



In this week's E-news we return to revealing the errors in the lunar Sabbath teaching that we began a few weeks ago. This information will soon be available on our Web site and in a new booklet in the final stages of production. Watch for it! If you receive YRM News through postal mail you will receive the new booklet automatically.

The Week is 'Sevened' Not 'Lunared'

The creation account in Genesis 2 plainly teaches that the weekly Sabbath cycle was not based on the heavenly luminaries but simply on the seven days in the original creation week put in perpetual motion by Yahweh:

"And on the seventh day Elohim ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And Elohim blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which Elohim created and made" (Gen. 2:2-3). The reason the Sabbath is the Sabbath is not because of an association with the new moon and other lunar phases, but because Yahweh Himself blessed it and set it apart on the final day of creation week. No wonder He commands us to "remember" the Sabbath to keep it holy. We remember the original Sabbath He created by keeping it exactly as it has been passed down through the millennia beginning with Himself. Man-made calendars may tweak the months, but the Sabbath continues in its cycle unchanged and unfazed by any calendar. The week is based on the Hebrew meaning sevened. It is not "lunared" anywhere.

The Sabbath and its sequence in the week is the result of a direct action of Yahweh-originating entirely from His own personal rest on the seventh day. Because of His own activities the weekly Sabbath is directly tied to worship of Him following His own example. It is His day made for man. No wonder He says the Sabbath is the one sign identifying His people. "It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: [now notice the special link:] for in six days Yahweh made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed," Exodus 31:17.

Notice further that the "week" is not mentioned in Genesis 1:14. The reference is simply to "seasons" [moedim], "days," and "years." Clearly, Yahweh established the weekly cycle differently, basing it upon His own example of rest and not on what is seen or reasoned by man. Otherwise He would have included the word "weeks" in the list of things to be determined by the greater and lesser lights of Genesis 1:14. Yet He did not-not in Genesis or anywhere else.

"But seasons means appointed times and the Sabbath is an appointed time," will be the argument. That is correct. But where does this passage or any other specifically link the new moon to the weekly Sabbath? Nowhere but in the imagination of the lunar sabbatarian.

Is the New Moon Day a Sabbath of Rest?

Some say the new moon was a day of rest because David was to meet with the king at his table on

the new moon, 1 Samuel 25. They also say that sacrifices were offered on the new moon, Ezekiel 46:6, just as they were commanded on the Sabbath.

When does a meal with a king constitute a weekly Sabbath? Wouldn't a Sabbath be indicated by a meeting with a priest at the temple? Neither do sacrifices in themselves prove a Sabbath, because there were sacrifices commanded every day, Numbers 29:6 and Hebrews 7:27.

Was the new moon celebrated with rest in the same way as the Sabbath, as one branch of lunar sabbatarianism claims? If so, why does Yahweh command work on new moon days, and why do we find labor being done on new moon days?

Exodus 40:1, 2 and 17 reads: "And Yahweh spake unto Moses, saying, On the first day of the first month shall you set up the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation... And it came to pass in the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, that the tabernacle was reared up." (Read all of Exodus 40 to learn just how much work was done on the new moon day.)

If every new moon day is a Sabbath or a day of no work, why does Yahweh command Zerubbabel to gather wood and build the temple upon the first day of the month? (Haggai 1:1, 2, 8, 12).

If every new moon day is a Sabbath, why do we not find any command to rest upon it (with the exception of the Feast of Trumpets, which falls on the new moon of the 7th month)? Shouldn't we find it listed as a Sabbath among the Appointed Times of Leviticus 23? What explanation can be given to the fact that nowhere in Scripture is the command to cease from labor upon the new moon day, or upon the extra days that fall out each month?

Shabbat and Shabbatown: Different Kinds of Sabbath

Another contention by lunar sabbath proponents is that because the seven annual feast day Sabbaths are determined by counting from the new moon, so also should the weekly Sabbath be set by the moon because an annual Sabbath is no different from a weekly Sabbath.

Not so. The word used for the weekly Sabbath (in Hebrew) is "shabbat" (7676) while the word behind the feast day Sabbath is "shabbatown" (7677). High-day Sabbaths are different from the weekly Sabbath. From Exodus 12:16 we learn that on the high day Sabbaths of Unleavened Bread, for instance, some work to prepare food is allowed "so that all may eat." No such leeway is given for the weekly Sabbath.

The weekly Sabbath is a memorial to Yahweh's creative act and His subsequent rest. He did not create high day Sabbaths by resting on them. To say the weekly Sabbath changes every month according to the cycles of the moon is to make the memorial to the creative rest of Yahweh into a memorial to the moon.

More Problems Using Genesis 1:14

A key problem with the lunar sabbath doctrine is that events surrounding the creation of the moon in Genesis 1:14-16 did not take place until the 4th day. The week was more than half over by the time the moon was placed into orbit, so how can the moon establish the start of the week?

Never did Yahweh ever say He re-set the week after four creation days by utilizing the now-orbiting new moon. That is a critical piece of information we must have if we are to base Sabbath observance on the moon's cycle as shown by Yahweh.

Attempting to be free of this difficulty, some lunar sabbatarians speculate that the moon was created in an advanced phase and that the Sabbath would be made to synchronize with it later on; others speculate that perhaps the moon was already in its orbit the first day of creation but was just hidden behind heavy mist. Or that Yahweh's creation week and our week are different. To which we ask: where is the chapter and verse supporting these hypotheses? Genuine doctrine does not rest on supposes or maybes. There is not a shred of evidence in Scripture to support such assumptions.

Genesis 1 and 2 are crystal clear that Yahweh created the heavens and the earth in six days and then He rested on the seventh. Lunar sabbatarians ignore Yahweh's rest on the seventh day and go solely with a Sabbath-setting lunar phase.

TEST YOUR TUTELAGE

Q: From Hebrews 8:13 we learn that the New Covenant is in complete dominance today.

- A. True
- B. False

The passage tells us that the Old Covenant is decaying and ready to vanish, or is vanishing, away, not that it has completely done so. We find in the prophecy of Daniel 11:32 that there will be those in the last days who will do wickedly against the covenant. At the time Daniel wrote that the only covenant in existence was the Old or first Covenant. Furthermore, note the preceding verses of Hebrews 8 where under the New Covenant the laws of Yahweh will be placed into the minds and hearts of the saints and that "all shall know me, from the least to the greatest." We have not yet come to that reality, meaning that although the New Covenant is in operation, it has not yet accomplished its purpose. Perhaps that is why we still see animal sacrifices in the Millennium (Ezekiel 44-46, Isaiah 66:23; Zechariah 14:16-19), ostensibly offered by those who are alive at that time who have not come under the New Covenant and accepted Yahshua.

Answer: B

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