

MY SHABBAT TESTIMONY

by [Don Sewing](#) on Sunday, October 10, 2010 at 10:49am

Shalom Brothers and Sisters in Messiah Yahushua,

I would like to take this opportunity to share a personal testimony about how I have come to the knowledge of the true shabbat of Yahuwah. In doing this, I am going to divide this note into three sections:

1. Introduction to the 7th day shabbat as most understand it.
2. Introduction to the 7th day shabbat as most do not understand it.
3. Re-visitation of the 7th day shabbat as most do not understand it.

SECTION 1: Introduction to the 7th day shabbat as most understand it.

I grew up in a large, denominational church even though my family and I would visit small, "black" baptist churches from time to time, for that was my mother's background. I remember as a small child how we used to go "downhome" in the country where my mother grew up. Specifically, I remember going to an old, baptist church there and hearing the preacher preach out of the tanak, or "old testament" scriptures. I remember specifically hearing a preacher, in making reference to the son of Nun, use the name "Jehoshua" which is the King James version of Yahushua. I don't remember much that was said in the large, denominational church in which I grew up because they did not teach much of the word of Yahuwah, but rather gave social messages.

I went to church all my life, yet never had a true experience with the Most High. It was not until I was in my third year in college at Drake University in Des Moines, IA that I had a true encounter with the Messiah Yahushua, whom I referred to as "Jesus Christ" at that time. Soon after this initial encounter, I sought the Father for the immersion in the ruach ha kadosh, or "baptism of the holy spirit", and I received it with the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues as the ruach gave utterance. Since then, the ruach has been continually guiding me into all truth.

I graduated from college in the summer of 1993 and picked up a job within three weeks as a computer programmer for a local software company in the Kansas City Metro area suburbs where my family lived. After working for about a year and a half with that company, I left the career path to enter into ministry full-time in the inner-city in Kansas City with a drug rehab oriented ministry. The ministry was doing a beautiful work in targeting drug addicts, prostitutes, prisoners, the homeless, and people generally rejected by and forgotten by society at large. The

problem, however, was that the ministry refused to set itself apart from the world and be qadosh, or "holy". I took this issue up with the leadership many times, but to no avail, so I had to part company with them.

Before I left the KC ministry, I had been in contact with a preacher in South Carolina. I heard him over the radio and loved the strong message of "holiness" which he preached. From the time that I received the ruach, the Father had been dealing with me very strongly in the area of living a qadosh, and set apart life. After leaving the KC ministry, I move to South Carolina and sat under the ministry of the "holiness" preacher. He emphasized the keeping of the commandments of Most High, but especially the keeping of the Sabbath, yet he understood this to mean keeping the Roman "sunday". Although he had the day wrong, he kept the Sabbath more strictly than many who have the day right. If nothing else, I learned some good shabbat keeping principles under this man's ministry.

While in South Carolina, I came across some literature by a man who kept the 7th day Sabbath as most understand it. I was intrigued by this literature and went into a season of study on the matter and came to the conclusion that this man was right. I then switched from keeping the 1st day to keeping the 7th day as most understand it. The literature that I studied came primarily from the Seventh Day Adventist Church. It talked about Constantine and how he was responsible for starting the change of the Sabbath "from saturday to sunday", which change, according to the literature, was consummated by the council of Nicea. I trusted in the research that the writers of the literature did and did not search any further, so I accepted what they had to say. Because I could not prove exactly which day was kept as the Sabbath in the scriptures, as there are no names of days in the scriptures but only numbers (1st day of the week, 7th day, etc.), my primary basis for keeping the 7th day Sabbath as I understood it was historical information.

SECTION 2: Introduction to the 7th day shabbat as most do not understand it.

After to coming to the knowledge and practice of the 7th day Sabbath as I understood it, along with the dietary laws, I ran in "sabbatarian" circles for many years. In those years, I found that most people in those circles whom I met came to the knowledge of the Sabbath as they understood it in much the same way that I came to it. They would reference the same historical findings that I found in my research. I remember attending a deliverance conference in Hot Springs, AR on one occasion where I talked with the head minister about Sabbath keeping. He

said that he studied it out, yet chose not to keep the Sabbath because he did not believe that there was any way of knowing the right day for sure. I went on to tell him that I believed the the Most High preserved his continual 7-day cycle since creation, although I had no scriptural proof of that. He was not convinced, so we left the conversation in peace.

In the summer of 2001, while I was living in northeast Arkansas, I met a young lady and her family at a revival meeting. I began to communicate with her on a regular basis. By that time, I had come to the knowledge that the names of the days of the week and the months of the year of the Roman calendar were of pagan gods, and that the memorializing of those names was an offense to the Most High. Instead of saying "sunday", I would say "first day of the week", instead of "wednesday", I would say "fourth day of the week", etc. In a conversation with this young lady, I noticed that she freely used these pagan names in making reference to the days of the week, so I took it upon myself to correct her. The way she answered was a shock to me.

When I asked her why she gave honor to pagan gods by using those names, she responded by saying something to the effect of, "Why do you keep the Sabbath by the pagan Roman calendar?" I had never heard such a thing. I went on to inquire as to what she meant. She went on to explain to me how she and her family kept the Sabbath by "Yahweh's calendar", which, as she explained, was by the phases of the moon. She asked if she could send me some literature, and I accepted it. I studied it thoroughly, not with the sincere intention of discovering truth, but rather to discredit her belief. Because I was interested in this young lady, I thought to myself, "if it works out that I marry this young lady, she is coming my way. I am not coming her way." I was also prejudiced towards her beliefs because back then, it seemed like almost nobody was keeping the Sabbath like her and her family. It was too obscure to me.

Because this young lady and her family were not very seasoned in defending their belief, I was able to come up with some questions that they could not answer. I was sure that I had some strong arguments to debunk the lunar Sabbath belief system. I was known amongst the circles in which I ran for my skill in handling lunar Sabbath proponents. When others would run into these people, they would contact me for advice on how to answer them.

About six and a half years ago, I moved back to southwest Louisiana where I live now. The group with which I had fellowship had contact with very few people

from the outside, so for the duration of that time, I didn't even deal with this Sabbath issue.

SECTION 3: Re-visitation of the 7th day Shabbat as most do not understand it.

About two weeks ago, which was about nine years after I was first introduced to this teaching, I was re-visited with it. I saw a thread on a friend's Facebook page where a sister was sharing information about the lunar Sabbath with my friend and encouraging him to look into it. I quickly jumped in on the thread with the purpose of rescuing my friend and I brought out my old arguments which I was sure would debunk what the sister was saying. The sister, in a kind and gentle way, just shared a link with me and encouraged me to look further into the issue.

I check out the link and the information on the site and did some studying on my own. To my surprise, I found that my old arguments against the lunar Sabbath did not hold water. I found that my belief in the seventh day Sabbath as most understand it (according to the Roman calendar) was based primarily on incomplete historical research and assumptions about what the scriptures are saying. I found that, although I spent much time trying to find discrepancies within the lunar Sabbath belief system, I could not prove my own belief system with the scriptures without making assumptions.

When the scriptures said "seventh day" or "first day of the week", I just assumed that the calendar system of bible times was in perfect accord with our calendar system today with respect to the weeks. I did not realize that the Hebrews did not speak in terms of the Roman calendar, but rather they had one of their own, given by Yahuwah at creation. Besides that, the Romans were using the Julian eight day calendar during the time that Yahushua walked the earth.

I said all of that to say this: A famous preacher from the 19th century said that the best way to expose a crooked rod is to lay a straight rod next to it. I have seen so much effort by "saturday" sabbatarians to expose the "crooked rod" of the lunar Sabbath, but I have yet see any of them lay a straight rod of their own. I know, because I used to do the same thing. I have found much more solid, scriptural support for the truth that Yahuwah has ONE CALENDAR for the shabbats and feasts, than I have for my old "saturday" sabbatarian belief system which called for two calendars which would often conflict with one another.

Think about it. Some "saturday" sabbatarians, during this feast season, either have kept or will be keeping two sabbaths back to back for four straight weeks during the seventh biblical month. Where do we ever see this kind of conflict in the scriptures? Yahuwah is not the author of confusion. He has given us a calendar that ha shatan can never touch. Yes, the fourth beast of Rome has thought to changes times and laws, but they can never alter the heavenly ordinances of Yahuwah.

I pray that this testimony may provoke the reader to prove all things, holding fast that which is good, and to "study to shew thyself approved unto Alohim." Whatever you decide after doing so, make sure that you are basing your belief upon solid, scriptural proof, and not assumptions. Make sure that you are able to lay the straight rod, and not just expose the crooked rod.

Here ends my shabbat testimony. Shalom.