

LUNAR SABBATH IS WRONG FROM CREATION

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LUNAR SABBATARIANS TELLING WRONG THINGS...

1. They will tell you that the Feasts of Yahweh in Leviticus 23 are based on the moon and since the weekly Sabbath is among the Feasts of Yahweh, this weekly Sabbath should also be based on the moon.

ANSWER: This is deceptive logic. Read your Scriptures and you will see that the Feast of Pentecost is not based on the moon (Leviticus 23: 13-16). We are rather instructed to count 50 days... Actually the Scriptures does not give us a specific date for Pentecost and *does not give us specific dates* for the weekly Sabbaths. Insisting on having specific dates for Pentecost and the weekly Sabbaths is contrary to the will of Heavenly Father Yahweh.

The *weekly Sabbaths may fall on any dates* because we have to follow the seven-day weekly cycle continuously without break or without interruption. That was what the Israelites did in **Exodus 16:22-35** during the 40 years that they were eating manna in the wilderness under the leadership of Moses. Read this text in Scriptures especially verses 22, 25, 26, 29 and 35.

2. They say the weekly Sabbath is to be counted 7 days from the new moon.

ANSWER: The weekly Sabbath is not counted from the new moon. Proof is found in **Genesis 2:1-3**. The first weekly Sabbath was not reckoned from the 4th day, the first new moon day - since it was on this day that the moon was created by Yahweh (**Genesis 1:14-19**). **Counting the weekly Sabbath from the new moon day is breaking the fourth commandment in Exodus 20:8-11**. This commandment commands us to keep the weekly Sabbath set-apart in a manner similar or patterned to what occurred in Genesis 1 and Genesis 2:1-3. This commandment does not command us to count the weekly Sabbath seven days from the new moon day.

3. They say that the moon and the sun were already there in the first day citing the phrase in Genesis 1:3 which states “*let there be light, and there was light*” on the first day.

ANSWER: That light on the first day definitely was not from the moon and not from the sun because Genesis 1:14-19 very specifically declares that the moon, the sun, and the stars were created on the fourth day. For the lunar Sabbath advocates their only source of light is the sun and the moon. We strongly disagree!

The light on the first day was the light from the presence of Yahweh. Revelation 22:5 clearly declares, thus: “*And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for Yahweh Elohim gives them light...*” Yes, the light on the first day was not from the sun, not from the moon. That light was shekinah light from the presence of Yahweh the Father and Yahshua the Son. Remember that light which apostle Paul saw? It was a light far brighter than the sun at noon day. Let us quote Acts 26:13 – “*At midday, O king, I saw a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun at noon day, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.*” Reading unto verses 14 and 15, we know that this light is from Yahshua. And His light is brighter than the light of the sun at midday!

4. They say that the days of the week in Genesis 1 and Genesis 2:1-3 are not actually 24-hour days; but 1,000-year days citing II Peter 3:8 and Psalm 90:4.

ANSWER: II Peter 3:8 and Psalm 90:4 never refer to Genesis 1 and Genesis 2:1-3. We firmly believe that the days in Genesis 1 and Genesis 2:1-3 are actual, literal 24-hour days. Here are the proofs:

- a) At the end of each day is the expression **“the evening and the morning”** (Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31). This expression indicates actual, literal 24-hour days. Had it been 1,000 years, the expression should have been **“the evenings and the mornings”** (many evenings and many mornings)
- b) Companion Bible Appendix No. 144, 2nd paragraph states that ***“when the number of nights is stated as well as the number of days, then the expression ceases to be an idiom, and becomes a literal statement of fact.”*** And the same reference states in the 3rd paragraph: **“An evening-morning was thus used for a whole day of twenty-four hours, as in the first chapter of Genesis.”**

Thus, we can certainly say:

- a) That the **“40 days and 40 nights”** of raining in Noah’s time in Genesis 7:4 literally means forty 24-hour days, not forty thousand years;
- b) That **“3 days and 3 nights”** Yonah was in the belly of the great fish in Yonah 1:17 literally means three 24-hour days, not three thousand years;
- c) That the **“3 days and 3 nights”** Yahshua was in the heart of the earth in Matthew 12:40 means three 24-hour days, not three thousand years.
- c) Had the days in Genesis 1 been 1,000-year days, Adam’s age should have reached unto thousands. But he lived for only 930 years (Genesis 5:5). Remember, Adam was created on the sixth day, and he rested on the seventh day Sabbath which follows, together with Eve and Yahweh (Genesis 2:1-3). Adam and Eve certainly committed their sin after the Sabbath, were banished from Eden after the Sabbath, and Eve delivered Cain, Abel, and their many sons and daughters (Genesis 5:4) after the weekly Sabbath. Following the wrong reasoning that each day is actually 1,000 years, Adam’s age should be more than 1,000. Here’s why:

- if he was created at the start of the 6th day- 1,000 years old
 - the entire 7th day - 1,000 years old
- Adam’s age should not be less than **2,000 years old**

But his age was only 930 years old. Does it mean Adam died before the end of the 6th day - the day on which he was created?

We do not believe Adam died on the 6th day because that day was a literal 24-hour day. Yahweh Himself declares it in Exodus 20:11 – ***“For in SIX DAYS Yahweh made the heaven and the earth, the sea and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day; wherefore Yahweh blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart”***. You see, Yahweh the Creator declares that He made all those things in Genesis 1 in SIX DAYS, NOT SIX THOUSAND YEARS!

5. They say that if we keep the Saturday Sabbath we are worshipping the pagan god Saturn.

ANSWER: The lunar Sabbath or wandering Sabbath advocates must have forgotten that there are times their Sabbaths also fall on Saturdays. Does it mean that on these occasions they are worshipping the pagan god Saturn!? What is worse is that, they are also worshipping the Sun-god, the Moon-god, the pagan god Tiw, the pagan god Woden, the pagan god Thor and the pagan god Venus because their lunar Sabbath may, and can fall, on any day from Sunday to Saturday. Following their wrong logic, they must be worshipping so many pagan gods!!!

6. They say we are following the pagan Gregorian calendar if we keep only Saturday as the weekly Sabbath. By implication they are saying, that if we do not follow the Gregorian calendar we would be following the lunar Sabbath.

ANSWER: Who are they trying to deceive! I was in Israel (other Elders were also in Israel) some few years back attending the Feast of Tabernacles celebration in Yahrusalem. The country of Israel has never used, and is not using Gregorian calendar; yet their weekly Sabbath is always on Saturdays. And do you know that the Gregorian calendar being used in Europe has Saturday as the sixth day of the week, and Sunday as the 7th day of the week! The truth is, the ***Congregation of Yahweh in Yahshua HaMashiach*** is following the weekly cycle used in Scriptures and in Israel, not the weekly cycle of the Gregorian calendar.

There was no Gregorian calendar at the week of creation/recreation in Genesis 1 and Genesis 2:1-3. But lunar Sabbath was not used at that time! The first weekly Sabbath was not reckoned seven days from the first new moon day. Let us not forget, the first new moon day was the 4th day, the day on which the moon was created.

The country of Israel is using the Jewish calendar. Jewish people say this calendar started at creation, and it is a lot older than the Gregorian calendar. It is the Gregorian calendar which copied the weekly cycle of the Jewish calendar. This Jewish calendar was the one used by the Jews at the time of Yahshua and the Apostles.

7. They say that the lunar Sabbath or wandering Sabbath is the Sabbath followed by the Prophets of the Old Testament and the Apostles of the New Testament; that the weekly cycle has been altered after the time of Yahshua the Messiah, and that what the general populace are following now is the altered weekly cycle.

ANSWER: This claim is totally devoid of any biblical, historical or archeological bases. When we were in Israel, Ronit Maoz (our tour guide, a brilliant lady who can fluently speak 5 languages) asserted that they - the Jews - have complete historical records of the weekly Sabbaths they are keeping since the time of King David, and it was always the 7th day of the week, the day people today call Saturday. Therefore, the lunar Sabbath was not used in the Old Testament, and was never followed by Yahshua and the Apostles in the first century A.D.

According to author **Ya'acov N'tan Lawrence of Hoshana Rabbah Messianic Community:** *"What can be stated with absolute certainty is that there is no question that the weekly cycle, as we know it, has not been tampered with since before the birth of Y'shua the Messiah. There is no scholarly evidence to suggest that it has been changed; and quite to the contrary, there is evidence in the same scholarly circles that it has not been changed for more than 2,000 years. True, the calendar has changed several times, and though admittedly the Gregorian calendar of today is of pagan origination, the historicity of the weekly cycle stands independent of, and outside of the Gregorian calendar. In other words, it is a well known fact that this Gregorian calendar was instituted without disrupting the weekly cycle.* (emphasis mine throughout). *To refuse the weekly cycle on account of a pagan calendar could be labeled as scholarly naïve, or worse yet, outright dishonesty."* (page 7, The "Lunar Sabbath" or Saturday Sabbath? Will The Real Sabbath Please Stand Up?)

Ya'acov N'tan Lawrence went on to cite the exact quotations of two letters, copies of which he has in his files. First, from the **U.S. Naval Observatory**; and second, from the **Office of the Royal Astronomer of England** regarding the weekly cycle:

- a) A letter from the Office of the Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Observatory, Washington D.C. dated March 12, 1932 signed by James Robertson, Director of American Ephemeris in response to a letter asking them about the **continuity of the weekly cycle:**

"I can only state that in connection with the proposed simplification of the calendar, we have had occasion to investigate the results of the works of specialists in chronology, and we have never found one of them that has ever had the slightest doubt about the continuity of the weekly cycle since long before the Christian era."

- b) A letter from the Royal astronomer of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, England dated March 4, 1932 from F.W. Dyson, Astronomer Royal in response to a letter asking the Royal Observatory about the **continuity of the weekly cycle**:

“As far as I know, in the various changes of the calendar there has been no change in the seven-day rota of the week, which has come down from early times (emphasis mine).

“In the ‘Nautical Almanac’ for 1931, p. 740, in the last paragraph, a very learned chronologist, Dr. Fotheringham states: ‘When we come upon clear evidence, the period of seven days was reckoned independently of the month, and in fact of all astronomical periods. From the Jewish Church it passed into the Christian Church’.

“You will see from this statement that no astronomical evidence connected with the seven-day period can be given”.

8. They will read to you **Isaiah 66:23**, and tell you it is the basis of starting or reckoning the weekly Sabbath from the new moon.

ANSWER: Careful, correct reading of this verse will tell you **there is no command** to count the weekly Sabbath seven days from the new moon. Rather, Isaiah 66:23 is telling us that the times to worship Yahweh are during the Sabbaths and the new moon days. We are exactly doing that!

9. They will tell you that every **moedim** or Feasts of Yahweh has to fall on a Sabbath.

ANSWER: This is not true! The Sabbath according to lunar sabbatarians always fall on **the 8th, the 15th, the 22nd and 29th days of the month**. The *7th day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread* is always on **Abib 21**, a set-apart day unto Yahweh (Leviticus 23:6-7) but it does not fall on a lunar Sabbath. **Etanim 1** is the day of *Blowing of Trumpets* and is a Sabbath unto Yahweh (Leviticus 23:24); yet it is not a lunar Sabbath. The *Day of Atonement* on **Etanim 10** is a Sabbath to Yahweh (Leviticus 23:27-32), but it is not a lunar Sabbath. *Pentecost* which falls on the 50th day after the seventh Sabbath does not fall on a lunar Sabbath.

A minority in the ranks of the lunar Sabbatarians believe that the new moon day is the start of the week. So, their weekly Sabbath always falls on **the 7th, the 14th, the 21st and the 28th days of the month**. Using this schedule of their lunar Sabbaths, the *1st day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread* on **Abib 15** which is a high day Sabbath would not fall on lunar Sabbath. The day of *Pentecost* which should be on the day **after** the seventh Sabbath, the day of *Blowing of Trumpets* on **Etanim 1**, the *Day of Atonement* on **Etanim 10**, the *First day of the Feast of Tabernacles* on **Etanim 15** and the *Last Great Day* on **Etanim 22** which are all Sabbaths unto Yahweh would also not fall on a lunar Sabbath.

10. They will tell you that the 30th day of the month and the 1st day of the following month are **“nothing days”** to justify breaking their weekly cycle every end of the month.

ANSWER: This is blasphemous! The sun rises and the sun sets on these days, why are they called “nothing days”? Which verses in Scriptures command us to drop these days from being days? It is like saying that your neighbor who is a human being, is not a human being!

THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS...

1. The days in Genesis 1 were actual, literal 24-hour days and they were never given proper names by Yahweh. They were named merely as **“the first day”, “the second day”, “the third day”, “the fourth day”, “the fifth day” and “the sixth day”**. Only the seventh day in Genesis 2:1-3 was given a proper name. It was called **THE SABBATH**. Yes, only **the** seventh day is the Sabbath.

2. The 7-day weekly cycle in Genesis 1 started without the moon. In fact, the first three days came, and passed, without the moon. This is a very strong proof that the weekly cycle was never counted or reckoned from the new moon! This weekly cycle continued without interruption; and this weekly cycle was never changed! (**Ecclesiastes 3:14** and **Malachi 3:6**).
3. Yes, this seven-day weekly cycle continues to move on its cycle without break or interruption. Read in Exodus 16, the account of the Israelites eating manna for 40 years in the wilderness (Exodus 16:35). Each day for six days, manna would fall from heaven; but on the seventh day which is the Sabbath day no manna would rain from heaven (Exodus 16:25, 26, 29, 30). **This 7-day weekly cycle** - six days with manna, and one day which is the seventh day without manna, **continues without break or interruption.**

The lunar Sabbath or wandering Sabbath advocates would interrupt or break the seven-day weekly cycle every end of the month, dropping every 30th day of the biblical months. They exclude from the week this last day of the biblical month. And the day that follows - which is the new moon day of the following month – is also dropped off, not included in counting a week. Our questions to them are:

- a. Why? What verses in Scriptures command us to exclude these days in counting a week?
- b. In the 40 years the Israelites were eating manna in the wilderness, did manna fall from heaven or not on the 30th days of the biblical months and on the new moon days?
- c. Was the first new moon day in Genesis 1, the fourth day (Genesis 1:14-19) excluded by the Creator from the first week on this earth?
- d. What are the biblical names of these two days which are excluded from the week?

The truth of the matter is, lunar Sabbath advocates do not really have a weekly cycle in the first place. A cycle is defined by dictionaries *as a period of time that recurs in the same order and manner for very long.* A weekly cycle that is broken up every 30th day of the month is not a weekly cycle after all! Their weekly cycle is different every month. They have different weekly cycles in one year! What kind of a cycle is that!? It is a man-made weekly cycle, that is why they easily break it up every end of the month.

4. In the New Testament, there is no single verse where Yahshua criticized the Yahudim (Jews) for keeping the wrong weekly Sabbath. The Messiah's criticism centers on the Yahudim's wrong manner of keeping the Sabbath. In fact, Yahshua himself go with the weekly Sabbath that was being kept by the Yahudim (Luke 4:16). Yahshua was showing us that the weekly Sabbath being kept by the Yahudim in the first century was indeed the correct weekly Sabbath day. This is the same weekly Sabbath that Yahudim (Jews) worldwide keep as the Sabbath in our present time.
5. The seventh day of the week is always **the** Sabbath day. Exodus 20:10, Leviticus 23:3 and Deuteronomy 5:14 specifically say that “...the seventh day is the Sabbath of Yahweh your Elohim”. In Hebrew, it says: “...*we yom hashevii Shabbath la Yahweh Elohika*”. “Hashevii Shabbath” or in English “The Sabbath” means that the Sabbath day is a specific day, not just any day. In the creation/recreation story of Genesis 1 and Genesis 2:1-3, there is only one seventh day. The other days were not called seventh day! Therefore, we can never call the other days the Sabbath.
6. Leviticus 23:15-16 instructs us to count seven Sabbaths up to the 50th day which is the morrow, or the day after the seventh Sabbath. Therefore, we know that the **Shabuoth** or Pentecost always falls on the 1st day of the week. If the weekly Sabbath were governed by the cycle of the moon, you would have trouble reconciling the “seven Sabbaths” within this 50-day period. It is because you have two new moon

days falling within this period. From the day after the weekly Sabbath within the Feast of Unleavened Bread up to the day after the seventh Sabbath they can count seven Sabbaths but they cannot count 50 days. This is a very serious problem that lunar Sabbatarians cannot honestly solve!

7. This lunar Sabbath or wandering Sabbath doctrine is not from the Scriptures, and is not from Israel. It is not from Abba Yahweh, and is not from Yahshua. **Its origin is from pagan Babylon.** The proofs:
 - a) **Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics** says – *“The Babylonians appear to have observed a Sabbath on every seventh day of the lunar month, and it is probable that this usage was originally connected with the four quarters of the moon. Among the Jews, the seven days’ week was reckoned independently of the moon, (emphasis mine throughout) and we already find traces in the 1st century B.C. of its connection at Rome with the sun, moon and five planets, which have given their names to the seven days of the week”* (**James Haastings**, article entitled, **“Calendar,” Vol. 3, page 63**).
 - b) **New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge** says – *“The week in its proper sense is now in general use among Christian peoples, but in antiquity was found only among the Hebrews, and about the Christian era among the astrologers of the East. The Hebrew week was based upon the Sabbath of Yahweh; the astrological week depended upon the conception that each day in turn was controlled by the “seven planets,”- the sun, moon, mars, mercury, Jupiter, Venus, Saturn. In the first Christian centuries, these two conceptions were combined in such a way that Saturn’ day coincided with the Sabbath. The seven-day week was not found among other ancient peoples other than the Hebrews...”* (**Vol. 12, article entitled “Week” pages 282-284**).

Do not be deceived by this lunar Sabbath! Otherwise, you would be breaking the Torah and you will lose the vital sign of Yahweh’s covenant people (Exodus 31:13, Ezekiel 20:12, 20)!

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