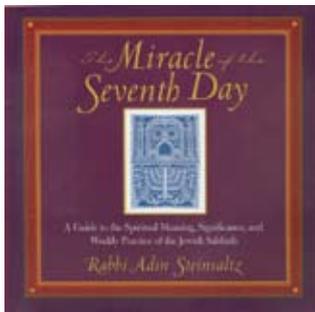


Recent Publications

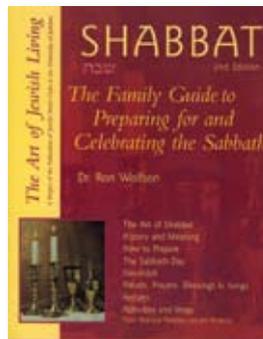


The Miracle of the Seventh Day: A Guide to the Spiritual Meaning, Significance, and Weekly Practice of the Jewish Sabbath

Adin Steinsaltz
Jossey-Bass, 2003
222 pages, \$22.95

Rabbi Steinsaltz provides a useful guide

for the observance of the Shabbat Seder in his *Miracle of the Seventh Day*. The book is divided into four sections: “Shabbat Eve,” “Shabbat Day,” “The Departure of Shabbat,” and “Grace after Meals.” Each section is further divided into sections which deal with the order of each part of the Shabbat, the Kiddush, candle lighting, and the *Havdalah*. The book concludes with the art of saying blessings after meals. The first chapter in this section provides an introduction to each blessing, while the final chapter provides the blessings themselves. Each chapter in the book begins with a brief historical explanation of a particular part of the Shabbat Seder and then provides the blessings for that step. “The book is intended for use as a companion at the Sabbath table” for those who are well versed in the celebration of Shabbat, as well as for those who are just learning. The layout of the book contributes to its usefulness by providing an uncluttered format that is easy to use.

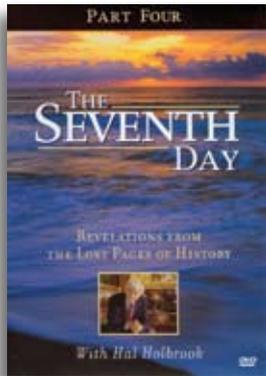


Shabbat: The Family Guide to Preparing for and Celebrating the Sabbath

Ron Wolfson
Jewish Lights Publishing,
2003, 2d ed.
285 pages, \$19.95

Ron Wolfson provides a delightful collection on “The Art of Shabbat.” In

chapter 1, he introduces how to “make Shabbat” as well as the people who share their experiences throughout the book. In chapter 2, he provides the complete Shabbat Seder. Each blessing is written in the original Hebrew, Hebrew transliteration, and English translation. Throughout the rest of the book, Wolfson discusses each of the ten steps of the Shabbat Seder, describing the personal experiences of the people he introduced in chapter 1, the particular items needed for the celebration of the Shabbat Seder, and the use of these various items. Each chapter concludes with “Practical Questions and Answers” and “Some Interesting Sources,” which provide further information about a particular step in the Shabbat Seder. Finally, Wolfson provides two chapters on the *Havdalah*, the ceremony which closes the Shabbat and separates it from the rest of the week, and “The Shabbat Gallery,” which offers a variety of “enrichment activities.” These activities include “craft projects and recipes for making before Shabbat, games and discussion ideas for the Shabbat table, and several creative suggestions for Shabbat celebration.” The book ends with an appendix, providing the *Birkat Hamazon* for Shabbat and a bibliography for further reading.



**The Seventh Day:
Revelations from the
Lost Pages of History**

Pat Arrabito,
Executive Producer
LLT Productions, 2004
4 volumes, DVD,
\$19.95 per volume

Narrator Hal
Holbrook, along with
Jewish and Christian his-
torians and theologians,

examines the history of the seventh-day Sabbath. Beginning in volume 1 with the connection of the Sabbath to the Creation, Holbrook et al. discuss the origin of human time. Questions, such as “Did life on earth begin accidentally?” “Why does the week have seven days?” and “Why would God consider one day more special than the others?” set the tone for the remainder of the series. Volume 2 examines the Jewish and early Christian understanding of the Sabbath and introduces the Saturday-Sunday controversy that arose in the early Christian church. Experts from both Jewish and Christian roots suggest that the change of Christian worship from Sabbath to Sunday came largely as a result of church authority and anti-Judaizing attitudes. Volume 3 looks at Christian and Jewish Sabbath observance throughout the medieval period. For example, Ireland’s beloved Saint Patrick kept the Sabbath

and spread its observance over the Emerald Isle. Meanwhile, the Pope instituted a command to make the Sabbath a dreary day, expressly as an anti-Jewish measure simply because Jews considered the Sabbath to be a day of delight and celebration. By commanding that celebration be observed only on Sunday and by making the Sabbath unpleasant, the Pope hoped to drive people away from the so-called Jewish day of rest. Volume 4 continues to travel through time, as it examines Sabbath-keeping in Russia, Spain, and Slovakia. Among the English, as well, were those who kept the Sabbath. When the British colonized the New World, the Sabbath message followed the colonizers to the Americas. Volumes 5 and 6 (forthcoming) will examine the spread of the Sabbath message in the New World and its continuing relevance for us today.

This DVD series is well documented and presented. This thorough history of the Sabbath is a must-have for those who desire to know how God has preserved the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath throughout time.

English translation of back cover:

“If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the LORD honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father.’ The mouth of the LORD has spoken”

(Isaiah 58:13–14).