

Lunar Sabbaths

A few years ago, the author was conducting a radio program. The host of the program was a keeper of the Seventh-day Sabbath. The owner of the station was a Lunar Sabbath keeper. He became very upset when we would discuss the final days of Jesus' life. Why would the study of Christ's final days be so upsetting to him? Well, the Bible is very clear that Jesus died on the preparation day, Friday, the sixth day of the week. (Luke 23:52-54) He and His followers rested the Sabbath day, Saturday, the 7th day of the week, (Luke 23:55, 56) and then Jesus rose the first day of the week, Sunday. (Luke 24:1-3) What was so upsetting to the owner of the station was the specifying of which day was the 7th day Sabbath/Saturday. He argued that no one could know which day was the Sabbath because the Sabbath day changes every month depending on when the new moon occurs.

Well, was the Seventh-day Sabbath based upon the new moon or was it based on something else? Were there any Sabbaths in the Jewish economy that were based on the new moon? The greatest principle for Bible study is called 'the law of first mention'. When studying any topic of Scripture, one must find the first mention of that topic and every other reference to that subject in the Bible must be interpreted in the light of its first mention.

For example, when studying the subject of 'Speaking in Tongues', one must go to the first mention of it in Scripture; namely, Acts 2. Every other reference in the New Testament must be interpreted in the light of Acts 2. In Acts 2, the gift of tongues is clearly the gift of foreign language. There were so many people in Jerusalem during Pentecost that came from all over the world. There was no way the apostles, mostly unlearned fishermen, could communicate the gospel message to all those diverse people groups. God gave the gift of foreign languages so that as Peter and the apostles spoke, "And they were all amazed and marveled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God."

Acts 2:7-11

Since our topic is lunar Sabbaths, the best place/first mention to start would be Genesis 1 and 2 where the first mention of these subjects is found. The moon is first mentioned in Genesis 1:14-16 “And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: *he made* the stars also.” The moon, the lesser light, would rule the night. It would give light, along with the stars, to illuminate the night sky.

The Sabbath is first mentioned in Genesis 2:2, 3. “And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.” Notice here, the Sabbath at creation had everything to do with the weekly cycle. With the completion of creation in 6 days, the Lord rested the seventh day. Everything with the original Sabbath had everything to do with the seven day weekly cycle and absolutely nothing to do with the moon. Hence, there were no lunar Sabbaths in creation and the seventh day Sabbath has nothing to do with the moon!!

By the law of first mention, the moon and the seventh day Sabbath have nothing to do with each other. Is there anywhere in the Bible where the two are connected? Are there any Sabbaths that were based upon the moon? Actually, there are; however, they are not mentioned until Exodus 12. With the instituting of the feast of Passover and Unleavened Bread in the month of Abib, or our March/April, there also came Sabbath feast days. Notice Ex. 12:16-18 “ And in the first day *there shall be* an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save *that* which every man must eat, that only may be done of you. And ye shall observe *the feast of unleavened bread*; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever. In the first *month*, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even.” This is the first mention of a holy convocation, or Sabbath, (Leviticus 23:27-32) in connection with the moon. This came into being with the Jewish feast days and not before that time.

Probably, the most remarkable passage of Scripture showing the clear distinction between the weekly, seventh-day Sabbath and the Sabbath feast days based on the moon is found in Leviticus 23:2-7 “Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, *Concerning* the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim *to be* holy convocations, *even these are* my feasts. 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. These *are* the feasts of the LORD, *even* holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. In the fourteenth *day* of the first month at even *is* the LORD'S passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month *is* the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread. In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.”

The feasts of the Lord are clearly laid out. The seventh day Sabbath is the ultimate feast. After discussing the seventh day Sabbath, **then** the other feasts are mentioned that are based around the moon/ lunar. Those Sabbaths built around the moon are the lunar Sabbaths which are connected to the feast days!!! This passage clearly distinguishes the two!

The Apostle Paul delineates those Sabbaths that were to be done away with by the death of Christ. In Colossians 2:14-17, we read, “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; *And* having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. 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 of things to come; but the body *is* of Christ.” Because something was done away with at the cross, Paul says we should not judge others in meat, drink, holyday, **new moon, or sabbath**. Which kind of sabbath is this? It is connected to the moon! It has to be the lunar/feast day Sabbaths; not the 7th day Sabbath. The feast days, lunar Sabbaths and all the meat and drink offerings were done away with by the crucifixion of Christ. All of these components are clearly seen in Numbers 28 and 29.

By continuing to keep the feast days and the lunar Sabbaths connected to them, it is a rejection of Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world. The only Sabbath that remains binding on humanity today is the weekly Sabbath, based upon the 7 day weekly cycle.

