

Is the Lunar Sabbath Scriptural? By Rabbi Simon Altaf

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YHWH – The four letter name of G-d
Yahushua – Commonly called Jesus in the West
Torah – First five books of the Bible written by Moses
AFNHSS – Abrahamic-Faith Nazarene Hebraic Study Scriptures

Whilst I do not wish to condemn anyone who is simply trying to obey God, I have to address this as this topic has been running now for almost three years; I have tried to remain silent without addressing it publicly and I rejected the notion three years ago as unscriptural and saw no need to waste any time debating this kind of error.

There are so many groups who are trying to teach that God operated on a lunar calendar; therefore, the Sabbath must be on a cycle of 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th days each month. Then you have to deal with the fact that the same lunar days fall one or two days later each month but that is usually brushed to one side as irrelevant because they claim the month is reset so we can start counting fresh from day 1. However, this is a fallacy as most moon months end in 29 days or 30 days and you cannot just brush days aside using the modern Gregorian calendar. Even if we are in an Islamic calendar which is also based on lunar months no day is set aside so this idea that the Lunar people have picked up is unfounded and baseless.

Here is what the days look like in a lunar cycle:

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

First the common sense argument

If God intended us to obey His Sabbath by the Lunar calendar then one has to ask what man or woman is able to keep such a Sabbath on different days of the week? It wasn't only for the Israelites in the wilderness you know, God knew ahead about the exile too so how can He allow His people to be in confusion and fighting over which days to keep? What about the fact that now that we live in exile and which employer is going to give us time off different days of the week? So that means if we are stuck in a job which does not allow us time off one week on Sunday, another week on Monday and maybe another on Wednesday, how can we obey God and keep our job? No such job or employer exists. So did YHWH intend for us to live in poverty? That could be the logical conclusion from such people who want to maintain the Lunar Sabbath view.

Maybe one employer would allow us to do this - its called The Social Security system for the unemployed. In the UK you get a certain amount of money each week while in the US you get food stamps that can be used in the supermarkets if you are unemployed. But your family will remain poor for the rest of their days, and I doubt you will get any peace or joy in your life by seeing your children not able to purchase things that you cannot afford to buy because no one will employ you. Or would you use the ploy to let YHWH find you a business? Sadly this is the kind of advice and theology running around destroying families under the guise of religion. In my opinion this is a very divisive commandment created by men.

The only way then most of us would keep the Lunar Sabbath is to be unemployed and unhappy people, unable to pay our tithes and live a life always begging others to help us. Does that sound like a picture of our forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? However, God says this in Ps1:1.

Psalm 1:1 (AFNHSS) **Happy** is the man that does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the halacha (way) of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful.

Scripture itself shows us that nobody unemployed would be happy unable to pay your tithe, buy nice things for your children and your wife and not able to help the poor but be poor ourselves. While our family is trying to find food to eat, how could we ever really serve YHWH? Scripture negates a lunar Sabbath at many levels and so does science. God knew we were going to be in the exile for many years; therefore, He would make it easier for us and not harder. But go and ask the Lunar Sabbatharians to explain these basic details and they will gasp for breath. These things cannot be ignored or just explained away. We are not all millionaires but ordinary people trying to live right and serve Yahuweh.

This is why if we look carefully at what YHWH set in place then in fact He did make it easier as the western nations have made weekly holidays of Saturday and Sunday and naturally the 7th day cycle each week falls on Friday sunset to Saturday sunset which is a holiday in most of the nations of the world today. If you want to believe in the Lunar Sabbath then this would also make dispensationalists true and everyone else false because they would say, "See, God would not expect you to keep the Lunar Sabbath as it is impossible to keep because you couldn't satisfy His requirement; therefore, the law is abrogated for us." However, the truth is both dispensationalism and Lunar Sabbath people are 100% wrong but won't admit it out of pride and ego issues. I will show you in a second why they are wrong.

In God's response to King Solomon's prayer, He says:

2 Chronicles 7:14 (AFNHSS) If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from shamayim (heavens), and **will forgive their sin**, and will **heal their land**.

So God would bless us if we turn away from our wicked ways, the only way we turn away from our wicked ways is to obey the Torah of Moses because that is what judges wickedness. Scripture is clear not to walk in the Torah is sinfulness which many are doing today.

First John 3:4 (AFNHSS) Whoever commits sin breaks also the Torah: for sin is the breaking of the Torah.

Dispensationalism is false because it allows you to commit sins which is what most of Christendom teaches, which is against the Torah of God. If we could not keep the Law/Torah of Moses in the exile then we also transgress the Torah and that means God could not forgive us since by definition we could not turn away from wickedness. Therefore, we would not be the disciples of the Messiah Yahushua because He requires us to be obedient to the Torah to be His disciples. Catch twenty-two! So what are you going to do?

If we could not keep His lunar Sabbath or his fixed dates Sabbath as some others erroneously espouse then how could we ever be right before YHWH? This my friends negates both dispensationalism as man's lie and also the Lunar Sabbath. Sorry to be blunt but what do you want me to do? Hold your hands and say well done for keeping the Lunar Sabbath?

Concrete proof that Lunar Sabbath is wrong

Zechar'yah 8:23 (AFNHSS) Thus saith YHWH of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold **of the tzitzit of him that is a Yahudi** (Jewish), saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that Elohim is with you.

This would be an Orthodox/Sephardic Jewish man in the future - yes, future not past - he is not Christian and he is not a lunar Sabbath keeper because no Orthodox Jewish person believes in this so this is clear proof that he did not have to be a Christian or into the dispensationalism lie or into the Lunar Sabbath or fix dates Sabbath to have God with him. In fact he would be quite happily keeping the cyclical 7th day Sabbath just like me and if you read what Zechar'yah says God is with that person. He is actually leading Christians into the kingdom. Shame on Christianity and its bad theologies for lying to people that they need to abrogate the law/Torah of God to have grace!!!

YHWH's day is always sunset to sunset while you will find the Lunar Sabbath keepers will twist the meaning of the Hebrew word Boker (morning) and Erev (Evening) to fit their falsified agenda. This is the only way they try to fit this bad theology to confuse people who have no idea of ancient Hebrew customs.

Genesis 1:5 (NKJV) God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the **evening and the morning** were the **first day**.

Note Evening plus Morning equals ONE day or in the Hebrew, Day One, Yom Rishon. This is how the Jewish people arrived at the term "Day" from sunset to sunset but this is not the only passage in the Torah - there are many others too.

So if the L-rd could not keep the 7th day weekly cycle, this would indicate that God could not foresee the future, and He, therefore, allowed a Sabbath to operate that could not be kept by most people. That would also mean that God deliberately allowed His own commandments to be broken and, therefore, people to be punished for it! Remember not keeping and obeying the Sabbath was and still is a capital crime. Who told you that it is no longer a capital crime? The only reason we do not stone people today is because we do not have the Sanhedrin. If we did then that commandment would be active.

Yet we know that this is not the case because this lunar Sabbath idea has been created by people out of their own preconceived notions of what scripture should be and should not be. By altering the meaning of the Hebrew words they try to achieve their agenda. I dare you to find two lunar months where the Sabbath cycle matches and I guarantee that you won't find it in sequence. Yes some Saturdays will fall on the Lunar cycle but it really makes no difference if they do or don't.

The lunar Sabbath breaks at the most basic common-sense level as I have shown you above. Yet I have not gone into detailed scripture where people have misread and then come up with an incorrect conclusion. I do not think I really need to confuse you with the ancient Hebrew and the way it was used to interpret the text and I certainly do not want to dazzle you with science. No thank you. Just because some Mr Brown sat in prison in 1992 and came up with the idea so now the whole world has to believe him and ignore clear instructions in scripture that negate it.

The scriptures that the Lunar Sabbatarians quote to you appear to fit but only within their own provided parameters but break after the lunar month is over because the lunar cycle is not a consistent 28 days (7 days times 4) but a 29.5 days average cycle. This means the next Sabbath is at least a day late or a day and a half late, which can never be counted in any way

but they will tell you that they can discard a day. How can that be? They will not tell you this flaw and simply brush it under the carpet so to speak.

Most Lunar Sabbatarians then have to juggle the moon in their palms while no one is looking and say, "Well, since the moon is not seen, those days cannot be counted and we can rest during this time to begin at day one again." What kind of theory is this?

1st cycle

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

Next cycle

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

Do you see the problem? When we start from 29.5 days of the lunar cycle completing the Lunar month and start counting our clocks the Sabbath never reaches the 8, 15, 22 and 29 days. In fact we only go as far as day 6 and then it is 7.5 days already which means the next Lunar Sabbath actually fell later than the required 7 days cycle. Only if you eat days when you are hungry then can you fit a lunar Sabbath. You cannot fit a circle in a square.

Let me show you the maths:

29.5 days month complete

30th day = ½ day

1,2,3,4,5,6,7 – by the time you have reached the 6th day you are actually 6-1/2 days in it and then you add the next half day so what time do you start the Sabbath? This shows us that you reach your Sabbath not at sunset but at mid-afternoon as that is when your Sabbath should start. If we strictly stick to the 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th cycles then if you count from the last 29.5 days to the next 8th day cycle you arrive at ... ? Well, let's count: The 29.5 Day cycle concludes. OK, 29.5 + half = 30 and a ½ days, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8th day Sabbath. Do you see you end up at 8 ½ days or could be just 8 days if it was a 30 day Lunar cycle so it just does not fit? Remember God never blessed the 8th day nor the 15th but He blessed the 7th Day only and always said count 1,2,3,4,5, and 6 followed by the Sabbath. The moon was not mentioned.

To work out this mess the Lunar Sabbath keepers come up with all sorts of juggling. First, it was hiding the extra days by arguing is it a molad, sliver, conjunction or something along those lines. Then some will go so far as to suggest that day starts at sunrise and not sunset - thusly, compounding their error. Error begets error where a Sadduceen day is chosen. Note: Yahushua did not agree with Sadducees on many issues!!!

The Sadducees believed in the day starting at sunrise while the Pharisees believed in days starting at sunset. The Pharisees were correct while the Sadducees were wrong. Note also that today's modern Karaite movement has arisen out of the Sadducees. Unlike today many of the Sadducees were in fact enemies of Yahushua at His time so do not be deceived to run after the Sadducees' error. (I am not saying all Karaites are bad, they are not.)

The Jewish argument

God said Judah is my lawgiver (Ps 60:7) and, therefore, the Sabbath as organised by the Jewish people is correct.

Psa 60:7 (KJV) Gilead is mine, and Manasseh is mine; Ephraim also is the strength of mine head; **Judah is my lawgiver**;

They went through the exile and came back in the land to establish the 7th day cycle and have faithfully continued to keep it. We find no argument in the Renewed Covenant (NT) at all with the Pharisees ever regarding the Sabbath where Yahushua would ever rebuke them. It did not happen as the Sabbath was a straight 7 days cycle and there was no issue even Yahushua was seen in the Synagogues teaching (Mark 1:21). By rejecting Judah's established Sabbath you actually reject YHWH since He set them to make the jurisdiction of the Moe'dim feasts and the Sabbaths but some Lunar Sabbatarians are calling them bad names. If you would like an example then look at what happened to Korah who also rebelled with his company of men against Moses (Num 16:2), the lawgiver over Israel.

Please do not be carried by every wind of doctrine that comes your way, use wise and righteous teachers to help you to understand things you do not understand but don't run after the masses. If some want to follow the moon then just let them and avoid any arguments, we have enough arguments. We must try to live in peace with all men and that includes believers and unbelievers.

Scriptural argument

Exodus 16:4 (AFNHSS) Then אֱלֹהִים said to Musa (Moses), Behold, I will rain lechem (bread) from shamayim (heavens) for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My Torah, or not.

Some authors insist that this particular test came on the 15th of the month and Israel should have known about the lunar Sabbath and that they were transgressing it.

I can tell you one coincidence of the 15th day of the month does not mean it ran the same each month and so this is the pick and choose style of argument.

One author who has been espousing this kind of theology in his book on the Lunar Sabbath presupposes that Abraham never kept the Sabbath neither did any previous ancestors so that his Lunar Sabbath theory can work. Great argument for those who do not know but very foolish precedent for those of us who know very well how Abraham lived.

I can assure you this is pure conjecture and lack of scriptural and historical knowledge. In fact I will prove it to you here that Abraham kept the High Holy days and by extension the 7th day Sabbath.

Genesis 18:6-7 (NKJV) So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quickly, make ready three measures of fine meal; knead it and **make cakes**." (7) And Abraham ran to the herd, took **a tender and good calf**, gave it to a young man, and he hastened to prepare it.

When Abraham was visited by YHWH rest assured it was the day of Passover which followed a High Holy Day Sabbath, the Passover was on 14th Nissan. YHWH came to Abraham on a special appointed moe'dim which Abraham and Lot were diligently keeping. Let me show you Lot and the feast of Unleavened Bread (High Holy Sabbath) on the 15th of Nissan. Note Abraham also asks Sarah to bake Unleavened Cakes and not leavened ones including the sacrifice of the calf. At Abraham's time it was a calf and not a lamb that was sacrificed. We

will also sacrifice a calf in the 3rd Temple and not a lamb, which means we are going back to the ancient pattern of Abraham.

Let's look at Lot

Genesis 19: 1-3 (NKJV) Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground.(2) And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way." And they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square." (3) But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then **he made them a feast**, and baked **Unleavened Bread**,(Matzah) and they ate.

So when God entered our time and space to meet Abraham it was the Passover and the next day it was the feast of **Unleavened Bread**, which Lot was celebrating. This shows the lunar Sabbath man in his book above who argued about the Lunar Sabbath or that Abraham and the previous generations did not keep the Sabbath is clearly in error.

The Sabbath was kept by Abraham, the Sabbath was kept by Lot, the Sabbath was even kept by Noah, and Adam by extension. Let those who make such foolish claims first bring proof and then I will show you how that was not true but I will only do it in public. No emails and no private room discussions. If you want to wash your dirty laundry then I insist it has to be in public so the body of Messiah can judge us together.

This is the difference between a Levite and a non-Levite. We were chosen as the teachers in the first Tabernacle, both Temples and will remain so because God has a covenant with us forever. You will also find Levites operating the 3rd Temple and they won't be needing Christianity's nonsensical four spiritual laws. Remember Judah is the law giver. The Levites stayed with Judah to guide them. Right now some of us are in the nations but there is good reason for that until the Messiah returns.

God himself gave testimony of Abraham being a good Torah keeper. Well, if he broke the Sabbath then why say he was a good Torah keeper? That demolishes any such arguments that Abraham did not keep the Torah. In fact he spent 39 years with Noah and Shem learning it in Shem's Yeshiva.

Genesis 26:5 (NKJV) "because Abraham **obeyed My voice** (Torah) and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws (Torot)."

Who are you going to believe - God or the people leading you into the Lunar Sabbath?

Lunar Sabbatarians build a straw man argument which can be easily refuted and pulled down. Here are two of the classical ones used that the moon is to be used in all moe-dim (Appointed times)

Genesis 1:14 (AFNHSS) Then Elohim said, Let there be lights in the expanse of the shamayim (heavens) to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and **Moe'dim** (feasts: Appointed times), and for days and years:

Psalms 104:19 (AFNHSS) He appointed the moon for seasons: **the sun knows his going down.**

The problem is with those who have an agenda to subvert they will only use one and not the other. So if the passage above speaks about the moon then what about the sun? We know a day cannot be reckoned without either the sun or moon and the same goes for the weekly Sabbath. It is based on the sunset. Why use the moon and not the sun? Also that all the feasts are not calculated using the moon alone is a false assumption.

Leviticus 23:2-3 (AFNHSS) **2** Speak unto the children of Y'sra'el, and say unto them, **Concerning the Moe'dim** (feasts: Appointed times) of מועדים, which you shall proclaim to be Set-Apart Assemblies, even these are My Feasts. **3** Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of rest, a set-apart assembly; you shall do no work therein: it is the Sabbath of מועדים in all your dwellings.

The Lunar Sabbath keeper argument goes that the weekly Sabbath and regular yearly moe'dim are mentioned in Leviticus 23:2 where the word "feasts" is used therefore the moon must be used in the weekly Sabbath. It might seem what they are saying has some truth in it but when we examine the term moe'dim we find the argument collapses. Let me show you how.

Genesis 21:2 (KJV) For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham^{H85} a son in his old age, at the set time^{H4150 (Moe'dim)} of which God had spoken to him.

Please note the same Hebrew term Moe'd is used for the set time when Sarah was to conceive so are we to presuppose that Sarah conceived on a new moon day and hence forth all special births are to happen on the new moons? No, so beware. Ancient Hebrew had a wide array of meanings.

1 Samuel 9:24 (NKJV) So the cook took up the thigh with its upper part and set it before Saul. And Samuel said, "Here it is, what was kept back. It was **set apart (Mo'ed)** for you. Eat; for until this time it has been kept for you, since I said I invited the people." So Saul ate with Samuel that day.

So once again Samuel presents the thigh of meat to Shaul. This has nothing to do with the new moon. The new moon was not used in assessing all things so this is a fallacy that many people live under. Also only certain new moons are held as special which are commanded while the rest are not. Generally there is no injunction to take time off work on New moon days or to stop working unless a commanded annual feast falls on that day such as the 7th Month first day feast of blowing of Shofars or Rosh Hashana.

Commanded New Moon rest because of an annual feast

Leviticus 23:24 (NKJV) "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: `In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation.

People in Israel in ancient times quite happily worked and carried on with the daily grind and even travelled out to places which if you remember was forbidden for more than a certain distance.

Ezra 7:9 (NKJV) On the **first day of the first month** he began his journey from Babylon, and on the **first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem**, according to the good hand of his God upon him.

Ezra was a lawgiver he was a priest who understood the Torah very well and how much he could walk. Note he travelled on the New moon day so beware that you do not come into deceit to think that every new moon is special, the reality is its not.

The other doctrine running around is that Sabbath was on fixed days yearly in the following way:

ABID IYAR SIVAN TAMMUZ AB ELUL

1,8,15,22,29. 6,13,20,27. 4, 5,12,19,26. 3,10,17,24. 1,8,15,22,29. 6,13,20,27.28,29,30, + 3, days.

TISRI BUL CHISLEU TIBETH SHEBAT ADAR

1,8,15,22,29. 6,13,20,27 4,11,18,25. 2,9,16,23 30. 7,14,21,28. 5,12,19,26,27,28,29,30.+ 2 days

All I am going to say is to give you the following verse.

Psalms 60:7 (NKJV) Gilead is Mine, and Manasseh is Mine; Ephraim also is the helmet for My head; **Judah is My lawgiver.**

Now you can either decide to believe what God has said about Judah or you can run after these groups for the rest of your life. It's really your choice. This is why God had teachers and Rabbis who would decide matters of law. When you have lay people deciding matters of God's law then chaos is the order of the day. So be warned. I was chosen by God over 11 years ago when I was minding my own business in a Japanese Merchant bank in London called Nomura International and He called me out by voice and chose me simply because I was from the line of the priestly clan while my whole family today is Muslim so why choose a Muslim and try to confuse him with the 7th day as lunar? You won't win. He did not confuse me with such bad teachings, he told me what days were what and has not once in my speech with him said to me, "Simon, you are keeping the wrong Sabbath." In fact he commanded me to teach the 7th day and to stay away from all pagan days of Christendom. I do not need to lie because my first talk with him in 1998 was, "Should I keep Christmas?" and He told me, "No."

I want to point out that in 70 CE both the House of Shammai and the House of Hillel had a dispute about something and then a Bat Kol (Voice from heaven) was heard that said that both these schools speak are the words of God but the School of Hillel Rules from this day and the school of Hillel has ruled since that day as you can see the school of Shammai has just disappeared over time. The Jewish people are quite correct in their Sabbath observance and in many other things they have already made halacha (way of conduct) which is fine. Some things may appear to go a bit too far but they are in essence trying to protect the Torah. Remember they are the lawgiver so either you agree with YHWH's lawgiver or you don't. Yes, it's true they do not have a revelation of the Messiah but this is how it is meant to be so once again what has been established and practiced for over 2000 years I can tell you is correct. If you want sanity in your lives I suggest you go to a Jewish Synagogue and avoid all these bad teachers teaching bad doctrines and, yes, I do mean the Orthodox/Sephardic Synagogues.

The Nail in the coffin for Lunar Sabbatarians

The following is cited trying to obscure the truth and confuse the people into believing a lunar Sabbath:

Rabbi Louis Finklestein of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, was selected by the Kehillas (Jewish Communities) of the World as one of the 120 top Jews who best represented "a lamp of Judaism" to the world. In a letter to Dr. L. E. Fromm, dated Feb. 20, 1939, Finklestein readily admitted, "The present Jewish calendar was fixed in the fourth century." (3) Maimonides and most other Jewish chronologers agree that the modern Jewish calendar is based upon the "mean motions of the sun and moon, the true [calendar] having been set aside." (4)

The New Moon is still, and the Sabbath originally was, dependent upon the lunar cycle ... Originally, the New Moon was celebrated in the same way as the Sabbath; gradually it became less important while the Sabbath became more and more a day of religion and humanity, of religious meditation and instruction, of peace and delight of the soul. (5)

(3) Box 6, Folder 4; Grace Amadon Collection, (Collection 154), Center for Adventist Research, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan.

(4) Maimonides, *Kiddusch Ha-hodesch*, Tr. Mahler, Wein, 1889, emphasis supplied.

(5) "Holidays", *Universal Jewish Encyclopedia*, 1899 ed., p. 41.

Note this is incorrectly quoted to prove what has not been the case.

Let us now examine what the Jewish custodians of the true faith of Judaism have to really say on the truth of the non-Lunar Sabbath in their Torah, the first five books of Moses, documented in any Chumash which can be purchased from www.artscroll.org.

Chumash footnotes on Chapter 12 of Shemoth (Exodus)

It says re: The Jewish Calendar

The Jewish calendar is based on the moon, and it is regulated by the sun.

It continues:

The Torah provides that Rosh Chodesh (NEW Moon) can be proclaimed ONLY by the rabbinic court on the basis of two witnesses who testify that they have observed the re-appearance of the moon. The members of such a court must have the semichah, or ordination, that was conferred by teachers upon their students, generation after generation, FROM THE TIME OF MOSES. This requirement is derived from the word in Hebrew meaning "to you" in Ch 12:2, which was addressed to Moses and Aaron, from which the Sages inferred that those deciding on the new moon must have the same legal status that they had.

After the destruction of the Second Temple, the level of scholarship needed to qualify for this ordination gradually ceased to exist, due to persecutions and dispersions. Had it reached a point where there was no one left who qualified for semichah, it would have been impossible to proclaim new months, and if that happened, the Jewish calendar could not have continued. TO AVOID this catastrophe, in the year 4119 (358-9 C.E.) the court of Hillel II promulgated a calendar FOR ALL SUCEEDING CENTURIES, based on the calculations that had HISTORICALLY been used to corroborate the testimony of witnesses to the new moon.

Furthermore it states:

The currently used names of the months are of Babylonian origin, and came into use among Jews only after the destruction of the First Temple. Those names were RETAINED as a REMINDER of the REDEMPTION from Babylon, which resulted in the building of the Second Temple

Footnote on Ch Exodus 12:6 from the Chumash

The Sages explain that the four-day interval was part of the miracle of redemption. The Egyptians saw their gods- lambs and kids- tethered to the beds of the Yisraelites and asked, "What is the purpose of this"? The Yisraelites explained that the animals were being prepared for the slaughter as offerings to God. The Egyptians were furious, but, miraculously, they were powerless to intervene. Because this happened on the tenth day of Nissan, WHICH WAS THE SHABBATH THAT YEAR, the Sabbath before Pesach is called Shabbath HaGadol (The Great Shabbath), in commemoration of that miracle.

This clearly proves that the Feast of Pesach (Passover) was not on a weekly Sabbath as many state!

We also know from this historical evidence that Yahushua was hung on the tree on 'Wednesday' and not on Friday as taught by Catholics and Christians, which was the 4th day of that week, Aviv 14, Pesach!!!

This proves Israel never kept the Lunar Sabbath as advocated and also citing the testimony of somebody in the 20th century many hundreds of years later and incorrectly making a point and trying to retrofit a Sabbath is indeed questionable.

Now your belief in the Messiah is your personal belief and that will not hinder you from sitting and studying in the Synagogues. You do not need to talk about your personal life as that is personal and the Jews do not have a problem with your belief as they also expect the Messiah to return soon.

Let me tell you categorically that God has rejected doctrines coming out of Christendom on Torah and these run away groups making up new doctrines as they do not have the right to make Torah law. Here is proof:

Psalm 78:9-10 (NKJV) The children of Ephraim, being armed and carrying bows, Turned back in the day of battle. (10) They **did not keep the covenant of God**; They refused to **walk in His law**,

Do you see who did not keep the Torah and to this day refuse to keep it? These are the Christians still living in dogmatic error and on top many of these groups now come up with erroneous doctrines which YHWH has rejected such as the pre trib rapture.

Psalm 78:67-68 (NKJV) Moreover **He rejected the tent of Joseph**, And did not **choose the tribe of Ephraim**, (68) But chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which He loved.

Now hopefully you can see why Yahushua came for Joseph the ten tribes and why God rejected the tents of Joseph (Christianity) because they refuse to obey His Torah (Law) but instead He chose **Judah as His lawgiver** and we the Levites are His priests forever not just a season. We exist and I am testimony to God's faithful even being in England where he called me back.

Psa 60:7 (KJV) Gilead *is* mine, and Manasseh *is* mine; Ephraim also *is* the strength of mine head; **Judah is my lawgiver**

Also to finish Judah is the lawgiver and no runaway groups of people set new laws so if you reject Judah's established laws of which the weekly Sabbath is a well documented law then, of course, you have rejected God who has appointed him.

If I start covering every point the article will become very big and I do not want to make it reams and reams of pages so I have only covered what I thought were the pertinent points.

Addendum

Joshua 6 problem how do we address this?

A personal friend insists that he has found the loophole in the Bible that Sabbath was always on the Lunar cycle and insists that this is solid proof for a lunar Sabbath.

Jos 6:12 (KJV) And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.

Jos 6:13 And seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually, and blew with the trumpets: and the armed men went

before them; but the rear guard came after the ark of the LORD, *the priests* going on, and blowing with the trumpets.

Jos 6:14 And the second day they compassed the city once, and returned into the camp: so they did six days.

Jos 6:15 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times.

Jos 6:16 And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city.

This passage is being cited as the holy grail for all Lunar Sabbatarians that since Joshua attacked on the 7th day surely this could not be a weekly Sabbath and therefore they must have rested on the 8th day of the week making the Lunar Sabbath the only way to live.

Answer: When we look at the book of Yashar (Jasher) it says the following:

Yashar 88:14-18 And it was in the second month, on the first day of the month, that אַחֲזַב said to Yahushua, rise up, behold I have given Yericho into your hand with all the people there; and all your fighting men shall go round the city, once each day, thus shall you do for six days.

15 And the priests shall blow upon trumpets, and when you shall hear the sound of the shofarim, all the people shall give a great shout that the walls of the city shall fall down; all the people shall go up every man against his opponent.

16 And Yahushua did so according to all that אַחֲזַב had commanded him.

17 And on the seventh day they went round the city seven times, and the priests blew upon shofrim.

18 And at the seventh round, Yahushua said to the people, shout, for אַחֲזַב has delivered the whole city into our hands.

On a casual examination of this one can see that maybe the Lunar Sabbath keepers have won the argument based on one scripture; however, on close examination this is not the case as we shall see shortly.

The book of Yashar helps us to see that the March started on the 1st day of the second month of Ziv or called Iyyar after the exile in Babylon (Iraq). Let us then assume that the march was on day 1 or new moon day. This itself contradicts Lunar people in that the New Moon is a separate day. But one can see it isn't always the case. This first of all demolishes the New moon separate day theory. Now let us continue to examine the rest.

We can see if we open our eyes a bit that the fallacy is in the reading of the text by lunar keepers. They are assuming it as follows using our common time frame for illustration purposes only notice that Monday, Tuesday, etc. did not exist back then it was only day 1, day 2 etc:

Day 1 – Sunday

Day 2 – Monday

Day 3 – Tuesday

Day 4 – Wednesday

Day 5 – Thursday

Day 6 – Friday

Day 7 – Saturday

Day 8 – The battle followed in the morning followed by the Lunar Sabbath

This is merely assumed but not factually correct. So keep reading.

They then assume that Joshua 6:16 came to play on the 7th day which only leaves the 8th day for rest thus fitting in with the Lunar Sabbath cycle. Now let me give you my reasons why this is not true.

Day 1 of the New Moon does not have to be Sunday that year but it could have been Thursday. Now let me show you what happens.

Day 1 of the Month Ziv – Thursday night and Friday daytime until sunset.

Day 2 – Friday eve to Saturday - Sabbath

Day 3 – Sunday eve to Monday eve

Day 4 – Monday eve to Tuesday eve

Day 5 – Tuesday eve to Wed Eve

Day 6 – Wednesday eve to Thursday eve

Day 7 - Thursday eve to Friday Eve

The Priests pick up the ark on Friday morning Day 7 at Dawn of that month of Iyyar and march around the city 7 times then the walls fall down and the attack begins ending that day with victory and the weekly Sabbath of rest.

Day 8 for us is the normal weekly Sabbath which starts on Friday sunset because Thursday (Day 7) would finish on Friday sunset before the new Hebrew day began.

Some of you who have it ingrained in you that it must be a Lunar Sabbath may think my timeline is in error, this is because you may think that did not the priests blow the trumpets and march around the city on a Sabbath on day 2 earlier in my chart above then how can this be? Did not YHWH violate the Sabbath is the common assumption but flawed at that.

Exodus 16:29 (AFNHSS) See, for אַתָּאֵל has given you the Sabbath, therefore He gives you on the sixth day lechem (bread) for two days; let every man remain in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.

Who decides how much distance to walk on the Sabbath day?

The rabbinic law on how much to walk was debated and instituted based on Joshua 3:4 estimated to be 2000 cubits or around 3000 feet.

Yahushua 3:4 (AFNHSS) Yet there shall be a space between you and it, **about three thousand feet** behind it: do not come near it that you may know the way by which you must go: for you have not traveled this way before.

This is also mentioned in Acts 1:4

Ma'aseh ha Shilichim (Acts) 1:12 (AFNHSS) Then they returned to Yerushalim from the mountain called Olives, which is from Yerushalim a Sabbath day's journey.

Joshua 6:9-10 tells us that the whole of Israel was present but were not allowed to make a sound because only the priests were allowed to blow the Shofars. **The critical piece of information in this is that they were allowed to walk to the limits but not attack even on a regular Sabbath day. The law that stipulated how much to walk was debated and decided much later. However, Joshua 3:4 gives us 3000 feet going one way and then coming back would add another 3000 feet.**

The law existed that said you could not walk certain distances and was not concluded until much later after so many debates. We simply do not know what distances were acceptable in Joshua's time but we assume that to be 3000 feet based on Joshua's reading of the text but this could have been more depending on many factors; however, the city of Jericho was small and did not encompass a large distance. If you ever go there you will see that is the case as I have personally seen the city.

The distances continued to be debated between Pharisees and was doubled twice once to 4000 cubits then to 8000 cubits which was if you travelled 4000 cubits from a point A to point B then you would also return back to point A so $4000+4000=8000$ cubits in the city limits.

In fact if we apply the Torah to this then I can tell you that if Jericho spanned let us assume 30 miles and had buildings all the way through then halacha says you can walk all the way to these buildings (housing using our modern vernacular) because in the ancient days anything that was outside the walled cities was the desert or wilderness.

Here is what Chabad says on this issue.

http://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/484235/jewish/How-far-am-I-allowed-to-walk-on-Shabbat.htm

A. Because driving, biking, blading, skateboarding or other device-driven means of transportation are prohibited on Shabbat, we walk rather than commute to synagogue. However, even walking on Shabbat has its limits.

B. Negative Mitzvah #321 sets the maximum walking range from one's city to 2,000 cubits (3,049.5 feet, 0.596 miles (960 meters). [However, this measurement starts $70 \frac{2}{3}$ cubits (112.24 ft.) from the city limits.] Practically speaking, this means that you may not walk a straight line more than .598 miles (3161.74 ft.) in any direction in the wilds outside your city limits.

C. "City limits" are not defined by the map you carry in your glove compartment. *Halachah* considers all contiguous housing to be part of the same city. Therefore it would be permitted to walk hundreds of miles, from city to city, as long as the whole way is populated.

D. Therefore, this Mitzvah is usually not practicable if you live in the suburbs, and certainly if you live in any big city. Why? Because when God gave the Torah thousands of years ago, almost all of civilization lived in walled cities, with nothing but wilderness surrounding them. Today, you can walk for miles on end without seeing a single field or forest. Houses are everywhere, and cities just blend into each other with no spaces between, so you can't really set where civilization ends and wilderness begins. However, if you live in Montana, Vermont or other place with lots of raw country, the techum , or perimeter, rule is very much in force and one needs to be careful.

I hope you can see what I am deriving at. The priests in Joshua's time were allowed to march around the city limits even on the weekly 7th day Sabbath and it was lawful for them to blow the shofarim (Trumpets) on the Sabbath so there was no sin committed hence the battle actually occurred one day before the weekly Sabbath and ended upon the weekly Sabbath. It is how you read data and interpret it that matters. One can easily be confused that they marched for seven days ending up on the Lunar Sabbath and that would be simple miscalculation not understanding the laws of the Bible and trying to force a lunar Sabbath.

YHWH bless you
Shalom Shalom

Rabbi Simon Altaf

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