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## IS THE LUNAR SABBATH CYCLE VALID?

*We continue to receive word from around the country and world concerning those who are teaching the Lunar week and Sabbath cycle. It seems to be affecting and influencing so many people. Is this a valid observance? We should be able to prove this from the Scriptures.*

*By Jerry Healan*

### CYCLES, CYCLES, CYCLES

Did you know that everything is done in cycles? Have you ever thought of this? The marvelous thing is that Yahweh began the creation by bringing forth various cycles. The very first cycle that He brought forth is the cycle of the day, which consists of the period of darkness and light, a 24 hour period, "In the beginning Elohim created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of Elohim moved upon the face of the waters. And Elohim said, Let there be light: and there was light. And Elohim saw the light, that it was good: and Elohim divided the light from the darkness. And Elohim called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. **And the evening and the morning were the first day,**" Gen. 1:1-5.

The daily cycle consists of the evening and the morning. Yahweh began to bring the earth out of chaos, confusion and destruction on the first day. He completed the job in six days and rested the seventh, which completed the second Biblical cycle, that is, the seven day week.

On the fourth day of the creation account, the sun, moon and stars were brought forth. This would be the first inclination that the weekly cycle and lunar cycle are not coordinated together. The sun, moon, and stars work together to declare a daily cycle because the sun rules the day and the moon and stars rule the night. But the weekly cycle had begun before the sun, moon and stars came into play.

Without the moon, there would be no monthly or lunar cycle, of course, because that is what a lunar cycle is. The lunar cycle goes from new moon to new moon. The moon was also utilized to announce the yearly cycle. In other words, it

took twelve months or lunar cycles to make a year, but the year is also ruled by the equinoxes. The vernal equinox occurs around spring time and the autumnal equinox occurs in the fall. About every three years an extra lunar cycle (month) had to be added in order to bring the sun, moon, stars, and equinoxes back in alignment. But the weekly cycle never changed.

There is a lunar year, a sidereal year, a solar year, equinotical year, etc. The lunar year is only 354 days while the other years are a little over 365 days. Therefore, there has to be an adjustment, as said, every three years or so.

While our modern day calendar declares months, generally 30 or 31 day cycles, the calendar simply does not utilize the moon as its monthly cycle. The modern day calendar was dreamed up and foisted upon us by the Caesars. The fact of the matter is that the Hebrews and other ancient societies utilized the lunar cycle for their months. This is possibly one of the reasons that the lunar Sabbath people have had so much success. They question the Caesarian calendar, which includes the seven day weekly cycle.

However, Scripture requires two or three witnesses to establish a thing (Dt. 17:6; 19:15) and the Jews, Christians and Moslems are three witnesses as to the weekly cycle. The seven day weekly cycle has been preserved by all three faiths. The Jews continue to observe the seventh day Sabbath given to Moses and Israel, which was begun at creation. The Christians also preserve the weekly cycle because their special day of the week is the first day (Sunday). The Moslems revere the sixth day of the week.

### DISAGREEMENTS

As in everything that man turns his hand to, the lunar Sabbath peoples themselves are in disa-



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greement as to when the count to the Sabbath begins. Some begin their count with the first day of the month, new moon day, which would be the more correct way to count if one is going to utilize the moon to establish their Sabbath cycles. However, we can quickly overthrow this type of calendar by the account in Exodus 16. The children of Israel came into the wilderness of Sin on the fifteenth day of the second month (moon). (Ex. 16:1-2)

The people began to murmur against Moses and Aaron because they were hungry, so Yahweh told them that He would rain bread from heaven for them (Ex. 16:4). They were to gather a certain rate every day, but on the sixth day they would gather twice as much so they could keep the seventh day Sabbath (Ex. 16:4-5, 22-26). The fact of the matter is that the manna began to appear on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of the moon (lunar cycle), which leads us to the seventh day being the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of that cycle.

If one begins his weekly count from the first day of the month (new moon day), then the 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> days would be the Sabbaths. Therefore, the account of the manna overthrows this system very quickly as the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> days would have been Sabbaths during that particular lunar cycle (month).

## THE SECOND GROUP

But there is another group who declares that since the 22<sup>nd</sup> was a Sabbath, then all one has to do is count backwards in order to come to the so-called logical conclusion that the Sabbath cycle count must begin on the second day of the moon. That is, the 15<sup>th</sup> was a Sabbath, beginning its count on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of the month, and the 8<sup>th</sup> was a Sabbath beginning its count on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the moon or month. So, what is the first day of the lunar cycle (new moon day) then? While there may be differences within this second group, many proclaim that the first day of the lunar cycle is a Sabbath. This cannot be. Why? Because the very word Sabbath comes from the Hebrew word “shaba or sheba” which is seven. In other words,

for the day to be called a Sabbath, it must be preceded by a six day count.

Let’s do a little reasoning here. In the Genesis account there was no moon. The very first day was called “*yowm echad*” or day one. The day following day one (*yowm echad*) was the second day (*yowm sheni*). Isn’t it a little confusing, or very confusing that when the moon would come into play that the first day of the lunar cycle (*yowm echad*) is not the first day (*yowm echad*) of the weekly account? This second group has made the second day (*yowm sheni*) the first day (*yowm echad*) of the week. Don’t the Scriptures say that Yahweh is not the author of confusion? “For Yahweh is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all assemblies of the saints,” 1 Cor. 14:33.

Notice that, Yahweh is the author of peace. On the first day of the creation account, He began to author peace out of the confusion that was extant in the earth. He did not begin it on the second day of the lunar cycle. He began it on the first day of the weekly cycle.

The moon was brought into play in order to begin and control the lunar cycle, to rule the night on a daily basis and to establish a lunar year, but never a weekly cycle. It didn’t appear until the fourth day of the Genesis 1 account (Gen. 1:14-19).

## THE MANNA AND COMMANDMENT

Concerning the command about the manna, Yahweh commanded that Israel would gather for six days. On the sixth day they would gather twice as much so they could prepare their food for two days on the sixth day and everyone could rest on the seventh day Sabbath. No manna appeared on the seventh day at all. He utilized the manna in order to reveal to them His seven day weekly cycle which ended with the seventh day Sabbath.

Yahweh further commanded Israel, “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 Yahweh thy Elohim: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor



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thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days Yahweh made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore Yahweh blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it," Ex. 20:8-11.

Did He say anything about the moon in this commandment? Absolutely not! Can't you see that He began a seven day weekly cycle that was to continue as long as the earth, sun, moon, and stars exist? The seventh day is a memorial, a remembrance of the cycle that He established in Gen. 1:1-2:3. If you tie your count to the cycles of the moon, then the natural, original seven day count is interrupted because there are 29-1/2 days in a lunar cycle and four weekly Sabbath cycles will be 28 days, five will be 35 days.

The gathering of the manna for forty years reveals the true cycle because the people gathered the manna for six days. Every sixth day there was a double amount so that the people could rest on the seventh day Sabbath. The sixth day was the only day wherein a double amount could be gathered! To gather more than the allotted amount on any other day caused Moses to become angry, and the manna bred worms and stank (Ex. 16:20).

In a lunar calendar system, there are alternating 29 and 30 day months. Since four Sabbath cycles would be completed in 28 days, in a 29 day month, there is one extra day, while in a 30 day month there are two extra days. Yahweh gave the Israelites manna for six days only. On the sixth day there was twice the amount so they would have enough manna for the sixth and seventh (Sabbath) days. (As stated above.) This was a repeating cycle that took place for 40 years for emphasis.

Again, the fourth commandment declares that we are to work for six days and rest on the seventh. There is no place in Scripture that ties the seven day weekly cycle in with the moon. Look at the manna account again in Exodus chapter 16. Look at the Sabbath commandment in Exodus 20:8-11, Ex. 23:12, Ex. 31:13-17, Ex. 34:21, Lev. 23:1-3, Dt. 5:12-14. Do any of these accounts mention the moon? Of course not!

## ANNUAL HOLY DAYS

The fact of the matter is that Leviticus chapter 23 does bring the moon into account for certain days. Those days are the annual holy day cycle. Yahweh repeats the Sabbath command in Lev. 23:1-3 without mentioning the moon at all, but in verse four the situation changes. Notice what it says, "These are the feasts of Yahweh, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons. In the fourteenth day of **the first month** (moon) at even is Yahweh's passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same **month** (moon) is the feast of unleavened bread unto Yahweh: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread," vv. 4-6. The Hebrew word for "month" is *chodesh* which means moon or month.

Later in the chapter we read, "And Yahweh spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In **the seventh month (moon)**, in **the first day of the month (moon)**, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation. Ye shall do no servile work therein: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto Yahweh. And Yahweh spake unto Moses, saying, Also on the tenth day of **this seventh month** (moon) there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto Yahweh. And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it is a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before Yahweh your Elohim. For whatsoever soul it be that shall not be afflicted in that same day, he shall be cut off from among his people. And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people. Ye shall do no manner of work: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of **the month** (moon) at even, from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath. And Yahweh spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of **this**



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**seventh month** (moon) shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto Yahweh. On the first day shall be an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto Yahweh: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto Yahweh: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein. These are the feasts of Yahweh, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto Yahweh, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, every thing upon his day: **Beside the sabbaths of Yahweh**, and beside your gifts, and beside all your vows, and beside all your freewill offerings, which ye give unto Yahweh. Also in the fifteenth day of **the seventh month (moon)**, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto Yahweh seven days: on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath. And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before Yahweh your Elohim seven days. And ye shall keep it a feast unto Yahweh seven days in the year. It shall be a statute for ever in your generations: ye shall celebrate it in **the seventh month (moon)**,” Lev. 23:23-41.

Hasn't Yahweh made it clear that these are feast days that are to be observed or celebrated in their seasons and that they are governed by the moon? If the seven day weekly cycle ending in the commanded Sabbath is to be governed by the moon, why doesn't Yahweh's word clearly point it out just like it does in these annual feast days? It is because the seven day weekly cycle was initiated at creation and is its own cycle just as the day is its own cycle and the month is its own cycle and the year is its own cycle. The manna account and the Sabbath commandment accounts verify this.

## A SIGN

The Sabbath cycle was given to the children of Israel as a sign that they were Yahweh's people

and He was their Elohim, “And Yahweh spake unto Moses, saying, Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am Yahweh that doth sanctify you. Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to Yahweh: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days Yahweh made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed,” Ex. 31:12-17.

The Prophet Ezekiel is utilized to confirm this Sabbath sign, “Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am Yahweh that sanctify them. But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: they walked not in my statutes, and they despised my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; and my sabbaths they greatly polluted: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them in the wilderness, to consume them. But I wrought for my name's sake, that it should not be polluted before the heathen, in whose sight I brought them out. Yet also I lifted up my hand unto them in the wilderness, that I would not bring them into the land which I had given them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands; Because they despised my judgments, and walked not in my statutes, but polluted my sabbaths: for their heart went after their idols. Nevertheless mine eye spared them from destroying them, neither did I make an end of them in the wilderness. But I said unto their children in the wilderness, Walk ye not in the statutes of your fathers, neither observe their judgments, nor defile yourselves with their idols: I am



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Yahweh your Elohim; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them; And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am Yahweh your Elohim," Ez. 20:12-20.

To observe the lunar Sabbath cycle takes one out of the ordained seven day weekly (Sabbatical) cycle that was established at creation and was also commanded In Exodus 20, Ex. 23:12, Ex. 31:13-17, Ex. 34:21, Lev. 23:1-3, Dt. 5:12-14!

As stated, the Jews, Christians, and Moslems are witnesses that the current seven day week is correct. While Caesar's calendar is pagan, it still witnesses to the correct seven day week. Caesar took the people away from the seventh day Sabbatical cycle by commanding the people to observe the first day of the seven day week. Mohammed took his people out of the seventh day

Sabbatical cycle by establishing the 6<sup>th</sup> day of the seven day week to be observed. The Jews, Christians, and Moslems along with the modern day calendar are four witnesses to the seven day week, but the fifth and final witness (which should also be the first) is Yahweh and His commandments found in the Torah! He commands work for six days and rest on the seventh day. He further revealed this seven day cycle through the giving of manna for forty years!

If you have been encouraged to embrace the lunar Sabbath cycle, or are being encouraged to do so, I must warn you that there is confusion and disagreement on how to observe this cycle in these people's own camp, but if you do embrace it, you will be cast into chaos and confusion and will be taken out of Yahweh's own commanded cycle.

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