

1. What Are Lunar Sabbaths?

I remember a new dessert taste sensation that was introduced back in the 60's. It was called *Something Different*, and boy, was it ever delicious. It was a very light and fluffy, chocolate mousse-like dessert that was served after having been chilled in the refrigerator. For a time, *Something Different* was a very popular dessert item and it was widely advertised on TV. To my disappointment, however, the product apparently didn't catch on with enough consumers, and within a few years, it was only a fading memory.

Something Different would be an appropriate description of a relatively new belief structure currently being promoted by some professing Sabbathkeepers. Like the dessert, this mode of Sabbath observance has a certain appeal that has drawn many people into embracing it. The question is, will this belief attract enough people to have any significant impact on the Sabbathkeeping world, or will it one day find itself a faded memory, a testimony to a passing idea or fad that simply didn't "catch on"? More importantly to our current investigation are the questions, "Is this method of Sabbath observance based upon truth?" Does it have the support of Scripture?"

In simple terms, "Lunar Sabbaths" can be defined as the observance of the weekly Sabbath based upon the lunar cycle instead of the continuously-repeating weekly Sabbath observed by Judaism, which always falls on the day commonly known as Saturday. Of course, in ancient Judaism the days of the week were not known by their planetary names as they are referred to by today's society. Ancient Judaism simply referred to this day as "Shabbat," not "Saturday." The weekly Shabbat handed down to us from Judaism is consistently separated by six days of work. For this reason, it is sometimes referred to as the "continuously-repeating weekly Sabbath." With Lunar Sabbaths, however, the interval from one Sabbath to the next is interrupted once a month. Since the timing of Lunar Sabbaths is determined by the lunar cycle, the "cycle of sevens" must be broken once a month to allow for the fact that a lunation (29.53 days) cannot be divided by seven. As a result, there will always be at least *seven* days (instead of the usual *six*) separating one weekly Sabbath from the Sabbath of the old month to the Sabbath of the new month. Moreover, if the old month has 30 days, there will be *eight* days separating the weekly Sabbaths. If you're having difficulty envisioning how this process works, don't worry ... we will provide a sample calendar later in this study.

Why Observe Lunar Sabbaths?

There are three key factors that I believe serve as prerequisites for observing Lunar Sabbaths. One factor requires an intense distrust of Judaism¹, as well as a belief that they were successful in

¹ Here are a few quotes validating the fact that lunar sabbatarians, at least the ones we have encountered, exhibit an intense distrust for Jews. The following remark comes from lunar sabbatarian Arnold Bowen, directed at a forum discussion participant, who, although not yet a lunar sabbatarian (as of this writing), has admitted to being very close to accepting this doctrine: "Something for your consideration: it seems that you are aware that the so-called Jews of today are not YHWH's chosen people, and anyone who would 'dare' to study the matter can very easily see the same thing. Anyhow you, Brother Matthew and I, along with many others, have dared to search into the matter and have found them to be liars and descendents of Ashkenazi etc.; they are not Abraham's seed, it is as simple as that." (This quote is taken from EliYah's Forums (www.eliyah.com), the "True Sabbath" private forum discussion thread entitled "**The word Sabbath in Lev-23:11**," posted on 05-27-2004). As I mentioned, in the above quote, Mr. Bowen complimented this discussion participant for agreeing with him that the Jews of today are "liars." Later, however, Mr. Bowen scolded this man for accepting the Jews' "Saturday Sabbath." The following admonition was posted on 06-09-2004 in the forum "thread" entitled "**Did you see the moon tonight?**": "We both know that the so-called Jews of today are phonies and I know their Sabbath as phony also AND you admit the Jews are phonies, yet you accept their phony Sabbath. Even if they were true Jews that have been blinded, the Scripture teaches us not to follow the blind. END"

manipulating the historical record so as to remove all traces of their having collectively switched from being Lunar Sabbatharians in favor of observing the current continuously-repeating cycle that is practiced by Judaism today. Another prerequisite involves taking three isolated verses of Scripture (Genesis 1:14, Psalms 104:19 and Leviticus 23:1-3), then piecing them together to formulate the lunar sabbatarian conclusion that Scripture upholds observing the weekly Sabbath based upon the lunar cycle. We will cover this method of exegesis, as well as the verses in question, later in this study. The third factor involves an extreme reversal of the “truth in numbers” mentality. We all understand the world’s way of reasoning, “The majority must be right,” whereas the Messiah made it plain that the path to the Kingdom is a narrow one, and only a *few* will find it. Lunar Sabbatharians tend to take this teaching to the extreme level of exhibiting the mentality that, not only are there too many folks observing the Sabbath on the wrong day of Sunday, but there are also too many folks who observe it on the day known as Saturday, so they must *also* be deceived! This prompts the emotional plea to join their “remnant bandwagon,” or as one lunar sabbatarian puts it, “... come get on the wagon where you belong brother!”² We will address this particular reasoning in chapter three of our study.

First, let’s consider the fact that lunar sabbatarians as a whole have an intense distrust for Judaism and the historical record. I believe we should be careful, especially when it comes to accusing others (or expressing distrust) without having the evidence to support the accusation. In other words, I believe we should adhere to the “innocent until proven guilty” maxim. I have my share of conflicts with the practices and beliefs of Judaism, chief of which is their rejection of Yeshua the Messiah. They have other doctrines that I believe can also be demonstrated as false. Is the day on which they observe the weekly Sabbath one of them? If so, why have lunar sabbatarians been unsuccessful in providing the evidence? They have been quite adamant about charging Judaism with abandoning the lunar sabbath in favor of “pagan Roman Saturday sabbaths,” as lunar sabbatarians have frequently labeled them, but they have not been successful in providing the necessary evidence to support their claims.

It can be shown that Judaism, in the year 358/359 C.E., switched from abiding by a calendar based upon the sighting of the crescent new moon to one based upon the calculation of the conjunction. This is something that Judaism admits to having done, and is no secret.³ Thus, of the charge involving changing the calendar, I believe Judaism is guilty by their own admission. Judaism also admits that, in the beginning, there was no scruple against speaking the Creator’s name in daily speech.⁴ Other Jewish traditions without Scriptural foundation are also well-attested to having originated outside of Scripture, such as the tradition of men’s headcoverings and mixing meat and dairy products. However, there is no record of Judaism swapping one method of Sabbath reckoning in favor of another one. Indeed, the

Still another participant in the Lunar Sabbath forum discussion expressed his distaste for Judaism in the way he chose to spell the word: “I find that on [the] EliYah [forum] there is a bias leaning toward jew-duh-ism and against christianity. Who at least acknowledges Messiah came, died for our sins, and rose again?? But both are influenced HEAVILY by rome and babylon, babylon being the anti-messiah world system power predecessor to rome!!! Let us not ignore that.” (From a posting submitted by David, who uses the screen name “shieldofdauid,” on February 1, 2006 in the forum thread entitled “**Are ALL "Moedim" Moon-related?**”)

² Lunar sabbatarian Eric Bess directed this comment to a man named Chuck in an online posting he submitted in the “True Sabbath” forum, which is a private forum set up by the forum owner, who goes by “EliYah,” at www.eliyah.com. Eric submitted his posting under the screen name “elbesssr” on 04-24-2007 at 04:58 PM in the forum thread entitled “**Daniels view of the Babylonian Sabbath.**”

³ Cf., *The Encyclopædia Judaica*, Jerusalem, Israel: Keter Publishing House. Vol. 5, where we read the following: “According to a tradition quoted in the name of Hai Gaon (d. 1038), the present Jewish calendar was introduced by the patriarch Hillel II in 670 Era of the Seleucids = 4119 Era of the Creation = 358/59 C.E. (500 C.E., claimed to derive from another version, seems to rest on a mistake).”

⁴ Cf., *Everyman’s Talmud*, by A. Cohen, originally pub. in 1949, p. 24.

likelihood of such an event occurring worldwide without a trace of protest, or even a trace of agreement, is so remote that it defies all logic. It also fails to answer such questions as how a remote community of Jews in India known as “Bene Israel” was discovered in the 1700’s ... a community that traces its ancestry to seven families who were shipwrecked while fleeing persecution during the 2nd century B.C.E. ... yet were still found practicing the same weekly Sabbath recognized by Judaism today.⁵

From January 2004 through February 2007, I participated in an online Lunar Sabbath discussion, hosted by EliYah’s Forums (www.eliyah.com). One of the participants in the discussion, although not a Lunar Sabbatarian, intimated that he is close to accepting the Lunar Sabbath doctrine.⁶ One trait he shares with Lunar Sabbatharians that definitely helps bring him closer to this understanding is his healthy distrust of Judaism, including the belief that the Jews of today are not “really” Jews. In spite of holding to this belief, however, he recognized that this position cannot be used to promote Lunar Sabbatarian theology. Here is one remark he made, which I believe is worthy of notation:

Even opposing religions will have some things in common, as well as disagreeing on other things. For example, the SDAs, the "Jews", the COG(7th Day), and most WCG offshoots all believe in not eating unclean meats. When the Kazars, Edomites, and others became "Jews", they adopted "Judaism", along with whatever Sabbath it was keeping at the time, whether it was the true one or a false one. The fact that many "Jews" were now false ones doesn't make their Sabbath false. Remember that there were false Jews in Yahshua's time, keeping the same Sabbath that He kept.⁷

As expressed by my fellow participant in the online Lunar Sabbath discussion, even *if* today’s Jews are not related to the Jews of Yeshua’s day, this would not reverse the fact that whichever group was absorbed into Judaism *also* absorbed their practices and beliefs. Thus, if the “false Jews” were somehow successful in changing the Jewish day of rest and worship, this colossal change, along with the record of protests (and there would certainly have been more than a few!), was somehow erased from the record of history, for no writer ever so much as hinted at such a change having occurred. The gentleman who participated in the Lunar Sabbath discussion later expressed this same understanding, using different terminology:

Even though the House of Israel lost its identity, Yahshua's followers never lost theirs, or the sign of the Sabbath; unless of course you can show me in history when and where this happened? I have asked this before, without getting any answer. (And remember i'm not talking about the Jews, or the RCC.)⁸

Even though this particular individual shares the belief that Judaism was somehow absorbed by such people as the Ashkenazi, and thus lost their identity, he understands that this does not mean a remnant

⁵ Cf., *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, which may be accessed at the following URL:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bene_Israel. According to this same article, the Bene Israel Jews claimed descent from the Cohanim. In 2002 a DNA test was administered, which confirmed their claim as being true.

⁶ The non-lunar sabbatarian gentleman in question, whose name is Chuck, at one point (in a discussion pertaining to some information presented by Arnold Bowen from the Dead Sea Scrolls) stated, “Greetings Bro. Arnold, You may have discovered some very significant information here. And if it weren't for the Sign of Jonah, i would be getting very close to being convinced.” (From EliYah’s Forums (www.eliyah.com), the “True Sabbath” private forum discussion thread entitled “**The Dead Sea Scrolls proves lunar Sabbaths**,” posted on 08-28-2006 06:52 PM).

⁷ This quotation is taken from EliYah’s Forums (www.eliyah.com), the “True Sabbath” private forum, posted by Chuck on May 27, 2004 in the thread entitled “**The word Sabbath in Lev-23:11.**”

⁸ This quotation is taken from EliYah’s Forums (www.eliyah.com), the “True Sabbath” private forum, posted by Chuck on June 9, 2004 in the thread entitled “**Did you see the moon tonight?**”

didn't continue to preserve the weekly Sabbath. He, like me, asked but did not receive the answer to the question of "when, where and how" the weekly Sabbath was switched from one method to the other.

The second prerequisite for adopting lunar sabbatarian theology involves accepting the three key, yet isolated, Scriptures they piece together to formulate their doctrine. As mentioned earlier, these verses are Genesis 1:14, Psalms 104:19 and Leviticus 23:1-3. There is a key Hebrew word that connects these three verses, the Hebrew word *moedim*, variously written as *mowadah* or in its singular form *mo'ed*. Although this word is commonly translated "seasons" in the King James Version, lunar sabbatarians typically insist that the correct meaning is "appointed times." Does the lunar sabbatarian connection of Genesis 1:14, Psalms 104:19 and Leviticus 23:1-3 reflect an exegesis supported by the whole of Scripture? Or is this a piecing together of isolated texts that results in a gross misinterpretation of Scripture? We will closely examine this method of interpretation later in our study. Before conducting an analysis of how and why lunar sabbatarians believe as they do, let's examine *what* they believe and how they practice their belief.

A Typical Lunar Sabbatarian Month

Frequently referred to as "Lunar Sabbaths,"⁹ those who promote this belief teach that, in antiquity, the new moon dictated when the Sabbath day was to occur each month. Although there are various methods commonly taught with regard to exactly how this was done, the one I am most familiar with goes like this: The new moon conjunction determines day one of each month, and this day is a "non-week day."¹⁰ That's right, it doesn't count as a day of the week, nor is it a weekly Sabbath day. It is a special "New Moon Day," on which these particular lunar sabbatarians believe no "regular work," i.e., employment, should be done, although they believe it is okay to do work around the house, such as mowing the lawn¹¹. Of course, they also believe it is a day for Bible study. The following day, day two of the month, is a regular work day that these particular lunar sabbatarians regard as being the first day of the week. The *eighth day* of the month, however, is the weekly Sabbath. Each seventh day thereafter (the 15th, 22nd and 29th days of the month) is regarded as a weekly Sabbath day.

If we examine this particular method, we will notice that at the end of each month, the seven-day repeating cycle is interrupted. Here is what occurs: On day 29, the last weekly Sabbath day of the month, it is possible the conjunction of the moon will occur before sunset ends the day. If so, then the following

⁹ Also referred to as "Floating Sabbaths."

¹⁰ That these particular lunar sabbatarians do not believe the "New Moon Days" count as days of the week can be verified from the direct answer I was given to a question I asked in an internet forum discussion on July 9, 2005. My question was, "Finally, could you please tell me which day of the week the 30th day of the month falls upon?" That same day I was given the following answer:

"RESPONSE; as I have told you and others many times in this forum, the week begins after the new moon day and therefore the new moon is not counted when counting out the weeks." (From EliYah's Forums (www.elijah.com), the "True Sabbath" private forum discussion thread entitled "**Why you don't count the New moon day when counting out the weeks**").

¹¹ That certain lunar sabbatarians believe the day of the new moon is a day on which household chores, including yard work, is allowed, can be understood from a taped sermon delivered on 06/08/2003 by lunar sabbatarian Matthew Janzen, where he makes the following comment: "On the day of the new moon, my wife and myself ... we do stay at home. It is somewhat to us as a day of getting things straightened up around the house, and in the household. If we've got something to do out in the yard, we may do ... you know, cut grass or something along those lines. But we do have a worship service, and we teach our children that, according to the Scriptures I've given here on this tape. But we do not go out and buy and sell. We do not believe that is to be done."



day is regarded as “day one” of the new moon.¹² Shown below is a basic calendar illustrating this particular lunar sabbatarian practice and belief:

First Day	Second Day	Third Day	Fourth Day	Fifth Day	Sixth Day	Sabbath	Non-Week Day
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	

As we can see from the above lunar sabbath calendar scenario, there are *seven* days separating the weekly Sabbath of the 29th day of the old month from the weekly Sabbath of the new month. However, since lunar sabbatarians consider the first day of the month to be both a “no work day” *and* a “non-week day,” it does not count as one of the six working days of the week. Thus, they feel justified in maintaining that there are still the required six days of work between the one Sabbath and the following Sabbath, even though *seven* literal days have actually elapsed.

Of course, it is also possible that the conjunction will not occur on the 29th day of the month. It may not occur until the 30th day. When this happens, day 30 is regarded as a “New Moon Day,” i.e., a no-work, non-week day, as is the *first day* of the month. As with the actual “New Moon Day,” it is termed an “extended worship day,”¹³ producing three consecutive “no work days.” The following calendar illustrates this particular scenario:

¹² To illustrate that these particular lunar sabbatarians begin “day one” of the new moon on the day following the conjunction of the moon, I will cite the following quotation from page 18 of Matthew Janzen’s booklet entitled “New Moon Regulations,” published 09/2003, Conyers, Georgia:

“The day of the new moon I presently observe is the first evening to evening after conjunction. If conjunction happens at 10:00 p.m., that would mean the following evening (app. 20 or so hours later) would be the first full 24 hour period of the rebuilding moon. However, even if a conjunction happened at 5:30 p.m. with only a short time till dark, I would still take the very next evening as the first official day of the new moon/rebuilding. After all, that’s exactly what this day is.” Elsewhere in his booklet, on page 16, Mr. Janzen makes the following remark: “Thus the day of the new moon is the first 24 hours (evening to evening) of the rebuilding. This could not be the day the conjunction happens in, seeing that some hours of the day were not in a rebuilding moon, but rather in an old waning moon.”

¹³ That lunar sabbatarians refer to the “New Moon Day,” as well as “day 30” of the month, as “extended worship days” can be verified from a comment made by lunar sabbatarian Arnold Bowen in EliYah’s Forums (www.elijah.com), the “True Sabbath” private forum discussion thread entitled “**Philo**,” posted on 08-27-2005. This is what he wrote:

“Every month the 4 Sabbaths have six work days between each and the last Sabbath/worship day of the month is followed by an extended worship day called the New Moon and then the six day intervals begin anew with a Sabbath at the end of each. This is why they are called Lunar Sabbaths, because they are Governed by the moon and **not** the sun, as the traditional Sabbath is.” Notice from Mr. Bowen’s commentary that the six-day interval can only begin anew when there is “a Sabbath at the end of each.” Since this Sabbath can only fall on day eight of the month, and since “day one” is not a day of the week, and since “day 30” of the previous month cannot fall on the first day of the week, it, like the day of the new moon, cannot be regarded as a day of the week. Are you confused yet?

Lunar sabbatarian Matthew Janzen also addresses the fact that when a month contains thirty days, “day 30” would be the first day of a “two day festival”: “This last 29th day would be followed not necessarily by day 30 and day 1, but rather by a two day festival of the new moon.” (From his study entitled “Sabbath Regulations,” October 2003, p. 29.)

Curiously, the first-century Alexandrian Jew named Philo *also* mentioned the “festival of the new moon,” yet he never once associated it with the Sabbath. Philo devoted an entire column of his writing to the “festival of the new moon,” yet not once did he mention a connection to the observance of the Sabbath, nor did he ever explain that the day of the new moon is to be observed as a day of abstention from work. Cf., *The Works of Philo*, translated by C. D. Yonge, Hendrickson Publishers, Peabody, MA, “The Special Laws, II,” XXVI, p. 581.



First Day	Second Day	Third Day	Fourth Day	Fifth Day	Sixth Day	Sabbath	No Work Day	No Work Day
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15		

The above calendar reveals an *eight-day* separation between the weekly Sabbath of the 29th and the weekly Sabbath of the 8th, which is what occurs each time there is a month consisting of 30 days. As with the previous calendar depicting a 29-day month, lunar sabbatarians feel justified in observing the above calendar because, in their estimation, the 30th day of the month, as well as “New Moon Day,” are not days of the week, so they do not count when reckoning weeks.

With all the above in mind, here is a potential lunar sabbath scenario in layman’s terms: A new moon conjunction might occur on a Tuesday. Since “New Moon Day” must come the day following the conjunction, this makes Wednesday the first day of the new month. Remember, however, that although Wednesday would be the first day of the new *month*, this day does not count as a “day of the *week*” for these particular lunar sabbatarians. The following day, Thursday, marks the first day of the *week*. Six days later, then, is the weekly Sabbath, which will always fall on the 8th day of the new month.

For those who might have a difficult time envisioning how one might follow a *Lunar Sabbath* calendar, we are displaying one for you to examine. The following calendar accurately depicts a potential month during any given year. We are superimposing the Lunar Sabbath calendar over a Gregorian calendar to assist those who may have difficulty understanding how the Lunar Sabbath calendar clashes with a Gregorian calendar:

A Potential Lunar Sabbath Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Fourth Sabbath of Previous Month (29th day of month)	“Conjunction Day” 30th day of previous month, (Not considered a day of the week)	1 New Moon Day (Not considered a day of the week)	2 Day one of work week (Sabbath this month will fall on a Wednesday)	3 Day two of work week	4 Day three of work week
5 Day four of work week	6 Day five of work week	7 Day six of work week	8 Day seven (first Sabbath of the month)	9 Day one of work week	10 Day two of work week	11 Day three of work week
12 Day four of work week	13 Day five of work week	14 Day six of work week	15 Day seven (second Sabbath of the month)	16 Day one of work week	17 Day two of work week	18 Day three of work week
19 Day four of work week	20 Day five of work week	21 Day six of work week	22 Day seven (third Sabbath of the month)	23 Day one of work week	24 Day two of work week	25 Day three of work week
26 Day four of work week	27 Day five of work week	28 Day six of work week	29 Day seven (fourth Sabbath of the month) ALSO: “Conjunction Day”	1 New Moon Day (Not considered a day of the week)	2 Day 1 of new month’s work week; Sabbath this month on a Thursday	3 Day two of work week

Note that the Sabbaths of the above calendar (indicated in red) fall on the 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th days of the month. In any calendar promoted by *Lunar Sabbath* observers of this particular persuasion, this same sequence will always occur, whether the Sabbath should happen to fall on, say, a Monday or a

Thursday. Their calendar also requires observing *extended worship days* (also indicated in red), which we will address later in this study, as well as the fact that neither the first nor the 30th days of each month are considered actual days of the week.

One thing to remember as you read this study is the fact that the above calendar does not apply to all lunar sabbatarians. In fact, I have found that those who have a different understanding of how the lunar sabbath calendar should be reckoned are easily offended when they feel I am lumping them in with those who reckon it in a different way than the way *they* do!¹⁴ Those who adhere to the teaching that the Sabbath should be governed by the timing of the new moon are not themselves in agreement over how this belief was (apparently) practiced, which makes it difficult to come up with a response to each piece of logic they offer in support of their position. Some lunar sabbatarians, in deference to the calendar displayed above, believe the weekly Sabbath should fall on the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th days of the month. Some believe the new moon governing the Sabbath observances each month is actually the *conjunction* of the moon. Others believe it is the visible new moon crescent. Thus, some believe the new moon crescent sighting heralds *the beginning* of the new month. Others believe the sighting of the new moon crescent signals *the end* of the first Sabbath day of the month and the beginning of a new work week. Still others have no regard whatsoever for the visible sighting of the moon. The calendar shown above is based upon the belief that the new month begins on or after the conjunction of the moon.

A few years ago I attended a debate between a man espousing *Lunar Sabbaths* and a man who supports observing the weekly Sabbath as handed down to us by Judaism. Typical of all such debates I have attended, when it was over, each man felt he had presented his case in such an unequivocal manner that there was “no question” as to whether or not he had successfully refuted the other’s position. To the credit of the man supporting *Lunar Sabbaths*, he maintained his composure and remained respectful throughout the debate, in spite of many hostile interruptions from a rather disrespectful audience. I don’t believe anyone in attendance could question either his integrity or his sincerity, at least not during the course of that particular debate. Nevertheless, his opponent brought up many points which I believe invalidate the *Lunar Sabbath* position and he raised too many questions that were not, in my opinion, satisfactorily answered. For the benefit of those who may be considering the merits of observing *Lunar Sabbaths*, we would like to offer our reasons for choosing to *not* implement such a drastic lifestyle change.

¹⁴ One lunar sabbatarian in particular was not pleased with my delivery, as he (mistakenly) felt I had lumped him in with those who reckon the weekly Sabbath on the 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th days of the month. The following was posted by Shimone in EliYah’s Forums (www.eliyah.com) on 01-29-2006, the “True Sabbath” private forum discussion thread entitled “**Are ALL “Moedim” Moon-related?**”: “In your study entitled “something different” you state early on that those who reckon the shabbat by the yareach [moon] hold to different formats and that there was no consensus. You later showed some problems with the 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th day format AND state that all follow that reckoning.....as you imply above. It is not honest to say that there are different reckonings and then say that they all claim [a certain] one.” Note: Shimone is a lunar sabbatarian who observes weekly sabbaths on the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th days of each month. He misunderstood a reference I made regarding lunar sabbatarians who observe the 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th days of the month, a reference I directed at those particular lunar sabbatarians, which, when taken out of context, might be construed so as to appear that I believe *all* lunar sabbatarians observe the weekly Sabbath on those dates. Since I can only address the belief structure of one particular cluster of lunar sabbatarians at a time, such misunderstandings are bound to occur.