

Lighted Way Ministries

Study Guide

Is the Sabbath Saturday, Luni-solar, or Sunday?...



The **SEARCH** *for the*
Weekly **SABBATH**

“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 God...”

Exodus 20:8-11



Keeping the Sabbath holy should be important to God's people, because it is important to Yahweh. We know this, Scripturally, because the Bible tells us that God especially blesses those who keep His Sabbath holy. Also, Sabbath-keeping is the Sign which He looks for, to prove that we really belong to Him.

“...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.” Exodus 31:13

KEY POINT



The Seventh-day Sabbath was set apart and made holy (hallowed) by Yahweh Himself. Man may not presume to “un-estimate” the Day which God has so “esteemed” - *“...Yahweh blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.”* Exodus 20:11

(See also Deut. 5:12-15)

“If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on My holy Day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and Yahweh's holy Day, honorable, and if you honor it... then you will find your joy in Yahweh. And I will cause you to ride in triumph on the heights of the Land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob. For the Mouth of Yahweh has spoken.” Isaiah 58:13-14 (NIV)

Most notably, Yahshua, Who was our Example in all things (1 Peter 2:21) kept the Sabbath.

“Then Yahshua went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and on the Sabbath He went as usual to the synagogue. He stood up to read the Scriptures.” Luke 4:16 (ASV)

Since Sabbath-keeping is important to Yahweh, and since it is His Will for His people to keep His holy Day, the next issue is to determine

which Day is the weekly Sabbath. Which Day has the Heavenly Father esteemed, that no earthly power may presume to unesteem? There are three days, which are believed to be the Sabbath of *Yahweh*. They are: Sunday, Saturday, or a weekly day determined by the moon phases (*commonly called the "Lunisolar Sabbath"*). In this study, we will examine the Scriptural validity of these days, in order to Biblically identify the weekly Sabbath, which is hallowed by our Creator.

Is Sunday the Sabbath of *Yahweh*?

Today, many Christians believe that Saturday **used to be** the Sabbath of *Yahweh*. But they also believe that Saturday is no longer to be kept holy. This is because it is commonly thought that *Yahweh* changed His Mind and appointed a new day, in honor of *Yahshua's* Resurrection. But, as we've already studied in the prior three Bible study lessons of this series, God neither changes His Mind nor His Law.

Amazingly, even the idea that *Yahshua's* Resurrection is being honored by keeping Sunday is a lie of the Little Horn power (see lesson 5). *Yahshua, Who is Creator of the Sabbath, also Resurrected on the Sabbath* (*see the green panel to the right*), which was a Biblical term that **never** applied to Sunday.

The Day of the Resurrection Was Not Sunday!

We can prove, Scripturally, that Messiah rose from the dead towards the end of the Biblical Sabbath Day; because the women were running to His Tomb, **as the Sabbath was ending**. Yet, they were **too late** to witness the Resurrection. Clearly, *Yahshua* had already risen, BEFORE the Sabbath ended!

*"Now **late on the Sabbath Day**, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the Sepulchre.." Matthew 28:1 (ASV)*

Biblically, a day begins and ends in the evening (Leviticus 23:27-32). The women went to the Tomb to anoint *Yahshua's* Body just BEFORE sunset on the Seventh-day. How can "late on the Sabbath Day" be nearing the dawn of Sunday morning? "**Began to dawn**" is from the Greek word *epiphōskō*. Like with a dictionary, the context helps us determine which meaning to use. This word can mean "begin to grow light." or "begin to draw on". Since the Bible says that Sabbath ends at sunset, Sunday began to draw on (start) just after sunset.

The truth is that there is no Scriptural support for keeping Sunday sacred. This tradition was started by Roman emperor Constantine, replacing the true Sabbath of *Yahweh*, in the 4th Century AD (just as the prophet Daniel warned that the Little Horn power would do - see lesson 5). It was Constantine also, who first began referring to Sunday as “the Lord’s Day”.

“Christians shall not Judaize and be idle on Saturday (Sabbath), but shall work on that day: but the Lord’s Day (Sunday), they shall especially honour; and as being Christians, shall, if possible, do no work on that day. If however, they are found Judaizing, they shall be shut out from Christ.” Catholic Church of Laodicea, circa 364 AD - Rev. Charles Joseph Hefele, Henry N. Oxenham (trans.), *A History of the Church Councils from 326 to 429* Volume 2 (Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark, 1896): 316

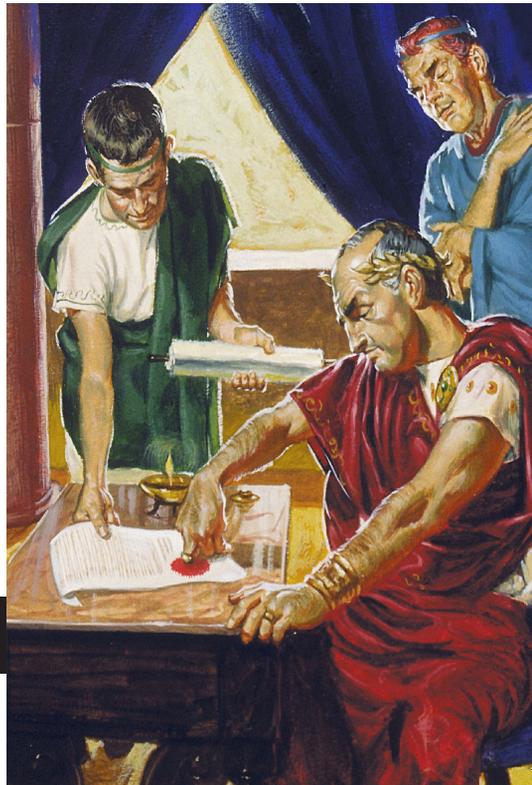
The Catholic Mirror of September 23, 1894, puts it this way: ***“The Catholic Church for over one thousand years before the existence of a Protestant, by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday.”***

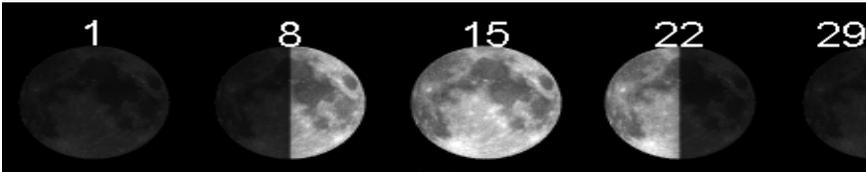
As history and Scripture easily verify, traditions started by the Little Horn power have established Sunday worship. Sunday is not

Yahweh’s esteemed holy Day. One down, two to go! Now let’s turn our attention to the teaching that the weekly Sabbath is determined by the moon phases.

Is Sabbath determined by the Phases of the Moon?

When first presented with the “Lunisolar Sabbath”, one will probably be amazed at the sheer volume of historical notes on changes to the calendar over the centuries. By the time one wades through all this impressive documentation in the “Lunisolar Sabbath” argument, one question looms large in the mind: “With all these changes, how can we be certain that Saturday is still the Seventh-day Sabbath from Creation?”





Weekly Sabbath is 7th Day of the Week
APRIL, 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	Sab
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

In this calendar, the numbers shown are the actual dates of the standard calendar. Sabbath is consistently the 7th Day.

Weekly Sabbath is "Lunar Sabbath"
MARCH-APRIL, 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

In this calendar, the numbers shown are the actual dates of the standard calendar. Sabbath is NOT consistently the 7th Day. There are actually 9 days between "Lunisolar Sabbath" - Wednesday, April 6 and "Lunisolar Sabbath" - Friday, April 15.

The "Lunisolar Sabbath" argument appears to be a sure solution, if for no other reason than that it attractively "simplifies" the Sabbath issue. But is the "Lunisolar Sabbath" teaching Scripturally correct? To test the Scriptural validity of this teaching, we must first clearly define it.

The "Lunisolar Sabbath" goes by many names. It is also known as the "Lunar Sabbath" or "Creation Calendar Sabbath". This teaching states that the weekly Sabbath of *Yahweh* is determined by the phases of the moon. This means that the Day of the New Moon (following the night when the first sliver of the crescent moon was sighted) starts the count for determining the weekly Sabbaths for

that month (moon cycle). From the New Moon, the weekly Sabbath would then fall upon the 8th day (of the Biblical month), the 15th day (which is the day of the full moon), the 22nd day and the 29th day of the moon cycle. This means that the weekly Sabbaths might fall on a Wednesday for that given month. The day of the week on which the "Lunisolar Sabbath" happens to fall is irrelevant, in this teaching.

To make this plain, consider the calendar example shown above, comparing "Lunisolar Sabbath" vs

“Saturday” (for clarity) Sabbath. To determine when the “Lunisolar Sabbaths” would fall, we must know the New Moon dates. The New Moon dates which determine this calendar are: Thursday, March 10 and “Saturday”, April 9. In each calendar, proposed Sabbath days are shown in yellow. New Moon dates are shown in purple.

At the outset of this study, we can already notice that the Lunisolar Sabbath is not consistently the 7th day. This is because, each month, between the 29th day of the lunar cycle and the first Sabbath following the next New Moon, there may be 9 days (*see the calendar for the week shown in red on the prior page*). Thus, the “Lunisolar Sabbath” cannot be called the 7th Day Sabbath, as this qualifier doesn’t always apply.

For this reason, in this study we will continue using the term “Lunisolar Sabbath” for that day, but will use the term 7th Day Sabbath for the day society has paganly called “Saturday” (*please note, we sometimes use this term only for clarity*). It is now time to compare these two proposed Sabbaths, to see which holds up to Biblical inspection. In this study, we will compare the Lunisolar Sabbath and 7th Day Sabbath in the following six tests:

1) We will check the “Bone Structure” (see lesson 1) of each - going back to Creation, to see how the first Sabbath was determined.

2) We will investigate the calendar change issues.

3) We will address which construct fits the Scriptural requirements for the weekly Sabbath.

4) We will see whether there are any provable cases in Scripture where the weekly Sabbath DIDN’T fall on the 8th, 15th, 22nd or 29th. Even one provable case will disprove the Lunisolar theory.

5) We will look at the history of keeping the Sabbath to see whether it was done by the moon phases or by a continuous count.

6) We will examine the Seventh-day Sabbath to determine whether there is enough evidence to show that “Saturday” is indeed still the 7th Day.

7) The Pentecost count includes seven Sabbaths AND fifty days. Which Sabbath fits this - Lunar or 7th Day?

TEST #1: Bone Structure - The first place that Sabbath is men-

The only way for the first Sabbath to have been the 7th Day, is for the Count to have NOT INCLUDED the presence of the moon! The first day of the first week (a count of 7) was not the first day of the first month (the moon cycle).

These first days are included in the count to Sabbath, but three days in the Count have no moon at all... The Moon wasn't needed to count to Sabbath.

The Moon wasn't used to count to the Sabbath (*which is the 7th Day*). The Sabbath came 3 days after the moon...

1 st Day	2 nd Day	3 rd Day	4 th Day	5 th Day	6 th Day	7 th Day Sabbath
						
Yahweh Created Light- Gen. 1:1-5	Yahweh Made Air- Gen. 1:6-8	Yahweh Created Land & Plants- Gen. 1:9-13	Yahweh Made Sun, Moon & Stars- Gen. 1:14-19	Yahweh Created Fish & Birds- Gen. 1:20-23	Yahweh Made Animals & Man- Gen. 1:24-31	Yahweh Rested on the 7 th Day - Gen. 2:1-3

KEY POINT



Since the moon was created on the 4th day of the Creation Week (Genesis 1:14-19), the moon was **not** used to determine the 7th day of Creation. Sabbath is Scripturally defined as the 7th day, which obviously did not require the presence of a moon - in any phase - to determine. If the moon was not used for the FIRST SABBATH, it cannot be used for subsequent Sabbaths. Because Scripture defines Sabbath as a memorial of Creation (Exodus 20:11).

tioned in Scripture lays the foundation for Sabbath doctrine. Since Sabbath is first mentioned in Genesis, in the Creation story, which

Sabbath fits Creation?

The Sabbath was instituted in Genesis, at the end of Earth's first week. Counting from the first day, on which *Yahweh* made light (Genesis 1:3-5), the Sabbath Day was the 7th Day. The moon was created on the fourth day of the Creation Week.

TEST #2: Calendar Change Issues

- The first point to remember, when investigating historical records of calendar changes, is that historical records have been tampered with. It is great to quote from historical sources, so long as this is not the basis for your belief. Historical sources must fit with the doctrinal teaching you have found through proper Bible study. You

should never make your Bible doctrine fit your historical finds. For this reason, we will quote historical sources, **only** as they fit what we have **first** found in Scripture.

When we were introduced to the Lunisolar Sabbath teaching, we were presented with a thick document of calendar changes, all of which were used to prove that Saturday could no longer be the 7th Day Sabbath from Creation. The sheer volume of calendar changes was enough to bring someone to the Lunisolar Sabbath belief merely from the shock value alone! But, upon closer inspection we found that most of the calendar changes were completely irrelevant to the Sabbath issue! Here's why...

When *Yahshua* was here, He was our Example in all things (1 Peter 2:21). *Yahshua* kept the Sabbath, which was the same Sabbath being kept by the Jews, in His time. This means that the Jews were keeping the right Day. If they had not been keeping the right Day, the Bible says that *Yahshua* would have corrected them:

“For if Yahshua had given them Rest, then would He not afterward have spoken of another Day? 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.” Hebrews 4:8-10

This cut the impressive document of calendar changes down tremendously. For none of the calendar changes prior to Christ need even be considered. It is also interesting to note that the Jews were keeping the day society calls “Saturday” as the Sabbath in the time of Messiah.

But there is a big issue, among Lunisolar Sabbath teachers, about the “Gregorian Calendar”. It is often suggested that Pope Gregory so changed the calendar that it is impossible to determine the weekly Sabbath by a “Gregorian Calendar” (*which is another name for our modern calendar*).

To address this correctly, we must look at the calendar changes made by Pope Gregory XIII. In October of 1582 AD, Pope Gregory XIII dropped 10 dates from the calendar. He also added a day to the month of February. But none of these changes impacted the order

OCTOBER, 1582						
S	M	T	W	T	F	Sab
	1	2	3	4	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

of the DAYS of the week, by which we determine Sabbath. Sunday was still followed by Monday and Monday by Tuesday, and so forth. Ten DATES were removed, but the order of the week days continued uninterrupted. Thus, Gregory's changes did not effect the Sabbath. The implication that we cannot determine the Seventh-day Sabbath from a Gregorian calendar is simply not true. The Seventh-day of the week remained.

TEST #3: The Scriptural Construct for Sabbath- In Scripture, the Sabbath is plainly called the Seventh Day. This is because it is always the Seventh Day, as will be plainly seen when we examine the count to Pentecost. In a Lunisolar Sabbath construct, the first week is 8-10 days between the 29th day of the lunar cycle and the 8th day of the next lunar cycle. This means that determining the Sabbath by the moon is both not the original way to calculate Sabbath (from

Creation), nor is it always the 7th Day, which defines Sabbath. One reason Lunisolar Sabbath teachers give to support the Sabbath being governed by the moon phases is the story of the manna falling in the Wilderness, in which the Sabbath fit the Lunisolar Sabbath timing (*which is the 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th of the Biblical month*). Also, the first and last annual Sabbaths of Unleavened Bread and Tabernacles fall on the 15th and 22nd. These days are Scripturally called Sabbaths or Days of Rest.

While these examples may at first appear to support a Lunisolar Sabbath construct, closer inspection reveals that many assumptions must be made to make these prove a Lunisolar Sabbath teaching:

1) It is being assumed that since the manna story shows the 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th were Sabbaths, during **that** month, than these days are Sabbaths **every** month. (*But,*



as we will show in this study, there is at least one case when the Sabbath was on the 23rd of the Biblical month). It is a wrong assumption to believe that because sometimes the Seventh-day is on the same days as the lunar phases that this is always the case.

2) It is an assumption to state that simply because the first and last Days of Unleavened Bread and Tabernacles are annual Sabbaths, that they must also be Seventh-day Sabbaths.

TEST #4: A Provable Case in Scripture where the weekly Sabbath DIDN'T fall on a "Lunisolar Sabbath" day (8th, 15th, 22nd or 29th) - In order for the Lunisolar Sabbath to be correct, it must consistently be Scriptural. Thus, we must be able to find that ALL datable Sabbaths in the Bible took place on a lunar phase date (*falling on the 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th of the Biblical month*). Even one datable Sabbath, falling outside of these lunar phase dates, is sufficient to disprove the whole theory!

Scripture tells us that *Yahshua* made clay to heal a blind man's eyes on the weekly Sabbath. *"And it was the Sabbath Day when Yahshua made the clay, and opened his eyes."* John 9:14

And on that occasion, the Seventh-Day Sabbath fell on the 23rd day

of the Seventh Month. This is a complete impossibility in a Lunisolar Sabbath construct. In this belief system, the Sabbath could never fall on the 23rd. Yet, in this case, the Bible proves that it DID.

How can we be certain that the Sabbath when the blind man's eyes were healed was the 23rd of the Seventh Biblical month? John tells us that *Yahshua* invited the people to come to Him for Living Water. This invitation was given on the Last Great Day of the Feast, which is the Day immediately following the Week of Tabernacles.

"In the Last Day, that Great Day of the Feast, Yahshua stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink." John 7:37

In Leviticus 23:34-36, we find that the Feast of Tabernacles begins on the 15th day of *Tishri* (*the Seventh month*). This Feast continues seven days, but the 8th day, counting from the 15th, is called the Last Great Day by the Hebrew people, and is an annual Sabbath.

"...The fifteenth day of this Seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days... On the eighth Day shall be an holy convocation ye shall do no servile work therein."

Leviticus 23:34-36

The Bible tells us that the next day, after *Yahshua* stood and invited everyone to drink the Water of Life,

Feast of Tabernacles - lasts for 7 Days...

Feast of Tabernacles - lasts for 7 Days...							8 th Day	Sab- bath
15 th Day	16 th Day	17 th Day	18 th Day	19 th Day	20 th Day	21 st Day	22 nd Day	23 rd Day
1st Day of Tab- ernacles							Last Great Day	Yahshua healed blind man

Yahshua came again to the Temple early in the morning (John 8:2). The next day after the Last Great Day (*which is always Tishri 22*) is the 23rd day of that Biblical month.

The Gospel record then shows that while Yahshua was at the Temple on this 23rd day of *Tishri*, He healed the blind man's eyes. Again, John recorded, "It was the Sabbath day when (*Yahshua*) made the clay, and opened his eyes," (John 9:14). Clearly, there are at least two cases where the Seventh-day Sabbath didn't fall on the 8th, 15th, 22nd, or 29th of the Biblical Month:

1) *The first Sabbath of Creation (on which the moon was only three days old).*

2) *The day Yahshua healed the blind man - when the 23rd of the Biblical month was the Sabbath.*

TEST #5: History of Sabbath keeping. Was Sabbath kept by the Lunar Phases or the 7th Day? - Many teachers of Lunisolar Sabbath suggest that the Children of Israel kept the Sabbath by the moon phases. However, when we looked up the quotes given in the documents, we

found that some pivotally important quotations, had been misquoted. In one noted document, the encyclopedia being quoted actually **didn't** show that ancient Israel kept the Sabbath by the moon at all, but showed the opposite! Whether the Lunisolar Sabbath teacher was misquoting due to ignorance, a lack of due diligence, or intentional deception is unclear. But the resulting teaching is certainly dangerously deceptive!

For space in this study, we will just give one example of such a deceptive misrepresentation:

In the article, "*The One Unanswerable Objection to a Saturday Sabbath*", which is quoted by many Lunisolar Sabbath teachers, the following pivotal statement appears:

"The connection of the Sabbath with lunar phases, however, was later discarded by the Israelites". (pg 4)

This statement is sourced, within the document, as having been quoted from *The New Schaff-Herzog Religious Encyclopedia*, Vol 10 p 135-136. In "*The One Unanswerable Objection to a Saturday*

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