GOVERNED BY LAW

What goes up must come down. You will recognize this statement as a formulation of Newton's third law of motion. This and other laws of nature govern the behavior of natural phenomena. The concept of law, then, is endemic to our existence. Protesting the laws of nature does not change the law. Rather, we must conform our lives to live within the sphere of the laws or risk losing our lives altogether. If you ascend to a great height, you had better have a plan for how to descend from said height. Failure to plan for the descent will have life-threatening consequences.

Governments also enact laws to ensure the smooth functioning of society. Human interaction is governed by legislation that facilitates the protection of life and property. Without laws, those who are weaker are disproportionately mistreated, with no redress.

Whereas philosophers like Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau would credit social contract theory for the development of laws governing human interaction, Scripture paints a different picture. According to the Bible, the same God who created nature and instituted the laws of nature also created humanity to live happily only when subject to His divine law governing their nature. Central to the law as articulated in Scripture is the commandment to keep the Sabbath holy, and it is pivotal to a full appreciation of all God’s law.

This week we meditate on the law of God.
Write out Deuteronomy 6:1–9 from the Bible translation of your choice. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/ phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Deuteronomy 6:1–9. Write it out multiple times to help memorization.

What does it mean to meditate on God’s law?

How does the Sabbath commandment incorporate elements of all the other commandments?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sab03-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this week’s passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How would you make the case that Adam and Eve kept all Ten Commandments in the Garden of Eden?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sab03-4
Review your memorized verse from Deuteronomy 6:1–9.

What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Revelation 13:5–7
Psalm 1
Ecclesiastes 12:1, 13, 14
James 2:10, 11
John 5:1–17
Daniel 7:25

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with Deuteronomy 6?
Where do you see Jesus in Deuteronomy 6:1–9?

How does seeing Jesus as a keeper of the law encourage your Christian walk?

What is Jesus saying to you through the main text?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sab03-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what personal applications are you convicted of in your life?

What applications can be made in your school, family, workplace, and church?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/sab03-7
Share insights from this week's memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

What is the connection between spirituality and the law?

In what ways are the laws of nature similar to the laws of God?

How is the Sabbath commandment central within the Ten Commandments?

What are the roles of duty, commitment, and loyalty in spiritual identity and development?

How else can your worldview be filtered through the lens of the law of God?

Why do some have a hard time believing that the Sabbath will be a main issue in the last days?

How is when to keep the Sabbath such an important question?

How has law been mishandled to abuse spiritual development? How can law be restored to its rightful place?