

**HOPE OF  
ISRAEL  
MINISTRIES**

# **BIBLE**

**CORRESPONDENCE COURSE**

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The Ruins of the 4th-Century Capernaum Synagogue

**YEHOVAH God's TRUE Sabbath Day -- Part 2**

**Lesson 8**

### **An Open Letter from the Staff...**

YEHOVAH GOD CONSIDERS Sabbath keeping so IMPORTANT that He repeatedly performed a tremendous miracle every week for FORTY YEARS!

Forty long years YEHOVAH miraculously fed the Israelites manna from heaven to teach them EXACTLY WHICH DAY of the week IS THE TRUE SABBATH!

There is a reason YEHOVAH God was so careful to REMIND His people of the Sabbath. One of the greatest sins you could commit -- one that harms you as much as any other -- is Sabbath-breaking.

Yeshua the Messiah was very careful TO KEEP YEHOVAH's Sabbath. Luke said it was His "custom" to keep it (**Luke 4:16**). And YEHOVAH's New Testament Church, which the Messiah built through His twelve apostles, ALSO KEPT YEHOVAH'S SABBATH DAY!

Immediately after Yeshua's crucifixion, YEHOVAH God was very careful to point out to us that "the end of the SABBATH" dawns "toward the FIRST day of the week" (**Matthew 28:1**). But what "first day of the week" is this? The one on our pagan planetary week of today -- or the first day of the LUNAR week?

YEHOVAH God wants to point out to us today that the SEVENTH day of Creation Week -- the SABBATH Day -- has CONTINUED from the time of creation in the SAME GOD-ORDAINED RELATIONSHIP to the other six days of the week! That the Sabbath was, and STILL IS the SEVENTH day of the lunar week -- NOT Saturday, or Sunday, or Friday as the Moslems observe on our calendar of today.

YEHOVAH wants us to realize it is the SEVENTH-DAY SABBATH -- OF THE LUNAR WEEK -- WHICH HE COMMANDS ALL MANKIND TO KEEP TODAY! Learn the vital TRUTH in this lesson!



## **HOPE OF ISRAEL MINISTRIES BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE LESSON 8**

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### **About Our Cover...**

The 4th-century ruins of this Capernaum synagogue sit on the remains of the 1st-century synagogue where Yeshua the Messiah kept the Sabbath nearly 2000 years ago!

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## YEHOVAH God's TRUE Sabbath Day -- Part 2

### LESSON 8

#### Why So Important

YEHOVAH God created the Sabbath so that on it we may rest and have personal constructive CONTACT with the One who is creating us to be His spirit-born Sons. For YEHOVAH's very PRESENCE is among those who keep His true Sabbath -- those who SUBMIT to Him as their Creator and Ruler.



Another view of the synagogue in Capernaum.

No other day of the week compares with this remarkable day. Why? Because no other day pictures the SUPREME CREATIVE WORK of YEHOVAH God Almighty!

The Sabbath pictures the PINNACLE of YEHOVAH's creative endeavors -- the creation of His SPIRITUAL CHARACTER in mortal mankind, and our ultimate spiritual birth into YEHOVAH God's Kingdom as His very SONS!

No wonder YEHOVAH ordained this day to be OUTSTANDING above all others. NO OTHER DAY even remotely represents such tremendous heights of achievement! And so

YEHOVAH set aside a SMALL PART of man's time to be a REMINDER of YEHOVAH God, our Creator, and His great purpose for mankind!

Those who REALLY KNEW the true God and His Plan down through the ages have ALWAYS KEPT HIS COMMANDED SABBATH. Yes, they kept the SEVENTH day of the LUNAR week! They did NOT OBSERVE any other day of the week such as Saturday or Sunday on the planetary week we have today!

Let's begin to learn about these men of YEHOVAH God who zealously kept His Sabbath Day. Let's see how their Sabbath keeping is an EXAMPLE FOR US TODAY!

### LESSON 8

#### Seventh-day Sabbath Continues Unchanged from Creation

Would YEHOVAH God set apart a certain day of His week, put His blessing on it, make it holy time, command that it be kept holy forever,

and then let that day be lost so we would not know WHEN to keep it?

ABSOLUTELY NOT!

We can be certain YEHOVAH God's seven-day weekly cycle has remained UNALTERED from Creation Week until today! And that the Sabbath Day -- the SEVENTH day of each lunar week -- has been kept by those whom YEHOVAH called to be His people.

Let's begin to understand this marvelous truth by first reviewing a few facts.

1. Did YEHOVAH refashion and create every physical thing of our present world in just

SIX days? Review quickly **Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31.**

2. And what did YEHOVAH GOD do on the SEVENTH day -- the SABBATH Day? **Genesis 2:2.** Does the Bible plainly say He RESTED? **Same verse.** "Sabbath" means REST in the Hebrew and Greek languages.

3. Did YEHOVAH also "sanctify" -- that is, SET APART and make HOLY -- this first seventh day by RESTING on it? **Genesis 2:3.** Notice the words, "sanctified it: BECAUSE that in it He had RESTED."

**COMMENT:** This special SEVENTH day which YEHOVAH created by RESTING, and set apart and made Holy, and put His blessing upon (**verse 3**), is THE ONE AND ONLY DAY out of each seven-day lunar week YEHOVAH COMMANDS MANKIND TO KEEP HOLY!

4. Did righteous Abraham OBVIOUSLY keep YEHOVAH's Sabbath? **Genesis 26:5.** Does this prove Abraham was not confused about when the true Sabbath occurs? And doesn't **Luke 13:28** show that Abraham will inherit the Kingdom of YEHOVAH God?

**COMMENT:** YEHOVAH God could not have positively stated that Abraham kept all of His commandments if he had been keeping the WRONG time! If Abraham kept the wrong day for YEHOVAH's Holy Sabbath, he would have broken this one point of YEHOVAH's law and thereby been guilty of breaking the WHOLE law! (**James. 2:10.**)

It was utterly impossible for Abraham to be mixed-up about the true weekly cycle, because Melchizedek (**Genesis 14:18-20**) was in Jerusalem to INSTRUCT him! Yes, we can be ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN that Abraham kept the RIGHT day -- the SEVENTH day of the lunar week!

5. Later, was Laban, the Syrian and father-in-law to Jacob (Israel), FAMILIAR with the WEEKLY CYCLE? **Genesis 29:26-27.** Notice the word "week." (Laban lived just a few hundred years before Moses -- about 1750 B.C.)

**COMMENT:** How could Laban have known of the WEEKLY CYCLE UNLESS that knowledge had been preserved by YEHOVAH's Sabbath-keeping servants during the nearly two thousand years that elapsed since creation?

This is further evidence that righteous men of old preserved the true weekly cycle by keeping the SEVENTH-DAY Sabbath of the lunar week holy!

6. Did even the HEATHEN know which day is YEHOVAH God's Sabbath?

**COMMENT:** Yes, they did! In the library of King Ashurbanipal of Assyria (6th Century B.C.), archaeologists found MANY clay tablets relating to the epic of creation, according to the limited knowledge of the Babylonians. One of these tablets reads: "The SEVENTH day was appointed a HOLY DAY [the Sabbath] and to cease from all business [God] commanded" (*Pocket Bible Handbook* by Henry H. Halley, archaeological note under **Genesis 2:1-3**).

When did this "holy day" of the Babylonians occur? Notice what Dr. Hutton Webster has to say: "In the year 1869 the late George Smith, well known as a pioneer student of Assyriology, discovered among the cuneiform tablets in the British Museum 'a curious religious calendar of the Assyrians, in which every month is divided into four weeks, and the SEVENTH DAYS, or "SABBATHS," are marked out as days on which no work should be undertaken'....[These days] are particularly applied to the SEVENTH, FOURTEENTH, NINETEENTH, TWENTY-FIRST, and TWENTY-EIGHTH days....With regard to the reasons which dictated the choice of the seventh, fourteenth, twenty-first, and twenty-eighth days....It has been held...that [they] were selected as CORRESPONDING TO THE MOON'S SUCCESSIVE CHANGES; hence the SEVENTH DAY marks the close of the EARLIEST FORM of the seventh-day week, a week BOUND UP WITH THE LUNAR PHASES" (*Rest Days: The Christian Sunday, the Jewish Sabbath, and Their Historical and*

*Anthropological Prototypes.* The MacMillan Company, NY: 1916. P. 224).

There you have it!

Talking further about the Babylonian calendar, Webster goes on to say -- "...the role of SEVEN as a symbolic number is ultimately connected with the MOON CHANGING HER PHASES at intervals of approximately SEVEN DAYS....The month in Babylonia was a LUNAR month...[and] as in ALL lunar calendars the month BEGAN with the VISIBLE NEW MOON....The Babylonians, like ALL OTHER peoples of the ancient East, based their calculations of time on the MOON. It follows, therefore, that the SEVEN-DAY PERIODS described in the Rawlinson calendar were also reckoned from the VISIBLE NEW MOON; indeed this fact is clearly indicated by the description applied in that calendar to the first day of the month. We may reasonably assume that the last day of the month (when the latter actually included only twenty-nine days) or the last two days of a thirty-day month were regarded as forming an EPAGOMENAL PERIOD, INTERRUPTING the regular succession of seven-day cycles" (*ibid.*, pp. 225, 226, 227 and 228).

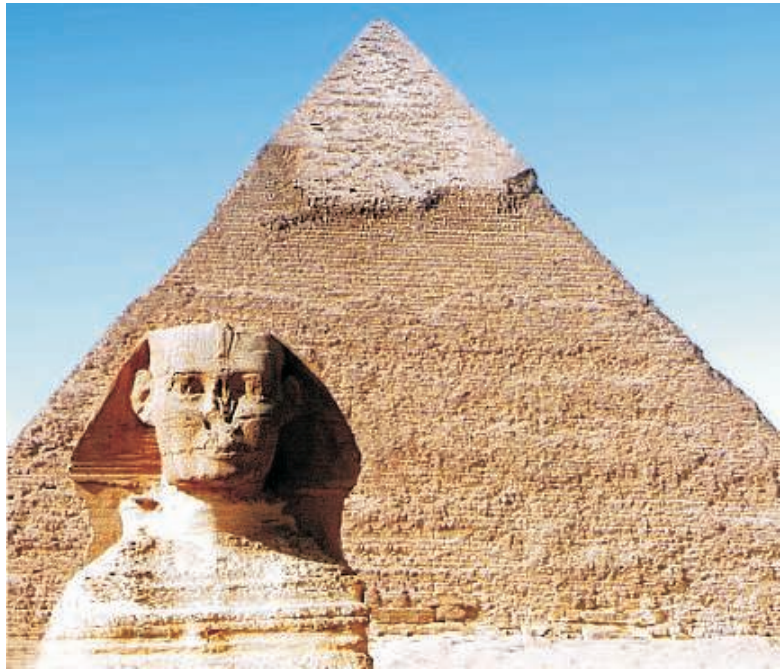
That the LUNAR WEEK began at Creation is underscored by the Babylonian *Epic of Creation*, which parallels and retains details of YEHOVAH God's work in the first few verses of **Genesis 1**. Notice!

"...Its [the *Epic of Creation*] original form is traced to the close of the third millennium B.C., it is told how the god Marduk, having created and set in order the heavenly bodies, then placed the MOON in the sky to MAKE KNOWN THE DAYS AND DIVIDE THE MONTH WITH HER PHASES. Although this interesting production, in its present mutilated state, mentions only the seventh and

fourteenth days, we are entitled to believe that the original text also referred to the twenty-first and twenty-eighth days of the month.

"The cuneiform evidence thus makes it reasonably certain that the cycles of seven days' duration found in the Rawlinson calendar were regarded as DIVISIONS OF THE LUNAR MONTH (*Rest Days*, p. 229).

Here is absolute proof from the ancient records collected by this Assyrian king that the Babylonians KNEW YEHOVAH God set apart the seventh day of the LUNAR week to be kept as a Holy Day of rest!



**EGYPT -- Where enslaved Israelites were forbidden to keep YEHOVAH's true Sabbath. Sphinx and pyramids are pictured.**

However, with the passing centuries the heathen lost all semblance of the true Sabbath, although many Near-Eastern nations kept a lunar seven-day week. Of this form of the week it is said: "Its antiquity is so great, its observance so widespread of man. The [lunar] week and the Sabbath are thus as old as man himself!" (*A Dictionary of the Bible*, by William Smith, page 745.)

### Revealing the Passover

Recall that the ancient Israelites, who were descendants of righteous Abraham, went down into Egypt (**Exodus 1:7**) -- the country YEHOVAH God considers as a TYPE of sin -- and were enslaved by the cruel Egyptians (**verses 8-14**).

The Egyptians did not know YEHOVAH God because they did not have YEHOVAH's true seven-day week. They did not rest on the Sabbath Day which IDENTIFIES the true God. From the time of the Tower of Babel (**Genesis 11:1-9**), their pagan ancestors REFUSED to keep the Sabbath and therefore did not know the true God.

**COMMENT:** Regarding the Egyptian calendar, Hutton Webster notes:

“Although the Egyptians had ABANDONED the old LUNAR year and LUNAR month, perhaps as early as the beginning of the fourth millennium B.C., the people continued for many centuries to observe as festivals the FIRST and FIFTEENTH days of the [solar] month. In the EARLIER [LUNAR] calendar these would have coincided with the two significant epochs of the LUNATION, namely, NEW MOON and FULL MOON. The “monthly feasts” and the “half-monthly feasts” are mentioned in the very ancient texts preserved in the pyramids at Sakkara of kings of the Sixth Dynasty” (*Rest Days*, pp. 166-167).

During the time that the Israelites were in bondage in Egypt, Webster reveals that the “feasts” mentioned above “were practised under the Twelfth Dynasty” and appear “clearly from the well-known inscription of Khnumhotep II, cut on the walls of the chapel chamber in his tomb at Benihasan” (*ibid.*, p. 167).

But since the Egyptians were observing only TWO of YEHOVAH's original Sabbath days -- and in the SOLAR month instead of the LUNAR -- they had LOST knowledge of YEHOVAH's true Sabbath!

Because the Israelites were slaves in pagan Egypt for hundreds of years, they too lost

the knowledge of the correct time for the Sabbath. So the Israelites literally dwelt there in SIN because of not keeping the Sabbath Day. That is why YEHOVAH God had to specially show the Israelites exactly WHICH TIME IS the true Creation Sabbath, shortly after delivering them from Egypt.

Let's study now the astonishing manner in which YEHOVAH revealed the true Sabbath Day, and learn the LESSON INTENDED for us TODAY!

When the Israelites were assembled just prior to escaping from Egypt, YEHOVAH God -- through Moses -- gave His laws to them regarding the Passover.

**1.** Read **Exodus 13:3-10**. Notice CAREFULLY what **verses 6 and 7** reveal. The last part of **verse 6** says that “in the SEVENTH DAY *shall be* a FEAST to the LORD.” At first glance the casual reader would think the “seventh day” is referring to the seventh day of the Feast -- Nisan 21. But is this true?

**COMMENT:** The question that has been raised is WHAT “seventh day” is this referring to? WHAT “seventh day” does the FEAST to the LORD fall on? Is it the seventh day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Nisan 21) -- or the seventh day of the WEEK?

In the ancient Hebrew, as with other languages of the time, punctuation was NOT used. When the Hebrew is translated into English, the translators must provide punctuation according to the context and where THEY THINK it should go.

**2.** Let's try something here. After the word “bread” in **verse 6**, place a period or full stop instead of the comma. Capitalize the “a” of “and” and place a comma after “LORD” instead of the period. Leave out the words “*shall be*” as these were supplied by the translators and were not in manuscripts. The two verses should now read as follows: “Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread. And in the SEVENTH DAY a Feast to the LORD, unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days;...”

**COMMENT:** Doesn't this cast a

different light on these verses? Notice that the phrase “seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread” is repeated TWICE. This, along with different punctuation, indicates that these verses are simply saying that we are to eat unleavened bread for seven days and in the SEVENTH DAY (OF THE WEEK) -- Nisan 15 -- is the FEAST, which is eaten with unleavened bread and continues for seven days. The FEAST is NOT on the 21st day, but is on the SEVENTH DAY -- Nisan 15.

3. There are a number of verses in the Bible that conclusively PROVE that the 15th is the feast mentioned in **Exodus 13:6** -- NOT the 21st. Go now to **Numbers 28:16-17**.

**COMMENT:** The wording here is almost identical to that in **Exodus 13:6** with one exception -- the phrase “seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread” is employed only ONCE. The Hebrew word for “feast” in **verse 17** is the SAME as that in **Exodus 13:6**. The sacrifice is killed on the 14th and eaten “in” the 15th with unleavened bread that continues for seven days.

In **verse 17** the 15th is unequivocally called the “Feast,” therefore the 15th must be the Feast -- NOT the 21st! In fact, NOWHERE in the Bible is Nisan 21 called a “feast.” It is called “a solemn assembly” and other names, but NOT a feast!

4. Notice in **Numbers 28:17** it says, “in the FIFTEENTH DAY of this month is the FEAST: seven days shall unleavened bread be eaten.” Back in **Exodus 13:6** it says, “in the SEVENTH DAY shall be a FEAST to the LORD, unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days.” Almost identical wording.

**COMMENT:** The question to ask is this -- “does the FEAST fall on the 15th, or on the SEVENTH DAY? Or is the 15th and the SEVENTH DAY one and the SAME? We have seen from Scripture that the “Feast” is on the “seventh day” and we have seen that the “Feast” is ALSO on the 15th. How do we resolve this? If we can understand that YEHOVAH is talking about the LUNAR WEEK -- in which the seventh day or Sabbath will ALWAYS falls on

the 15th, the mystery is solved! The 15th of the lunar month is, of course, the day of the FULL MOON.

### Exact Day for Sabbath Revealed to Ancient Israel

1. Read **Exodus chapter 16**. What DAY did they arrive in the wilderness of Sin? **Verse 1**.

**COMMENT:** Remember this date. The 15th day of the second month is the day of the FULL MOON in YEHOVAH’s calendar.

2. Did YEHOVAH God say He would rain bread from heaven for the Israelites? **Exodus 16:4**. What was this bread called? **Verse 15**. Be sure to READ this entire chapter before going any further.

3. For what PURPOSE did YEHOVAH rain down this bread? **Exodus 16:4**. Notice the words, “My law.”

**COMMENT:** The word “law” here refers to the SABBATH Commandment (**Exodus 20:8**), as we shall soon see.

4. Was this manna also to serve as food for the Israelites? **Exodus 16:32**. Were they told NOT TO save manna overnight for the next day? **Exodus 16:19**. What HAPPENED to the manna the disobedient ones saved for the following day? **Verse 20**.

**COMMENT:** Notice that ALL manna left overnight for the next day BRED WORMS and STANK!

5. But were they to gather TWICE as much manna on the 6th day of the week as they gathered on the other days of the week? **Exodus 16:5**.

6. Was this DOUBLE portion of manna to be enough for TWO days -- enough for both the 6th day and the next day -- the SABBATH Day? **Exodus 16:23**.

7. Did the manna which was saved for the morning of the Sabbath -- the seventh day -- stink and breed worms as it did if saved overnight for any of the previous six days? **Verse 24**. Why not? **Verse 25**.

8. Did YEHOVAH God say He would

NOT have them WORK at gathering manna on the SABBATH DAY since He would MIRACULOUSLY WITHHOLD IT FROM FALLING ON THAT DAY? **Exodus 16:26.**

**9.** But did some of the people disbelieve Moses and thereby DISOBEY YEHOVAH God by going out into the fields on the Sabbath to try to gather manna? **Verses 27-28.**

**10.** Did YEHOVAH have to command them AGAIN not to work on the Sabbath? **Verse 29.** What did the people finally do on the

in the field) had to be the 22nd (**verse 25**)!

The 22nd of YEHOVAH's calendar is the LAST QUARTER of the moon. Now since the 22nd is clearly a Sabbath -- as YEHOVAH God went to great pains to point out to the Israelites -- then seven days previous, the 15th, when they arrived in the wilderness, IS ALSO A SABBATH! It then follows that the 8th and the 29th of the month are ALSO Sabbaths that line up with the moon's phases. CLEARLY, YEHOVAH's weekly Sabbaths are LUNAR and

15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd
Full Moon							Last Quarter
<b>Sabbath</b> Arrival in wilderness of Sin. Shekinah Glory appears.	<b>1st Day</b> Single portion of manna. Quail appear after sunset of previous day.	<b>2nd Day</b> Single portion of manna.	<b>3rd Day</b> Single portion of manna.	<b>4th Day</b> Single portion of manna.	<b>5th Day</b> Single portion of manna.	<b>6th Day</b> Double portion of manna.	<b>Sabbath</b> No manna.

Sabbath? **Verse 30.** Did YEHOVAH's withholding of manna on the seventh day clearly show them WHICH DAY of the week is the TRUE SABBATH?

**COMMENT:** The absence of manna on the seventh day POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED exactly WHICH DAY is the Sabbath on which they were to REST from all their labors. Thus YEHOVAH God miraculously revealed the TRUE Sabbath Day to the Israelites!

So WHAT DAY on YEHOVAH's calendar was the Sabbath? Since the Israelites arrived in the wilderness of Sin on the 15th (**verse 1**) -- the day of the FULL MOON -- then seven days later (when NO MANNA appeared

conform to His LUNAR CALENDAR just like the Feast days He gave Israel.

Notice that YEHOVAH God performed THREE great distinct miracles each week to point out the exact day of the Sabbath to Israel: **1)** YEHOVAH miraculously GAVE them manna on the first six days of the week, including a DOUBLE portion on the sixth day; **2)** He miraculously WITHHELD the manna each Sabbath Day; and **3)** YEHOVAH miraculously PRESERVED the leftover portion of the 6th day's manna so it could be used for the Sabbath, thereby giving the people a REST from gathering it on the Sabbath.

As each weekly Sabbath made its

appearance on the 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th of the LUNAR month, YEHOVAH identified it to the Israelites by the special miracle of WITH-HOLDING manna on that day. HE DID THIS WEEK AFTER WEEK FOR FORTY LONG YEARS!! (**Exodus 16:35.**) He did this SOLELY for the purpose of burning into the Israelites' minds the fact He expected them to KEEP the SEVENTH DAY holy! Will it take 40 years to burn it into your mind?

YEHOVAH God NEVER before performed such a continuous set of miracles to convince man of his need to obey one of YEHOVAH's commandments! That is just how IMPORTANT resting on the SABBATH Day really is!!

Yes, for forty long years Israel was drilled exactly as to WHICH day of the week is the memorial to YEHOVAH's creation!

YEHOVAH allowed them enough ADDED blessing so they DID NOT HAVE TO

6th day so it would take care of their Sabbath needs. They could REST on the Sabbath Day and still be AS WELL OFF AS THOUGH THEY HAD WORKED ON IT!

The LESSON for us to learn from all this is that YEHOVAH God will BLESS us in a similar way today, if WE will OBEDIENTLY rest on His commanded Sabbath Day, instead of DISOBEDIENTLY observing any ordinary day of the week such as SATUR[N]day, SUNday -- the day of the SUN -- or FRI[DEN]day of Islam! On YEHOVAH's calendar the Sabbath can fall on ANY DAY of the pagan planetary week we observe today.

**Sanctification of Aaron and Sons**

Let us now examine the sanctification of Aaron and his sons as found in **Exodus 40.**

1. Read **verses 12-15.** On what DAY did this occur? **Exodus 40:2.**

1st -- New Moon	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th -- First Quarter
Tabernacle raised up. Moses instructed to gather the congregation. Moses anoints Tabernacle and Aaron and his sons. Aaron and sons confined to Tabernacle for 7 days.	<b>2nd day</b> of confinement.	<b>3rd day</b> of confinement.	<b>4th day</b> of confinement.	<b>5th day</b> of confinement.	<b>6th day</b> of confinement.	<b>7th day</b> of confinement.	Moses and Aaron go into the Tabernacle of Meeting. YEHOVAH's Shekinah Glory appears. <b>Sabbath Day.</b>

WORK at gathering manna on His sanctified Sabbath Day. He miraculously preserved enough of the manna which they gathered on the

**COMMENT:** This was the "first day of the first month" or the day of the NEW MOON.

2. How LONG were Aaron and his sons

to be sanctified? **Leviticus 8:33-35**.

**COMMENT:** Aaron and his sons were to be sanctified (set apart] for SEVEN DAYS starting with the NEW MOON day.

3. What did Moses tell Aaron and his sons in **Leviticus 8:33**?

**COMMENT:** They had to stay inside the Tabernacle -- apart from the rest of the congregation -- for the entire SEVEN DAYS -- seven days and seven nights. **Verse 35**. If the Israelites were keeping the weekly Sabbath according to the planetary week and the solar calendar as we do today, a Sabbath would have fallen on ONE of the seven days that Aaron and his sons were being sanctified (set apart), and this would have disrupted the process. But, CLEARLY, this DID NOT happen!

4. Now, WHAT was to happen on the 8th day? Read **Leviticus 9:1** and **9:23-24**.

**COMMENT:** On the 8TH DAY was an assembly of the congregation. WHAT was this assembly? The WEEKLY SABBATH, of course! The sanctification lasted from the NEW MOON until the 7th day of the moon -- and after six workdays they assembled the congregation to observe the SABBATH which fell on the 8th day of the moon -- otherwise known as the FIRST QUARTER!

Also, as when YEHOVAH God was revealing His weekly Sabbaths in **Exodus 16**, His Shekinah Glory appeared to all the people underscoring the IMPORTANCE YEHOVAH placed on this day.

This CLEARLY places the weekly Sabbaths on the 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th days of the of the Hebrew LUNAR month.

### **Esther 9**

In the **9th chapter of Esther** we find further proof that the 15th day of the moon (lunar month) was kept as a REST day.

1. Read **verses 1, 5, 15 and 18**. On what DAY did the "Jews" rest?

**COMMENT:** The 13th and 14th were the days they got the victories, while the 15TH

was THE DAY THEY RESTED. Clearly, therefore, they were keeping the Sabbath on the 15th day of the month -- the day of the FULL MOON. This being the case, they would also be keeping the Sabbath on the 8th, 22nd and 29th!

At this time they decided to keep the 14th, along with the 15th, every 12th month to commemorate receiving REST from their enemies (**Esther 9:21-22**).

2. Since the "Jews" were commanded to remember the 15th day and keep it Holy in remembrance of YEHOVAH God who, with a mighty hand gave them REST from their enemies, do you think they would count one through fifteen over and over again to remember the 15th? Or do you think they would continue to use the ONLY calendar the Bible speaks of -- the heavenly lights, the LUNAR calendar?

3. YEHOVAH commanded the Israelites to REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY because He brought them out of bondage in Egypt with a mighty hand, and it was the 15TH when He gave them an intermission or Sabbath day rest from bondage. Read **Deuteronomy 5:15**. According to this verse, what DAY did YEHOVAH bring the Israelites out of Egypt?

4. Now read **Numbers 33:3**. What DATE in the lunar month did they leave Egypt?

**COMMENT:** Here YEHOVAH God equates the 15th day of the first month with the SABBATH! Also, He calls it "the morrow after the passover" offering -- indicating that the weekly Sabbath AND the first day of Passover fall on the SAME DAY!

Here's something to think about -- if the Sabbath was on the 15th day of the first month when the Israelites were delivered from Egypt, and ALSO on the 15th day of the second month when they arrived in the wilderness of Sin -- it would be **IMPOSSIBLE** to use the Roman (Gregorian) Calendar count of 1 through 7 recurring (and counting the New Moon day as one of the six work days) and have the weekly Sabbath fall on the 15th day TWO MONTHS in a row!

5. Read **Exodus 19:1-2**. These verses

show that the Sabbath was also on the 15th in the 3RD MONTH.

**COMMENT:** This makes THREE months in a row that the Sabbath was on the 15th -- which further increases (if that were possible!) the **IMPOSSIBILITY** of this happening with the Roman (Gregorian) Calendar we use today!

### Joshua and the Parched Corn

In comparing **Joshua 5:10-12** with **Leviticus 23:10-11, 14-15** we find further confirmation that the weekly Sabbath falls on the 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th of each LUNAR month.

1. Read **Joshua 5:10-12**. What DAY did the Israelites keep the Passover? **Verse 10**.

**COMMENT:** They kept the Passover on the 14th day at even (night, that begins the 15th).

2. WHEN did they “eat of the old corn of the land”? **Verse 11**.

**COMMENT:** Actually, “old corn” is a bad translation. The Jewish *Tanakh* renders it this way: “...they ate of the produce of the country, unleavened bread and parched grain.” They ate the parched (new) corn or grain on the MORROW AFTER THE PASSOVER (the next day) which would be the 16TH.

3. On what DAY did the MANNA cease? **Verse 12**.

**COMMENT:** The MANNA ceased on the SAME morrow or day (the 16TH) after 40 YEARS. It had begun 40 years earlier on the 16TH -- as we have already seen in **Exodus 16**.

4. Now read **Leviticus 23:10-11** and **14-15**. WHAT were the Israelites told to bring to the priest after they entered the land? **Verse 10**.

5. WHEN was the priest told to wave the sheaf before YEHOVAH? **Verse 11**.

**COMMENT:** This verse CLEARLY states that they were to wave the sheaf of the first-fruits on THE MORROW AFTER THE SABBATH.

6. In **verse 14**, WHEN does it say the Israelites could eat the PARCHED CORN?

7. From what DAY were the Israelites

told to start the count to the day of Pentecost or First-fruits? **Verse 15**.

**COMMENT:** In **Leviticus 23:10** it states that when the Israelites came into the land they were to wave the sheaf of the first-fruits on the MORROW after the SABBATH, and **verse 15** says that they were to begin a count on the MORROW after the SABBATH. **Verse 14** says they could NOT eat the new parched corn, etc., until the SAME DAY they carried out the offering. What day was this? According to the 1st. Century Jewish historian Josephus, Philo the 1st. Century philosopher, Alfred Edersheim, the Septuagint -- and many other sources -- this would ALWAYS be on the 16TH of the LUNAR month.

This means that the weekly SABBATH will ALWAYS be on the 15th -- every year -- and the ONLY way this can happen is to count the Sabbaths by the moon. This simply CANNOT happen if you use the Roman (Gregorian) Calendar count!

Also -- **Joshua 5:11** proclaims that the Israelites ate of the parched corn on THE MORROW AFTER THE PASSOVER. We know that the PASSOVER falls on the 15th, and we have learned that the 15th is the weekly SABBATH because the parched corn was eaten on the 16th when the wave sheaf offering was made! Therefore, CLEARLY, the Passover ALWAYS falls on the weekly Sabbath!

The MANNA provides the final proof -- it CEASED on the SAME morrow or day (the 16TH) after 40 years. It had begun 40 years earlier ON THE 16TH, as we have seen in our study of Exodus 16. In **Exodus 16** we proved that the 15th was YEHOVAH’s weekly Sabbath.

### The Messiah Kept the CORRECT Sabbath

Yeshua the Messiah, the messenger of the New Covenant, came with the POWER of the holy spirit -- power which all of us may share. And by that power Yeshua KEPT the Sabbath commandment as it was intended to be kept!

By keeping the Sabbath, Yeshua also became our living flesh and blood **EXAMPLE** to show us **HOW** to keep it.

Yes, Yeshua the Messiah **KEPT** the Sabbath, and so did all those who **FOLLOWED** him. And their examples are recorded in the Bible for us **TO FOLLOW TODAY!**

Yeshua kept the Sabbath **PERFECTLY** because he had the fulness of the holy spirit to guide and empower him from birth. He **NEVER ONCE** broke the Sabbath! Had Yeshua ever broken it in the slightest point, he could not have become our Savior! **Hebrews 4:15** says he was “**WITHOUT SIN!**”

**1.** Did Yeshua set his Church the **EXAMPLE** of how the whole Christian way of life is to be lived? **I John 2:6**. Does Yeshua, the “**Lord**” of the **SABBATH** -- the **TRUE** “**Lord’s Day**” -- therefore teach us, his disciples, **WHEN** and **HOW** to keep the Sabbath?

**COMMENT:** Yeshua taught his

**The scroll that Yeshua read from on the Sabbath may have looked much like this one.**



disciples, the future leaders of His Church, **EXACTLY** how he, as the “**Lord of the Sabbath,**” intended that day to be used!

Yes, Yeshua showed by his **EXAMPLE** and **TEACHING** how the true Sabbath ought to be kept, and set his Church the **EXAMPLE** of how the **WHOLE** Christian way of life ought to be lived!

**YEHOVAH** God intended the Sabbath to be a **BLESSING** for mankind -- not a **CURSE!** And Yeshua showed us by his living example, in principle, and by direct teaching, exactly **HOW** the Sabbath is to be kept so it can be a **GREAT JOY** and **BLESSING** to us all!

**2.** Was it the Messiah’s “**custom**” to attend Church services on **YEHOVAH’s** Sabbath? **Luke 4:16, 31**.

**COMMENT:** Yeshua did not meet with the people on the Sabbath because it was a “**convenient**” opportunity to preach to them. He met with them in **OBEDIENCE** to **YEHOVAH GOD’S** **COMMAND** to convoke for worship services on the Sabbath Day! (**Leviticus 23:3**.)

It was Yeshua’s “**custom**” or **HABIT** to keep the true Sabbath from his early youth. Once a person does a thing consistently for a length of time, it becomes a **HABIT** with him and a **CUSTOMARY** thing. So it was with Yeshua. He did **NOT** keep Saturday, Sunday or any other such practice instituted by man and his calendar!

**3.** Are **WE** commanded to **FOLLOW** the Messiah’s perfect example of obedience to **YEHOVAH** God, which includes Sabbath keeping? **I Peter 2:21** and **I Corinthians 11:1**.

### **John 5**

**YEHOVAH** God has carefully seen to it that the knowledge of the **PROPER** time for His Holy Sabbath has been preserved in the New Testament for us today. Let’s notice how:

**1.** Read **John 5:1**. What was it that the Messiah went up to Jerusalem for?

**COMMENT:** All the commentaries and Bible notes explain that this was the first day of the Passover season, i.e. The **15TH DAY** of the

LUNAR month.

2. Now read **verses 2-8** of **John 5**. WHEN did the Messiah meet the man with the infirmity?

**COMMENT:** This occurred on the SAME DAY -- the first day of Unleavened Bread, the 15TH.

3. Now read **verse 9**. What does it CLEARLY say?

**COMMENT:** It says here that “on the SAME day was the weekly SABBATH”! What “same day”? The feast of the Passover -- the 15th!

The Greek word here for “Sabbath” is *Sabbaton* -- which means the WEEKLY SABBATH or rest day. So the Sabbath in **verse 9** is the SAME DAY as the Feast in **verse 1** -- showing once again that the weekly Sabbath falls on the 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th of the lunar month.

**Yeshua and the Blind Man**

In the Book of John we find more conclusive evidence showing that the Messiah kept the weekly Sabbath on the 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th days of the LUNAR month

1. Read **John 7:2**. What FEAST was at hand?

2. In **verse 10** Yeshua went up to Jerusalem for the Feast.

3. Now read **John 7:37**. What DAY did the Messiah stand up to say “If any man thirst, let

him come unto me, and drink”?

**COMMENT:** It was on the LAST GREAT DAY -- Shmini Atzeret -- which ALWAYS falls on the **22nd of the lunar month** of Tishri, that the Messiah stood up to speak.

4. Now skip over to **John 9:1**. What DAY was it that the Messiah saw the man blind from birth?

**COMMENT:** It was the SAME day, the 22nd. All the previous verses from **John 7:38 to 52**, and then from **John 8:12 to 59** deal with the intercourse that took place on the 22nd between the Messiah and the people and the officers of the chief priests and pharisees.

It should be noted here that the section about the woman caught in adultery (**John 7:53 to 8:11**) was NOT in the original manuscripts. The *Catholic Encyclopedia* admits that this section, called the *pericope adulterae* was regarded as SPURIOUS until the Council of Trent in 1546, where it was suddenly declared as “divine truth.” All evidence indicates that this section was INSERTED into John’s gospel in the 4th century.

5. In **John 9:6** we read about Yeshua anointing the eyes of the blind man with clay. What DAY was this?

**COMMENT:** This was still on the 22nd or Last Great Day of the Feast.

6. Now for the clincher! What DAY does John say it was that the Messiah anointed the eyes of the blind man? **Verse 14**.

**COMMENT:** We already know it was

TISHRI	TISHRI
	22nd
Yeshua goes to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles ( <b>John 7:10</b> ).	Yeshua cries out in the Temple ( <b>John 7:37</b> ). Yeshua leaves the Temple under threat of stoning ( <b>John 8:59</b> ). Sees man blind from birth ( <b>John 9:1</b> ). Anoints eyes of blind man with clay ( <b>John 9:6</b> ). <b>WEEKLY SABBATH</b> ( <b>John 9:14</b> ).

the 22nd day of the lunar month and ALSO Shmini Atzeret -- but what ELSE was it? Notice! “And it was the SABBATH DAY when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes” (verse 14).

One again, the word for “SABBATH” in this verse is *Sabbaton* -- meaning the WEEKLY SABBATH. This is further confirmed in verse 16 where some of the Pharisees said “this man is not from God, because he does not keep the Sabbath.” SAME word, SAME meaning. Clearly, the Sabbath in this week fell on the 22nd, which means the other Sabbaths of the month fell on the 8th, 15th and 29th! And Yeshua kept these days as his custom was.

How can we fail to see that these weekly Sabbaths are ALWAYS on the set days of the LUNAR month? And, here again, the Messiah was keeping the Heavenly Sabbaths that were created by YEHOVAH’s Heavenly calendar -- NOT mans’! The Sabbath here was on the 22nd, which means the Sabbath also fell on the 8th, 15th and 29th days of this month -- as in ALL OTHER months!

### The Crucifixion Week

YEHOVAH God has carefully seen to it that the knowledge of the proper time for His Holy Sabbath day was preserved in the accounts of the Messiah’s death. Let’s notice how:

#### 1. Read Mark 15:42.

**COMMENT:** In the *Jewish New Testament* this verse reads as follows: “Since it was the Preparation Day (that is, the day before a SHABBAT), as evening approached, Yosef of Ramatayim, a prominent member of the Sanhedrin who himself was also looking forward to the Kingdom of God went boldly to Pilate and asked for Yeshua’s body.”

In a footnote the *Jewish New Testament* remarks: “Shab.bat -- the Sabbath,” implying a WEEKLY Sabbath.

#### 2. Read Luke 23:54.

**COMMENT:** In the *Jewish New Testament* this verse reads: “It was the Preparation Day, and a SHABBAT was about to

begin.” Once again, the footnote to this verse says “Shab.bat -- the Sabbath” -- also implying the WEEKLY Sabbath.

#### 3. Now let’s go to Luke 23:56.

**COMMENT:** Here we read, in the *Jewish New Testament* -- “On SHABBAT the women rested, IN OBEDIENCE TO THE COMMANDMENT.” What commandment is this? The FOURTH COMMANDMENT of course!

In reference to this verse the *Jewish New Testament* makes this clarifying statement: “It is sometimes claimed that the New Testament says nothing about keeping the fourth commandment. This verse contradicts that claim, so it is important for a Jewish understanding of the New Testament. On Shabbat the women rested, in obedience to the fourth commandment (Exodus 20:8-11, Deuteronomy 5:12-15; also Exodus 16). Of course they did! They observed SHABBAT EVERY WEEK” (David H. Stern, p. 150). Obviously, then, the WEEKLY SABBATH is the focus of verses 54 and 56.

4. Now that we have established the fact that the WEEKLY Sabbath is the focus of these verses, let’s go to John 19:31. What does this verse say that the SABBATH day was?

**COMMENT:** What “HIGH DAY” was this? Most Bibles reference this to Exodus 12:16 -- the first holy day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread! Therefore -- and NOTICE this -- we have here TWO SABBATHS ON THE SAME DAY -- THE WEEKLY SABBATH AND THE FIRST HIGH OR HOLY DAY OF THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD. This is EXACTLY what we would expect if the Judeans of the Messiah’s time were keeping the weeks according to the LUNAR cycle! This particular day was Nisan 15 and, according to the lunar reckoning, was ALWAYS a weekly Sabbath AND a high day!

### Apostles and New Testament Church Kept True Sabbath

There is clear and conclusive proof that the Messiah's Apostles and New Testament Church CONTINUED TO keep the seventh-day Sabbath after his death and resurrection. Here is that proof!

1. Did the Christian women who came with Yeshua from Galilee still observe the SABBATH Day the day after he was crucified? **Luke 23:55-56**. Was the FIRST day of the week -- the day AFTER the weekly Sabbath -- still a REGULAR WORK DAY? **Luke 24:1**.

**COMMENT:** Notice the words "according to the commandment" in **Luke 23:56**. The day after Messiah's crucifixion, the early CHRISTIANS KNEW THE SABBATH COMMANDMENT WAS STILL IN EFFECT AND WERE KEEPING IT!

And the FIRST day of the week, the day of the Messiah's resurrection, was still an ORDINARY WORK DAY -- the day on which the women brought their spices to anoint the Messiah's body. However, they first "rested the Sabbath Day according to the commandment"!

2. Wasn't it always the apostle Paul's "MANNER" to keep the Sabbath, just as it was the Messiah's "CUSTOM" to keep it? **Acts 17:1-2** and **Luke 4:16, 31**.

**Mount Sinai in Arabia -- Where Paul was probably taught for 3 years by the resurrected Messiah.**



3. Was it Paul's "manner" to keep the Sabbath because he felt like it, or because Yeshua the Messiah DWELT in him through the indwelling of the holy spirit? **Galatians 2:20**. Is the Messiah always CHANGING his mind about which spiritual laws of YEHOVAH God are to be obeyed and which day should be kept as the Sabbath? Or does the Messiah's will REMAIN THE SAME FOREVER? **Hebrews 13:8**.

**COMMENT:** It is quite plain the apostle Paul observed the TRUE SABBATH. And if the Messiah lives his life in us today through YEHOVAH's holy spirit, WE WILL ALSO BE KEEPING THE SAME DAY YESHUA KEPT!

4. Was the apostle Paul PERSONALLY taught by the Messiah himself in preparation for his ministry? **Galatians 1:11-12, 15-10**.

**COMMENT:** After the Messiah's death and resurrection, he personally taught Paul, ALONE, in Arabia. Had the Messiah done away with any of his Father's laws or CHANGED the true Sabbath to some other time, he certainly would have revealed it to Paul personally. But NO CHANGES were made and Paul returned and taught the true Church of YEHOVAH God exactly what the Messiah commanded him to preach regarding it!

5. Did Paul labor at a job for SIX days of the week, and then observe the seventh-day Sabbath by RESTING and PREACHING? **Acts 18:1-4, 11**.

**COMMENT:** For EIGHTEEN MONTHS in the city of Corinth, Paul labored unceasingly during the first six days of each week as a tentmaker. But he did not preach on the first day of the week -- or on Saturday in our calendar of today. He preached on the SABBATH -- the seventh day! And WHEN did the Sabbath fall?

6. The apostle Paul was using YEHOVAH God's calendar after the crucifixion, and we find evidence of this in **Acts chapter 20**. Notice **verses 5-8**. WHEN did Paul sail from Philippi? **Verse 6**.

7. WHEN did he join the others in Troas? **Same verse**.

8. How LONG did he stay in Troas? Same verse.

**COMMENT:** Paul and his associates sailed away from Philippi AFTER the Days of Unleavened Bread -- on the 22nd of Nisan. FIVE DAYS later (on the 26th of Nisan) they joined the others in Troas where they abode for 7 DAYS. The 7th day was the 2nd day of the new month (Iyar), and Paul calls this SECOND DAY of Iyar the 1st day of the week. That makes the 1st day of Iyar THE DAY OF THE NEW MOON -- which is a worship day in which no work is to be done.

Counting the 26th of Nisan as the FIRST DAY of their stay in Troas (the Hebrews used INCLUSIVE counting), we count the 27th as the SECOND, the 28th as the THIRD, the 29th as the FOURTH, the 30th as the FIFTH, the 1st (of Iyar) or the NEW MOON as the SIXTH day of the stay, and the 2nd day of Iyar as the SEVENTH day of Paul's stay at Troas.

9. Read Acts 20:7. What is this SECOND day of Iyar called?

**COMMENT:** It is called the 1st day of the week because they only stayed seven days. The seventh day of their stay fell on the first day of the week, and the SECOND day of the month is ALWAYS the first work day of the week, following the New Moon day.

If the 2nd day of Iyar was the first work day of the week, that clearly PROVES that Paul kept the weekly Sabbath on the 8TH DAY OF IYAR -- which means he also kept the 15TH, 22ND and 29TH! We should follow Paul as he followed the Messiah!

The apostle Paul was remembering the

TRUE Sabbath day to keep it Holy. By counting six work days after the New Moon day -- and then resting the seventh day after the six work days according to the Fourth Commandment -- it will ALWAYS fall on the 8th day from the New Moon, as it was in the beginning in Genesis 1.

YEHOVAH God rested on the seventh day, or after the six work days, but it was the 8TH DAY from the beginning. This is because YEHOVAH created the heavens and the earth BEFORE He worked on them on the 1st work day.

10. Notice how the Sabbath was regarded by converts in the early Church. Did Paul preach to the Judahites AND Gentiles on a Sabbath Day? Acts 13:14-16. After the JUDAHITES left the synagogue, did the GENTILES ask him to preach to them again on the next Sabbath? Verse 42. On the next Sabbath, how many from the city of Antioch came to hear Paul? Verse 44.

**CORINTH -- Where Paul preached to Gentiles on YEHOVAH's Sabbath days.**



**NISAN**

21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th
Last Day of U.B.	Paul sailed from Philippi	2nd Day of voyage	3rd Day of voyage	4th Day of voyage	Arrival in Troas	2nd Day of stay in Troas	3rd Day of stay in Troas	4th Day of stay in Troas	5th Day of stay in Troas

<b>IYAR</b>
-------------

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
<b>New Moon</b>  <b>6th Day</b> of stay in Troas	<b>1st Day</b> of the week. <b>7th Day</b> of stay in Troas	<b>2nd Day</b> of the week	<b>3rd Day</b> of the week	<b>4th Day</b> of the week	<b>5th Day</b> of the week	<b>6th Day</b> of the week	<u>SABBATH</u> <u>DAY</u>

**COMMENT:** Notice carefully that it was the practice of many GENTILES to meet with the Judahites on the Sabbaths. And because these Gentiles were interested in the Gospel, they besought Paul to speak about Yeshua again on the very NEXT SABBATH DAY!

Paul, the apostle to the Gentile (Israelite -- 10 tribed) nations, said NOT ONE WORD here or elsewhere, that the Gentiles should cease their practice of assembling on the SABBATH for worship! Yes, the Sabbath Day was kept by YEHOVAH's early church years AFTER the Messiah's death and resurrection!

**11.** Since Paul followed the example of Yeshua the Messiah who dwelt in him, did he COMMAND the GENTILE (Israelite) Christians at Corinth to FOLLOW HIM EXACTLY AS HE FOLLOWED THE MESSIAH? **I Corinthians 11:1.** Did he command the Philippians to do likewise? **Philippians 3:17.**

**COMMENT:** Paul taught the converted Gentiles to imitate his obedience to YEHOVAH God AS HE IMITATED CHRIST'S. BECAUSE of this command, the Gentiles always assembled on the SABBATH DAY JUST AS THE MESSIAH DID WHILE IN THE FLESH, in order to KEEP the day YEHOVAH God commands in His Word!

In like manner today, all SPIRIT-BEGOTTEN CHRISTIANS will be IMITATING the OBEDIENCE of Yeshua the Messiah, the apostle Paul, and all of YE-

HOVAH's true ministers -- by KEEPING the Sabbath Day holy!

**12.** Did the Messiah plainly show that his Church would REMAIN a Sabbath-keeping Church, even until the time of the end of the Judahite state in 70 A.D.? **Matthew 24:20.**

**COMMENT:** The Messiah clearly shows here that his Church would respect and keep his Father's Sabbath commandment. His Church -- the true Church of YEHOVAH God in its infancy -- fled from Jerusalem before the city was destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D. True Christians were KEEPING the Sabbath at that time!

Even the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans is PROOF of YEHOVAH's TRUE Sabbath day! The Roman author Sextus Julius Frontinus, who wrote in Latin towards the close of the first century A.D., referred to the conquest of Jerusalem by the armies of Vespasian, saying: "The divine Augustus Vespasian attacked the Jews on the day of Saturn, **on which it is forbidden for them to do anything serious, and prevailed**" (*The Stratagems*, book 2, Chapter 1, Section 17, in "Loeb Classical Library," Frontinus, p. 98).

Dio Cassius says the following in his account of this war between the Romans and the Judeans: "Thus was Jerusalem destroyed on the very day of Saturn, **the day which even now the Jews reverence most**" (*Roman History*, book 65, Chapter 7, in "Loeb Classical Library," Dio's Roman History, Volume 8, p. 271).

Tying all this together, the Jewish (Judahite) historian Josephus tells us what date of the LUNAR month this momentous Sabbath fell on -- notice! "And thus was Jerusalem taken, in the second year of the reign of Vespasian, ON THE EIGHTH DAY OF THE MONTH GORPEIUS [ELUL]"! (Josephus, *Wars of the Jews*, book 6, Chapter 10, in "The Works of Flavius Josephus," pp. 832, 833). Elul is the 6th month in the Hebrew lunar calendar (counting from Nisan) and is known as the "month of repentance."

Here, again, is irrefutable PROOF that the people of Judah were keeping YEHOVAH's TRUE Sabbath on the **8th day of the LUNAR month** in 70 A.D. when the city and Temple fell to the Romans -- which means they were also keeping it on the 15th, 22nd and 29th!

The evidence of your Bible (and secular history) proves beyond the shadow of a doubt that Christians in YEHOVAH's original Apostolic Church -- and the nation of Judah -- observed the TRUE seventh-day Sabbath! The FACTS from the Bible and recorded secular history to this effect are OVERWHELMING!

FOR OVER 1900 YEARS, YEHOVAH's true Church has CONTINUED to keep the seventh-day Sabbath and the "testimony of Yeshua the Messiah" -- the teachings of the Bible! (**Revelation 12:17; 14:12.**)

### **BLESSINGS for Keeping YEHOVAH's Sabbath**

YEHOVAH God makes it plain that we must keep His Sabbath if we are to receive YEHOVAH's glorious gift of eternal life and inherit His Kingdom.

But in addition to this glorious future, YEHOVAH promises to bestow many other wonderful BLESSINGS HERE and NOW upon those who hallow His Sabbaths, and make them a "delight"!

1. How does YEHOVAH reveal He will bless us MATERIALLY if we faithfully keep the Sabbath? **Isaiah 58:13-14.** Notice that

YEHOVAH God promises to cause us to "ride upon the HIGH places of the earth."

**COMMENT:** The "heritage of Jacob" is the inheritance of righteous Abraham and all the righteous who are Abraham's "seed." YEHOVAH promises us -- if we are Abraham's "seed" through the Messiah -- tremendous material and spiritual blessings, including eternal inheritance of this earth.

YEHOVAH promises to bless us with food, shelter, clothing, knowledge, AND MANY OTHER THINGS THAT IT OFTEN SURPRISES US TO RECEIVE -- if we obediently keep His Sabbaths.

To be in YEHOVAH's good grace and favor and therefore to be blessed by God -- to be caused to "ride upon the HIGH places of the earth" -- is very IMPORTANT! And even more so now in the end of this age when this desperately lawless generation is bringing untold suffering upon the WHOLE WORLD. YOU JUST CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO KEEP THE SABBATH!

We are told in **Matthew 6:31-33**, "... Take NO thought (ANXIOUS thought or worry), saying what shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek: ) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. BUT SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD, AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS; AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU."

The person who accepts YEHOVAH God at His Word, and is willing to STEP OUT IN FAITH BY EXERCISING IT, and trusting Him to supply every need, is a person upon whom YEHOVAH will look with favor and to whom YEHOVAH will see that all basic needs are supplied.

This takes real courage and faith in YEHOVAH God, but we know we have His SURE PROMISE that He will provide for our needs. YEHOVAH may allow you to have temporary problems to test your faith, but as long as you obey Him and follow the Messiah,

your perfect example -- AND KEEP LOOKING FOR WHAT YOU NEED -- you will find it. YEHOVAH WILL NOT FORSAKE YOU (**Deuteronomy 4:30-31**).

But there is one thing to remember. You must look and work HARD for what you need -- YEHOVAH God will not intervene for one who is LAZY!

Pray for YEHOVAH's guidance and intervention on your behalf so you will have His help in providing for your basic needs.

**2.** Aren't those who keep the Sabbath promised they will also be "refreshed" physically? **Exodus 23:12**.

Now that we have learned about the MATERIAL blessings YEHOVAH God promises those who keep His Sabbaths, let's learn about the far more important ETERNAL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS YEHOVAH promises us if we keep His Sabbaths properly.

**3.** WHY should we forsake our own ways and even our own thoughts on the Sabbath? **Isaiah 55:8-9**.

**COMMENT:** Since the Sabbath is the "sign" which IDENTIFIES US as YEHOVAH's obedient children, and since it points directly to our eternal GOAL of becoming sons of YEHOVAH God with supremely powerful and efficient spirit bodies, we are to LEARN TO BE MORE LIKE YEHOVAH ON THIS DAY! Here's how we learn:

As human beings we do not, by our carnal nature, THINK the spiritual thoughts YEHOVAH thinks constantly. Therefore the way we begin to think GODLY THOUGHTS on the Sabbath is by STUDYING, DISCUSSING and MEDITATING upon YEHOVAH's Word, and by PRAYING TO YEHOVAH God!

You might say we are, in a sense, practicing to be very God on the Sabbath when we literally SATURATE OUR MINDS with the PRINCIPLES OF YEHOVAH'S LAWS which reveal His character -- how YEHOVAH thinks and acts! So then, by properly keeping the Sabbath, we are acting out or portraying our future destiny -- that of being sons of the Living

God in the very Kingdom of YEHOVAH God!

Yes, the Sabbath will become a great "delight" (**Isaiah 58:13**) to us as we learn the ways of YEHOVAH and thrill to the prospect of becoming His very Sons.

And keeping the Sabbath as YEHOVAH God instructs will give us the SPIRITUAL LIFT and INSPIRATION needed to help us do the next six days of work with joy and real purpose. It will help us to realize that our everyday experience of putting YEHOVAH's Word into practice in our lives is BUILDING the very CHARACTER OF YEHOVAH GOD!

Only when we keep the Sabbath in this way can we fully realize why Yeshua said it was made "FOR MAN" -- to be a great BLESSING for mankind! (**Mark 2:27**.)

**4.** What "name" does YEHOVAH God promise those of us who faithfully observe His Sabbath every week according to the lunar calendar? **Isaiah 56:4-6**. Will YEHOVAH make faithful Sabbath keepers His joyful Sons with POSITIONS of rulership in His own house, His Temple -- the headquarters church of the whole world? The first 15 words of **verse 5**; first 18 words of **verse 7** and **Revelation 3:12**.

**COMMENT:** YEHOVAH specifically promises us that if we do not pollute His Sabbath, but keep it in the SPIRIT -- BECOME SPIRITUAL "EUNUCHS" WITH NO PROSPECT OF REBELLION -- and keep it in the letter by RESTING PHYSICALLY, we will become the born Sons of His family and be co-rulers with the Messiah in the Kingdom of YEHOVAH God, with headquarters in JERUSALEM, PALESTINE!

What a TREMENDOUS REWARD for being the obedient servants of YEHOVAH God!

**5.** Does YEHOVAH also give us a glimpse of the eternal city in which we'll live and rule as His Sons? **Revelation 21:1-2** and **22:14**. SKIM RAPIDLY the rest of the **21st chapter** and **verses 1-5 of chapter 22** for the glorious description of the breathtaking beauty and splendor that will surround us in the NEW JERUSALEM!

**COMMENT:** ALL of these tremendous spiritual blessings can be yours if you have the “sign” of obedience to YEHOVAH God which will distinguish you -- SET YOU APART -- as one destined to inherit YEHOVAH’s incomprehensible riches -- eternal life of never-ending joy and accomplishment in the kingdom of YEHOVAH God!

### Those Being SAVED for Service Have YEHOVAH’s “Sign”

Do you fully realize that even the Messiah, the very first-born Son of God, HAD TO KEEP THE SABBATH in order to bear the “Sign” which identifies YEHOVAH’s spiritual children -- those whom YEHOVAH is SAVING for service in His Kingdom?

Yeshua the Messiah was a flesh and blood human being exactly as you and I. He could not have received eternal life any other way than we may receive it. He, too, HAD TO KEEP YEHOVAH’s commandments -- which includes Sabbath keeping -- YEHOVAH’s “sign.” Let’s be sure we understand this vital truth.

1. Was the Messiah the MORTAL flesh-and-blood son of Joseph and Mary? **Luke 4:22**, and **John 6:42**.

**COMMENT:** While the Messiah was on earth as the mortal son of Joseph and Mary, he ALSO had to keep the Sabbath -- have YEHOVAH God’s Sabbath “sign” -- or die ETERNAL DEATH! “For sin is the transgression of the law” (**I John 3:4**) -- which includes the Sabbath commandment -- and “the wages of sin is (eternal) death” (**Romans 6:23**).

The Messiah would have incurred the eternal death penalty if he had disobeyed the SLIGHTEST point of YEHOVAH’s law (**James 2:10**).

But the Messiah knew YEHOVAH’s Law and exactly what time to keep as the Sabbath. And Yeshua the Messiah kept ALL of YEHOVAH’s commandments PERFECTLY! He made it his “custom” to keep the Sabbath so

he would bear YEHOVAH’s “SIGN.”

Because the Messiah was sinless and had YEHOVAH’s “sign,” he qualified to become our Savior. Therefore the Father raised him from the dead, thus SAVING him for service in His Kingdom. And so the Messiah now sits at the right hand of the Father in heaven as our High Priest and Elder Brother.

Remember the simple fact that Yeshua is our EXAMPLE. Since he had to keep the Sabbath to be saved, we MOST CERTAINLY MUST DO LIKEWISE TODAY!

2. But doesn’t the Bible clearly show that the Messiah “LABORED” on YEHOVAH’s holy Sabbath Day? It most certainly does! How did the Messiah “labor” on the Sabbath? Did he “work” mighty SPIRITUAL WORKS on the Sabbath Day? **Mark 1:21**; **Luke 4:16**; **13:10** and **Matthew 12:5, 8-13**.

3. How did Yeshua uphold his “work” of preaching and healing on YEHOVAH’s Sabbath? Did he make it plain it was lawful to do WELL on the Sabbath? **Matthew 12:12** and **Luke 6:9-10**.

4. BUT did Yeshua also warn against doing PHYSICAL LABOR on the Sabbath Day? **Matthew 24:20**.

**COMMENT:** Remember, Yeshua NEVER ONCE broke the Sabbath! Had he ever broken it in the slightest point, he could not have become our Savior! **Hebrews 4:15** says he was WITHOUT SIN!

The “work” Yeshua said he and the Father performed were SPIRITUAL works! In **John 5:10-21**, Yeshua plainly indicated that he was doing the SPIRITUAL works of the Father (healing, preaching, etc.) on the Sabbath -- not the PHYSICAL works of men!

YOU too, although not a minister performing spiritual “works” for others on the Sabbath by preaching, can and should do other SPIRITUAL “WORKS” to PREPARE YOURSELF for YEHOVAH’s Kingdom. You can do this by zealously STUDYING YEHOVAH’s Word -- the Bible -- and by PRAYING to YEHOVAH God on the Sabbath.

You can be literally FILLED with YEHOVAH's holy spirit on this day of especially close contact with YEHOVAH God -- the spirit which will guide you into all truth (**John 16:13**). Then you will begin to GROW spiritually, though almost imperceptibly at first. But GROW you will! For you'll be schooling yourself on the TRUE Sabbath -- PREPARING YOURSELF for the great work we are to perform in this physical world after we are born of YEHOVAH God.

If you worship YEHOVAH every Sabbath by PRAYING to Him and STUDYING His Word and its APPLICATION in your life, and put it into DAILY PRACTICE during the week, then you will have YEHOVAH's Sabbath "sign" in the TRUE and SAVING sense. You will be PREPARING to enter YEHOVAH's Kingdom as a priest and ruler! (**Revelation 5:10.**)

And if you continue to grow and overcome, at the Messiah's coming YEHOVAH God will CHANGE you by giving you a supremely efficient SPIRIT body capable of tremendous SPIRITUAL SERVICE IN His eternal Kingdom!

### Additional Study Material

From Sabbath to Saturday: The Story of the Jewish Rest Day

Have We Been Observing the Sabbath At the Wrong Time All These Years?

### Answers to Questions in Lesson 7

1. obedience 2. family members 3. test  
4. c. YEHOVAH God 5. No 6. He rested  
7. lunar 8. d. all mankind 9. pattern  
10. initial 11. Yes 12. sign  
13. The Sabbath 14. eternal death 15. special mission  
16. Sabbath keeping

### NOTES:

# Check Your Progress...

**Question 1:** The Sabbath in the Assyrian calendar conformed to the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Question 2:** In ALL the lunar calendars the month begins with the \_\_\_\_\_ New Moon.

**Question 3:** The “seventh day” in Exodus 13:6 refers to **a.** Sunday **b.** Nisan 21 **c.** Saturday **d.** Nisan 15

**Question 4:** In YEHOVAH’s calendar the Sabbath \_\_\_\_\_ falls on the 15th.

**Question 5:** What DAY of the month did the Israelites arrive in the Wilderness of Sin? \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 6:** What DAY was it 7 days later when NO manna appeared? \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 7:** In YEHOVAH’s calendar the Sabbath can fall on \_\_\_\_\_ of the pagan week we keep today.

**Question 8:** In Joshua 5 the Israelites ate of the parched (new) corn on the \_\_\_\_\_ the Passover. This day was the \_\_\_\_\_ of Nisan.

**Question 9:** On what DAY did the manna start appearing 40 years earlier? \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 10:** It was Yeshua’s \_\_\_\_\_ to keep the TRUE Sabbath from his early youth.

**Question 11:** On what DAY of the lunar month did the Messiah anoint the eyes of the blind man in John 9:6? \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 12:** What DAY of the lunar WEEK did this occur on? \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 13:** At the time of the Messiah’s death the Passover AND weekly Sabbath fell on the \_\_\_\_\_ day.

**Question 14:** Is this to be expected if the Judeans and Pharisees were keeping the LUNAR week? \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 15:** The TRUE Sabbath is a \_\_\_\_\_ which identifies us as YEHOVAH’s obedient children.

**Question 16:** WHO taught the apostle Paul for 3 years in Arabia? \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 17:** Did Paul keep the lunar Sabbath? \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 18:** According to the Roman historians Jerusalem fell on the \_\_\_\_\_ day which, according to Josephus, was the \_\_\_\_\_ day of Elul.

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The answers will be found in Test 2. Approximately 3 weeks after receiving Lessons 5 through 8, you will receive a mail-in test that covers these four lessons. The test will be returned to you after grading. Following the completion of the Hope of Israel Bible Correspondence Course you will receive a **Certificate of Completion**. If you complete the course with a grade of 75% or better you will also receive an **Outstanding Student Award**.



