his neighbour, **he does not require it of his neighbour or his brother,** because it is called the release of ????”

(3) “Of a foreigner you could require it, but your hand is to release whatever is owed by your brother. (4) “**Only, there should be no poor among you.** For ???? does **greatly bless you** in the land which ???? your Elohim is giving you to possess as an inheritance,” (Deuteronomy 15:1-4)

See how this also ties in with the Sabbath commandment and Deuteronomy 5:15 above? “**And you shall remember that you were a slave...**” We literally, on a weekly basis, are picturing the seventh year as well, when we release all servants from their debts. And, of course, we’re also picturing the seventh millennium, when all mankind will be freed from the influence of Satan when he is placed in the bottomless pit for a thousand years.

YHWH **freed** us from slavery to sin (Egypt), and we’re also to **free** all who would work for us on the seventh day, just like in the seventh year. This is an amazing connection that Joseph Dumond made when he read this article, and I’m so thankful he pointed it out. Everything ties together so beautifully in the Word of our Father. Blessed be the Name of YHWH!

Have a blessed week everyone. May YHWH shine His light upon you and bless, keep, and guard you!

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