

T 3

Sabbath. There are certain Babylonian tablets which prescribe that on the seventh day the king is not to be given any great work, but on the seventh day the king is to avoid doing anything of importance because ^{the} seventh day is an evil day. Here is a translation of a Babylonian tablet: "The seventh day is the feast of _____, an evil day. The shepherd of the great people shall not eat flesh cooked upon coals or smoked. His garments he shall not change nor put on clean raiment and offering he shall not make. The king shall not ride in a chariot, he shall not speak as a victor. A seer shall not utter an oricle in the secret place, the physician shall not lay his hand on the sick. To utter a curse on that day is not proper. At night the king shall bring his _____ from _____ and pour out a libation. The lifting up of his hand will then be acceptable to his god. These restrictions are on the actions of the king on the seventh, fourteenth, nineteenth, twenty-first and twenty-eighth days; seventh, fourteenth, nineteenth, twenty-first and twenty-eighth days. As you see, how utterly different it is from the Sabbath of the Bible. It is not a day of joy but a day of sorrow. It is not a day of worshiping but a day on which no offering can be made. It is an evil day, a day in which any relation with the god is dangerous. He cannot utter a curse on that day, he cannot make an offering, he can't ride in a chariot, a seer shall not utter an oricle, it is an evil day, and these restrictions are laid down for the king, not for the people as a whole. In examining the contract tablets of which we have many thousands it has been found that so far as there being any cessation of business on the seventh day in ancient Babylon there wasn't anything of slight interest. It had no relation to the common man but this is simply a statement of a taboo for the king, that it is an evil day for him to undertake any venture, the seventh day. Now the number of it is interesting. It is the seventh, fourteenth, nineteenth, twenty-first and twenty-eights, and ^{as} you see the seventh, fourteenth,