

Lunar Sabbath? Solar Sabbath?

With so many convincing yet differing On-Line articles written about the Sabbath issue, how can anyone know which position to believe? The correct starting point is surely attainable if we begin with a search in the beginning chapter of the Bible before trying to make heads or tails out of the other parts of God's Word which deal with the Sabbath and calendar issue.

Specifically, the Moon is not a LIGHT HAVING THE ABILITY "to divide the day from the night", and this precise ability is THE qualifying element set forth in Genesis 1:14 that sets the initial Scripture foundation on how to determine the Sabbaths and Holy Feast Days of God Almighty. Scripturally and scientifically the Moon isn't even a light Gen. 1:14 (Strong's #3974 Hebrew "maw-ore' – luminary, luminous body, light) because it is merely a big rock in space reflecting the Sun's light. The Sun is a luminary, a true light. None other than Jesus Christ Himself tells us that the Moon's reflective "light" mentioned in a few verses is in context of the Moon being a symbol of feminine connotation, "her light" (Mat. 24:29) and is thus neither equal to the masculine noted Sunlight, nor is "her" station that of a ruler light (Gen.1:16) within Israel. Masculine rules, feminine does not rule, in God's orderly arrangement. Our King has set the distinction of the Moon's "light".

The Moon is clearly out and visible in the bright daylight hours many times, and there are nights when the Moon is not out at all. We need only to look upward and observe this for our own conclusive proof. Thus, the visible appearance of the Moon brings forth neither night nor day, and subsequently the Moon is forever disqualified as the "light in the heavens" that has ever been used or can be used "to divide the day from the night" (Gen. 1:14)

Dear folks, trying to use the Moon to divide day from night plainly can't be done and is locked in nature -- permanently! The division of day from night takes place at Sunset and Sunrise. The Moon has absolutely nothing to do with this, and simply does not fit this basic and most fundamental divine requirement set forth by the Word of God as what He has given to man for the true calendar divisions in knowing His appointed times. My notes added in **red** below:

*Genesis 1:14 "And God said, Let there be lights (luminaries) in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; (first we are told that God set certain lights above which have ability "to divide day from night") --- **THEN WE READ --and let them** (Which "them"? The "them" that divide day from night) be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:"*

Yes, ONLY these "dividing" lights in the sky are given to us for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years -- in other words – to be used as God's fixed and stable calendar time keeping system for us. (The Moon is not one of these lights, nor would be the light of comets, asteroids, lightning, or infrequent unexplained natural glowing phenomena) This is God's foundation. This is our foundation. This sets the rules. Accordingly, this is where we start. Any elaborate, seemingly convincing, or

otherwise eloquently devised so called "proof" of any Sabbath calendar which is not based upon the above Scriptural definition of the Genesis celestial signs that divide day from night is nothing more than a non-factor in the Bible student's attempt to determine which calendar is the true Hebrew calendar. This means that the lunar and soli-lunar calendars of the Koran Muslims and Talmudic Jews never did have anything to do with Yahweh God's method in Genesis for reckoning times. History solidly records that the ancient Saxon Israelites only used the lunar based calendar after they had been corrupted in Babylon during their captivity in that heathen land:

"Most early calendars were based on the moon, which takes roughly 29 1/2 days to circle the Earth. The ancient Babylonian calendar, adopted by the Hebrews, was entirely lunar based, with 12 months of alternately 29 and 30 days and thus a 354 day year. But this calendar rapidly got ahead of the seasons, so it was adjusted to keep it roughly in step with the solar year. The Babylonians observed that 235 lunar months coincided with a cycle of 19 solar years. So around 380 B.C. they decided that 7 of every 19 years should have 13 months instead of 12. The Jewish calendar still follows this lunar-solar arrangement, but the Muslim calendar remains lunar based, with regressive months." (Source: **Reader's Digest Strange Stories, Amazing Facts**, 1976, page 537.)

What lights in the heavens divide the day from the night? Again, this is simple, it is basic, and it is natural. It is the Sun and the stars which divide the day from night and light from darkness. The Sun appears in the day, and the stars appear at night when the Sun goes down. It is by observation of the Sun and the stars that we know the easily determined Sabbaths and Feast Days as written in the Bible. Our Sabbath Lessons distributed by this ministry teach about the eight Feasts as well as the weekly Sabbath, but basically the searching Bible student would do well to first understand that we must determine "light from darkness", "day from night" by observing the Sun and the stars, (just as we can plainly see every day in nature). The Moon can't be used for this Genesis commanded rule.



The above is a picture of the Moon out in bright daylight at 11:45 AM in south west Virginia on June 11, 2012. Clearly the Moon as seen here has not brought forth darkness, neither is it night. Here is proof with our very eyes that the Moon is not a celestial sign of Genesis chapter one verse 14 used to divide the day from night.

But what about the "two lights" (the greater one and lesser one) of Genesis 1:16? Isn't this the Sun and the Moon? No --- but let's quote the verse first:

16 "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." (King James Version)

This is self explanatory. All scholars agree that the Sun is obviously "the greater light", but the authors of the KJV-King James Version Bible (and other translations too) sought out help of the Rabbinical scholars to translate their texts. Of course, the Rabbis were fanatically biased in promoting their Babylonian lunar calendar of Judaism so the KJV translators were at a loss to translate this verse correctly, although the way they DID translate it was indicative that they knew something wasn't "kosher". The Babylonian Judaic thought was to imply that the Moon was included in this verse as "the lesser light", but such is far from the truth. If the reader will take their KJV Bible in hand and turn to Genesis 1:16, it is immediately seen that the words "he made" in this verse are in *italics*, which means they are not in the original Hebrew manuscripts but they were inserted here by the English translators. Upon further examination, we may reference the word "also" in Strong's Exhaustive Concordance and it reveals that the word "also" has no entry in this verse. That word ("also") was likewise added in a feeble attempt to imply that the Moon is the "lesser light", but in fact the lesser light is none other than "starlight"!

There is much more of a detailed linguistic study concerning the word "also" in this verse that we will leave for a follow up "part 2" that further supports the solar only calendar used by Israel. For our primary lesson here, however, a correctly translated meaning of Genesis 1:16 originally reads:

16 "And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: -- the stars."

This, by reason of consistency in lexicon research and obedience to the "day/night" division requirement, explains what denominational Judeo-Christianity theology has not explained for centuries. Namely, the Genesis time keeping method, quite frankly, never was lunar or soli-lunar nor could it be without framing an entire calendar upon disobedience to the intent and purpose of Yahweh God as declared in Genesis chapter One. It is solar and purely solar as only that system can provide a fixed standard whereby the Sabbaths and Feasts don't change times from year to year. All lunar and soli-lunar calendar Sabbaths and Feasts change days from year to year anywhere from one day to three weeks, and never occur at the same time

from one year to the next. To prove this point merely ask any proponent of a lunar or soli-lunar calendar to show you where a particular Feast Day (for instance, Passover) occurred on two consecutive years and you will see that they are not held on the same date/time from year to year. These are not *yearly* calendars. Such a system is chaos, and is what happens when the foundational beginning is based on a faulty premise. This short article is not meant to cause division or hard feelings, but is presented only out of a search for the truth of God's Word. It is essential to set proper foundations upon which to advance the Faith. God's Word does not include the erratic Moon appearances within the parameter of His fixed and stable Sabbath Days and Feast Day times.

As the Scriptures teach, God Almighty's calendar is based on the Sun, since the Sun itself is the fixed luminary body in our solar system by which we can reliably tell time. The Moon can not be used to tell time. If you take the Moon out of the equation by transporting it millions of light years away to where we could not see it, we can still tell time exactly as we do since the Sun is our real "natural time keeping fixture" in our solar system. However, remove the Sun as to be non existent and we would be hard put to have any valid time keeping system at all. If we stay with the simple basics of solar time it becomes evident that keeping track of the true Sabbath and the true Feast Days is not as difficult as what has been presented by the denominations down through many centuries. God's calendar is solar.

Blessings to the Remnant in Jesus Christ,

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Note: The Sabbath Lessons mentioned on page 2 are "out of stock" at the moment. I apologize for this delay in having them available for those who have asked. Hopefully they can be updated and put onto CD's soon. In the mean time please return here periodically for more short essays that will go a long way in explaining the basic structure of how God's Sabbath and Feast Days can be easily located in our present age.