

「しるし」としての安息日
(出エジプト記31章12節 - 17節)

鞭木由行

ABSTRACT Yoshi MUCHIKI, “Sabbath as a sign (Ex 31:12-17).” There are six references to the Sabbath in Exodus and twice the sabbath is designate as “a sign” in Exodus 31:13, 17. This sabbath passage is located in the series of the articles on the tabernacle construction and occupies the final and seventh part. This is most likely due to the close relationship between the tabernacle and the sabbath. Both have the same attribute (holy), the same role (worship) and the same purpose (divine sanctification). The tabernacle is a sign that the covenant between God and the people of God was fulfilled in terms of space, and the sabbath, in terms of time. They are in the mutual relationship.

Examining the usage of the Hebrew סִבְעָת and comparing the sabbath with other covenant signs (rainbow and circumcision), I would conclude that the sabbath as a sign represents the whole covenant, and functions as a surety of fulfillment of covenant duty, and outwardly expresses the observance of the covenant. In both the Abrahamic and Mosaic covenant, the sign of covenant is almost interchangeable with the whole covenant. Further, the purpose of the sabbath is the divine sanctification of the people of God. The sabbath seems to intend the establishment of the covenant relationship.