

INSIGHT

Volume 7 Number 4

September 2011

**“...they shall beat their swords
into plowshares...”**



In this Generation?

International Congregation of Yahweh

INSIGHT

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A MAGAZINE OF BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING

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Insight has been published by the International Congregation of Yahweh since 1990 as part of ICY's efforts to fulfill the commission given the New Testament assembly (Mark 16:15).

A nonprofit, religious organization, ICY is dedicated to the restoration of the original doctrines of the Apostolic assembly. ICY follows the practice of the New Testament assemblies who kept the Law of the Old Testament. The true assembly is built on the foundation of the apostles' and the prophets' (Eph. 2:20), message of obedience to Yahweh's Law (Isa. 8:20; Jer. 26:4-6; Ezk. 20:19).

Our major doctrines include the name of the Creator, Yahweh, and His Son, Yahshua. Only these names are to be used in worship rather than Jesus, God, Lord, Jehovah, etc. Ample Scriptural and historical evidence support this belief; not the least of which is the commandment against taking the name of Yahweh in vain (Ex. 20:7).

Other major foundational beliefs are the atoning sacrifice of the Messiah Yahshua, and the inspiration of both Old and New Testaments. An ICY hallmark doctrine is the restored truth that the weekly seventh-day Sabbath is from dawn-to-dark; not from sunset-to-sunset as commonly taught. Yahweh's true Holy Days and New Moons are to be observed as well. *Insight* is sent free of charge to all who subscribe. Since ICY does not teach tithing on money, this is made possible through free-will offerings of ICY members and other contributors. Circulation presently includes over 30 foreign countries and the USA.

ICY can be reached by phone: (870) 892-5419; email: info@icyahweh.org; or mail: P.O. Box 208, Pocahontas, AR 72455. For further information we invite you to visit our website: www.icyahweh.org.

Cover photograph:
unmultimedia.org (UN Photo/Andrea Brizzi)
References: All Scripture references throughout the
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Nature Strikes Back!

From the Editor: *Gary C. Miller*

This year record floods along the U.S. Mississippi River submerged hundreds of thousands of acres (at Vicksburg, 56.5' exceeding the great flood of 1927 record of 56.2'; Dr. Masters' Wunderblog, May 16, 2011). The middle and southern states' swelling rivers inundated valuable farmland over America's midsection, and cut deep losses across the South. By contrast, Texas and Arizona are experiencing searing drought!

Punctuating *record BILLIONS* of dollars in losses across the continental U.S., a numbing chill brought the coldest spring *ever recorded* in Seattle, WA and other states. The toll continued to mount this spring as an almost *daily* juggernaut of deadly storms and tornadoes relentlessly hammered the U.S. homeland leaving decimated wastelands and death behind!

Add to this earthquakes, tsunamis, erupting volcanoes in Iceland, record flooding in Colombia, South America, and you wonder, "Has nature gone berserk or is it just that 'things happen?'"

On the other side of the globe, the tiny island nation of Japan, an archipelago of 6,852 islands, is still reeling from an epic-sized tsunami triggered by an 8.9 magnitude earthquake on March 11, 2011. The wreckage and carnage were beyond belief—Japan's worst on record! Wreaking havoc along a huge stretch of Japan's northeast coast, 30-foot walls of water raced over rice fields, drowned entire towns, dragged houses onto highways and jostled cars and boats like toys. Some waves spread their deadly forces *six miles* (10 kilometers) inland to Miyagi Prefecture on Japan's east coast. Literally hundreds of aftershocks, ranging as high as 6.0 on the Richter scale, continued exploding like fireworks for several days along Japanese coasts.

The Land of the Rising Sun may never be the same! (Japan: *Nippon* or more casually, *Nihon*, both mean "sun-origin," and are often translated *Land of the Rising Sun*; Wikipedia).

These events are without a doubt historic! What do we make of all this rapid-fire devastation in far-flung parts of the globe? Is nature "on the loose," gone wild and out to get us?

But even more soul-searching questions haunt us: Are such events entirely *beyond* man's control? Are we just hapless observers, alone in the universe, left to battle overwhelming forces of nature strictly on our own?

Or is man in fact *responsible in some way? Are we*

tipping the balance of nature, pushing our planet and its citizens to the brink? Can we *prevent* such calamities?

Certainly, we want to avoid such natural catastrophes ripping nations apart! If we only *knew the way—the true causes*—we would surely muster all our resources and research, and throw every ounce of muscle we have to pursue that way, ending those causes! Would we not?

Or would we...really? What if the family of mankind was presented with the *absolute solution* to these problems so we would never again be on a collision course with nature? Would we accept it?

That depends. IF it challenges our core values or called into question our *religious beliefs*, what are the chances we would embrace it? Slim to none.

This is the fundamental reason our catastrophes persist and why our global problems are literally drowning us in water and mountains of national debt while diseases and war multiply. We suffer these monumental and *recurring losses*, because *we do not change what we are doing that causes the problems!* The Bible says we reap what we sow, for good or for evil (Gal. 6:7).

Notice now **THE ACTUAL CAUSES OF THE PROBLEMS; the "religious" causes. HERE ARE THE CAUSES THE HUMAN RACE IS SEARCHING FOR:** "...if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments..." (Lev. 26:15).

Then what? **HERE ARE THE EFFECTS:** "I [Yahweh, not some other deity] will...cause sorrow of heart...ye shall be slain before your enemies...they that hate you shall reign over you...I will make **your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass** [drought]...And **I will make your cities waste...And I will bring the land into DESOLATION...**" (Lev. 26:16-17, 19, 31-32).

We are seeing this declaration from Yahweh fulfilled RIGHT BEFORE OUR VERY EYES! These are NATURAL LAWS. They act inexorably with scientific precision.

This is the solution: obeying Yahweh's statutes, judgments and all HIS commandments. *We just have to accept it and ACT ON IT. It is urgent that we act NOW!* Remember Yahshua's unchangeable decree: "...except you repent, you shall all likewise perish..." (Luke 13:3, 5). The clock is ticking....

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THE 'True Church' AND THE 'Signs of the Times'

Churches, churches, churches! Assemblies, congregations, fellowships, outreaches, ... Never has there been a greater “supermarket” of religious movements. And never has there been more “religious shopping” than now in a virtual explosion of evangelical Christianity.

Not only in the U.S., but sweeping through places like China, Africa, India and Southeast Asia, a form of modern evangelical Christianity is by far the fastest growing religious movement on the planet! Well ahead of the growth of Islam, Judaism, Roman Catholicism, and other more conventional forms of worship, this movement of “core apostolics” is said to be at the heart “...of the mushrooming Kingdom of God...”¹

In the U.S., a massive religious rush in the form of megachurches, megapastors and megabudgets (second largest in US: \$53 million) offer everything from huge stages, rock bands, jumbotron screens, tearful worshippers, to fitness centers. From bookstores, information desks, cafés, K-12 schools...to free automotive repair services for single mothers there is something for everyone. Tax services are also available while you worship.

Certainly unconventional, the number of megachurches in the U.S. has catapulted from just 50 in 1970 to more than 1,300 today.

But does this materialistic binge sound like the message the Messiah had in mind?

With modern cathedral complexes, sometimes the size of an airport terminal spread over several campuses, these super-sized mega-religious centers of worship dot the US from Los Angeles; Grapevine, Texas; Houston; Edmond, Oklahoma to Dallas, Chicago, Atlanta and Ft. Lauderdale.

Depicted as “...a town within a city,” they weigh in with the largest U.S. megachurch, Lakewood Church [Houston, TX], having a 43,500 weekly attendance and a \$70 million budget. Second behind Lakewood

is the Second Baptist Church, also of Houston.² The yearly take by the elite “mega-group” is estimated to be \$8.5 billion.

Jesse Bogan comments that a typical “small” Saturday evening service finds two basketball courts filled with believers in jeans and flip-flops rocking out, singing along or just watching as a huge contemporary band jams to the song “Did You Feel the Mountains Tremble?”

TRUE FAITH, TRUE GOSPEL?

Where is the *true Gospel* in all this “modernized” new “wave” of worship? One pastor reflecting on the church sizes commented “Maybe it’s just where we are in America today.” Adding “...but you know what, it’s just a different day today.”

Indeed. *A sign of the times?* What is this a sign of, a harbinger of what?

“...IS IT... the faith once delivered...?”

This tsunami of “feel good” “positive thinking” religion laced with rock bands and the thrill of the moment, is often billed as “...just an outgrowth of...



Saturday night live! Rock band entertains megachurch worshippers. (crossroadsofconway.org)

people being faithful to their faith..." as one pastor puts it.

But *IS IT*, in fact, "...the faith which was once delivered unto the saints..." (Jude 3) or....perhaps *another faith*? This is the question each in their heart and their actions will have to answer while keeping in mind the apostle James' teaching that "...faith without works [of the Law] is DEAD..." (Jam. 2:20, 26). He further relates, "Ye see then how that by *WORKS* a man is justified, and *not by faith only.*" (Jam. 2:24).

Another gospel? Are we seeing the emergence of some "new gospel" foreign to that preached by John, Yahshua and the Apostles? "I am astonished that you are so quickly...turning to a different gospel" (Gal. 1:6, *RSV*), Paul retorted, as he observed the wayward behavior of the church at Galatia.

And what is the *true Gospel*? "And Yahshua ["Jesus" *KJV*] went about all Galilee...preaching the ***gospel of the Kingdom of Yahweh*** ["God" *KJV*]" (Mark 1:14; See also Matt. 4:23 & Luke 20:1; emphasis mine).

After His resurrection He was *still* doing the same thing: "...shewed himself alive after His passion... speaking of the *things pertaining to the KINGDOM OF YAHWEH* ["God" *KJV*]" (Acts 1:3).

The true Gospel ("good news;" Gk) is all about the coming Kingdom of Yahweh. This great *global* government will rule the nations with a rod of iron (Rev. 2:26-27). It will be *all powerful!* It will be founded on the Law (first five books of scripture).

Do churches preach this? Do they teach that Law?

TRUE FAITH, TRUE GOSPEL, TRUE CHURCH?

Can all these churches, from "mega" on down to the "apostolic core," be the ***true church*** without teaching the Law which the prophets taught (Eph. 2:20); without the "faith which was once delivered to the saints...;" without proclaiming the coming Kingdom of Yahweh founded on that Law?

Can they ALL be right? Or is there A "right" one; an actual "True" Church, A "True" Assembly, or Congregation? Is there an *original* one the Messiah founded...*still* in existence?



Dynamic minister delivers moving message to vast church audience. Megachurches today resemble stadiums verses traditional churches. (*emilypothast.com*)

These questions have been debated, dissected and probed with each drawing their own conclusion. This is the pivotal and crucial issue at hand; so we will know if we are being deceived.

But according to the Scriptures, there *really is* one

**"...largest US megachurch...
43,500 weekly attendance..."**

true church, a true organized group of disciples and followers of the Messiah! Notice. "...I will build MY church; and the gates of hell ["Hades" *NAS*; the grave] shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18). That is, *it will not die out!* Its Head, Yahshua, lives through the ages to see that it remains.

Perhaps just a remnant, this "ecclesia" ["called out ones;" trans. "church"], that congregation, will come preaching the *very same gospel message* He taught; will be an organized group dedicated to the foundational truths He laid down; having the *same faith*. That is how we will recognize it. *That church will have the real sign of the Biblical times: Yahweh's Law of His Holy Sabbaths* (Ex. 31:13; Ezk. 20:12, 20). - **ICY**

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★★★★★★

Are the Monthly New Moons Sabbaths?



The New Moon begins each month of the sacred calendar, setting many of the annual Biblical Holy Days, and is gaining the attention of a wide variety of religious leaders. In the wake of this increased interest, a view has emerged that New Moons are Sabbaths in which no business or any work is allowed.

Is this Biblical?

The Scriptural answer lies in applying the prophet Isaiah's advice of: "...precept upon precept, ... line upon line, ... here a little, and there a little" (Isa. 28:10); AND a solid stand on Biblical definitions.

SEPARATING SABBATHS AND NEW MOONS AMOS 8:5 AND HOSEA 2:11

One scripture seeming to imply all New Moons are Sabbaths, at least with regard to doing business, is Amos 8:5: "...When will the New Moon be gone, that we may sell corn?..." Is he saying it is a Sabbath?

Reading further, "...and the Sabbath, that we may set forth [*buy; Green's Intl*] wheat,..."?

Amos clearly **separates** the New Moon from the Sabbath. But this prohibition against selling corn [*grain*] is a Sabbath regulation, and warrants careful attention.

We should keep in mind the Law must define all Sabbaths to eliminate even the slightest uncertainty about something so foundational. Conspicuously, there is *no indication anywhere in the Law that each New Moon is a Sabbath*. This is definitive for monthly New Moons.

However, if there is a New Moon Sabbath *anytime*, then the Law must legislate it. There is one: the New Moon beginning the seventh month (Lev. 23:24-25). This is the only New Moon Sabbath (except New Moons falling on weekly Sabbaths) given in the Law. Unless Amos has in mind some other civil statute regulating the sale of grain not given in the Law, he is definitely referring to this seventh New Moon of the year. That is the only solution...using the Law *as we must*.

Another prophet, Hosea (2:11) categorizes monthly New Moons as festivals: "I will also cause all her mirth to cease, **her feast days**: her New Moons, and her Sabbaths, and all her solemn Feasts." He lists the feast days, and notice, *they are not ALL Sabbaths!* The context in-

dicates, “her feast days, that is, her New Moons, and her Sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts.”

New Moon festivals include worship (Ezk. 46:3; Isa. 66:23), with offerings (Num. 10:10; 28:11-15), an assembly initiated with the blowing of silver trumpets (Num. 10:3), and blowing the shofar (Psa. 81:3). Sabbaths, by contrast, are festivals of worship **and rest**.

There are other examples of non-Sabbath festivals. The seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles include one Sabbath feast and six *non-Sabbath* feasts similar to New Moons in that they include additional offerings above the daily allotment.

Notice too, the plural in Hosea 2:11, “SabbathS” includes ALL Sabbaths. If all New Moons were Sabbaths why list them as a different kind of festival; why separate the two?

Hosea, like Amos, shows consistency with the Law by distinguishing Sabbaths and New Moons. He did **not** say, “...the New Moon *Sabbath* and the Sabbath...”

II KINGS 4:23

The prophet Elisha verifies the separate nature of these two observances as well, “...Wherefore will you go to him to day? It is neither New Moon nor Sabbath...” (II Kin. 4:23). Like Amos, he did not say, “...It is neither New Moon Sabbath nor Sabbath...” If they were both Sabbaths there is no need to list each one. This reference elevates the New Moon above ordinary weekdays, but does not give the reasons why.

WHAT ABOUT EZEKIEL 46:1? DEFINITIONS FIRST

Advocates of the Sabbath New Moons draw this verse like a sword as a first line of defense. Several Scriptures testify that Sabbaths and New Moons are **distinctly separate** observances. So what about this verse?

Here is a translation with the phrases in ques-

tion italicized:

“Thus sayeth Yahweh; The gate of the inner court that looketh toward the east *shall be shut the six working days; but on the Sabbath it shall be opened, and in the day of the New Moon it shall be opened...*” (Ezk. 46:1).

First the Bible must define “the six working days” in relation to *something*:

“...Six days you shall labor and do all thy work. But the seventh day is the Sabbath... you shall not do any work...” (Ex. 20:9-10).

The six days are in relation to a seventh day Sabbath and vice versa, implying a repeating period.

The Biblical New Moon, however, is set by the conjunction of Sun and Moon independent of the six working days of the week (See *Come Out of Babylon: Keep the Scriptural New Moon*, ICY). Unlike the six working days and the weekly Sabbath, the New Moon, Scripturally, is not defined relative to the weekdays. It occurs on *any week day* (Gen. 1:14-19).

If unrelated to the seventh-day Sabbath, could it nonetheless be a Sabbath...of some kind? If so, Yahweh must tell us, but **there is no record that Yahweh rested on the New Moon** (the fourth day; Gen. 1:14-19), but only that He rested the *seventh day of the week* (Gen. 2:2-3). This is the Law. The New Moon circumstances revealed by the Genesis chapter one record make this clear beyond question.

In all cases Yahweh plainly states which days are Sabbaths, weekly or annual, and conspicuously, He *never* commands that we observe each New Moon as a Sabbath. This is definitive proof New Moons are *not* Sabbaths. Therefore, the Law provides no basis for assuming Ezekiel is defining a New Moon as a Sabbath simply based on whether the inner court’s gate is open or closed.

THE OFFERINGS

The offerings provide further conclusive proof all New Moons are not Sabbaths.

Here are the facts. The monthly New Moon of-

“...no indication...
each New Moon...
is a Sabbath”

offerings are given in Numbers 28:11-15; as it says of “...every month throughout the months of the year” (v. 14).

These are in addition to the daily morning and evening offerings: “...beside the continual burnt offering, and his drink offering” (Num. 28:15).

On the weekly Sabbath a small additional two-lamb offering is required (Num. 28:9-10) above the daily requirements. But these are a fraction of what is done on the New Moon: more and different animals; more drink offerings; an ad-

“...offerings provide conclusive proof...”

ditional kid of the goat for a sin offering (Num. 28:11-15). These, too, are in addition to those done daily.

Special New Moon sacrifices and oblations undeniably separate it from a weekly Sabbath. *This is solid evidence the New Moon day is not*

a weekly Sabbath.

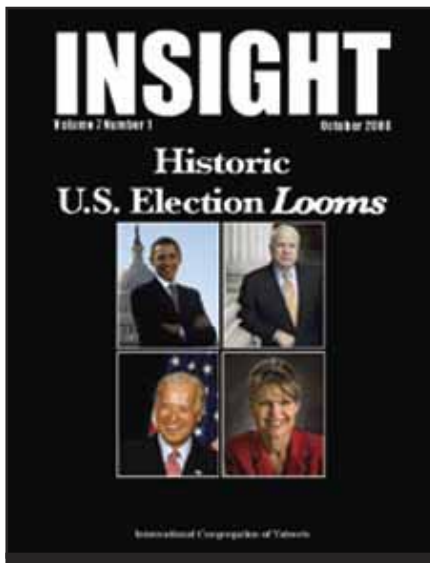
But here is another clincher, for next we find *an actual New Moon Sabbath!* What could be more absolute, more definitive? Now we can make a point-by-point comparison of sacrifices, grain and drink offerings of a **Sabbath New Moon** with the *regular monthly New Moon* requirements! If each New Moon is in fact a New Moon Sabbath, but not a weekly Sabbath, there must be no difference in offerings....none.

The monthly New Moon offerings are given in Numbers 28:11-15; as it says of “...every month throughout the months of the year” (v. 14). This Bible record cannot be explained away and provides a crucially needed “test case.” Notice these important *Biblical facts.*

The New Moon of the seventh month is an annual Sabbath (Num. 29:1). It is both a New Moon **and** a Sabbath.

Look what **this** New Moon offering has “**Beside** the burnt offering **of the month** [monthly New Moon] and his meat offering...” (Num. 29:6), an additional bullock, another ram, seven more lambs, and another kid of the goats for sin offering (Num. 29:2-5; compare Num. 28:11-15). Notice the *Bible* says these are “Beside...” the regular

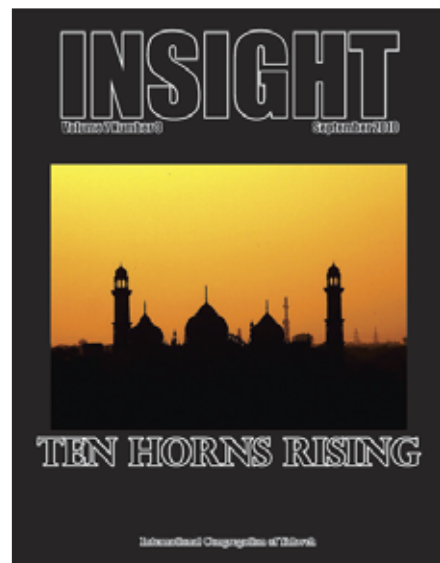
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monthly offerings. This Law **is** the standard.

Beyond any doubt, when a New Moon is a Sabbath the animal sacrifices **increase**; additional requirements apply.

The conclusion could not be more certain: **Every monthly New Moon is not a Sabbath.** Whether one accepts it or not, the Biblical record is plain for all to see.

CONCLUSION

The prophets Amos and Hosea unmistakably separate the New Moons and Sabbaths. Their record speaks for itself.

Ezekiel lists the Sabbath, the New Moon and the six working days (Ezk. 46:1) together. Was he, could he, define a New Moon as a Sabbath? Does a prophet or anyone else other than the Law of Yahweh, have that authority? Not at all: "What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it" (Deut. 12:32).

Ezekiel's reference to the six working days shows the Sabbath was the *weekly Sabbath*. Because *special New Moon offerings* elevate it above ordinary week days, the gate was opened for this special occasion as well. The witness of these prophets, and the Law of offerings provide decisive proof that monthly New Moons are not Sabbaths.

We know the New Moon is a Festival (Hos. 2:11) in which worship is required: Ezekiel 46:3: "...the people...shall worship at the door of this gate before Yahweh in the Sabbaths and in the New Moons." The priest Ezekiel separates the Sabbaths and New Moons. Notice again the plural SabbathS, meaning ALL Sabbaths, is separate from the monthly New Moons.

All these references leave no doubt the monthly New Moon is not a Sabbath; unless an annual or weekly Sabbath happens to fall on a New Moon.

As to commerce, if the whole nation were keeping the New Moons with the worship convocation required (Num. 10:3; Ezk. 46:3; Isa. 66:23), giving freewill offerings when worshipping before Yahweh (Deut. 12:6 with Ezra 3:5, 8:28) and offering burnt offerings (Num. 10:10; 28:11-15), most business would come to a virtual standstill.

Special meals were prepared; families were readied for the convocation and worship. This takes considerable planning and time; much time away from business as usual.

Perhaps several families got together or some dined with the King: I Samuel 20:24-25. Others perhaps had a reunion as David said it was their yearly family custom of feasting on a New Moon [KJV margin: "sacrifice" = "Feast"; I Sam. 20:6].

Scholars acknowledge the New Moons were an important national festival of Israel in which business ceased:

"It is evident from the writings of the prophets and from post-Exilic documents that the New Moon was an important national festival. It was often called a feast along with the Sabbath (Psa. 81:3; Isa. 1:13; Ezk. 46:1; Hos. 2:11), on which all business ceased (Amos 8:5), the pious Israelites waited on the prophets for edification (II Kin. 4:23), many families and clans presented their annual thank offerings (I Sam. 20:6, 29), social gatherings and feasting were indulged in (vv. 5, 24), and the most devout persons omitted fasting (Judith 8:6)" (*Unger's Bible Dictionary*; p. 352).

Again, *without exception* Yahweh **always** clearly designates which days are Sabbaths. How else are we to know? If all New Moons are Sabbaths, why does He **never** say so? He specifies ALL other Sabbaths.

He did not rest on the eight day of each month, nor on each seventh day sequentially thereafter (8,15, 22, 29...etc.). He rested on the seventh day of the week, not the fourth day which was the New Moon (Gen. 2:2-3; 1:14-19).

When a specific New Moon is to be a Sabbath, He leaves no doubt:

"...In the seventh month, in the first day of the month [New Moon], shall ye have a Sabbath..." (Lev. 23:24-25). "And in the seventh month on the first day of the month, ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work..." (Num. 29:1).

New Moons are special festivals of worship, one of the three kinds, but they are not Sabbaths unless they fall on the weekly Sabbath. -ICY

★★★★★★

Can We *EARN* Salvation by Keeping the Law?

Can salvation be *earned*? Does it depend on works of the Law (first five books of Scripture)? Or has grace ended Yahweh's Law; that being under grace, the laws of the Old Testament are relics of the past and no longer needed?

Answers to this question vary widely, but how do we resolve the ongoing debate over the Old Testament Law and salvation?

The historical point, which usually turns opinion *away* from the Law and toward a "Grace without Law-keeping" stance, is the crucifixion of the Messiah. In the era of grace-after the crucifixion, it is argued, the deeds of the Law are of no real concern, that the Law was "done away," nailed to the cross, as supposedly proven by Colossians 2:14-16.

Are we to assume since the Messiah's death and resurrection Yahweh makes no demands or sets any boundaries? Is He all love and grace, soft on crime and easily pushed around?

A closer look at Colossians 2:14 clearly reveals it was the "...certificate of debt..." (NAS), our debt of sin, that was nailed to the stake; not the Law.

Certainly, Yahweh is loving and merciful, but He is also *just*. He is definitely *an enforcer*: "Be not deceived, Yahweh is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he will also reap" (Gal. 6:7).

Notice how the apostle Paul also views the grace issue: "...Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? Yahweh forbid" (Rom. 6:1-2). Obviously, if it is possible to sin, the Law remains binding: "...indeed, if there were no Law the question of

sin would not arise" (Rom. 4:15; *Phillips*).

Clearly, as Paul wrote in another place, we *are this moment* under the dominion of the Law: "Know ye not, brethren...that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?" (Rom. 7:1).

In light of Paul's emphatic, plain statements who incidentally, is generally considered "no law Paul," it is certain that deeds of the Law *are required even while grace is available*.

So how is this supposed to work? Do our deeds earn salvation after all? Or one might ask, "But are not works of the law, observing the Old Testament laws, an attempt to earn salvation by our own efforts?"

These questions deserve a *Biblical* answer, and there is no shortage of verses speaking to this very issue.

Notice Abraham's example. Abraham believed Yahweh and his belief counted for righteousness (Rom. 4:1-3). His faith was equivalent to righteousness (vv. 4-5).

Did this mean he did not obey Yahweh's Law? The apostle James answers: "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac..." (Jam. 2:21).

Is there a contradiction here? Or is James showing the relationship *between* faith and works? He adds: "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone" (Jam. 2:17).

He goes on to explain, "Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only" (vv. 22, 24). We must develop perfected faith-perfect

faith; not *dead* faith.

Notice further that Abraham received the promises *after* he obeyed: “And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou *hast*

“...Abraham was blessed after he obeyed...”

[already] *obeyed* my voice (Gen. 22:18)...and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws” (Gen. 26:5).

This ancient account proves those laws, commandments, and statutes existed prior to Moses—long before there was an Israelite nation.

Abraham was blessed because he kept Yahweh’s Laws!

Remember that faith must be accompanied by works in order for faith to be perfected *and grace applied*.

Grace (pardon) is definitely a free gift from Yahweh. He does not have to do it. He does not owe it to us. But He had to get someone to agree to pay our debt of sin.

That someone was Yahshua who became surety for our crimes, out of compassion—freely offering himself. He was under no obligation to do so. It was *not* free for *Him*, however, but came at the enormous price needed to clear our note (i.e. pay off our indebtedness). Though *given* freely, notice that *something had to be given*.

ONE SIMPLE FACT ANSWERS

There is a simple fact that proves why it is utterly impossible to earn salvation. If there were sacrifices we could make short of death, offerings we could make, services we could render, any deep sorrow we might feel or remorse we could show which would individually or altogether *equal the penalty of death due to our past sins*, then we could earn salvation by our works.

Truly, the Messiah has said, “Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul” (Mark 8:37)? Answer: There is nothing! What can a man give in

exchange for, equal to, his life? Nothing. He must give his own life for his own sin!

The hard truth is we have *no way out* of our debt of sin hanging over us: “The WAGES of SIN is DEATH” (Rom. 6:23). There are no works we can do which can be used as payment in place of having to pay with our life! NONE! The Law is immutable: “And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the Law to fail” (Luke 16:17).

Here is the stubborn truth, the uncompromising fact *that answers the question* about earning salvation: *no amount of law keeping can pay for past sins*, which require the death penalty. We must pay with our life. It is the Law.

That is why our works cannot bring salvation! Any good works following previous sins do not erase the penalties of those misdeeds. Salvation means the saving of our life, preventing the second death.

If we break one weekly Sabbath, tell one lie, cheat one time, eat one bit of pork or catfish, miss keeping one Holy Day, there are no other amounts of good things we can do to erase the penalties those sins incur!

Obedience to one law does not pay the penalty for having broken another. For example, if we break the Holy Sabbath by working on that day, no amount of honesty will remove the consequences of desecrating the Sabbath. Those remain “on the books” until repentance and forgiveness is granted once the debt is paid.

This is where grace enters. Forgiveness for deadly sin has been provided because someone has stepped forward to pay the penalty for us:

“...Grace...mercy are applied to past sins...”

Yahshua the Messiah. His sacrifice has been accepted by Yahweh as full payment for our transgressions.

This is the only way out for us since the death penalty hangs ominously over our head. The grim reaper, the last enemy to be overcome will collect.

We are acquitted of past sins because Yahshua paid our debt. But it *had to be paid...by someone!*

Repentance needed before grace is granted means sorrowful remorse and turning from the sin. Is the bank robber repentant who has not stolen in a month simply because he is between heists? True, he was not a thief *that* month, but he has no intention of changing, but is just planning and waiting for the next opportunity. That is not repentance.

Grace and mercy are applied to *past sins*. They do not set aside Yahweh's ever-acting law nor free us from its tenets in the future. "...He passed over the sins *previously committed*" (Rom. 3:25; NAS; emphasis mine).

Yahshua has come to save us from [not in] our sins (Matt. 1:21) as a gift (Eph. 2:8-9) by HIS faith-the faith of Yahshua!

Notice another crucial point: "Knowing that a man is not justified [acquitted; see below] by the works of the law [we now know why], **BUT BY THE FAITH OF YAHSHUA MESSIAH...**" (Gal. 2:16).

Whose faith justifies us? Ours? NO! Yahsh-

ua's faith!!¹

Paul continues, "...even we have believed in Yahshua Messiah, that we might be justified [acquitted, A.G.] **BY THE FAITH OF MESSIAH**, and not by the works of the law..." (v. 16).

Finally, we now know why salvation cannot be earned by our works, our good deeds. But works *are required* as Paul skillfully explained with these ominous soul-searching remarks, words we must not forget: "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, **THERE REMAINETH NO MORE SACRIFICE FOR SINS** (Heb. 10:26)...For it is **IMPOSSIBLE** for those who were **ONCE ENLIGHTENED...IF THEY SHALL FALL AWAY, TO RENEW THEM AGAIN UNTO REPENTANCE...**" (Heb. 6:4-6). - **ICY**

REFERENCES:

1 - The word 'justified' (SEC 1344; Ardent-Ging., p. 196) means "of men [to]...be acquitted, be pronounced and treated as righteous..."

★★★★★★

Come join ICY in Branson, Missouri Feast of Tabernacles October 12-19

This fall International Congregation of Yahweh will be celebrating the 2011 Feast of Tabernacles in beautiful Branson, Missouri. ICY has been holding the FOT in Branson for the last few years. We have found it to be a wonderful Feast site: "...a land of hills and valleys." (Deut. 11:11)

Branson offers a wide variety of accommodations, entertainment and activities for the entire family. ICY welcomes those of good will sincerely searching for the truths of the Bible. ICY is non-charismatic in beliefs and adheres to a strict and literal interpretation of the scriptures, including both the Old and New Testaments.

Email info@icyahweh.org for further information.

Feast of
Tabernacles
October 12-19, 2011

יְהוָה

"That they may know
that You alone, whose name is
YAHWEH, are the Most High
over all the earth."
Psalms 83:18

International Congregation of Yahweh

Sacred Calendar

The true sacred calendar of the Bible is vitally important to salvation. Most professing Christians have been lead to believe all they have to do is "believe" in the Messiah and their eternal life is assured; that all the "Old Testament" observances of holy days have been "done away." Nothing could be further from the clear teachings of Scripture. "Belief" without obedience to the Law of Yahweh is contrary to the true Gospel Yahshua came preaching (Luke 6:46; Matt. 7:23).

The sacred calendar is a central part of the true Gos-

pel, because it determines the true Sabbath days which are crucial signs of Yahweh (Ex. 31:13; Ezk. 20:12, 20). By these vital Sabbath signs Yahweh shows who He has personally sanctified. True, we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Yahshua the Messiah (i.e. His sacrifice; Heb. 10:10), but the evidence that we are in fact sanctified by Yahweh, is that we keep Yahweh's true Sabbaths (See again Ex. 31:13; Ezk. 20:12, 20). The restoration of Yahweh's calendar system is, therefore, a top priority of the International Congregation of Yahweh.

2012 Sacred Calendar	
Pocahontas, AR Lat: 36d 14m N / Long: 90d 57m W	
Passover Festival	April 5 - April 11
Passover Sabbaths	April 5 & April 11
Passover Supper	Night of April 5
Feast of Unleavened Bread	April 6 (UB eaten Apr 5 - Apr 12)
Wavesheaf Offered	May 6
Feast of Weeks	May 6 - June 23
Feast of Weeks Annual Sabbaths	May 12, 19, 26 June 2, 9, 16, 23
Pentecost	June 24
Shoutings (Trumpets)	September 16
Pre-Atonement Sabbath	September 24 Noon-to-sunset
Atonements	September 25
Feast of Tabernacles	Sept. 30 - Oct. 6
Sabbaths	Sept. 30 & Oct. 7
Last Great Day	October 7

2013 Sacred Calendar	
Pocahontas, AR Lat: 36d 14m N / Long: 90d 57m W	
Passover Festival	April 23 - April 29
Passover Sabbaths	April 23 & April 29
Passover Supper	Night of April 23
Feast of Unleavened Bread	April 24 (UB eaten April 23-30)
Wavesheaf Offered	May 5
Feast of Weeks	May 5 - June 22
Feast of Weeks Annual Sabbaths	May 11, 18, 25 June 1, 8, 15, 22
Pentecost	June 23
Shoutings (Trumpets)	October 5
Pre-Atonement Sabbath	October 13 Noon-to-sunset
Atonements	October 14
Feast of Tabernacles	Oct. 19 - Oct. 25
Sabbaths	Oct. 19 & Oct. 26
Last Great Day	October 26

New Moons Month		
January	23	11
February	22	12
March	23	1
April	21	2
May	21	3
June	20	4
July	19	5
August	18	6
September	16	7
October	16	8
November	14	9
December	13	10

Sabbaths and New Moons are observed from Dawn-to-Dark

(Note: New Moons may vary with Longitude and Latitude.)

Head of the Year
Feb. 15
End of the Year
Oct. 25
Seven-Year Cycle
6th year
Jubilee Cycle
34th year

New Moons Month		
January	12	10
February	10	11
March	12	12
April	10	1
May	10	2
June	9	3
July	8	4
August	7	5
September	6	6
October	5	7
November	4	8
December	3	9

Sabbaths and New Moons are observed from Dawn-to-Dark

(Note: New Moons may vary with Longitude and Latitude.)

Head of the Year
Feb. 15
End of the Year
Oct. 26
Seven-Year Cycle
7th year
Jubilee Cycle
35th year

The Lunar Sabbath Theory

Are the Days of the Month 8, 15, 22 & 29
always weekly Sabbaths?

Numerous authors are spearheading the increased interest in the Biblical New Moons with what is known as the Lunar Sabbath Theory (LST). With an almost endless barrage of publications via the internet, etc., this theory, while gaining approval among a broader audience of religious enthusiasts, challenges the view that weekly Sabbaths do not depend on the lunar cycle. Which view will prevail is in the “eye of the beholder” so-to-speak, and what is accepted as Biblical proof. Proof to anyone—Biblical or otherwise, is after all, strictly a matter of what he or she is willing to believe or accept...right or wrong. What is proof to one may not be to another who refuses to accept it; regardless of whether it is actually proven true or not. Jumps in logic, hidden and/or arbitrary assumptions, rejecting information, etc., are all part of the equation.

PROOF

But is the Lunar Sabbath Theory Biblical? It depends on whom you ask. At any rate, there really *is a correct, Biblically sound, answer* to the weekly Sabbath question. As in all doctrinal matters, the LST included, an unyielding stand on clear, precise *Biblical* definitions is essential.

The LST is clearly an inductive theory based on using one verse after another that appears to fit the pattern it espouses, provided some arbitrary assumptions are allowed here and there.

The inductive approach, though useful at times, has one major weakness, however. It *cannot prove that the ideas are correct*. Here is why. By necessity, its conclusions are derived from a limited amount of evidence, and for this reason the possibility always exists that more evidence may be uncovered proving the conclusion false. This fact is well-known. All it takes is finding one exception to the assumed pattern or rule, and it is proven wrong. Just one. Multiple examples could be cited (See *The Scriptural Weekly Sabbath is NOT from Sunset-to-Sunset*, ICY; p. 23-26).

The deductive approach, by contrast, tells us *what must be true*. It is a method of drawing conclusions from statements we *accept as true* (definitions, postulates, theorems). In Biblical studies, these precise definitions and postulates are strictly those of Scripture. No exceptions. We let the Bible interpret itself.

ABIB

The LST says only days 8, 15, 22 and 29 of the lunar cycle are weekly Sabbaths. The first month of the year, Abib, is frequently used to support this view. It is claimed the exodus in the month of Abib shows Abib eight, fifteen, twenty-two, etc. are Sabbaths.

Abib fifteen is typically taken as the pivotal Sabbath day on which the LST is based. However, a thorough examination of the Biblical facts shows the fifteenth day of Abib is definitely not an annual Sabbath (See, *Why Pass-*

“...Abib fifteen...could not have been a Sabbath.”

over *IS a Sabbath*, ICY publication). But could it be a weekly Sabbath perhaps, as the LST holds? The mass exodus of Israel, a nation of maybe 1.5 million, took place on Abib fifteen (Num. 33:3) showing it *could not have been a Sabbath, either weekly or annual*. Why? The colossal labor needed for such a move could never be allowed on a Sabbath: “But the seventh day is the Sabbath of Yahweh...thou shalt not do any work, ...nor thy son, nor thy daughter...nor thy cattle” (Ex. 20:10; See also Ex. 12:16). Nothing could be more certain: no working on the Sabbath, no moving an entire nation—period. This proves the LST false.

Arguments such as “work was allowed in *this case*” or “Yahweh did not consider *this move* work” flatly contradict Exodus 20:10 (also Ex. 12:16).

Even if the first month did fit that pattern of “sevens,” which it does not, that would not prove the general case for all other months (inductive method). Remember *just one* exception to the rule or pattern proves it wrong.

EZEKIEL 46:1

But there is more. Ezekiel’s statement (46:1) is taken as evidence favoring the lunar-sabbath view: “Thus saith Yahweh; the gate of the inner court that looketh toward the east *shall be shut the six working days; but on the Sabbath it shall be opened and in the day of the New Moon it shall be opened...*” [Ezk. 46:1; emphasis mine]. What about this verse?

Referring to this verse, one author states: “...the weekly Sabbath...cannot fall on one of the six ordinary working days...Ezekiel informs us that this is to be understood of the day of the new moon...” This is a common view of LST advocates.

Is this exactly what Ezekiel says? First we need to look at the Biblical times he refers to: the six working days, the Sabbath and the New Moon.

TIMING OF THE SIX WORKING DAYS AND SABBATH

The “six working days” Ezekiel mentions must be defined in relation to *something*:

“...Six days you shall labor and do all thy work. But the seventh day is the Sabbath... you shall not do any work...” (Ex. 20:9-10).

Obviously, “working days” are not Sabbaths, by

definition, and Moses informs us they are defined relative to a seventh day Sabbath and vice versa; a repeating period.

What is usually overlooked, as part of the seventh-day Sabbath definition is its starting longitude on Earth. The days of the week, the seven-day period, must start *somewhere* and move westward. But where? The Genesis record and maps narrow it down to the *Biblical International Date Line* (IDL) located at 168° 46’ west longitude. (See *The International Date Line Recovered*, ICY). This is a *vital component of the Sabbath definition*.

TIMING OF THE NEW MOON

What about the New Moon timing? Genesis chapter one again provides the answer. The New Moon is set by the conjunction of the Sun and Moon (“Let there BE lights...”; sun, moon, stars—all of them—simultaneously, Gen. 1:14-15), and the day of the New Moon begins with the dawn. The location on Earth *when* this happens is the *Biblical International Month Line* (IML) longitude; which is not necessarily at the IDL (See *Come Out of Babylon: Keep the Scriptural New Moon*, ICY).



HOW NEW MOON AND THE WEEK TIMINGS COMPARE

During “creation week,” the IML and the IDL *had to coincide*. That is, the first day of the month and the days of the week started at the same longitude on Earth. But will they *always* line up? Not at all. The Earth’s daily rotation combined with the lunar cycle of necessity *changes* the IML longitude *each month*. That is, the place on Earth where the first day of each month starts at New Moon, changes longitudes because the Moon’s 29.5 day cycle is not an exact multiple of Earth’s 24-hour daily rotation.

SUMMARY OF TIMINGS

Here is the point of these facts. The factors mentioned above involving the dateline and the month-line, show the numbering of the seven days of the week (Gen. 1:5) is independent of days of the month (Gen. 1:14-19). Consequently, the New Moon can fall on *any day of the week*. These are facts, derivable from Scripture, at the core of the issues raised by the LST. The LST is again proven false.

ANOTHER CLEAR SCRIPTURE

There is a clear, precise Scripture, another stubborn fact, which leads to this same conclusion: the numbering of the weekdays and the numbering of days of the month are completely independent; proving the LST false.

Here is that definitive account. Yahweh started the week (Gen. 1:5) at a specific location on Earth (the IDL). He counted the seventh-day Sabbath *not* from the first day the Moon gave light at dawn (day **four**: Gen. 1:14-19), but by the **days of the week which started three days BEFORE THE MOON WAS CREATED**. That is HIS method.

Notice that: Before the Moon was created-before it ever gave light on Earth, the count of week days began leading to the Sabbath. This is Biblical fact, that none can in truth deny. No amount of ingenuity can explain away this defining **fact of Law**. We have to stick with it... regardless.

AND the New Moon occurred on the **fourth day of the week**. Certainly by this immutable record, the **New Moon was counted as one of the six ordinary working days**.

It does not stand alone nor is placed outside the six working days. This is certain beyond all doubt. It just has to be accepted.

Remember, Genesis, the first book of the Law, defines these immutable FACTS. This is the third proof the lunar-sabbath theory is false.

COMMON MISTAKES MADE WITH EZEKIEL 46:1

How do these proven facts of Scripture relate to Ezekiel's statement? The erroneous conclusions drawn from his account results from three mistakes related to those facts.

One mistake is using only a partial definition of the seventh day Sabbath that ignores the International Date Line (IDL). Then the timing conditions of the New Moon are not completely defined as shown in the Genesis record, and finally there is the failure to stand firm on the Law in Genesis chapter one.

The days of the week are not fixed relative to the first day of the month; not the same time, nor at the same place.

The clear record of the Genesis Law shows the New Moon occurred on the fourth day of the six working days (Gen. 1:14-19). It is certain beyond all controversy, then, that the New Moon can

occur on one of the six ordinary working days, as noted earlier.

Yahweh did not rest on the seventh day from the fourth day of the week when the Moon began to shine. That would make the Sabbath He blessed and sanctified the *third day of the week*. This is totally at odds with the clear *Biblical record*. The other four books of the Law as well, give no indication whatever that New Moons set the weekly Sabbaths. These are facts of scripture that we must accept as true.

WHAT EZEKIEL 46:1 SHOWS

These Biblical facts must be used to interpret the prophecy of Ezekiel 46:1:

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation" (II Pet. 1:20).

They leave no doubt. We **know** this verse does not define categories of days placing New Moons outside the seven-day weekly period. This in effect makes an eight-day week, or an additional "day in limbo," once a month. There is *no Biblical basis for*

continued on page 18

"...deductive approach...tells what must be truth..."

Good News of the Kingdom

ICY Good News of the Kingdom worldwide radio broadcast:

“And this Gospel will be preached [and published: Mark 13:19] in ALL the world for a witness to ALL nations, and THEN SHALL THE END COME” (Matt. 24:14).

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ICY's Reflections Europe broadcast is heard on three shortwave frequencies in Scotland, Ireland, and England, and on the Internet at the above address. Reaching a potential audience of 64 million, the GNK covers Bible prophecy, current events, and Old and New Testament foundations of the Congregation of Yahweh.

such a timing scheme. On the contrary, the New Moon is included in the six-day count, and can fall on the seventh day as well. (See also *Is the New Moon a Sabbath?* in this issue).

Therefore, Ezekiel simply shows the gate is opened on the New Moon, whenever it occurs, as well as on the weekly Sabbath. If the New Moon is on one of the six working days, as it usually happens (Gen. 1:14-19), it is nonetheless opened. If it falls on the weekly Sabbath, the gate is opened while being closed the previous six consecutive working days. This happens maybe just once or twice a year. Otherwise, except for just *one* six-day working period a month, the gate to the inner court will be closed six consecutive working days each week, i.e. most of the time.

Ezekiel's statement provides no basis for assuming the New Moon somehow sets the weekly Sabbath by interjecting an additional day into the monthly cycle or an added New Moon celebration. The sequencing of weekdays, weekly Sabbaths, and the New Moons' occurrence relative to them were decided long before Ezekiel penned a word.

I SAMUEL 20:27

Setting the days of the month 8, 15, 22 and 29 as weekly Sabbaths encounters the problem that the lunar month is not exactly 29 days, but 29.5 days. What about the extra one-half day each month? Also, there is the Scriptural requirement of thirty-day months (Gen. 7:11, 24; 8:3-4; Rev. 11:2-3; 12:6, 14; Jam. 5:17). It is common to find the 30-day Biblical month ignored in the Lunar Sabbath Theory.

Regardless, to deal with the extra one-half day per month, I Samuel 20:27 is often invoked to introduce a **two-day** New Moon festival, i.e. two new moons. As one author states:

"The underlying Hebrew phrase for the words in verse 27 "...the new moon *which was* the second *day* ..." is simply *chodesh ha sheniy*, literally translated as "new moon the second." Verse 27 in turn could be correctly translated as follows:

"And it happened on the next day of the new moon, the second, that David's place was empty."

Continuing he adds,

"...the context of the passage in I Samuel leads me to the conclusion that a two day festival was

being kept here in ancient times."

He quotes several *non-biblical* references purporting the same belief.

The implication appears to be, based on this last quote, that translating "...on the next day of the new moon, the second..." **means** "the second day of the new moon" or "the second day festival of the new moon." Thus, indicating not one but *two* new moons or two new moon festivals. That is, the word "second" essentially goes with "day" rather than "new moon."

The literal Hebrew reads:

"...*mimochorath* (SEC 4283 "the day after"; "the day following a *past* day", BDB. p. 564) *ha chodesh* (SEC 4320: new moon) *ha sheniy*

"...I Samuel 20:27
does not provide the
needed adjustment..."

(SEC 8145: second)." [The Hebrew *ha* is translated "the"].

Or "*on the day after the new moon the second.*" That is, *the day after the second new moon of the year*, i.e. the second day of the second month. Taken this way, this verse shows only **one New Moon day**; not two. But why include "of the year?"

This is reasonable as illustrated by similar examples from Scripture, letting the *Bible* interpret itself (Isa. 28:10).

Notice the phrase: "in the new moon (*chodesh*) the seventh..." (Gen. 8:4). (*Biblical Hebrew* vol. 2, p. 51, translates: "in the seventh month").

Are we to assume this means there were **seven** new moon-day celebrations that month?

Other examples include:

"...in the new moon (*chodesh*) the second..."

(Gen. 8:14);

"...in the new moon (*chodesh*) the third..."

(Ex. 19:1);

"...on the day of the new moon (*chodesh*) the first..." (Ex. 40:2);

"...on the first day of the new moon (*chodesh*) the second..." (Num. 1:1) ["of" indicated by context];

"...in the fourth of the new moon (*chodesh*) the ninth..." (Zech. 7:1).

These and other cases show how, in Hebrew word-order, the *number of the new moon of the year follows* the term “new moon” (*chodesh*); nothing unusual.

These examples make it clear that the ordinal number following the term *chodesh* in I Samuel 20:27 or elsewhere, does not mean a number of new moon festivals or days of new moon celebrations, but only the **designation of the new moon of the year**.

It is an unsubstantiated assumption that I Samuel 20:27, 34 justifies adjusting the calendar itself—a major leap—which the Law does not justify. This arbitrary adjustment is designed to allow the LST’s numbering of weekly Sabbaths to fit the lunar cycle by intercalating an extra day. Historical references which agree with that theory cannot usurp the authority of the Scriptures.

Continuing, in verse 34 Jonathan, in anger, ate nothing on that second day [v. 27] of the second month. Then as planned, the next morning, the third day of the month, he met David.

Besides all this, Jonathan’s statement [v. 18] and David’s as well, support a one-day New Moon, verse 5: “...tomorrow is THE new moon...” Verse 24 reads, “...and when THE new moon was come...”

The article “the” indicates only **one day of the New Moon**. *Chodesh* is translated new moon or month. However, the *Schocken Bible* usage reasonably shows there is often little need to translate *chodesh* as month (Examples: Gen. 7:11; 8:4, 14, etc.). Some translations of I Samuel 20:27 and 34, use “on the second day of the month” or a similar phrase.

Additionally, a royal meal, and visiting with the royal family for two days, “...yesterday nor today?” (v. 27), is hardly proof of two new moon festivals each month.

The evidence shows I Samuel 20:27 does not provide the needed “adjustment” in the calendar to make every weekly Sabbath fall on days 8, 15, 22 and 29 of the month. Biblically, specific days of the rebuilding moon, i.e. New Moon, do not coincide with weekly Sabbaths. They do not have to match.

THE MANNA

Yahweh used an unusual and miraculous method, **rather than a phase or day of the Moon’s cycle**, to show Israel which day was the seventh

day Sabbath:

“And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread [*manna*, v. 15]...This is that which Yahweh has said, To morrow is the rest of the holy Sabbath unto Yahweh...” (Ex. 16:22-23).

Why use this method? Why use manna to reestablish the Sabbath rather than tell them about the moon-sabbath relationship? Why hide the lunar-sabbath method from Israel at such an opportune time...if it actually set the weekly Sabbath? Why not have Moses clearly record it for all of us to read? Yahweh still could have fed them manna, and He certainly missed a golden moment to reveal the Moon’s cyclical process to pinpoint the Sabbath **if it was related to the seven-day Sabbath cycle**.

The obvious and consistent reason He did not use the lunar cycle to reestablish the weekly Sabbath was *because, as the foundational Genesis Law shows, it does not set the weekly Sabbath*. Yahweh is consistent. Men often are not.

CONCLUSION

Several deductive cases given in this study show conclusively that New Moons do not set the weekly Sabbath, and are, in fact, included in the six working days of the weekly cycle. Other cases of David’s absence on the New Moon and the manna given on the sixth day provide additional support for that conclusion. The independently operating seven-day cycle determines the weekly Sabbath, not the lunar cycle. To assume otherwise goes against clear unambiguous Scriptures, and no amount of arbitrary assumptions or historical references can overturn these Biblical facts.

Ezekiel did not somehow define the New Moon relative to the six working days to show a New Moon cannot fall on the six days between weekly Sabbaths. No prophet has that authority. The definitions are established by the Law of Yahweh. It a Biblical fact that the seventh-day Sabbaths are **not** set by the lunar cycle. - ICY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

“Swords into Plowshares”

In this Generation?



Is humanity inching closer to world peace? Will there be peace on Earth, finally, in this generation; history’s anguish, inequities and wars no longer part of our future? What age-ending turn of events could usher in a new age of peace? “Through the travail of ages midst the pomp and toil of war...as if through glass and darkly the age old strife I see...” (General George Patton). Are we approaching the end of “...the travail of ages...the age old strife...”; an era of *peace* breaking just over the horizon? Under *man’s* leadership a lasting peace has often been little more than an illusive dream.

MEN’S VIEW IN A MODERN WORLD

During World War II, a commanding officer told his troops, “We are going to fight this war so forcefully and win so decisively, there will never have to be another war fought!” Optimism.

Today, despite this failed prediction, some see reasons for optimism. For one, the dismantling of Middle Eastern monarchies, moving them toward

democratization, has major media newswatchers talking “signs of peace in the making.”

Another source you have probably never heard of, certainly not on CNN, ABC, MSNBC, CBS, or FOX, also voiced a global outlook of general optimism. This is the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists [BAS] whose Board of Sponsors includes *19 Nobel Larauetes* and the brilliant physicist, Stephen Hawking. You would think *this* brainy group has something worth saying.

SEVERAL “FIRSTS”

In 1947 the BAS (est. at University of Chicago, 1945) created the symbolic Doomsday Clock. Midnight on this clock represents nuclear annihilation. Since then, the clock has been adjusted only 18 times. Set at 17 minutes until midnight in 1995, its closest was 2 minutes before midnight in 1953 when BAS wrote: “Only a few more swings of the pendulum, and, from Moscow to Chicago, atomic explosions will strike midnight for Western civilization.” Thankfully those ominous “swings” have not come to pass.

The latest move of the Doomsday Clock (January 14, 2010) was *away* from midnight one minute back to six (6) minutes before midnight, where it remains. The clock’s move backward by the Science and Security Board, in consultation with the Board of Sponsors was based on a “hopeful state of world affairs” due to “...Encouraging Progress Seen Around [the] Globe in Both Key Threat Areas: Nuclear Weapons and Climate Change.”

“For the *first time since atomic bombs were*



Symbolic Doomsday Clock now set at six minutes until midnight as of January 14, 2010.



President Obama and Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev sign the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) in Prague on April 8, 2010. (Jewel Samad/AFP/Getty Images)

dropped in 1945, leaders of nuclear weapons states are cooperating to vastly reduce their arsenals and secure all nuclear bomb-making material.” (my emphasis).

“And for the **first time ever**, industrialized and developing countries...are pledging to limit climate-changing gas emissions that could render our planet nearly uninhabitable. These **unprecedented steps** are signs of a growing political will to tackle the *two gravest threats to civilization*--the terror of **nuclear weapons** and **runaway climate change**.”

Notice *precedent-setting* steps are being taken to reign in nuclear weapons and tackle out-of-control

“...move the Doomsday Clock... away from midnight...”

climate change. “...We are poised to bend the arc of history toward a **world free of nuclear weapons**...” the BAS said in the 2010 press release.

Such optimistic statements from the world’s brightest minds should have highlighted the major media outlets’ evening news. These are positive signs. Will they carry the day heading into the future? Or is it too little too late?

OTHER SIGNS OF PEACE?

International hopes for peace echo BAS’s optimism based in part on the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty [acronym START]. President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed the

latest edition of START April 8, 2010, that reduces nuclear stockpiles of both nations by about a third. The US and Russia hold 90 percent of the world’s nuclear weapons. (CNN Politics).

Continued drawdowns of US forces with the intent to end US involvement in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, further heightened international expectations for a more peaceful future.

PEACE THROUGH VIOLENCE?

Some think tanks and other political observers see another venue for peace in the neutralization of world terrorism as the spinoff of the democratization of repressive totalitarian regimes. Experts believe this surprising, at first unanticipated, effect of toppling tyrannical regimes ruling vast populations of Muslims is already visible (Muslim demographics: Egypt [80%-90%], Yemen [99%], Lybia [97%], Syria [87%], Tunisia [98%]). Stemming terrorism through ending dictatorial rule is now viewed by many as inevitable. Why terrorize if all your needs are met?¹

“...signs of peace in the making...”

Is this the reality or simply the perception of those sympathetic to Muslim dissension and calls for Middle Eastern dictators to step down and have their demands met? Time will tell.

Has or will the February 11, 2011 ouster of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, forcing Yemen President Ali Abdullah Saleh from power, protests against Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad demanding his arrest and prosecution, or deposing Libya’s Muammar Gaddafi, bring the peace many are predicting?

For the record, in the six months since Tunisian ex-president Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali fled the country on January 14, 2011 following widespread protests across the tiny North African nation, Tunisia has been wracked with *political and economic instability*. This is hardly the result predicted.

The thinking is, as more and more groups, such as the Muslim Brotherhood’s political Freedom and Justice Party, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Syrian Human Rights League, etc. gain freedom of expression and *have demands met*, peace will result. It is theorized this will also produce eco-

conomic development, rather than terrorism; that if *all* instead of just the privileged few have economic opportunities, more peaceful resolution of differences will follow.

YAHWEH'S VIEW

Is BAS's and others' general tone of optimism justified? Optimism is based on expectations. Expectations are misguided when *Yahweh's* laws are ignored "...if ye will...not hearken to me,...I will break the pride of your power" (Lev. 26:18-19). Cooperative agreements between governments is a common practice. Signing treaties and making covenants with non-Israelite nations was strictly forbidden in ancient times (Ex. 23:32; Deut. 7:1-2). Those who have studied history in light of the Scriptures find considerable data pointing to the founders of the United States and their descendants having an Israelite heritage. Considerable Biblical and historical evidence also shows Russia is *non-Israelite*; most likely the *Rosh* of prophecy.²

Given this, the START nuclear arms agreement will not accomplish its intended goals. Why? *Yahweh* will not bless it. Such agreements assume as long as both human parties agree, with sufficient checks and balances guaranteed in writing, they will surely succeed. But there is ONE higher who

"I will break the pride of your power..."

rules in the affairs of man, whose voice though unheard at the negotiation table, nonetheless sets the outcome. Decisions are not preordained, but He determines the preordained consequences.

Yahweh can break the pride of a nation's power, but He **does not** do it through sedition (incitement of discontent or rebellion against a government). He never sanctions rebellion.

A classic example of *His* method of freeing enslaved people is the exodus. *Yahweh* did not instruct Moses to secretly arm Israel, planning to rebel and overthrow Pharaoh. Neither did He seek the aid of other nations to help free Israel. Instead, He got Pharaoh's *permission* for Israel to leave Egypt. Amazing, but true! He did so, *because rebellion is unlawful* (Num. 16:1-26; 17:10; Ezk. 20:38). Supporting rebellion is equally unlawful.

If ever a people were reeling under an oppressive

ruler, it was Israel. But strife, sedition, dissension, and rebellion are counter to *Yahweh* governmental principles: "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry" (I Sam. 15:23).

The Apostle Paul wrote:

"Now the works of the flesh...are witchcraft, hatred, variance...wrath, strife, seditions ["dissen-

"...These current events are fulfillment of prophecy..."

sion;" NAS]...they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of *Yahweh*" (Gal. 5:19-21).

MORE MEN'S VIEWS

Others predict the Internet, which cuts across national boundaries into developing countries, will greatly stimulate demands for the freedoms, equality, and material prosperity the "Free West" and other democracies enjoy. Though destabilizing in the short term, this is viewed as leading to a long term peaceful outcome. How long is "long term" is not generally given.

A further development aimed at promoting greater tolerance and peaceful societies is UN Resolution 16/18, adopted April 12, 2011 *without a vote*. Adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council, the 30-part resolution 16/18 is summarized as "Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization of, discrimination and incitement to violence and violence against persons based on religion or belief."

Will such high-sounding rhetoric *be equally applied to all religions and beliefs* if given the muscle for its implementation? The Bible warns "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9). Certainly caution is advised. As a rule, those who are against, or worst case-violently against, government are those seeking to *become the government*; often, wanting to govern rather than simply having some grievances met.

It is telling that the 57-member, 40-year old Organization of *Islamic Cooperation* (OIC) *which has a delegation to the UN*, hosted a Ministerial Meeting in Istanbul, Turkey on July 15, 2011, on the implementation of UNHRC 16/18. Its purpose was *to re-*

affirm its commitment to the effective implementation of the measures in the resolution.³ Does “effective” mean equity or *advantage*?

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had a one-on-one, bilateral meeting the same day with OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu before the OIC commencement of the Ministerial Meeting on Resolution 16/18.⁴ Is Washington precariously warming up to Radical Islam’s cause?

Is there an ill omen in UNHRC 16/18, and if strongly and effectively implemented, will the outcome really be peace...or a sword?

MORE OF YAHWEH’S VIEWS: DO NOT FORGET PROPHECY!

What is the REAL NEWS BEHIND THESE CURRENT EVENTS that tells whether the world is moving closer to peace or towards something more daunting? On the authority of the Bible itself, *they are a fulfillment of prophecy*. The nearly unbelievable disintegration of many Muslim governments continues to fulfill prophecy...*end time prophecy!* The staggering, splintering of established governments, some spanning *40 years or more*, are propelling events toward the continuing and final emergence of the *Ten Horns and the ominous 7-headed Beast of Prophecy* (Rev. 13:1; 17:3)! We are seeing it before our very eyes!

These infamous “Horns of Prophecy” are absolutely identified in a previous issue of *Insight* magazine (V7N3, pp. 11-15). Who are they? Events are *accelerating even faster* than anticipated.

Here are some quotes from that issue:

“Is Radical Islam’s global rise a fulfillment of prophecy. Are we seeing a prelude to the emergence of Revelation’s Ten Horns and the Beast that carries them?”

“The Ten-Horns prophecy speaks loud and clear. But it will take some time, years, for its completion. The horns are growing; not fully formed...”

Why, for example, is Iran touting Lybian opposition as “...part of a region-wide ‘Islamic awakening’...”⁵ When you realize that Iran (Persia) is one of the Ten-Horn nations, the answer becomes clearer.

CONCLUSION

There is a *real* clock ticking toward a global ren-



The Pentagon houses nerve center of all U.S. military operations. (Department of Defense)

dezvous with destiny. The hands on this clock ticking toward the time of the greatest battle in history are not symbolic, however. It is scheduled to happen. We might call this the Armageddon Clock! The Battle of Armageddon will be a climactic battle for world supremacy, and the clock is running on human events leading up to this epic battle. How close to midnight is it?

But there are “two” Armageddons. In the second, carnage will be so great that seven months will be needed to bury the dead (Ezk. 39:12). Note this prophecy specifically includes Gog, which places it after the “first Armageddon” of Revelation 16:16!

Satan will eventually be captured the final time, and thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone (Rev. 20:10). His eons of “reigns of terror” will finally come to a decisive and bitter end! The last “Armageddon” will have been fought, and the world rid of this ages-old troublemaker! Only *then* they will “...learn war no more...” “And he [Yahshua] shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: NATION SHALL NOT LIFT UP SWORD AGAINST NATION NEITHER SHALL THEY LEARN WAR ANY MORE” (Isa. 2:4). ***Peace at Last, and it could come in this generation! -ICY***

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Biblical Tithing is NOT on Money

Does the Bible teach tithing on money? Where does it say to tithe on the money we earn? What really is Biblical “increase?” And what is the “principle of tithing?” Why did Abraham give tithes to Melchizedek the priest of Salem? Is tithing commanded in the New Testament? Few doctrines have been as badly misrepresented as the doctrine of tithing. If you now tithe on money, then you owe it to yourself and your family to read this detailed study of tithing. You may be surprised to learn what the BIBLE teaches on this important topic. Read this eye-opener and get the answers to these and other important questions about tithing! This is one of our most popular, widely read booklets. (50 pp; Suggested donation, \$4.00, U.S., ppd.)

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