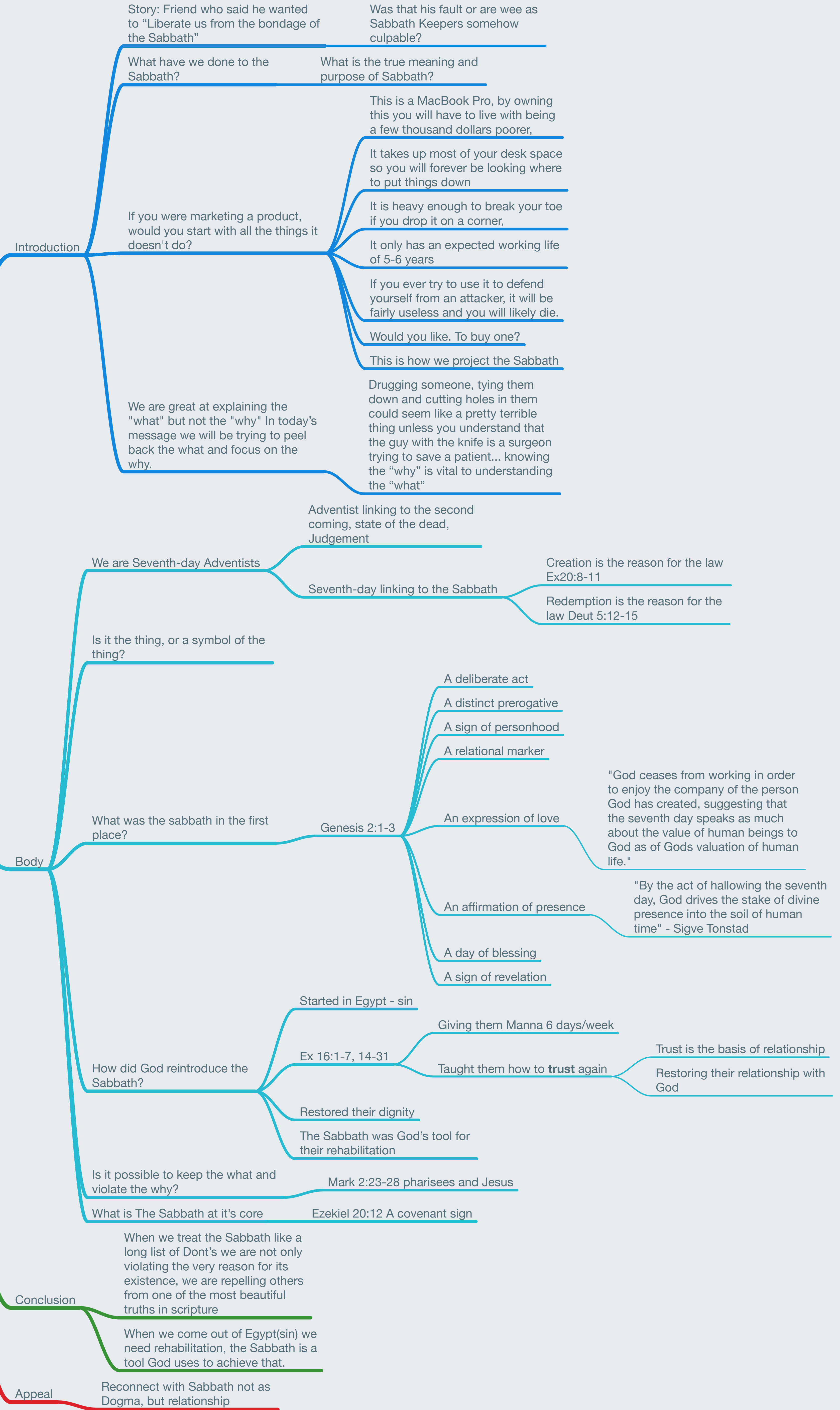


Why the Sabbath?



Story: Friend who said he wanted to "Liberate us from the bondage of the Sabbath"

Was that his fault or are we as Sabbath Keepers somehow culpable?

What have we done to the Sabbath?

What is the true meaning and purpose of Sabbath?

If you were marketing a product, would you start with all the things it doesn't do?

This is a MacBook Pro, by owning this you will have to live with being a few thousand dollars poorer,

It takes up most of your desk space so you will forever be looking where to put things down

It is heavy enough to break your toe if you drop it on a corner,

It only has an expected working life of 5-6 years

If you ever try to use it to defend yourself from an attacker, it will be fairly useless and you will likely die.

Would you like. To buy one?

This is how we project the Sabbath

We are great at explaining the "what" but not the "why" In today's message we will be trying to peel back the what and focus on the why.

Drugging someone, tying them down and cutting holes in them could seem like a pretty terrible thing unless you understand that the guy with the knife is a surgeon trying to save a patient... knowing the "why" is vital to understanding the "what"

Adventist linking to the second coming, state of the dead, Judgement

We are Seventh-day Adventists

Seventh-day linking to the Sabbath

Creation is the reason for the law Ex20:8-11

Redemption is the reason for the law Deut 5:12-15

Is it the thing, or a symbol of the thing?

What was the sabbath in the first place?

Genesis 2:1-3

A deliberate act

A distinct prerogative

A sign of personhood

A relational marker

An expression of love

"God ceases from working in order to enjoy the company of the person God has created, suggesting that the seventh day speaks as much about the value of human beings to God as of Gods valuation of human life."

An affirmation of presence

"By the act of hallowing the seventh day, God drives the stake of divine presence into the soil of human time" - Sigve Tonstad

A day of blessing

A sign of revelation

How did God reintroduce the Sabbath?

Started in Egypt - sin

Ex 16:1-7, 14-31

Giving them Manna 6 days/week

Taught them how to trust again

Trust is the basis of relationship

Restoring their relationship with God

Restored their dignity

The Sabbath was God's tool for their rehabilitation

Is it possible to keep the what and violate the why?

Mark 2:23-28 pharisees and Jesus

What is The Sabbath at it's core

Ezekiel 20:12 A covenant sign

Conclusion

When we treat the Sabbath like a long list of Dont's we are not only violating the very reason for its existence, we are repelling others from one of the most beautiful truths in scripture

When we come out of Egypt(sin) we need rehabilitation, the Sabbath is a tool God uses to achieve that.

Appeal

Reconnect with Sabbath not as Dogma, but relationship