

Lunar Weeks?

There are some who have been claiming to have “new light” on the topic of the Sabbath. This light is just darkness in disguise. They keep what is called the lunar Sabbath (sometimes coined “Creation Calendar”). It is likely you will come across someone teaching it sooner or later.

What Is a Lunar Sabbath?

The ancient Jewish calendar was based upon the lunar cycle. Each month began with a new moon and proceeded to the next new moon. Lunar sabbath keepers change their sabbath every month based upon the moon. The new moon starts on the seventh day of the week every month. Then the weekly seven day cycle continues until the next new moon which interrupts this weekly cycle, and resets the week. If you find this confusing, so do I.

It is stated, with firm belief, that the lunar calendar was essential for “the determination feast days” in the Old Testament. (The determination feast days are known as the feasts of the Lord, which God gave to the nation of Israel as described in Leviticus 23. These include Passover, Unleavened Bread, First-fruits, Pentecost, Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Feast of Tabernacles.) They assert, since the calendar is right for calculating feast-day dates, it must be right for calculating Sabbath dates because “Sabbaths are among the feasts.” We will take a closer look at this.

The following three scripture texts are dearest to lunar Sabbathkeepers. The *first text* is:

“And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament [the sky] of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years.”—Genesis 1:14.

Here the Bible says that God created the moon to point to seasons. The word, “Moedim,” translated “seasons,” in this scripture, is often translated as “appointed times” or “feasts” in the King James Bible; this doesn’t directly mean “seasons” in the sense of the changing of the weather or natural cycles. “Appointed seasons,” also known as “appointed times,” refers to the feast days of God. The *second text* is:

“And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts of the Lord, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations (meetings or ceremonies with lots of people), even these are My feasts.”—Leviticus 23:1-2.

Then God speaks about the Sabbath in verse 3:

“Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the Sabbath of the Lord in all your dwellings.”—Leviticus 23:3.

They say that, in doing this, God classified the Sabbath of the seventh day as a “Moedim,” and thus it

must be determined by using the moon. To drive this point home, they quote *the third text*, Psalm 104:19:

“He appointed the moon for seasons (Moedim): the sun knoweth his going down.”

Let’s check this point against the story of creation. The lunar “week” is described as “part of the Creation Calendar,” if this is the case Surely their idea would line up with the following text:

Genesis 1:14-19 describes the fourth day of creation week, the day that God made the sun and the moon. This demonstrates that the weekly cycle of seven days is completely separate from the influence of the sun, moon, and even stars. The institution of the Sabbath entirely rests upon God. How could the moon determine the first seventh-day Sabbath, when it didn’t even exist for the first three days of the week? Please also note that the Fourth Commandment specifies that we are to worship every seven days, which is not possible for lunar Sabbathkeepers to follow because their Sabbath observance is tied to the lunar cycle, which is approximately 29.53 days, not a perfect seven-day week, which leads to inconsistencies in the timing of their Sabbath. Sometimes their weeks consist of eight days instead of seven.

Let’s be honest, Lunar Sabbaths are a revival of ancient moon worship. We pay homage to whatever being sets the day on which we worship. The Creator God, in Eden, blessed the seventh-day of the week. When we worship on this day, we pay homage to God. In the 3rd century A.D., this understanding was corrupted through politics by the beast power called the papacy. When we worship on Sunday, the institution of this power, we pay homage to the pope. We worship the man who thought to change times and laws. If we set the day ourselves, as some people who believe we are free to choose one day in every seven to rest, we are showing ourselves that we are God. And, if we let the moon determine the day we worship on, we are paying homage to the moon. There is no new thing under the sun. Sun worshipers (Sunday keepers) keep the day of lord mithra; moon worshipers keep lunar Sabbaths; and self worshipers, set the day for themselves.

There is a lot more reasoning that is claimed to be evidence, which is impossible to prove wrong. However, all of it is just man’s vain reasoning. There is no plain “Thus saith the Lord” to support it. Exodus 20:8-11 is very plain:

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and

earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.”

This command does not accommodate the lunar Sabbath. It makes no mention of the moon. It would have to be changed to something like this:

“On the day following the new moon of each month, six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. You shall do this for four weeks. Then, depending on whether the new month has started, you shall not engage in commerce or paid work for 1 or 2 days. Then you shall reset your week into ‘Six days shall work be done, but the seventh-day is the Sabbath’ of a solemn rest pattern.”

Because the lunar cycle is 29.53 days, it cannot be divided by seven days; and every new month, the seven-day cycle is reset, based on the time it takes for the moon phases. In Deuteronomy 12:32, God warned Israel, saying:

“What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.”

Lunar Sabbaths are certainly adding to this commandment of God. It is deviating from scripture by much more than a word.

Disproving Another “Proof”

It is confidently declared that ancient authorities trace the seven-day week to Babylonian sources and Jews anciently kept the Sabbath on a lunar basis. This Jewish habit was changed by the Roman power and is the reason that Jews currently honor Saturday as found on the Gregorian calendar.

The Sabbath was given, by God, to the Jews at Sinai. God, who numbered the days of our planet, knew what day was the correct Sabbath; and many years after the flood, He made sure that the Jews worshiped on the correct day by telling them which day it was (Exodus 16:23). When Christ came, He must have worshiped on the correct Sabbath because He obeyed the Ten Commandment law. He was sinless. On the Sabbath, He even rested in the grave from all His labors. Today, the whole nation of Jews recognizes the seventh day of the week as the holy Sabbath. This has been passed down as “cultural heritage” by thousands of separate families all over the world. All these are witnesses to the correct day to worship. If this day was changed it would take significant effort and history would have significant evidence. There is not a whisper of any such occurrence in history.

There is a false understanding that months are somehow linked to weeks. Our 2025 calendar is based on the solar year, not the lunar year. But does this affect the seven-day cycle? The weekly cycle is wholly independent from the solar or lunar calendars. There is not an astronomical reason for us to have seven-day weeks; the only reason can be found in Genesis. The seven-day week points us directly to Creation.

History of the Seven-Day Cycle

The seven-day calendar is said to have originated with the Babylonians. This is somewhat Biblically accurate. We know that the seven day week originated at

creation. However, after the flood, it appears that the children of Ham, Shem, and Japheth (the three sons of Noah who were saved in the Ark) began to spread out in the region of Shinar, where Babel is located.

“And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.”—Genesis 11:1.

“And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.”—Genesis 11:2.

Ellen White provides us with insight into this verse:

“For a time the descendants of Noah continued to dwell among the mountains where the ark had rested. As their numbers increased, apostasy soon led to division. Those who desired to forget their Creator and to cast off the restraint of His law felt a constant annoyance from the teaching and example of their God-fearing associates, and after a time they decided to separate from the worshipers of God. Accordingly they journeyed to the plain of Shinar, on the banks of the river Euphrates. They were attracted by the beauty of the situation and the fertility of the soil, and upon this plain they determined to make their home.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 118.4.

The faithful remained in the mountains while the rebellious followed their leader, Nimrod, to the plain. The tower of Babel was built, though disrupted it eventually became the great city Babylon. The tower of Babel was built by the rebels, in defiance of God’s command. God had told them to fill the earth and subdue it (in Genesis 1:28). Instead, after traveling many miles southwest, they built a city. And, surprisingly, their descendants remained there until Daniel’s time. This was one of the first and oldest cities. Therefore, this city would naturally have some of the oldest archaeological evidence. The children of Israel, including Daniel and his three friends, who were of the tribe of Judah, were taken into Babylonian captivity and to the land of Shinar, which is believed to be in modern-day Iraq:

“Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon...besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.”—Daniel 12:1-2.

Abraham was born, and lived in a place called Ur of the “Chaldees” (the name of the people there) or “Chaldea” (the name of the place). “Chaldeans” refers to another name of the people who inhabited that region.

“Thou art the Lord the God, who didst choose Abram, and broughtest him forth out of Ur of the Chaldees, and gavest him the name of Abraham.”—Nehemiah 9:7.

The land of the Chaldees was where Babylon was:

“Therefore thus saith the Lord; Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the Chaldeans, and into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and he shall take it.”—Jeremiah 32:28.

Ur of the Chaldeans, the city Abraham came from,

was located in southern Mesopotamia, specifically identified with the Sumerian (a specific culture) city of Ur, now known as Tell el-Muqayyar in modern-day Iraq. Known as “Ur of the Chaldeans” in the Bible, it was on the Euphrates River, downriver from Babylon and very close to the Persian Gulf. Essentially, all mankind once lived in the general area of Babylon; it would be no surprise that the seven-day cycle can be traced to that area. No doubt, in the city of Babel, there were those who believed in a seven-day weekly cycle, even if they rejected the Sabbath and creation. Even modern-day China has a seven-day weekly cycle, although their cycle starts on our Monday.

Does this discredit the seven-day cycle? No, because the story of creation in Genesis clearly points us to a seven-day weekly cycle before sin entered the world, over 2,000 years before Babylon.

The Cousin of the Lunar Sabbath

The concepts of keeping the new moon and the lunar Sabbath relate because both involve a lunar-based calendar where the timing of religious observance is connected to the moon’s phases rather than a fixed day of the week. However, it is not technically an evil cousin.

Paul tells us in Colossians 2:16-17:

“Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: which are a shadow [a symbolic representation] of things to come; but the body is of Christ.”

The seventh-day Sabbath comes every week, and falls on every seventh day. The ceremonial laws did not necessarily fall on a weekly Sabbath (Saturday), but were distinct annual days of rest. Only those feast sabbaths that coincided with the weekly Sabbath are regarded as “High Sabbaths.” Christ fulfilled the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament upon His cross, making those specific practices no longer needed. We should not let anyone judge us because we don’t keep the new moon.

The Bible represents Christ as “the Sun of righteousness” (Malachi 4:2). As we know, the moon reflects the sun, more and more, until it is a full moon; a perfect reflection of the sun.

We see the church in Revelation 12:1 standing upon the moon.

“And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet.”

The 144,000 will perfectly reflect Christ. Interestingly enough, to the Jews, the feet were the most unattractive part of a woman, which sounds a lot like Laodicea.

Something I find interesting is the relationship between the Feast of Tabernacles, with its booths (shelters people lived in like the tents at our camp meetings), and the new moon. The Feast of Tabernacles represents first the 1,000 years in heaven. It was the last fall feast and happened after the Day of Atonement took place. The Feast of Tabernacles usually began on the 15th day of the seventh month (Tishrei) in the Jewish calendar, which usually falls

in late September or October. The fifteenth day of a lunar month is always a full moon. Because a Lunar calendar begins each month with a new moon it will always have a full moon on the 15th day of the month. This seems to point us to the 1,000 years beginning when there are a people that perfectly reflect Christ.

The keeping of a new moon is not important to our salvation. The ceremonial law pointed forward to Jesus and His ministry. These were no longer needed once Christ’s sacrifice on the cross was made.

I have heard it suggested that the tree of life bares its new fruit at the beginning of each month during the new moon. Whether or not this is the reason we will keep the new moon in heaven (Isaiah 66:23), we can only know for sure when we get there. I will not intrude into those things I have not seen.

Ultimately, Hebrews 4:9 tells us that the Sabbath rest of God remains. Even though the ceremonial laws were nailed to the cross, God’s moral law remains.

“There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into His rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from His. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.”—Hebrews 4:9-11.

Heaven is a place that we rest our way into. When we have entered the following three rests, we will be prepared for the eternal rest of heaven. *First*, we rest on Sabbath, to honor the Creator God. *Second*, when we enter into the rest of Christ, by accepting Him as our Saviour, we receive an even deeper rest. This rest is received when we stop trying to enter heaven by our own works. We also acknowledge this rest by keeping Sabbath.

“Moreover also I gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them.”—Ezekiel 20:12.

The Sabbath is a sign that God is our Creator and Sanctifier. We rest in the completed works of creation and the completed work on the cross as God rested on the seventh day at Creation and in the grave. After all, He called death a sleep.

Third, we are then to rest from the works of the flesh. We do this by taking Christ’s yoke upon us, the commandments. The rest of the soul is found in obedience to the promptings of the Holy Spirit:

“Just as a man acts in willing obedience to the requirements of God, will come his peace of mind.”—5 Bible Commentary, 1090.

When God removes evil from us, He replaces it with something better—His own thoughts and actions.

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”—Galatians 5:16.

When we enter into this rest, we will be seen doing the work of the Spirit on the Sabbath. Sabbath will be our highest delight. It will not be selfishly spent; it will not be wasted in sleep. It will be spent in ministry to the needy; it will become a delight; and we will look upon it as an institution worthy of honor.

“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy [theories of how people should live] and vain deceit [emptiness worldly wisdom], after the tradition

4 of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”—Colossians 2:8.

Don't let anyone take the holy seventh-day Sabbath from you. Heaven must be rested into, and the Sabbath is essential in this experience. God winked at our times of ignorance. Now, we can know the truth.

“If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on My holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shalt honour Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words; then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord.”—Isaiah 58:13-14.

“Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.”—Psalm 37:4.

God forbid that we reject such great light for a weak reflection. —*Jon Taylor*

Perspective from Seth

Satan uses the lunar Sabbath issue as a dangerous weapon to steal true and honest Sabbath (Saturday) keepers away from God. A few of my friends have fallen for this deception. Some individuals have desperately tried to get me to keep this lunar Sabbath. I will not give any place to error!

Here are a couple unanswerable facts:

First, The Bible does not define a new moon anywhere. Only human tradition defines a new moon. Do we need human tradition to tell us how to obey God and worship on His day? We only need the Bible to determine what God says. No one needs human tradition in order to obey God (Matthew 15:3-8).

So, what is a new moon? Jewish tradition states that a new moon is a waxing crescent (where a thin, crescent-shaped sliver of the moon becomes visible and grows larger each night as the illuminated portion increases.) The American calendar shows a new moon as a black moon—with no shining light. There are usually a couple of these in a row; so how would you know which one to choose from? It is nearly impossible to calculate from one to another; since a moon cycle takes around 29 days, 12 hours, 44 minutes, and 3 seconds, or 29.53058770576 days. This is not simple math! I worked as a missionary with natives in the Philippines and Micronesia. They wouldn't have been able to do the math to calculate when the moon told them to worship. Since it rained so much, they often couldn't see the sky due to clouds.

In which verse does the Bible tell us that a new moon is a seventh-day Sabbath? There is no verse that discusses this issue. It is assumed that this is the case. Keeping the correct day holy is an essential part of the Ten Commandments; and disobedience to that law means alienation from God and eternal death.

If sin is not simply understood, then how could we get ready for heaven? Lunar Sabbath folk say that the Jews and Jesus kept the lunar Sabbath and then they

later changed, to coincide with the Roman calendar. So, how do we know that the Saturday-Sabbath is the correct day to worship on? The Jewish nation proves which day is the correct one.

“No other institution which was committed to the Jews tended so fully to distinguish them from surrounding nations as did the Sabbath.”—*Desire of Ages*, 283.

Because of idolatry, Sabbath breaking, and many other evil things, the Jews went to Babylon. After their exile, they rigorously tried to obey the law, to keep from going back into captivity. By the time of Jesus, the Sabbath was burdened down by hundreds of laws which was thought to prevent any accidental break of the Fourth Commandment. They rigorously kept the Fourth Commandment more than any other commandment. So we can be certain that they would not accidentally change to another day. The Jews were later scattered all over the earth, and they rigidly clung to the holy Sabbath throughout history.

Muslims have firmly held to Friday for thousands of years. Muhammad is quoted as saying, “The best day the sun rises over is Friday; on it Allah created Adam. On it, he was made to enter paradise.”

Christians also tightly held to the Sabbath day; for they knew that it is sacred to the Creator. The world religions prove that Saturday is the Sabbath. The languages of the world testify to which day is the holy Sabbath. In fact, in more than 100 ancient and modern languages scattered all over the globe, the seventh-day of the week was named “Sabbath” or its equivalent. Take the Greek week as an example:

Κυριακή: (Sunday) means “the Lord's day.”

Δευτέρα: (Monday) means “second day.”

Παρασκευή: (Friday) means “preparation.”

Σάββατο: *SA-vato*: (Saturday) is derived from the Hebrew word, “Shabbat” and means “to cease” or “to rest.”

God's end time prophet wrote:

“God Himself measured off the first week as a sample for successive weeks to the close of time.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 111.

Remember, the Bible teaches that the Sabbath will be the seal for those who are saved at the Second Coming of Jesus. Ellen White instructed us that:

“The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty, for it is the point of truth especially controverted. When the final test shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve Him not.”—*Last Day Events*, 225.

It is very important that we keep the correct Sabbath day. God's end-time prophet, Ellen White, faithfully kept the Saturday Sabbath holy, and she never suggested, or even implied, that there would be a change in that day. We can trust the prophet of God and the Bible prophets, but we cannot trust man.

More Food for the Little Flock —