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Bible Explorations Newsletter

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FIRE, HURRICANES, FLOODS?

Hail and Rain: Officials in the central Argentina province of Cordoba said a fierce hailstorm struck several towns Oct. 26 dumping as much as five feet of hail in just 15 minutes, some hail as big as tennis balls, Clarin said. *Weather.com*

Fire: It will take at least months and likely years to fully recover from devastating wildfires that ripped through Northern California earlier this month, destroying at least 8,900 structures and killing 42 people. The fires burned over 245,000



acres and destroyed an estimated 8,400 structures, and sadly, took the lives of 42 people.

More Fire: A raging wildfire ripping through central Portugal has killed at least 62 people and injured dozens more in what officials there described as the “greatest wildfire tragedy of recent years.” *CNN.com*



Hurricanes: In a 4-day period, many areas received more than 40 inches of rain as the system slowly meandered over eastern Texas and adjacent waters, causing catastrophic flooding. With peak accumulations of 64.58 in, Harvey was the wettest tropical cyclone on record in the United States. The resulting floods inundated hundreds of thousands of homes, displaced more than 30,000 people, and prompted more than 17,000 rescues. There was also Irma and Maria which caused so much destruction. The one-two punch of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria 14 days later was especially cruel. In many places across the three major islands of this American territory, the second storm drowned what the first couldn’t destroy, ravaging what was once one of the Caribbean’s most idyllic landscapes. As of today, roughly 70 percent of Puerto Rico remains without power due to Hurricane Maria. *Wikipedia/CNN*

Along with the weather, the daily news is full of violent crimes and immorality spreading all over the world. Men in “high” places are being accused of sexual harassment. People are being sold into slavery including as sex slaves

more than ever now. People are being murdered in the name of a god. The entire world is becoming wicked.

FROM THE PEN OF ELLEN G. WHITE

The prophet saw "four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree." Another



angel, ascending from the east, cried to them, saying, "Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads." This points out the work we now have to do, which is to cry to God for the angels to hold the four winds until missionaries shall be sent to all parts of the world, and shall have proclaimed the warning against disobeying the law of Jehovah. *Review and Herald Extra*, Dec. 11, 1888.

I asked my accompanying angel the meaning of what I heard, and what the four angels were about to do. He said to me that it was God that restrained the powers, and that He gave His angels charge over things on the earth; that the four angels had power from God to hold the four winds, and that they were about to let them go; but while their hands were loosening, and the four winds were about to blow, the merciful eye of Jesus gazed on the remnant that were not sealed, and He raised His hands to the Father and pleaded with Him that He had spilled His blood for them. Then another angel was commissioned to fly swiftly to the four angels and bid them hold, until the servants of God were sealed with the seal of the living God in their foreheads. *Early Writings*, p. 38.

My dear brethren and sisters, let the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ be in your minds continually and let them crowd out worldly thoughts and cares. When you lie down and when you rise up, let them be your meditation. Live and act wholly in reference to the coming of the Son of man. The sealing time is very short, and will soon be over. Now is the time, while the four angels are holding the four winds, to make our calling and election sure. *Early Writings*, p. 58

With all the "record" weather scenes in the news daily, the increasing violence in the world, the immorality that is being shown everywhere on television and in the streets, with so many people saying "It is okay, don't worry, it is normal, God will not judge you, He is all love," we must remember He is love, and has mercy, but with that love and mercy are His judgments. God means what He says:

Isaiah 26:21 - For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their

iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

Ezekiel 25:17 - And I will execute great vengeance upon them with furious rebukes; and they shall know that I [am] the LORD, when I shall lay my vengeance upon them.

Nahum 1:2-6 - God [is] jealous, and the LORD revengeth the LORD revengeth, and [is] furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth [wrath] for his enemies.

This day is soon to come:

Rev 19:2 - For true and righteous *are* his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

PP 429.2 - Like the men before the Flood, the Canaanites lived only to blaspheme Heaven and defile the earth. And both love and justice demanded the prompt execution of these rebels against God and foes to man.

Don't be discouraged by the words above. Let God be your Guide every day. He knows you and me and holds us precious to Himself.

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Luke 21:36 - Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Desire of Ages, Ellen White: "The Elder Brother of our race is by the eternal throne. He looks upon every soul who is turning his face toward Him as the Saviour. He knows by experience what are the weaknesses of humanity, what are our wants, and where lies the strength of our temptations; for He was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. He is watching over you, trembling child of God. Are you tempted? He will deliver. Are you weak? He will strengthen. Are you ignorant? He will enlighten. Are you wounded? He will heal. The Lord "tellethe the number of the stars;" and yet "He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds." Ps. 147:4, 3. "Come unto Me," is His invitation. Whatever your anxieties and trials, spread out your case before the Lord. Your spirit will be braced for endurance. The way will be opened for you to disentangle yourself from embarrassment and difficulty. The weaker and more helpless you know yourself to be, the stronger will you become in His strength. The heavier your burdens, the more blessed the rest in casting them upon the Burden Bearer. The rest that Christ offers depends upon conditions, but these conditions are plainly specified. They are those with which all can comply. He tells us just how His rest is to be found. "Take My yoke upon you,"

Jesus says. The yoke is an instrument of service. Cattle are yoked for labor, and the yoke is essential that they may labor effectually. By this illustration Christ teaches us that we are called to service as long as life shall last. We are to take upon us His yoke, that we may be co-workers with Him.

The yoke that binds to service is the law of God. The great law of love revealed in Eden, proclaimed upon Sinai, and in the new covenant written in the heart, is that which binds the human worker to the will of God. If we were left to follow our own inclinations, to go just where our will would lead us, we should fall into Satan's ranks and become possessors of his attributes. Therefore God confines us to His will, which is high, and noble, and elevating. He desires that we shall patiently and wisely take up the duties of service. The yoke of service Christ Himself has borne in humanity. He said, "I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart." Ps. 40:8. "I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me." John 6:38. Love for God, zeal for His glory, and love for fallen humanity, brought Jesus to earth to suffer and to die. This was the controlling power of His life. This principle He bids us adopt."

Remember: He is coming soon! Let's continue to study and learn what He desires for us as His children. Let's continue to get our lives in order so that we may each be ready when that Great Day comes and we see Him in the clouds! What a wonderful day that will be!

A Challenge to Those Who Have Come to Observe the Lunar Sabbath

By David Barron

I was given this quote from a person who keeps the lunar Sabbath recently. Just briefly for those who do not understand, a lunar Sabbath keeper is one who uses the new moon to calculate the weekly Sabbath.



What is the Belief of a Lunar Sabbath Keeper

A Lunar Sabbath Keeper believes that every New Moon (which is the time when the first visible crescent appears in the sky) they begin to count their weekly seven day cycle. At the end of four cycles of seven there usually is one or two days remaining before the next new moon, and then the count would start again.

I want to talk just briefly about the history of this and then issue a challenge to all lunar Sabbath keepers. A new moon historically was an assembly kept by the Jews, and will be kept by God's people in all ages when we come to the tree of life each month in eternity. (See Isaiah 66:22, 23, Revelation 22:1-3)

However, is it historically true that the weekly cycle was ever dependent on the lunar cycle? I was recently given a quote that says it was, but I find some major problems with this.

Uncertain About the History of the Sabbath?

Let's examine. First, the following quote is from the 20th century:

"The New Moon is still, and the Sabbath originally was, dependent upon the lunar cycle." (*Universal Jewish Encyclopedia*, article: "Holidays," by Max Joseph).

This is the historical proof given by a lunar Sabbath keeper to prove that it is true. This quote is not from an author who wrote about this in 1906. And this man is making some massive ASSUMPTIONS as we shall see.

Secondly Note: The same author wrote in another article: "**The origin of the Sabbath is obscure.**" (*Universal Jewish Encyclopedia*, article: "The Sabbath," by Max Joseph).

Does this sound like a trustworthy source on the history of the Sabbath to you? Furthermore, thirdly, you will notice what else this author writes. Ask yourself if Max Joseph is sure he knows, or if he really is UNCERTAIN on the matter.

"The origin of the Sabbath, as well as the true meaning of the name, is uncertain.... It was probably (Creation???) originally connected in some manner with the cult of the moon, as indeed is suggested by the frequent mention of Sabbath and New-Moon festivals in the same sentence.... (This is his proof? Because New Moon is mentioned with the Sabbath in some verses.) The Sabbath depending, in Israel's nomadic period, upon the observation of the phases of the moon, it could not, according to this view, be a fixed day. When the Israelites settled in the land and became farmers, their new life would have made it desirable that the Sabbath should come at regular intervals, and the desired change would have been made all the more easily as they had abandoned the lunar religion." (*Universal Jewish Encyclopedia*, article: "The Sabbath"). (Brackets added)

Doesn't it sound like this guy is UNSURE of what he believes???? PROBABLY Connected? His reasoning for believing the cycles of the Sabbath and New Moon are connected is because they are mentioned frequently in the same sentence. This is not historical evidence. This guy is unsure.

So now we have a GIANT conundrum for any brother who is saying that the lunar Sabbath is a real issue. That problem is this: There seems to be no historic evidence of a change from the lunar Sabbath to Sunday. Particularly by the Papacy. (Daniel 7:25)

So what is the CHALLENGE. The challenge is to bring forth historical documentation showing.

1. When and where in history did this change from a Lunar Sabbath take place?
2. Did the Papacy make the change?
3. Show at least 2 quotes from before other than the few after 1900 of this change in history, preferably documentation from the early church fathers since we need two or more witnesses to establish something.

Sabbaths and New Moons in Scripture



In the last chapter of Isaiah we are told that when we come into the New Heaven and Earth we will all be coming to worship on the New Moon Days and on the Sabbath Days.

Isaiah 66:22-23 For as **the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me**, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. (23) **And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me**, saith the LORD.

This is something to look forward to, and it is confirmed in the book of Revelation that we will come up to the throne to worship every month at the tree of life. The word month is actually derived from the term moon, and that is how the early apostles understood the term month. It actually meant moon, and a new moon in the days of the apostles was a new month. There was no Gregorian calendar to disassociate the moon from the month.

The months of the Gregorian calendar have also been named after Pagan gods, Roman pagan emperors, and other pagan practices and objects. The weekly cycle we know has been named after other objects of worship such as Saturday being Saturn, Sunday, being the day of Sun Worship and Monday named after the moon.

This remained until the Romans changed the weekly day of rest from the seventh-day, commonly known to begin Friday night and run through Saturday, to Sunday. But please be careful to note that history does document the Papacy making a change. And it is well documented.

Sabbath Change Documented in History

This change is well documented in historical records. The change happened in the early third century, and the history of how this took place can be found in many books and records of the early church. The change started with the Passover Sunday being observed once a year, to finally every Sunday, the first day being observed every week by many of the early Christians and even finally enforced by law.

The Bible says in the book of Daniel that the Papacy would “think to change times and laws” (Daniel 7:25) I want to

discuss some history in this document. Firstly some documented history.

Phileo Judaeus who says that the seven day cycle has never had an interval of 8-9 days but rather a regular interval of seven days which dates back to creation. This is a quote lunar Sabbath keepers have tried to use to prove their view and that they have historical evidence. However notice carefully this sentence.

“...the nation of the Jews keeps every seventh day regularly, after each interval of six days, (97) and there is an account of events recorded in the history of the creation of the world, comprising a sufficient relation of the cause of this ordinance; for the sacred historian says, that the world was created in six days, and that on the seventh day God desisted from his works, and began to contemplate what he had so beautifully created.” (Philo Judaeus, *The Decalogue*, XX, p. 526).

Creation is where this seven day cycle originated. The cycle does not begin again at each new moon. Some of the early Christians who made the change, understood well what the Jews were keeping and what it was changed from.

"The Sabbath was the end of the first creation (Seventh-day-Saturday), the Lord's day was the beginning of the second, in which he renewed and restored the old in the same way as he prescribed that they should formerly observe the Sabbath as a memorial of the end of the first things, so we honor the Lord's day as being the memorial of the new creation (First-day-Sunday)" (Athanasius On Sabbath and Circumcision 3 [A.D. 345]).(Brackets added for clarification)

We also have much documentation of a Pentecost controversy, which would call into question when the 50 day count to Pentecost would start. The controversy had to do with whether the count would start from the day after the weekly Sabbath which could fall on any day of the month such as the 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, etc. or did the count start on the day after the annual Sabbath, the day after Passover which was always the 15th.

Lunar Sabbath believers have come to believe that the weekly Sabbath always falls on the 15th of the month since the count begins at one on the new moon day. But if that were true there would never have been a Pentecost controversy in the early church as to when to start the count to Pentecost.

“The Pharisees held, that the time between Easter [Passover] and Pentecost should be counted from the second day of the feast; the Sadducees insisted that it should commence with the literal “Sabbath” after the festive day” (Alfred Edersheim, *Sketches of Jewish Social Life*, p. 220).

There is much documentation of this controversy taking place even in the time of Christ implying that they definitely could not have been keeping the Lunar Sabbath in the time of Christ, that it did not always fall on the 15th from the new moon, and furthermore, that would imply that Christ was not a Lunar Sabbath Keeper Himself.

Is the Eighth Day A Sabbath?

Josephus documents that the Jews would never pursue aggressive warfare on the Sabbath. However, on the eighth day he documents that they did and won. This implies that the eighth day historically was sometimes not a weekly Sabbath, and furthermore, since it isn't then this would imply that historically the Jews were not keeping the Lunar Sabbath.

“So the Jews went on pursuing the Romans as far as Antipatris; after which, seeing they could not overtake them, they came back, and took the engines, and spoiled the dead bodies, and gathered the prey together which the Romans had left behind them, and came back running and singing to their metropolis; while they had themselves lost a few only, but had slain of the Romans five thousand and three hundred footmen, and three hundred and eighty horsemen. This defeat happened on the eighth day of the month Dius, [Marchesvan,] in the twelfth year of the reign of Nero.” (Josephus, *The Wars of the Jews*, Book II, Ch. XIX, Sect. 9).

Dead Sea Scrolls Document that the Weekly Sabbath didn't fall on the 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th of the month.

The Dead Sea Scrolls

Mishmarot texts or the *Priestly Service Texts*. “Mishmarot” is a Hebrew term meaning “watches,” and is used in this instance as a reference to the twenty-four watches or “courses” of the Levitical priesthood.



“[On the first {day} in {the week of} Jedaiah {which falls} on the twelfth in it {the seventh month}....”

“On the fifth {day} in {the week of} Immer {which falls} on the tw[e]n[t]y-third in the te[n]th {month}.”

“On the fou[r]th {day} in {the week of} Jeshua {which falls} [on] the twentieth in the second {month}.”

TONS OF EVIDENCE THAT WEEKLY SABBATH DID NOT FALL ON THE 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th of the Month.

This article is in no way exhaustive, in fact it is barely started, and I have yet to look at the Bible evidence that shows that the weekly Sabbath is not always on dates coinciding with the New Moon. But rather the opposite.

I understand that some will hold to a doctrine through thick and thin, often because of pride keeping them from admitting a wrong. However, our Father is calling for humility in order to enter His kingdom. His word is all we can trust, and the Lunar Sabbath has led many away from the word. We need to truly study to show ourselves approved or we may be among those who have been tricked into trampling upon the Sabbath. Please reconsider with your heart and come back home to open arms.

BIBLE EXPLORATIONS' DONATIONS

Someone recently posted the following on our Bible Exploration's facebook page and we wanted to share it with you:

BE needs our tithes and offerings to proclaim the true gospel. If \$350,000 is still owed, then we need in the next 2 months for 2000 people to give \$175.00. If we only have 1000 supporters, they each need to give \$350.00. What if we only have 500 supporters? Can they each give \$700.00? That would be \$350.00 each month. Could we do it? Some can give more and some can give less, but if we take it seriously, we will be able to make the satellite payment. Be in prayer, brothers and sisters, as to how much God wants you to give and may we not be like Ananias and Sapphira.



“God has made the proclamation of the gospel dependent upon the labors and the gifts of His people. Voluntary offerings and the tithe constitute the revenue of the Lord's work. Of the means entrusted to man, God claims a certain portion,—the tenth. He leaves all free to say whether or not they will give more than this. But when the heart is stirred by the influence of the Holy Spirit, and a vow is made to give a certain amount, the one who vows has no longer any right to the consecrated portion. Promises of this kind made to men would be looked upon as binding; are those not more binding that are made to God? Are promises tried in the court of conscience less binding than written agreements of men? {AA 74.2}

When divine light is shining into the heart with unusual clearness and power, habitual selfishness relaxes its grasp and there is a disposition to give to the cause of God. But none need think that they will be allowed to fulfill the promises then made, without a protest on the part of Satan. He is not pleased to see the Redeemer's kingdom on earth built up. He suggests that the pledge made was too much, that it may cripple them in their efforts to acquire property or gratify the desires of their families. {AA 74.3}

It is God who blesses men with property, and He does this that they may be able to give toward the advancement of His cause. He sends the sunshine and the rain. He causes vegetation to flourish. He gives health and the ability to acquire means. All our blessings come from His bountiful hand. In turn, He would have men and women show their gratitude by returning Him a portion in tithes and offerings—in thank offerings, in freewill offerings, in trespass offerings. Should means flow into the treasury in accordance with this divinely appointed plan,—a tenth of all the increase, and liberal offerings,—there would be an abundance for the advancement of the Lord’s work. {AA 75.1}

But the hearts of men become hardened through selfishness, and, like Ananias and Sapphira, they are tempted to withhold part of the price, while pretending to fulfill God’s requirements. Many spend money lavishly in self-gratification. Men and women consult their pleasure and gratify their taste, while they bring to God, almost unwillingly, a stinted offering. They forget that God will one day demand a strict account of how His goods have been used, and that He will no more accept the pittance they hand into the treasury than He accepted the offering of Ananias and Sapphira.” {AA 75.2}

Thank you Tamara for putting this little article together for us! All of you are part of our family. We would not be able to spread all these great spirit-filled messages without you!

TESTIMONIES

I am from Trinidad and Tobago. I recently received the light on God’s feast days, even the Biblical Seventh Day Sabbath, mind you. I thought I had been keeping God’s Sabbath faithfully. Thank God for His Spirit of Truth that is guiding us into all truth. I now fellowship at home. I feel as though I am the only one in my country who has accepted this message, yet I am reminded of the Scripture that says, “I have reserved unto myself seven thousand that have not bowed...” Thank Yah, that I am able to have sweet fellowship with you as you celebrate the feast. I am learning soooo much. We serve a wonderful Savior. How I long to celebrate a feast with brethren. Maybe next year God’s willing. Much love and blessings. JH

Greetings from Australia! And Happy Sabbath and Happy Sukkot to my brothers and sisters over in Terra Bella, California. I’ve been watching your channel here in Australia on the Optus Hotbird since 2015 and enjoying it even more now with your Feast of Tabernacles service this week. In fact, watching your channel every Sabbath is how I attend church nowadays, as I am now virtually house-ridden (due in part to ill health). Please pray for me and for my SDA brothers and sisters here in Australia who need to awaken more fully as time is running out. SW

This one comes from the BRI (Biblical Research Institute of the General Conference). It is foreshortened to show the main points.

“Your attempt to put the time prophecies of Daniel 12 into the future is misguided. The principle of “Scripture interprets Scripture” (Ev.581) does not allow you to interpret the 3 1/2 times in Daniel 7:25 in the past and the same time period in Daniel 12 in the future. . . . This was never shown to Ellen White that this should be a part of our eschatology.”

Ellen G. White:

“These types were fulfilled, not only as to event, but as to time. In like manner the types which relate to the second advent must be fulfilled at the time the time pointed out in the symbolic service.”

“This entire chapter is a revelation of what will surely take place” (7BC 979) and “The 12th chapter of Daniel is a warning we need to understand before the time of the end.” (1903 LDE 15)

Why? If there is to be no fulfilment? Or application? Why is it a warning if none of it is coming our way??

“. . .The words of the angel to Daniel relating to the last days were to be understood in the time of the end. At that time, many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. The wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.” DA234 (Dan. 12:4-10)

“...Daniel is standing in his lot and in his place. The prophecies of Daniel and of John are to be understood. They interpret each other. They give to the world truths which every one should understand. These prophecies are to be witnesses in the world. By their fulfillment in these last days they will explain themselves.” MS 10.1900

“In history and prophecy the Word of God portrays the long continued conflict between truth and error. That conflict is yet in progress. Those things which have been, will be repeated. Old controversies will be revived, and new theories will be continually arising.” MS32, 1896



So once again it appears that Ellen White has been made to fly upside down and backward or else we are forced to reinterpret her writings. There are many other statements that support the repeat

of Daniel’s chapters. Study to prove all things: The BRI or Ellen White?

