

5. Why You Can't Find "Saturday" in the Bible

From time to time, we all run into reasoning that, on the surface, seems to make sense, but then, after thinking it through cautiously, the flaws begin to emerge. A common example of this involves the belief that going outside with wet hair on a chilly day will cause you to catch a cold. I still hear this line used, even though medical science has proven that cold weather and wet hair don't cause colds – viruses do. The fact is, we are more susceptible to catching a cold in the winter because viruses are spread more easily indoors – where people tend to hang out on those chilly winter days – and this in turn leads to more contact with people who have colds. The combination of being exposed to people with colds in an environment where the air is usually dry (and viruses are more easily spread) proves to be the culprit for catching colds in the winter ... not going outside with wet hair.

Another item that we can add to our list of notions that might appear reasonable at first glance is the claim that the day on which the weekly Sabbath falls, commonly known as "Saturday," cannot be the day of the true weekly Sabbath because "You can't find Saturday in the Bible." Of course, we have already covered the fact that Judaism never applied the planetary names to the days of the week ... heathens did. Nevertheless, lunar sabbatarians have in essence made the rule that for "Saturday" to be the day on which the continuously-repeating weekly Sabbath must fall, we must find "Saturday" in the Bible ... and not only must we find it in Scripture, but it must be identified there as the day of the weekly Sabbath!

This is simply a case of lunar sabbatarians coming up with a "straw man" argument. A "straw man" argument is when individuals present a misrepresentation of an opponent's position, refute it, and then contend that the opponent's actual position has been refuted. In the case of the claim that "You can't find Saturday in the Bible," no one who observes a continuously-repeating weekly cycle (that we know of) has ever made a claim that "Saturday is in the Bible." Does a decision to obey the Scriptural command to set aside a particular day for rest and worship mean that the planetary designation given to that day by heathens must be found in the Bible? Of course not! Nevertheless, manufacturing such a "straw man" argument that can easily be refuted apparently gives the lunar sabbatarians who use it a sense of satisfaction.

Of course, by making up the rule that no one should set aside the day known as "Saturday" for rest and worship unless "Saturday" can be found in the Bible opens lunar sabbatarians to a similar challenge by any non-lunar sabbatarians who might choose to play the same game. What I mean by this is, I could likewise challenge lunar sabbatarians to produce the term "*Lunar Sabbath*" from Scripture, or to even produce a verse of Scripture specifically connecting the weekly Sabbath to the lunar cycle.¹ As with the word "Saturday," the term "Lunar Sabbath" is missing from the Bible. Lunar sabbatarians would argue that although the term "*Lunar Sabbath*" isn't found in the Bible, the *concept* is there. We could then turn around and make the same claim about the day commonly known as "Saturday." I believe we can successfully demonstrate that the concept of the continuously-repeating weekly cycle, even though it is not specifically mentioned in the Bible, is inherent in the whole of Scripture. Lunar sabbatarians, of course, would disagree, and the cycle of whose interpretation is correct continues!

Before we present our explanation of why the day commonly known as "Saturday" is not found in the Bible, even though the concept of a continuously-repeating weekly Sabbath *is*, I thought I would present,

¹ Of course, lunar sabbatarians believe they *can* connect the weekly Sabbath to the lunar cycle by using Genesis 1:14, Lev. 23:2-3 and Psalms 104:19. We will address this "connection attempt" in greater detail later in our study; for now, suffice it to say that none of these verses come out and state that the weekly Sabbath is determined by the lunar cycle. It is only by interpretation that lunar sabbatarians make this connection ... not by direct statement or command.

for illustration purposes, a few examples of lunar sabbatarians demanding that we “show them where in Scripture that ‘Saturday’ is the Sabbath day.” We already read, at the end of our previous chapter, Eric Bess’ plea for me to show him the “Saturday Sabbath” in Scripture, but other lunar sabbatarians have been equally forthright in their demands. The following request is taken from a group e-mail sent by lunar sabbatarian Arnold Bowen on 01/25/2004:

Would someone please tell me where in scripture can we prove that Saturday is the Sabbath day, or even the seventh day of the week. How are we to find this day using only His Word?? We can find all the other Holy days of YHWH using only the Word of YHWH, Unleavened bread, Tabernacles, Day of Atonement, Feast of Trumpets, Etc, why not the weekly Feast??? Will someone please prove that Saturday is right, without going outside of the Word, like you can the other Holy days.

As evidenced in the above commentary, Arnold makes the rules very stringent by requiring that we “prove that Saturday is right, without going outside of the Word.” The only way I know that anyone could successfully prove that the day known as “Saturday” is right (or any other day of the week, for that matter), without going outside of Scripture, would be for that person to produce a text specifically mentioning that particular day of the week by name. Since we have already established that it was heathens, not the early believers, who came up with the planetary designations for the days of the week, lunar sabbatarians can be assured that their invented “rule” is safe. However, as I mentioned earlier, this is a “straw man” argument, since no one who recognizes continuously-repeating weekly Sabbaths has ever argued that “Saturday is in the Bible.” Must the term “Saturday” be found in the Bible for that particular day to be the day blessed by Yahweh at Creation? No, it does not.

Eric Bess, in a posting to the “True Sabbath” forum, found at Elijah.com, added this same challenge:

The real challenge then becomes this:
Without using your Calendar (since Yisrael had none) show us how to find "Saturday" is the seventh day in Scripture.²

This remark from Eric, in addition to consisting of the same demand put forth by Arnold Bowen, is indicative of some rather carelessly thought-out comments that he made while posting in the “True Sabbath” forum. There should be no question that Yisrael had a calendar, since a calendar is required to determine when the holy days occur each year. All authorities agree that Yisrael did indeed have a calendar, yet Eric, in the above comment, states that they did not. Eric offered an even more forthright challenge regarding “Saturday” in the rebuttal he composed to our original study on this subject:

As we browse feverishly through the pages of this commentary, we are hard pressed to find one shred of Scripture used to validate the Saturday sabbath position. Even now I will challenge anyone at all to find Saturday in Scripture.³

Eric Bess, in issuing the above “challenge,” only builds upon the same lunar sabbatarian “straw man” argument that I’ve been describing in this chapter. As I’ve already brought out, no one we know of who

² Taken from a posting submitted by Eric Bess, posted under the screen name “elbessr,” on 12-31-2006 02:09 AM in the thread entitled “**60 Pinpointed Sabbaths**,” located at www.eliyah.com.

³ From the response to our original study, entitled “Something Different/Something Renewed,” chapter 26, that Eric Bess e-mailed me on 9/5/2006.

observes the weekly Sabbath that comes at the end of a continuously-repeating weekly cycle has ever contended that “Saturday is in the Bible.” Nevertheless, lunar sabbatarians such as Eric Bess have invented the rule that for “Saturday” to be the day of the true weekly Sabbath, the word “Saturday” *must* be found in Scripture. Since it is not there, they proclaim to have “won the debate” and the argument is over. However, these lunar sabbatarians have only succeeded in refuting their own “rule,” and on the basis of this “victory,” they have thus arbitrarily declared the continuously-repeating weekly Sabbath as “false.” This is simply the nature of a “straw man” argument.

Another lunar sabbatarian, who only gives his name as David, adds his own perspective:

In all of the debating, I have not seen one bit of evidence, even from a good researcher like Larry, to actually link an ancient Sabbath with Saturday. Saturday keepers have not given evidence for a single Saturday Sabbath observance in all of ancient history, Hebrew or otherwise among the sons of Noah. I also have not seen any evidence concerning an ancient seven day cycle week like Sunday-Saturday among the ancient sons of Noah, including Shem and the Hebrews, but ample evidence of ancient people that all came from Noah having lunar weeks. Larry and others point to the "pagans" having lunar weeks in ancient times as if this automatically means Hebrews did not, without proof Hebrews did not. Along that reasoning, because pagans had a Zodiac, those of us who believe the stars have a message including about prophetic timing are being like pagans. Or we could take it further, because pagans ate wheat, and I do, I'm being pagan. The more logical theory is that all ancient pagans received original knowledge from Noah who received it from his father and all the way back to Seth and Adam. Yes, they perverted things, especially in the area of worship and their immoral practices, but that does not mean everything they did was wrong, or that they didn't receive much of their true knowledge from a common ancestor.⁴

Although David doesn't specifically mention the lunar sabbatarian-imposed rule that non-lunar sabbatarians must produce a record from Scripture showing that the weekly Sabbath must fall on the day commonly known as “Saturday,” he came pretty close! The best place to find the “ancient Sabbaths” he mentions is the *Bible*, and since lunar sabbatarians reject anything outside of the Bible that conflicts with their interpretation of Scripture anyway, it's a safe bet that the “ancient Sabbath” that David expects us to link to the day commonly known as “Saturday” is the “ancient Sabbaths” found in Scripture. As we proceed with this study, I believe we will successfully demonstrate that, if nothing else, the weekly Sabbaths observed by the ancients could *not* have been determined by the lunar cycle, but for now it will suffice that David, as with the other lunar sabbatarians, expects folks like me to produce a Scripture that outright says, “Saturday is the Sabbath,” even though we all know that “Saturday” *cannot* be in the Bible, since the ancient believers never assigned planetary names to the days of the week, nor did they ever refer to the day of the weekly Sabbath by anything other than “Shabbat.”

As a side note, David, in his commentary above, imposes yet another “straw man” argument into the discussion by requiring non-lunar sabbatarians to prove that the *sons of Noah* observed continuously-repeating weekly Sabbaths as opposed to lunar Sabbaths. Since Noah and his sons are never recorded as

⁴ Originally posted by David, under the screen name “shieldofdauid,” on 04-19-2007 03:03 PM in the thread entitled “To Chuck Baldwin... The Calendar,” located at www.elyiah.com.

ever having observed the weekly Sabbath in the first place (even though we do believe they observed it), how can either side prove the method of Sabbathkeeping that they practiced, much less that the “pagans” known to have observed lunar sabbaths (such as the Babylonians) learned of them from the sons of Noah? Adding such items of speculation as “evidence” adds no weight to the lunar sabbatarian position.

As we have demonstrated, lunar sabbatarians do indeed expect non-lunar sabbatarians to prove that “Saturday” is in the Bible. We have already explained *why* “Saturday,” which was named after one of the original seven “planets,” is not found in the Bible. To expect the name given to a day by heathens to appear in Scripture is simply unreasonable. Nevertheless, as we are about to demonstrate, not only is the foundation for continuously-repeating weekly Sabbaths clearly laid out in Scripture, but there is every reason to believe that those same weekly Sabbaths fall on the day commonly known as “Saturday.”

Scriptural Evidence for a Continuously-Repeating Weekly Sabbath

In order to isolate where in Scripture we are expected to understand a continuously-repeating weekly Sabbath, we need search no further than the place where Yahweh *commands* Sabbath observance: the Ten Commandments. Let’s take a look at Exodus 20:8-11:

⁸Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

⁹Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

¹⁰But the seventh day is the sabbath of Yahweh thy Almighty: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

¹¹For in six days Yahweh made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore Yahweh blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Please notice the instruction found in Exodus 20:9-10. In these two verses, we are directed to work for six days, then rest the seventh. The plain command is to work six days, then rest the seventh. The only interruptions to this pattern occur on calendar dates specifically designated as “exceptions,” such as the first and last days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which fall on the 15th and 21st days of the Hebrew month known as *Abib*.⁵ Thus, the only times when any interruptions to the “six days of work” rule occur are occurrences of *specified exceptions*. These specified exceptions constitute Yahweh’s expressed permission to interrupt the “six days of work” pattern. Even with those specified interruptions to the “six days of work” command, however, the cycle itself continues uninterrupted. The seventh day of the week is *still* the weekly Sabbath, even if Abib 15 falls on the previous day or even the *same* day. Yahweh, then, has commanded His people to work six days, rest the seventh, work six days, then rest the seventh, work six days, rest the seventh, *ad infinitum*. Anyone who chooses to interrupt this “work six, rest the seventh” cycle without Yahweh’s permission chooses to go against Yahweh’s plain instructions. Because lunar sabbatarians must of necessity interrupt the “work six, rest the seventh” cycle *once per month* without a Scriptural command to so, or even the benefit of an approved Scriptural example, they go against Yahweh’s plain instructions (*without permission*), whether it be willfully or in ignorance.

⁵ Cf., Leviticus 23:6-8. The fifteenth day of the first month of the year (*Abib*) is the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and that first day is considered a day of holy convocation on which no servile work is to be done. The seventh day of this feast is also a day of holy convocation on which no servile work is to be done. Although the calendar date Abib 21 is not specified, it is certainly implied: If the fifteenth day of the month is “day one,” then “day seven” falls on the 21st day.

Lunar Sabbatarians “Stop” Without Yahweh’s Permission

As we demonstrated in chapter one of this study, lunar sabbatarians must of necessity interrupt the “work six days, rest the seventh” pattern once each month. To illustrate how lunar sabbatarians interrupt this cycle, I would like to pose a hypothetical question. In order to fully grasp the following scenario, you need to pretend that you are **not** a person who observes the weekly Sabbath:

*If your boss, to whom you are completely faithful, were to ask you to, from now on, sweep the floor six days, and then take a break and **not** sweep it on the seventh day, at which point would you be willing to interrupt that cycle?*

Quite frankly, if you were an employee who reasons the way lunar sabbatarians do, and you tried to follow the above instructions, there would indeed be a monthly interruption in what the boss asks you to do.

Let's say, for the sake of incorporating Arnold Bowen's method of reckoning (i.e., the “breaks” must fall on the 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th days of the month), that your boss asked you to start sweeping the floor on the 2nd day of the month. The reason I chose the 2nd day of the month is because, for lunar sabbatarians of Arnold’s persuasion, the 2nd day of the month is always the first day of the work week. Thus, from the 2nd thru the 7th day of the month, you would sweep the floor each day, then break on the 8th. That same cycle would start again on the 9th, and you would sweep each day through the 14th, with the next “day off” coming on the 15th. This cycle would begin again on the 16th, and so on until the fourth "break" of the month on the 29th. You would not sweep the floor on the 29th day of the month, and everything would be fine at that point. However, someone of Arnold’s persuasion would not sweep the floor on the 30th day of the month because that day is considered an “extended break day,” and that’s where the problems begin!

For illustration purposes, here is a calendar depicting the “sweep the floor” days versus the “no sweep” days. The “**no sweep**” days are shown in red:

How a “Lunar Cyclist” Applies His Understanding to the “Sweep Six Days, Rest the Seventh” Rule

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | | | Day 1 of sweeping | Day 2 of sweeping | Day 3 of sweeping | Day 4 of sweeping |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| Day 5 of sweeping | Day 6 of sweeping | BREAK DAY | Day 1 of sweeping | Day 2 of sweeping | Day 3 of sweeping | Day 4 of sweeping |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Day 5 of sweeping | Day 6 of sweeping | BREAK DAY | Day 1 of sweeping | Day 2 of sweeping | Day 3 of sweeping | Day 4 of sweeping |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| Day 5 of sweeping | Day 6 of sweeping | BREAK DAY | Day 1 of sweeping | Day 2 of sweeping | Day 3 of sweeping | Day 4 of sweeping |



| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 27 Day 5 of sweeping | 28 Day 6 of sweeping | 29 BREAK DAY | 30 EMPLOYEE TAKES UNAUTHORIZED EXTENDED BREAK DAY: BOSS NOT HAPPY; CYCLE INTERRUPTED!! It's back to Day 1 of sweeping, according to the Boss! | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--|--|--|--|

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| | | | | 1 EMPLOYEE TAKES ANOTHER EXTENDED BREAK DAY: BOSS ANGRY! It's Day 2 of sweeping, according to Boss! | 2 Day 3 of sweeping, according to Boss; Day 1 for lunar weekly cycle employee | 3 Day 4 of sweeping, of sweeping, according to Boss; Day 2 for lunar weekly cycle employee |
| 4 Day 5 of sweeping, of sweeping, according to Boss; Day 3 for lunar weekly cycle employee | 5 Day 6 of sweeping, of sweeping, according to Boss; Day 4 for lunar weekly cycle employee | 6 Lunar weekly cycle employee continues sweeping (day 5), even though it's "Day 7" for his boss! | 7 Back to day 1 of sweeping, of sweeping, according to Boss; Day 6 for lunar weekly cycle employee | 8 EMPLOYEE TAKES ANOTHER UNAUTHORIZED BREAK DAY: BOSS FIRES HIM!! Day 2 of sweeping, according to Boss! | 9 Would have been day 3 of sweeping, according to Boss; instead, he puts ad in the paper for a new custodian. | 10 Would have been day 4 of sweeping, instead, the Boss interviews a new candidate for the job. |

In the above scenario, the employee was plainly told to sweep the floor six days, then not sweep on the seventh day. The Boss did not add any stipulations, nor did he explain that his intent was for the employee to understand that a *lunar cycle* would be the driving force behind the “sweep six days, break the seventh” pattern that he gave him. In other words, the Boss in the above scenario the same as told his employee to sweep the floor six days, then break the seventh ... and to continue that pattern **until he told him to stop**.

Things in the above hypothetical situation went well until the 30th day of the month, when the employee took it upon himself to take an extra day off! Since lunar sabbatarians believe it is also forbidden to work on the day of the new moon, the employee took **another** day off on the first day of the new month.⁶ Things began to get “out of hand” when the employee swept the floor on the sixth day of the month, which coincided with “day seven of sweeping.” Since there *is* no “day seven of sweeping,” the employee should not have swept that day. Of course, by now the employee has completely contorted the explicit instructions of his boss, and two days later, which should have been “day two of sweeping,” he took yet another unauthorized break. By this time his employer is so fed up with his antics that he fires him.

Yahweh has told His children to labor and do all our work for six days, then rest the seventh. As in the above scenario, Yahweh has not added or stipulated that we should understand a monthly interruption in that cycle. If we literally apply the words of Exodus 20:9-10, then, we understand at the very least that this is where Yahweh gave Israel the pattern for a continuously-repeating weekly cycle. He told us to work six days, then rest the seventh, **until He tells us to stop**. Has he ever told us to stop? No, he has not. The only question, then, is, “Which day of the week corresponds to the day He commands to be set aside?”

⁶ The only new moon day on which work is forbidden is the first day of the seventh month (Tishri) of Yahweh’s calendar (Lev. 23:24-25, Nu. 29:1).

Summarizing our point once again, in Exodus 20:8-11, YHWH tells His children to labor for six days, then rest the seventh, and He plainly gave them a starting point to work with. The concept given in that text is simple enough for even a child to understand. If a boss were to tell me, "From now on I expect you to sweep the floor every day for six days, then not sweep it on the seventh," I would understand him as expecting me to start a pattern that is not to be stopped or interrupted until he says so. In the same way, in Scripture YHWH tells us to labor for six days, then rest on the seventh day. This establishes a pattern that was started at Creation, then reintroduced on day #1 of the manna, and it has continued down to this very day. Work six days, then rest the seventh day.

The only question one might have is, "Which of our 'days of the week' represents that *seventh day* of the pattern established in the Wilderness?" Is it the day known as "Monday"? Could it be "Wednesday"? As we have already shown from the available records that have been preserved by heathens, Christians and Jews, that *seventh day* corresponds to the day commonly known as "Saturday."

With all this in mind, when lunar sabbatarians demand that you provide them with Scriptural evidence for a "Saturday Sabbath," we suggest asking them to provide the Scriptural evidence for Lunar Sabbaths, as well as the evidence that Judaism, at some point in history, switched their method of reckoning the weekly Sabbath day. For us, there is no question as to the Scripturally-established pattern of "work six days, then rest the seventh until Yahweh says stop." The only question is, "Which day of our weekly cycle is *the seventh day*?" We have yet to see anyone offer evidence for any day other than the day commonly known as "Saturday."

If we were to become lunar sabbatarians, we would be very concerned when it came to explaining why we decided to "STOP" the "work six days, then rest the seventh" pattern at the end of each month. We are not interested in stopping that pattern without Yahweh's permission.

Can We Establish the Day Known as "Saturday" as the Correct Day?

Lunar sabbatarians insist that the continuously-repeating weekly cycle is a Roman invention, and that the weeks were originally governed by the lunar cycle. We have already brought up this lunar sabbatarian contention, but it bears repeating as we continue with our commentary. Of course, the notion that the continuously-repeating weekly cycle is a heathen invention is not true, as pointed out by a non-lunar sabbatarian named Chuck in the "True Sabbath" forum discussion. Arnold Bowen had issued a statement containing the presumption that the continuously-repeating weekly cycle is derived from Rome:

I could argue that the Roman calendar month is right and that they were never by the moon, same as you are arguing that the WEEKS were not originally by the moon.⁷

Chuck replied to Arnold's statement as follows:

I don't think so; the Roman calendar started with Rome, while the 7-day week started at Creation.⁸

⁷ Originally posted by Arnold Bowen, under the screen name "Brother Arnold," on 07-28-2004 at 10:24 AM in the thread entitled "**Challenge to Anyone**," located at www.elijah.com.

⁸ Originally posted by Chuck, under the screen name "chuckbaldwin," on 07-28-2004 at 8:35 PM in the thread entitled "**Challenge to Anyone**," located at www.elijah.com.

Chuck's observation is the correct one, but it does not stop lunar sabbatarians from continuing to promote the understanding that the continuously-repeating weekly cycle began in Rome. What I am about to present, then, is not really for lunar sabbatarians who have already convinced themselves that the continuously-repeating weekly cycle is a "Roman invention." Rather, it is for those who are at least willing to recognize the *possibility* that Yahweh implemented a continuously-repeating weekly cycle *at Creation*. It is for those who understand that in Exodus 20:9-10, Yahweh instructed His children to work six days, then rest the seventh *indefinitely* ... until **HE** (not some man) tells us to stop. To those individuals, the potential scenario I am about to present will make sense.

I presented my scenario primarily as a result of the following remark issued by Arnold Bowen in the "True Sabbath" forum:

HOW TO FIND THE SEVENTH DAY?

In order to find the Seventh day of worship and rest we must find the first day of work and this can be done from Scripture and Scripture alone, without having to go outside of Scripture and ask man when to begin the count for the seventh day.⁹

As with the lunar sabbatarian "straw man" argument wherein they maintain that unless the word "Saturday" can be found in Scripture, that day cannot possibly be the day blessed by our Creator, the above parallel argument is just as flawed. What this requirement fails to do is acknowledge the *possibility* that the Creator blessed a certain day, naming it "Shabbat," and that this day follows an uninterrupted, continuously-repeating sequence that has continued to this very day. Possible? Not according to lunar sabbatarians, and their refusal to regard the possibility of such a scenario makes it impossible for them to accept the continuously-repeating weekly Sabbath pattern, which in turn makes it extremely difficult to maintain civil dialogue with them.

My point here is this: *If* Yahweh did indeed bless a continuously-repeating weekly cycle that ends with a day of rest known as "Shabbat," how would anyone here in the 21st century know which day of the week is the same "Shabbat" that was blessed at Creation? How would someone who had never read a Bible until now *know* which day represents the "Shabbat" blessed at Creation? The answer is, he *wouldn't* if all he were allowed to go by is "Scripture and Scripture alone." He would need to do some earnest research, which would reveal that the day commonly known as "Saturday" can be traced back to the days when Yeshua the Messiah walked with humanity. In fact, as we have already demonstrated, the day commonly known as "Saturday" can be traced as being the day on which believers rested *before* Yeshua's birth.

However, if we invent a rule in which we cannot use anything but "Scripture and Scripture alone" to find the day on today's calendar corresponding to the seventh day of Creation, we simultaneously refuse to consider the possibility that Yahweh blessed a day that comes at the end of a continuously-repeating weekly cycle. Not only that, but as we should well understand, when any of us makes the claim to go by "Scripture and Scripture alone," what we are *really* saying is, "I go by *my interpretation* of Scripture and *my interpretation alone!*" We could produce a long list of interpretations of Scripture that can be demonstrated as being false, yet are dogmatically asserted by those who claim to go by "Scripture and

⁹ Originally posted by Arnold Bowen, under the screen name "emjanzen," on 12-30-2006 at 02:35 PM in the thread entitled "What is a Scriptural Sevent day???", located at www.eliyah.com.

Scripture alone.” An easy-to-produce example of this is the teaching that the new moon is actually the full moon. Certainly, then, we should all beware of those who casually assure us that they go by “Scripture and Scripture alone.”

Our interpretation of Scripture leads us to conclude that Yahweh blessed a certain day at Creation, and that day comes at the end of a continuously-repeating weekly cycle. That day was reintroduced to the Israelites in the book of Exodus, and was done so, not by lunar observations or calculations, but by marking the day which follows the sixth day of manna. In giving His command, Yahweh established that we are to work six days, then rest the seventh (no interruptions stipulated or implied), and since He never outlined any exceptions to that, nor has He directed us to stop at a certain point, our interpretation leads us to believe He never intended for us to interrupt that continuously-repeating weekly cycle.

This is what leads us to the potential scenario I mentioned earlier. If we can recognize the possibility that Yahweh blessed a continuously-repeating weekly cycle, then the following potential scenario is a valid one. I originally introduced this scenario in the “True Sabbath” forum, and I am reproducing it here with only a few minor adjustments:

THE BURDEN OF PROOF: HAS THE "WRONG DAY" BEEN PRESERVED?

A fellow non-lunar sabbatarian, in the “True Sabbath” forum discussion, once pointed out that, since it is the lunar Sabbatarians who "accuse" non-lunar sabbatarians of worshipping on the wrong day, the burden of proof is on them to prove the same. Lunar sabbatarian Eric Bess, albeit very reluctantly, conceded this point.¹⁰ Since the “burden of proof” is more on lunar sabbatarians than anyone else, I believe the potential scenario I’m about to present is reasonable and deserves a reasonable response from lunar sabbatarians. I therefore challenge lunar sabbatarians to give a reasonable answer to “fill in the blank” below.

Please try to imagine that you are a Jewish boy who was born in the year 75 C.E. In the year 90 C.E., at the age of 15, you begin to ask questions about the religion you were raised in.

One day you ask, "How's come Barak's parents teach him that Yeshua was an imposter?"

Your dad answers, "That's because a lot of us Jews expected Him to set up His Kingdom at the time He was here ... many of our people didn't understand that He had to die first, then He will come again to set it up. Some of us still insist on believing that the Messiah will establish the Kingdom at His first coming, and since Yeshua didn't do that, they believe He must have been an imposter. However, as you know, my dad, Thomas, was one of His disciples. My dad doubted that Yeshua was the Messiah and refused to believe He had risen from the dead until He put his finger in the mark of where the nails were driven into His hands and put his hand in Yeshua's side where the soldier's spear pierced it. So my dad,

¹⁰ Mr. Bess issued his concession in the "60 Pinpointed Sabbaths" thread, as follows:

Originally posted by elbessr on 01-02-2007 at 09:44 PM

You [Chuck Baldwin] wrote:

5. burden of proof is on the LS folks, since they are "accusing" us of keeping the wrong day.

[Eric's response]: I guess you have a point. We are certainly trying.

who had been a doubter, became a believer, and I know my dad would not lie to me about something like that, so I, too, believe Yeshua is the Messiah."

You reply, "Thanks, Dad, that helps me a lot! Now I have *another* question, though! How's come we observe the weekly Sabbath on the day those Romans call 'the day of Saturn'?"

Your dad answers, "Well, we prefer to not apply heathen designations like 'day of Saturn' to the days of the week, but we worship on that day because that's the day our Heavenly Father rested from His work, and He has commanded *us* to rest, too."

You ask, "But, Dad, how can we *prove* that the day we observe as the Sabbath is the right day?"

Your dad replies, "Well, all I know is, this is the day my dad worshipped on when he was with Yeshua the Messiah, and he taught me to worship and rest from my labors on that day as well. *All* of our people are in agreement on 'when' the Sabbath is each week, and I believe the fact that the Messiah kept the Sabbath with us is all the evidence I need to validate that the day we worship on is the right day. He would not have met with your grandfather Thomas on the 'wrong day,' Son."

You counter, "But, Dad, how can I go by *Scripture and Scripture alone* to prove which day is the weekly Sabbath? It seems that the way our people do it requires going outside of Scripture and asking *men* when to begin the count for the seventh day."

Your dad answers, "Well, if the day my dad, as well as the rest of us Jews, *including* Yeshua the Messiah, worshipped on is the wrong day, then I will worship on the 'wrong day.' However, it will only be wrong to those who can neither trust our people to have preserved it from antiquity, nor recognize Yeshua's observance on the same day that we observe it as being His 'stamp of approval' that it's the **RIGHT DAY**. So, Son, if you want to prove that we're worshipping on the 'wrong day,' you'll have to show me where my dad and the rest of us Jews lost it after Yeshua's resurrection. If you can do that, then you'll get my attention."

You reply, "_____." [Please fill in the blank!]

I would like to see how lunar sabbatarians would answer their dad.

In 2007, while participating in the "True Sabbath" forum where this scenario was first presented, I found that it was a bit too much for lunar sabbatarians to handle. In fact, the only way they were able to "fill in the blank" was by *first* altering the question/storyline! One lunar sabbatarian, at length, admitted that it was a difficult question, which explained why he altered it in his first attempt at answering it.¹¹ It was only later that another lunar sabbatarian, Joey Thompson, joined the discussion. To my surprise, Joey became the one and only lunar sabbatarian to answer the question without altering either it or the storyline. Here is what he had to say:

Larry,

¹¹ Eric Bess, in a posting he submitted to the "60 Pinpointed Sabbaths" thread of the True Sabbath forum, dated 01-17-2007 at 07:54 PM wrote, "The answer to the 'dad' question is difficult for me. Not because I have no basis for my belief, but because I don't agree with the question, if you know what I mean...." Indeed, it's because lunar sabbatarians don't agree with the question that they feel compelled to alter it, which is what both Eric and Arnold Bowen did.

My answer would be. "O.K. Dad, that's good enough for me."¹²

With his response, this one lunar sabbatarian was willing to acknowledge that which the others are not: The understanding that *if* Yahweh blessed a weekly Sabbath day that comes at the end of a continuously-repeating weekly cycle, the only way anyone would be able to preserve the knowledge of “which” day of the week it falls on is by handing it down to each new generation. With his response, this one lunar sabbatarian demonstrated the folly of his counterparts who invent “straw man” arguments challenging non-lunar sabbatarians to “find ‘Saturday’ in the Bible,” and who invent a nebulous rule in which we cannot use anything but “Scripture and Scripture alone” to find the day on today’s calendar corresponding to the seventh day of Creation. As we have demonstrated, if we apply the directive found in Yahweh’s Word, we understand that “Scripture and Scripture alone” instructs us to work six days, then rest the seventh, with no disclaimers stipulating a “once-a-month” exception. In fact, Yahweh’s Word never *once* connects the weekly cycle to the lunar cycle. We will cover this fact in greater detail later in our study. First, however, let’s take a look at the Sabbath observed by the Messiah.

¹² Originally posted by Joey Thompson, under the screen name “JoeyThompson777,” on 02-08-2007 at 07:14 PM in the thread entitled “**Debunking Larry’s Book**,” located at www.eliyah.com.