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### Folly of the Lunar Sabbath Teaching

Biblical months are based on the moon, and they begin at the first appearance of the visible new moon. Our word month even derives from the word moon (moon[th]). But an absurd doctrine is taking hold among some groups contending that the weekly Sabbath is also set by the new moon each month. It teaches that the Sabbath day floats all over the seven-day week.



Once you recover from the utter disbelief at first hearing such a teaching, you entertain the possibility of trying to fit this lunar Sabbath notion into Scripture. You quickly realize that no matter how you try to coax it, twist it or force it, establishing the weekly Sabbath by this scheme is impossible. It does violence both to historical fact and Yahweh's clear commands in His Word.

The word week derives from a Hebrew word meaning "sevens" (sheb-u-wah). It is connected to a sequence of sevens, not to the new moon and not to fractions of seven (more about that later). It begins with day one and ends with the seventh day. Neither is "Sabbath" linked etymologically to the word moon as is the word "month."

The lunar Sabbath theory says that the Sabbath falls on the 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th day of each lunar month set by the new moon. This means it would also fall about the time of the First Quarter, Full Moon, and Last Quarter. Most lunar sabbatarians do not consider the new moon day to be a day of the week, but rather a day of "no regular work." The first day of the week for them comes on the second day of the lunar month.

But dissension exists in their own ranks because some lunar sabbatarians believe the weekly Sabbath falls on the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th days of the month.

Such details aside, the general thrust of this theory is that just by looking at the moon you can tell when the weekly Sabbath occurs, falling as they believe on specific lunar phases. Not even seasoned astronomers can tell such a thing with absolute accuracy. The scheme also means that the Sabbath floats around and can land on any day of the week each month. If the new moon falls on a Tuesday, the Sabbath will be on succeeding Tuesdays of that month. Then it will flip to another day of the week the next month when the Sabbath is "re-set" by the appearance of the new moon. Consider the logistical nightmare for a moment. If you as a lunar Sabbath follower have a regular job or are responsibly self-employed, you are continually taking off work to observe the Sabbath on different days of the week depending on the moon. Does Yahweh require playing tag with the Sabbath and make earning a living nearly untenable for the vast majority of believers?

Much greater difficulties than this are presented by the lunar Sabbath doctrine. When the end of the month comes it will typically have extra days left when the next new moon arrives. These days don't fit in anywhere. What do you do with these leftover days? Many lunar sabbatarians just ignore them. Others keep them all as Sabbaths, meaning they observe several more Sabbaths one right after another. Try explaining that to your employer or school principal. The Fourth Commandment says to work six days and rest the Sabbath, not Sabbaths.

Nowhere does the Scripture say the moon has anything to do with the weekly Sabbath. Regardless, there are Herculean efforts to force the Scriptures into teaching precisely that. Lunar proponents

also cover all the bases by saying that the common, seventh-day Saturday Sabbath is pagan, and that even the universal weekly cycle is pagan in origin. They have a problem with the Sabbath falling on Saturn's day, or Saturday, but apparently see no difficulty when it falls on Sun's Day, Moon's Day, Tiw's day, Woden's Day, Thor's Day or Frei's Day (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday-all named for heathen deities).

Proponents of the lunar sabbath tend to hop from point to point and prefer not to be pinned down by any refuting facts. Be prepared for a moving target if you try to engage him in his doctrine. A lively game of mental hopscotch is common with any teaching that does not have clear, Scriptural backing.

In this study we will refrain from delving into secular history, commentaries or the writings of historical figures. Lunar sabbatarians typically resort to these extracurricular sources to shore up feeble or nonexistent Scriptural foundations for their doctrine. As with every Bible truth, all that is necessary is the unadulterated Word of Yahweh. If Scriptural support for a teaching is lacking, then we must abandon the teaching. Next week: Part 2 of our coming booklet, The Lunar Sabbath Illusion

Now Here's a Question...

Please explain Romans 10:4. Paul seems to be saying that the Messiah was the end or termination of the Law.

The word "end" is telos in the Greek and means goal. Yahshua was the goal to which the law aimed. There is a big difference between abolishing the law as some believe He came to do and being the law's goal. The same word telos is used in James 5:11: "Behold, we count them happy which endure. You have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end [telos] of Yahweh; that Yahweh is full of pity, and of tender mercy." If telos means the end of the law in Romans 10:4, then it also means the end of Yahweh in James 5:11! The same word end (telos) is found in 1Peter 1:9: "[Yahshua] receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls." Can our faith end and we still receive salvation? Of course not. But the goal of our faith surely is salvation.

Test Your Tutelage

Abraham was promised that his seed would become as the stars of heaven (Gen 22:17, 26:4). When was this fulfilled?

- A - The dawn of the Messianic Age
- B - With modern Israel
- C - In the wilderness, prior to entering the Holy Land.
- D - In Solomon's era.

Though many prophecies about Israel are applied to the future as well, their numbers were declared "as the stars of heaven for multitude" in Deuteronomy 1:10 and 10:22.

Answer: (C)

Shalom,

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