

THE SABBATH DEBATE BOILS DOWN TO THREE VERY SIMPLE QUESTIONS.

by Don Sewing

Shalom Brothers and Sisters. Are you all aware of the intense debate taking place on Facebook and elsewhere concerning the 7th day sabbath? Is the sabbath to be counted from the new moon as some say, or is it to be counted as the 7th day on the Roman calendar as others say?

This debate can be confusing to those who are not familiar with the issues. One brother or sister posts a link to a site that seems to debunk the "lunar" sabbath. Another brother or sister posts a link to a site that seems to effectively counter the debunkers' claims. One brother or sister posts some historical findings that "prove" the Roman 7th day sabbath. Another brother or sister posts some historical findings that "prove" the "lunar" 7th day sabbath. What are we to believe?

Brothers and sisters, to clear up the confusion, we at Israelites For The Kingdom have boiled this debate down to three very simple questions. These are "yes" or "no" questions that leave no room for further debate. Please consider these three questions with honesty, and sincerity of heart, and give us your feedback.

1. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS IS A TYPOLOGY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE MESSIAH?

(Read Lev. 23:9-14; I Cor. 15:12-23)

2. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS IS A TYPOLOGY OF THE THIRD DAY RESURRECTION OF THE MESSIAH?

(Read Lk. 24:46; Lk. 15:3, 4)

3. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT, IN THE FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS, THE SHEAF IS TO BE WAVED ON THE MORROW AFTER THE WEEKLY 7TH DAY SABBATH?

(Read Lev. 23:11, 15)

If you answered "YES" to all three questions, then there is no way that you can count the weekly 7th day sabbath as the 7th day on the Roman calendar. If you answered "YES" to all three questions, then you must count the sabbath from the new moon.

You may ask, How is that? Very simple. The suffering and death of the Messiah fulfilled the Passover, which falls on the 14th day of the first scriptural month. If you believe that the feast of Firstfruits is a typology of the *third day* resurrection of the Messiah, then you agree with us that the sheaf must be waved the *third day* from Passover.

Whether you believe that the Messiah rose the *third day* as the scriptures says, or after 72 hours is irrelevant because you still must wave the sheaf a *fixed number* of days from Passover. And finally, if you believe the the sheaf is to be waved on the morrow after the weekly 7th day sabbath, then you agree with us that the sabbath is a *fixed number* of days from Passover (whether you say it is the 15th or the 17th).

Brothers and Sisters, the only way that the weekly 7th day sabbath can be a *fixed number* of days from Passover EVERY YEAR, is to count it from the new moon. You cannot and will not count the sabbath as the seventh day on the Roman calendar and get it to come out to be a *fixed number* of days from Passover EVERY YEAR. Again, I ask for your feedback. Please send the link to this note to any teachers and morehs who you may know because I would like their feedback also (as long as they are Messianic because the third day resurrection of the Messiah means nothing to non-Messianics). I believe that this complex issue has been simplified by these three questions. May the lip of truth be established forever, and a lying tongue be but for a moment. Shalom.

Shooting Blanks by Don Sewing

Shalom brothers and sisters. In this note, I would like to share with you my past experience in attempting to debunk the true shabbat. I was a fierce opponent of what I called the "floating sabbath". "Floating" is a relative term. The true shabbat does not float at all on Yahuwah's perfect calendar, yet it does float on Satan's calendar. The Jewish traditional shabbat, on the other hand, does not float at all on Satan's calendar, yet it does float on Yahuwah's perfect calendar.

When I think back on my Shaul-of-Tarsus-like ignorant, unbelieving zeal, I compare my experience to the movie "Rocky II" (I was into the Rocky movies when I was an unbeliever). I remember how Apollo Creed had Rocky beat by points and was determined to knock him out in order to redeem himself from an embarrassing first fight. He knocks Rocky down near the end of the fight and has his fists raised in the air with his back toward Rocky as the crowd chants, "Apollo! Apollo!". He is sure that he has won the fight, but when he turns around and sees Rocky get off the ground, he drops his fists in total disbelief and dejection. The fight continues, and Rocky ends up winning the fight.

In like manner, I "fired away" at the true shabbat, and was sure that I had it beat. Much to my dismay, the truth just "took a lickin' and kept on tickin'," and I had to humble myself and surrender.

Because the true shabbat will always fall on the 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th of every lunar month, this was my primary aiming point to dismantle this doctrine. Let me share with you some of the arguments that I used:

THE BOOM:

"And it came to pass on the *twentieth day of the second month*, in the second year, that the cloud was taken up from off the tabernacle of the testimony." (Num. 10:11)
"And they departed from the mount of Yahuwah *three days' journey*: and the ark of the covenant of Yahuwah went before them in the *three days' journey*, to search out a resting place for them." (Num. 10:33)

SEE! THERE IT IS! THEY TOOK A THREE DAYS' JOURNEY STARTING ON THE 20TH OF THE MONTH SO ONE OF THOSE DAYS WAS THE 22ND. SURELY THEY WOULD NOT HAVE TRAVELED ON THE 22ND IF THAT DAY WAS A SABBATH!

THE BLANK:

The *three day's journey* mentioned in Num. 10:11 & 33 is a measure of *distance* that is approximately equal to 60 miles, NOT a measure of how many consecutive days that they traveled. All that those verses are saying is that they traveled that distance starting on the 20th of the month. There is no conflict with a 22nd day of the month shabbat in those verses. They merely broke up their trip by traveling part of their journey before shabbat, and part of it afterward.

THE BOOM:

"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Yahushua stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."

(Jn. 7:37, 38; emphasis mine)

"And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them." (Jn. 8:2; e.m.)

"And it was the sabbath day when Yahushua made the clay, and opened his eyes." (Jn. 9:14; e.m.)

SEE! THE DAY AFTER THE "LAST GREAT DAY" OF THE FEAST WAS THE SABBATH. THAT WOULD MAKE IT ON THE 23RD OF THE MONTH AND NOT THE 22ND!

THE BLANK:

The scriptures never refer to the 8th day convocation following the feast of tabernacles as the "last great day" of the feast. That phrase is a device of men. The scriptures make it clear that the feast of tabernacles lasts seven days (Lev. 23:39, 41; Deut. 16:13, 15). The last day of a seven-day feast is day seven. Yahushua made the above statement on the 21st of the month, and the next day was the sabbath, which was the 22nd of the month.

THE BOOM (...and this was my "ace in the hole"):

"And the children of Yisrael encamped in Gilgal, and kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho. And they did eat of the old corn of the land on the morrow after the passover, unleavened cakes, and parched corn in the selfsame day."

(Jos. 5:10, 11; e.m.)

"And he shall wave the sheaf before Yahuwah, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it." (Lev. 23:11; e.m.)

"And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your Alohym: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings."

(Lev. 23:14; e.m.)

THERE IT IS! THEY COULD NOT EAT THE PARCHED CORN UNTIL THE MORROW AFTER THE SABBATH. YAHUSHUA SON OF NUN AND THE CHILDREN OF YISRAEL ATE THE PARCHED CORN ON THE MORROW AFTER THE PASSOVER. THEREFORE, PASSOVER, WHICH IS THE 14TH DAY OF THE MONTH MUST HAVE BEEN THE WEEKLY SABBATH!

THE BLANK:

In Lev. 23:11, the Septuagint, from which text the apostles often quoted, says that the priest shall wave the sheaf on the "*morrow of the first day*", and calls this same day, "*the day after the sabbath*" in verse 15. The "*first day*" is referring to the first day of Unleavened Bread. The "*sabbath*" mentioned in verse 15, after which the count to the feast of Weeks starts, is referring to the weekly shabbat and not a supposed "*high sabbath*". Every place elsewhere in the Septuagint and in the "New Covenant" scriptures where this Greek word for "*sabbath*" is used, it refers to the weekly, seventh-day shabbat.

That being said, if Yahushua the son of Nun and children of Israel kept Firstfruits according to the scriptures, then they would not have eaten the parched corn until the MORROW AFTER the first day of Unleavened Bread, and NOT ON the first day of Unleavened Bread. Yahushua the Messiah perfectly fulfilled Firstfruits by being raised from the dead the third day, according to the scriptures. Thus, he rose on the MORROW AFTER the first day of Unleavened Bread, which was also the weekly shabbat (For an in-depth audio lesson [109 minutes] proving that the first day of Unleavened Bread is ALWAYS a weekly shabbat, click this link:

<http://recordings.talkshoe.com/TC-84375/TS-405497.mp3>)

THE CONCLUSION:

So there you have it, brothers and sisters. I couldn't beat the truth, so I joined it. There are more "booms" and "blanks" that I could share, but I believe that I have made my point. Can you relate to my experience? Have you shot some of the same blanks that I used to shoot? Believe me when I say that you can beat this thing into the ground and it will keep getting right back up in your face. We can do nothing against the truth, but for it. Shalom.