

The Original Timepiece

&

The Sabbath Day

By Tom & Elisheba Nelson

The Original Timepiece & The Sabbath Day

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DEDICATION

This booklet is lovingly dedicated to our Heavenly Father and His only-begotten Son, Who have made the way of salvation for all mankind.

We are especially grateful for our Creator's kindness in arranging our lives here on the earth for His glory. We are very thankful for our parents through whom we received our earthly lives.

We are thankful for the body of Messiah, worldwide. Those who have been born of our Creator's Spirit and are learning to abide in Him and walk in His ways are a great blessing to us. Our fellowship with those He puts across our path is precious. We are blessed and honored to be part of His people.

We are blessed with our Creator's love for us. He has done all He can to take down the barriers between us, so that we may come to know Him and His loving, compassionate heart toward us. He wants to commune with His children, and represents Himself at times in the Scriptures as our Father. Our Messiah taught us to pray, 'Our Father.' We may call Him 'Abba, Father.' In this booklet, we will refer to Him as our Abba – who is represented in our language as the core or center of the **Sabbath**. His salvation is shown in the Sabbath, which is, in the original Hebrew, represented as a return to the covenant. We will also use terms that describe His character more completely. Once we know Him and His ways, the love that wishes to honor Him just flows out of our hearts in response to His loving care for our souls.

The Sabbath is a precious gift in time so that we can spend set-apart time with our Creator and His children. Our Messiah said, *'The son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath day'* (Matthew 12:8) The Scriptures say, *"And I gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they*

might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them" (Ezekiel 20:12). In the original Hebrew, Sabbath shows a return to covenant, and our Abba sanctifies His children when we are in covenant with Him. *"I am the LORD, I change not"* (Malachi 3:6). May you all be blessed with the love of our Creator, and a more complete understanding the 'The Original Timepiece' He set up so that we could know His set apart Sabbath days for special communion with Him.

This book is given freely from our hearts. If you desire to share it with others, please copy it as is, in its entirety.

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YOUR SABBATH DAY

I woke up before morning while the moon was full and bright,
Announcing Your Sabbath Day, the day of my delight;
Not doing my own pleasure, nor speaking my own words.
Please fill me with Your Spirit, Yah, so Your sweet words are
heard.

And I hear Your tender calling to enter into rest;
To surrender all distractions, because Your ways are best.
As I put on Messiah’s mind and turn away from sin;
The sweet fruit of Your Spirit will shine forth from within.

* Oh, I love to be Your child, Yah, to partake of Your glory;
To believe and obey – “Your will be done.”
To abide in Your Presence, knowing You are holy;
And the sweetness of Your love my heart has won.

When I wake up before morning on Your Sabbath Day,
My heart is always thankful You are showing me Your way.
By observing Your timepiece lit up in the sky
I learn of Your appointed times as You show me why:

Your moon is like a beacon announcing Your days
You have set aside for worship and a special kind of praise.
In six days You made heaven and earth, the seventh is for rest.
You invite us now to join You, because Your ways are best.

* Oh, I love to be Your child, Yah, to partake of Your glory;
To believe and obey – “Your will be done.”
To abide in Your Presence, knowing You are holy;
And the sweetness of Your love my heart has won.

By Elisheba Nelson

*Our Heavenly Father tells us to extol Him by His name Yah, in Psalm 68:4.
“Sing unto God, sing praises unto His name.
Extol Him that rides upon the heavens
by His name Yah, and rejoice before Him.”

Abba's Sabbaths

"Remember the Sabbath day to sanctify it as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee. Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God; in it, thou shalt not do any work; thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox nor thine ass nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou. And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the Sabbath day." (Deuteronomy 5:12-15)

"Moreover, I gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them." (Ezekiel 20:12)

Our Heavenly Father has given us the Sabbath day for a sign that He sanctifies us, and sets us apart for His purposes here on this earth. In the book "THE ORIGINAL TIMEPIECE - Its History and Restoration" we have examined Scriptures and history, showing that the Sabbaths which our Heavenly Father designed from the beginning, and our Messiah honored while He walked the earth, were determined according to the moon's cycles.

Our Messiah stated,

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4 quoted from Deuteronomy 8:3.)

We take to heart His claim,

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets; I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For

verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever shall break the least of these commandments and teach men so, he shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:17-21)

Since all of the prophecies have not yet been fulfilled and we can still see the heavens and the earth, we believe that we are still called to obey every word that proceeds from our Abba's mouth, like our Messiah did.

Our Abba has preserved His Word for us. As we compare Scripture with Scripture, we learn that the moon is a beacon which announces His Sabbaths. This is also confirmed with history that may have been unavailable or overlooked in earlier generations, when people were being led to recognize that the seventh day Sabbath could not have been Sunday on the Gregorian calendar.

For those who have read our book, mentioned above, the Scriptural study which follows will be a review. Otherwise, this study will be a brief introduction to why we observe our Abba's Sabbaths by the moon, and how the messages of His quiet beacon in the sky tell us when His Sabbaths will be. You can learn more details about 'The Original Timepiece' in our book "THE ORIGINAL TIMEPIECE - Its History & Restoration." It should be available soon. Please contact us if you would like to read it.

Those who have been born of Abba's Spirit and are walking in His ways day by day, find His Words to be a joy and rejoicing to our hearts (*Jeremiah 15:16*). Our desire is that

you carefully and prayerfully consider this study of His words and how they apply to His seventh-day Sabbath.

When you are finished with this booklet, you should understand the Scriptural principles showing how The Original Timepiece works. With a little practice, you should be able to go outside around sunset and sunrise and read the moon's quiet signals, telling you when our Abba's appointed times and Sabbaths will be.

THE ORIGINAL TIMEPIECE Moon Phase Calendar & a Personal Calendar Worksheet included in this booklet should be very helpful tools to help you learn to recognize the quiet language of the moon. We want to honor our Heavenly Father's Sabbaths according to His heavenly messenger – which He ordained specifically to show us when His Sabbaths will be.

The Foundation

Observing Abba's Sabbaths according to the moon's signals may be a new concept for some, so we will look at a few Scriptures to build the foundation. We have been called to compare Scripture with Scripture to learn what our Creator says about every doctrine. We have found many wonderful things that a surface reading of the Scriptures do not make obvious; so we will compare Scripture with Scripture, and look into the meanings of some pivotal Hebrew words.

“And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and for years and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth; and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night; he made the stars also. And he set them in

the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide light from darkness; and God saw that it was good.” (Genesis 1:14-18)

The lights in the heavens are the sun, moon and stars. The greater light -the sun- rules the day, and the lesser lights - the moon and stars- rule the night. This understanding is confirmed in the Psalms.

“O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever. To him that made great lights: for his mercy endureth forever: the sun to rule by day; for his mercy endureth forever: the moon and stars to rule by night: for his mercy endureth forever.” (Psalm 136:1, 7-9)

The stars confirm when the darkness of night has begun and ended. After sunset it is still light for a time, and before sunrise it begins to get light. Our Creator divided the day and night with the evening and the morning or dusk and dawn. Dusk tells us that the light of day is ending, and dawn tells us that the darkness of night is ending. This is shown in the original Hebrew of Genesis 1:3-5.

In Genesis 1:14, quoted at the beginning of this section, our Creator tells us that He appointed the lights in the heavens for signs and seasons, as well as for days and years.

‘Signs’ is from the Hebrew word **owth** (226) meaning a signal or ‘beacon.’ This means that in some way, the lights in the heavens are a beacon to signal something to us. What do they signal?

The word ‘seasons’ above is not referring to spring, summer, autumn and winter, although it usually means such in English. It is from the Hebrew word **mo’edim** (4150), which means ‘appointed times’ in this context.

So Genesis 1:14 tells us that our Abba uses the lights in the heavens as beacons or signals to show us when His appointed times will be, which include the days and the years He set aside for special purposes. He has told us that He called the light 'day' in Genesis 1:5, and the darkness He called 'night.' We have seen above that the greater light, or the sun, rules the day, and the lesser lights, or the moon and stars, rule the night.

"Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of Hosts is his name. If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever." (Jeremiah 31:35-36)

So our Creator has promised that these ordinances would be before Him forever. This sounds something like our Messiah's statement :

"till heaven and earth pass, one jot or tittle will not be removed from the law (torah) until all be fulfilled." (Matthew 5:17-20)

Comparing Scripture with Scripture

Now we will compare Scripture with Scripture to get a bigger picture of THE ORIGINAL TIMEPIECE. So let us look at 'seasons' or appointed times for a moment. Let us see what the Scriptures say about our Abba's appointed times.

"He appointed the moon for seasons" (Psalm 104:19).

This word 'seasons' is also from **mo'edim** (4150), as is the 'seasons' in Genesis 1:14. It means 'appointed times.'

This passage tells us that the moon has a special part in signaling the seasons, or Abba's appointed times. The moon is referred to as a faithful witness in the heavens (*Psalm 89:37*). He has given us a list of **mo'edim**, translated into English as feasts in Leviticus 23. So let us look at the Sabbath in that list.

"And the LORD spake unto Moses saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the feasts (4150) of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts. Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of rest, a holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings."-3)

This passage tells us that the Sabbath day is one of our Creator's **mo'edim** – (translated as feasts, seasons, and convocations) meaning 'appointed times.' The moon was given during creation week as a beacon, or signal, to show us when His appointed times for convocations will be! Therefore, our Abba's Sabbaths are signaled by the moon!

What the Moon Shows Us about Abba's Appointed Times

To get a bigger picture of how our Creator uses the moon to show us His appointed times, we will look at a few passages of Scripture for a clue. We are not accustomed to using the moon for this purpose, so let us prayerfully consider what our Abba has said, as He mentions several types of days together.

"Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn (4150) days, and in the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow trumpets...." (Numbers 10:10)

Our 'appointed times,' **mo'edim** (4150), which we have noted are called 'seasons' in Genesis 1:14 and Psalm

104:19, 'feasts' in Leviticus 23, and 'solemn' days, above, are special times which are to be observed by blowing trumpets. The 'beginnings of our months' are also special times to be observed by blowing trumpets.

Let us see what else Abba tells us about the beginning of the month, or the new moon.

"And it came to pass in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month, that Moses spake unto the children of Israel, according unto all the LORD had given him in commandment unto them." (Deuteronomy 1:3)

Note above that first day of the month above records an assembly, or a gathering of the children of Israel. Let us see what else the Scriptures say about the moon and the first of the month. Note below that the six working days are when the gate shall be shut, and the new moons and Sabbaths are mentioned as worship days when the gate shall be opened.

"Thus saith the LORD God; The gate of the inner court that looketh toward the east shall be shut in the six working days; but on the Sabbath it shall be opened, and in the day of the new moon it shall be opened... the people of the land shall worship at the door of this gate before the LORD in the Sabbaths and in the new moons." (Ezekiel 46:1 & 3)

Here, three types of days are mentioned. The fourth commandment tells us we are to work six days and rest the seventh day, which our Creator calls His Sabbath day. Here we have new moons mentioned along with the Sabbaths as worship days. So Abba's Word designates three types of days.

Let us look at the new moon further.

"And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come and worship before me, saith the LORD." (Isaiah 66:23)

Our Creator tells us that new moon and Sabbath are worship days that we will be observing in the new heavens and the new earth! It is a blessing to learn how the new moon days and Sabbaths are tied together on His Original Timepiece.

In Amos 8:4-6, our Heavenly Father rebukes the greedy attitude of the merchants who take advantage of the poor and needy. He notes their pretence of honoring Him on the commanded new moons and Sabbaths. He notes that they are waiting until these signals of Yah's appointed times are completed before they do commerce – as though they held His special days in high esteem.

"Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail, saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn, and the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit? That we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes, and sell the refuse of the wheat?" (Amos 8:4-6)

Review

The Scriptures and the moon's cycles tell us about three types of days on THE ORIGINAL TIMEPIECE. These distinctive days are mentioned together in a few places in the Scriptures, and give us a sense that they were related somehow. (Isaiah 66:23, Ezekiel 46:1&3 & Amos 8:5 noted above, among others.)

The New Moon Day, the Six Work Days & the Sabbath Days

The new moon day is the first day of the month. Then we have six work days, and Abba’s seventh-day Sabbath (*Exodus 20:8-11*). The six work days and the seventh-day Sabbath are referred to in Hebrew as a unit called a **shabuwa** – meaning ‘sevened,’ and translated week into English. There are four sets of **shabuwa**, or four weeks within a month after the new moon day.

We are using the Hebrew term **shabuwa** here because it seems like whenever our minds see or hear ‘week,’ we automatically think of an uninterrupted cycle of seven days rotating throughout the months with no beginning or ending point, like the week on the solar-only calendar we use to-day. However, our Creator’s Sabbath days are after six work days. The new moon day is after the 4th Sabbath day in the month, and precedes the next six work days. This diagram shows the new moon day and the first two weeks of the month. We will look at the whole month later.

							NM
							1
w	w	w	w	w	w		S
2	3	4	5	6	7		8
w	w	w	w	w	w		S
9	10	11	12	13	14		15

The new moon is in the red ink on the last column. The w’s in purple with the numbers under them are work days and their dates after the new moon day on the 1st of the month. The blue S with the numbers under them are Sabbath days and their dates on the last column. The next two weeks are the same, with the Sabbath days on the 22nd and the 29th of the month.



On THE ORIGINAL TIMEPIECE, the new moon day is a special worship day, and is honored with a time of worship, and abstinence from commerce. There is a lengthy discussion of the Scriptural passages regarding the new moon in our book, “THE ORIGINAL TIMEPIECE – Its History & Restoration.” This companion booklet is designed specifically for learning to tell from the moon when it will be time to honor the Sabbath, so we will not further examine the new moon days here. We will simply note that Abba has designated the new moon day as the set point which indicates when the next four Sabbath days in the month will be.

The Scriptures & The Full Moon

How do we know when the moon signals for the Sabbath day? We know that the new moon day is the beginning of the month. The Scriptures teach us that the moon is a beacon that signals our Creator’s appointed times. The Sabbath day is one of His appointed times. Therefore something should be mentioned in the Scriptures to show us the moon’s phase at a given time, so we will know when the Sabbath day will be. Is there a Scripture that shows us the moon’s phase on a certain date of the month? Let us dig deeper into the Word to find out.

“Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed (3677), on our solemn feast (2282) day.” (Psalm 81:3 KJV)

A surface read of the English doesn’t appear to tell us much, does it? We will look at the Strong’s Concordance numbers above to show us more. The word translated ‘time appointed’ is from **kehseh**, meaning ‘fullness’ or ‘the full moon,’ i.e. its festival.

This term is translated ‘full moon’ in other versions of the Scriptures. When we look at the whole passage in its con-

text, it is talking children of Israel the time of the of Unleavened 14th/15th of the Scriptural new compare this passage.



about when the Israelites left Egypt, at Passover/Feast of Unleavened Bread on the first month of the year. Let us compare this with another passage.

“And in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn (4150) days, and in the beginning of your months ye shall blow with the trumpets....” (Numbers 10:10)

Note above that ‘solemn’ is translated from Strong’s #4150 – **mo’edim**. Here is another word that shows Abba’s appointed times. The command to blow the trumpet was for all of His appointed times. As we noted above, the Sabbath day is Yah’s first appointed time mentioned in Leviticus 23.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread is translated as a ‘solemn feast’ or **chag** (2282) or ‘a feast’ or **chagag** (2287) that begins on the 15th day of the first month of the year. (Compare Exodus 5:1, 10:9, 12:14, 17, & Leviticus 23:6.)

These passages and definitions show us that the full moon is on the 15th of the month, and there is a festival on it. This passage refers specifically to the Feast of Unleavened Bread.



We may compare Scripture with Scripture, as we did in the book ‘THE ORIGINAL TIMEPIECE – Its History & Restoration,’ and verify it with history recorded before the destruction

of Jerusalem. We find that the 15th day of each month was a full moon. There was always a festival – the Sabbath day - on the full moon. If you would like to examine this issue in more detail, there is information available in our book mentioned above. However, we will note some points here briefly.

The Full Moon is 15th Day of the Month – Historical Confirmation

Philo (20 BC-50 AD), a Jewish historian who lived during the time of our Messiah, tells us that the moon is full on the 15th day of the month. He also tells us that the Sabbath is the first day of the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread and of the Feast of Tabernacles – both of which are on the 15th day of the month. Let us look carefully at some of Philo’s observations.

“...like a full moon at the height of its increase at the end of the second week...” Works of Philo, translated by C.D. Yonge, January 2000, On Mating with Preliminary Studies, XIX (102) p.313

This statement indicates that the moon at the height of its increase is the full moon – (this is when it is full of light). It also confirms that the moon is full at the end of the second week. Let us look further in Philo’s writings.

“But to the seventh day of the week he [our Creator] has assigned the greatest festivals, those of the longest duration, at the periods of the equinox both vernal and autumnal in each year; appointing two festivals for these two epochs, each lasting seven days; the one which takes place in the spring being for the perfection of what is being sown, and the one which falls in autumn being a feast of thanksgiving for the bringing home of all the fruits which the trees have produced”... **The Decalogue XXX (159)** [information for clarity supplied - not in the original text]

Philo's statement above shows us that the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of Tabernacles are assigned to 'the seventh day of the week' – which is always the Sabbath day. In Leviticus 23, we find that the Feast of Unleavened Bread begins on the 15th day of the first month and the Feast of Tabernacles begins on the 15th day of the seventh month. These are seventh-day Sabbaths, according to Philo's explanations in the above passages.

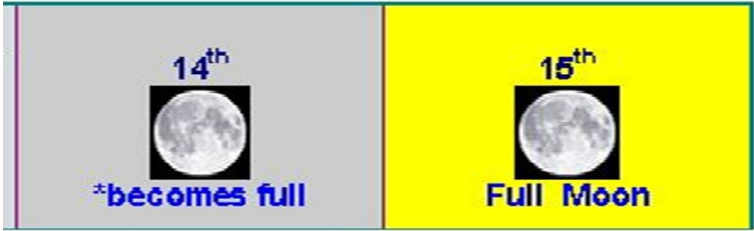
“And this feast is begun on the fifteenth day of the month, in the middle of the month, on the day on which the moon is full of light, in consequence on the providence of Elohim taking care that there shall be no darkness on that day.” [Philo's Special Laws II, The Fifth Festival, section XXVIII (155)]

With the above passage from Philo, we see that on the fifteenth day of the month, the moon is full of light. The Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of Tabernacles begin on the 15th day of the 1st and 7th month respectively. This confirms the 7th day Sabbath on the 15th day of the month, when the moon is full of light, for the Feast of Unleavened Bread mentioned earlier in Psalm 81:3. Please note the illustration below.

FEASTS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD & TABERNACLES						
Sabbath 15 th	1 st Day 16 th	2 nd Day 17 th	3 rd Day 18 th	4 th Day 19 th	5 th Day 20 th	6 th Day 21 st
						
1 st Day Full Moon	2 nd Day	3 rd Day	4 th Day waning gibbous	5 th Day	6 th Day	7 th Day

Another historical source with language very similar to Philo's description of the moon's phases is called *The Book of Enoch*. It tells us in a couple of places about the moon's phases. It tells us that a portion of light is put into the moon on the first day of the month, as well as how many portions of light are put into the moon each day as the moon builds.

It also tells us that the moon is full of light on the 15th day of the month, when the moon rises at the night. (The Book of Enoch – the Ethiopic translation - chapter 78.)



Now we have seen the Scriptures and other historical witnesses to show that the nation of Judah observed the seventh day Sabbath on the 15th day of the month. They all explain that the moon was full, and indicate what that means.

Two Months in a Row

The Sabbath is shown through the Scriptures as falling upon every 15th day of the first month. In recounting the Sabbath commandment in Deuteronomy 5:15, our Creator gives the Sabbath command couched in reference to the 15th day of the first month, which was the first day the children of Israel experienced freedom from Egyptian bondage! When we count seven backward and forward, we find that the Sabbaths are on the 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th of that month.

During the second month, the story of the manna in Exodus 16 shows that the people complained on the 15th, the quail came on the evening of the 15th, and the six days of manna began falling on the 16th day. The Sabbath was clearly on the 22nd day of the second month. This shows that the 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th of that month were also Sabbath days. In our book, mentioned above, in the chapter 'The Torah & the

Scriptural Sabbath,' we examine these passages thoroughly.

Just the Scriptural record in the book of Exodus confirms that the seventh-day Sabbaths were honored according to a lunar calendar, with the 15th day upon the full moon. It also causes us to question any claim of an uninterrupted cycle of seven days that has been honored as the Sabbath day back to Creation.

Abba's Month according to the Moon's Phases

On THE ORIGINAL TIMEPIECE, the 15th day of the month is the full moon. It is the Scriptural set point for the moon's announcing phases for the Sabbath. From the 15th we can determine every phase of the moon for each month, and the subsequent month. We will see this as we go along.

We use the Scriptural set point of the full moon. After the month begins, the moon rises during the daytime until the moon becomes full on the opposition day. When the moon

is full on the 15th day of the month, it rises for the first time at night. [In ancient Hebrew astronomy, the date of the lunar night is attached to the previous solar day. See The Book of Enoch –translated from the Ethiopic – chapter 78.]

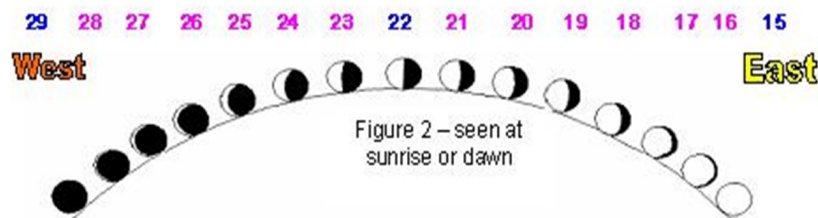
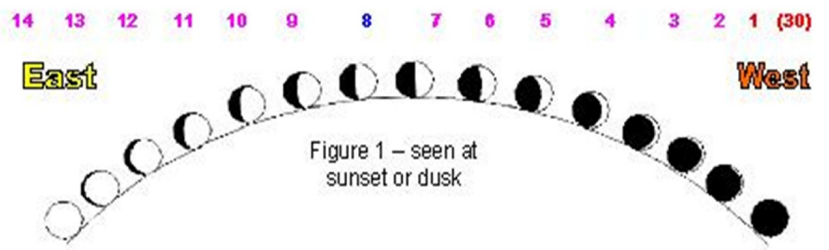
When we follow the moon's pattern, which some compare to 'the face of a clock,' we find that the moon generally becomes full sometime on the 14th -the opposition day- which is the day that the sun is setting and the moon is rising about the same time. This is the opposition of the sun and moon mentioned in some ancient astronomical writings. The 14th shows the announcing phase for the Sabbath day.

Some understand Philo's description (quoted in the section above) as the moon being full of light throughout the whole Sabbath day, to mean that the moon is full of light from sun-down on the evening of the 14th - beginning the date of the 15th at sunset. Those who understand it this way will be honoring the same daylight portion of the Sabbath as those who believe that the 15th day begins in the morning. Every other day of the month is found in relationship to the moon's phases on the 14th/15th of the month.

In this booklet, we will show the way everyone can observe the same daylight portion of the Sabbath day. This way, all who understand the bigger picture preserved in the Scriptures and the ancient's records of the moon's patterns and phases, or 'the face of the clock,' can worship together on the same Sabbath day.

Views of the 14th & 15th Days of the Month

The two illustrations below show four views of the Sabbath on the 15th day of the month, and how they relate to the full moon. On both charts, the large broken dotted line shows the timing of the sunset/moonrise opposition on the 14th day of the month. The thin dotted and dashed line shows the time period in which the moon becomes full.



Traditional Day Begins at Sunset							
13 th		14 th		15 th		16 th	
night	day	night	day	night	day	night	day
		moon be-comes full		Sab-bath			

The upper (first) chart illustration shows the astronomical days, which begin in the morning, and go through the night until the next morning. The dates change with the light around morning or dawn, rather than the darkness of evening or dusk. The pale green shows the 'opposition day' on the 14th day of the month, when the sun and moon are in opposition – or the sun is setting around the time the moon is rising. The 15th day of the month is noted in pale blue. The daylight portion of the Sabbath is noted in sky blue, which some honor as 'the Sabbath day.' Some who believe that the day begins in the morning honor a 24-hour Sabbath from dawn to dawn. The full moon rises at night on the 15th day of the month according to the ancient astronomical record in the Book of Enoch.

Astronomical Day Begins at Sunrise							
13 th		14 th		15 th		16 th	
day	night	day	night	day	night	day	night
		Opposition-moon becomes full		Sabbath moon rises at night			

The lower (second) chart shows the traditional 24-hour day, which begins with sunset. Some who believe the day begins in the evening observe a 12-hour Sabbath during the daylight portion of the 15th, while most observe a 24-hour Sabbath beginning in the evening. This is shown by the difference in the blue colors on both charts. Those who begin their day in the evening find that their 16th day is considered to be the night of the 15th in the ancient astronomical descriptions of the moon's ways during the month.

We may learn to recognize ahead of time when the new moon will be without using the almanac, or any other man-made technology. Our Heavenly Father's ways are simple, and we desire to learn them and share them in such a way that an observant child will usually be able to tell when the moon is announcing for Sabbath morning, and how long the month will be.

Begin Training our Eyes with the Almanac

We will begin with the almanac, for the sake of training our eyes to recognize the moon's phases and their positions in the sky. When we don't have that resource or prefer not to use it, we will be familiar enough with the moon's path across the sky and its phases to 'eyeball' it, and recognize where we are in the month.

When we look at an almanac, it is easy to discover the 15th day of the lunar month. The moon is full of light on that day, and rises at night – or after sunset when it is dark - for the first time since the month begins, as the Book of Enoch notes.

To discover the 14th day of the lunar month in the almanac, we look for the day during the moon's cycle that the sun sets and the moon rises around the same time. It will rise no later than the twilight period. The moon generally becomes full sometime on the 14th day (before the morning of the 15th), which is referred to as the day the sun and moon are in opposition, in ancient astronomy.

A Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Nebraska notes the opposition day in a text on the days of rest in various ancient cultures around the world.

“Still more recently a similar use of *shabbatum* has been found in a text which contains an account of the moon’s course during the month. Reference is here made to the first appearance of the new moon, its ash-grey light until about the seventh day thereafter, its opposition with the sun on the fourteenth day, its aspects on the twenty-first, twenty-eighth, and twenty-ninth days, and finally its disappearance on the thirtieth day, being the time of the conjunction of the sun... the fifteenth day again appears as *shabbattum*.” [Rest Days by Hutton Webster, p. 238; The Macmillan Company 1916]

As a general rule, when we see in the almanac that the moon becomes full before it rises at sunset, we will have a 29-day month. If it becomes full during the night after it rises, we will have a 30-day month. As we watch the moon for the rest of the month, it either confirms or corrects what we discovered on the opposition day, the 14th day, when the sun sets around the time the moon rises.

The moon’s position on the 21st day of the lunar month around sunrise announces for Sabbath morning. [The date of the lunar ‘day’ changes to the 22nd with the morning light.] The moon rises around midnight during this time of the month. When we see it before sunrise, it will be at the top of the arc – which is like a rainbow shape in the sky. If the quarter phase is not exact, but appears to be a little full or ‘pregnant,’ it will probably be a 30-day month. If it is an exact half or smaller, it will probably be a 29-day month.



The last sliver is also helpful. It is seen in the morning before sunrise. If it is seen on the 28th day of the month – as determined by the 14th as the opposition day, and the 15th as the first day the



moon rises in the night – count 2 days to the beginning of the next month. This means it will be a 29-day month. If it is seen on the morning of the Sabbath (the 29th) before sunrise, count 2 days to the beginning of the next month, which means it will be a 30-day month. This is the general rule, and a simple way to determine how long the month will be.

Getting Out to Observe & Confirm

When you get out and observe the moon, noting ‘the face of the clock’ or the moon’s positions in the sky at dawn and dusk, you train your eyes and mind to understand its patterns throughout the lunar month. Then you will have a pretty good idea when to begin the next month without depending on the almanac or moon phase calculator, or trying to calculate when the new moon will be. The Scriptural month, in which the Sabbath was recognized according to the moon’s phases, looks something like this: (illustration on the next page)



When we combine the moon’s phases or our Abba’s beacon’s signals with its positions in the sky or ‘the face of the clock,’ its quiet messages show us when the Sabbath will begin. The ancients watched the sun and moon. They knew exactly when the moon rose and set, and its position in the sky. They were able to tell time during the night by the moon’s position, along with the stars. As we learn more of our Abba’s ways, we may learn to do this, as well.

The Moon’s Position – or ‘The Face of the Clock’

As noted above, the moon’s position in the sky at sunset/dusk or sunrise/dawn can tell us what day/date of the month it is. The moon moves across the sky in an arc shape. During the time when the moon is closest to the 1st quarter and 3rd quarter phases, the announcing phase for

the next Sabbath morning is at the top of the arc. Now we will look at a picture showing us what it looks like.

The illustrations below show the way the moon moves across the sky, and the dates of the month at the top of the arc. The new moon day is in red (along with the 30th of the month before - which doesn't occur every month). The work days are in purple, and the Sabbaths are in blue.

The moon's shapes or phases may be a little different during the month than shown on the illustration above because of variations in its orbit around the earth during the year. However, the position announcing for the first and third Sabbath day will be consistently at the top of the arc at sunset or sunrise every month.

The last sliver generally announces that the new moon or 1st day of the next month will be two days later. During 'short' months, the moon's last sliver is on morning of the 28th, announcing for Sabbath morning on the 29th day of the month. The next day is the new moon day, or the 1st day of the next month. During 'long' months, the last sliver is seen before sunrise on the 29th, announcing for the Sabbath day, and the 30th on the next day. The day after that will be the new moon day, or the 1st day of the next month.

It is a blessing to be outside around sunset and sunrise for communion with our Heavenly Father, while observing the patterns of the lights in the heavens. Truly, there is a great blessing in taking the time from whatever seems pressing, to observe the beautiful sunrise and sunset, and to see where the moon is at that time. During the first two weeks of the month, observing the moon at sunset as it travels across the sky will help you observe the quiet announcing phases for the Sabbaths, and help you recognize where to look for them. After the full moon on the opposition day – the 14th, and the Sabbath of the 15th, observing the moon at sunrise will help you recognize when the Sabbaths during

the last half of the month will be, and will also let you know when the next month will begin.

Please take the time to go out and observe the moon's phases, at least during the pivotal times of the month – during the announcing phases of the moon – if you are in an area where you can see them. For your convenience, we have a calendar/chart of the whole month, to help you develop your own personal calendar worksheet, and train your eyes to recognize the phases of the moon and its positions in the sky on each day of the lunar month.

“False Start”

On occasion, there may be a little light in the moon around sunset on the Sabbath of the 29th, or the 30th, but it isn't a true first crescent. Some might think it indicates the new moon day. This occurs because of the variations in the moon's position and light from month to month. Sometimes there are 28 days of light in the moon, and other times there are 29 days. [Book of Enoch—Ethiopic -chapter 78} We call this little light in the moon at the end of the fourth Sabbath or the evening of the 30th, a 'false start.'

When this happens, someone may be perplexed and think that the Sabbath day or the 30th was also the New Moon day. However, the Sabbath day is always before the New Moon day, and the 30th is always a transition day. The almanac shows the Scriptural full moon on the opposition day of the 14th/15th to confirm which day will be the Sabbath that month, indicating the proper new moon day.



The Book of Enoch tells us that there is 1/14th portion or part of light in the moon on the first day of the month. When there is just a little bit of light in the moon, it is not a complete 1/14th part of light.

Additional Note

Some of us who have been observing the moon's phases for many years have been noticing the changes in the moon's cycles lately. Light can be seen in the moon at the end of the first day of the month according to Philo, the *Book of Enoch*, and other ancient astronomical sources. However, this is not always the case. This shouldn't be a problem for those who understand that the moon doesn't need to be seen for the month to begin, although it is usually seen on the first day of the month.

The moon becomes full sometime on the 14th day of the lunar cycle according to certain ancient sources, but this has also been less predictable lately. It has recently become full on 13th day of the month, and some who looked at the almanac were mistaken and noted only the moon's phase, began their month a day early. However, the 14th day of the month is also referred to as the 'opposition' day. This is the day that the moon is rising around the time the sun is setting. Then the 15th day, the Sabbath day, is the day that the moon rises in the night. (It is the first day during the month that the moon rises after the sun sets.) This is why we combine 'the face of the clock' or the moon's position with the moon's phases, to learn what time it is on our Abba's Timepiece.

We need to weigh the significance of the moon's phases along with its position in the sky. The moon's position in the sky tells us which day of the lunar month it is, even when the phases aren't matching up normally. If we are looking exclusively at the moon's phases, they don't always line up properly announcing for the Sabbaths. We also need to observe the moon's position in the sky throughout the month at dawn and dusk.

The Book of Enoch

The Book of Enoch isn't part of the canon of Scriptures, and apparently the patriarch Enoch didn't write all of it. However, it includes a good astronomical description of the heavens, and we have used it as a historical reference. We were praying about how to understand recent changes in the moon's cycle. Then a friend mentioned chapter 80 in the Book of Enoch. It prophesied of the coming changes in the heavens because of men's sins. It says that the seasons weren't coming properly for seedtime and harvest and the trees weren't giving their fruit in their proper time. It also says, "The moon shall alter her order, and not appear at her time." This sounds like our present situation.

Restitution of All Things































Our Heavenly Father is preparing us for the restitution of all things (Acts 3:21) by making more information available through Scriptures and history to restore His original Sabbath days. We can now learn to recognize how the moon's shape and position in the sky tell us which day of the month the ancients recorded as the full moon, confirming the moon's signals for THE ORIGINAL TIMEPIECE.

May you be blessed in a special way as you ask our Heavenly Father to teach you to recognize the moon's quiet language. You will sense His invitation to special communion with Him on the Sabbath days that He set aside from the time of creation. He also paints the beautiful sunrises and sunsets to draw us out of our busy lives. Our Creator invites us to take the time to worship Him, and to commune with the One who shares His quiet love language written in the heavens.

The Big Picture

The calendar below, which is also included in our book, *"THE ORIGINAL TIMEPIECE –Its History & Restoration"* shows the big picture of the moon during the lunar month.

The Original Timepiece Moon Phase Calendar

1 st Day	2 nd Day	3 rd Day	4 th Day	5 th Day	6 th Day * Preparation	New Moon or Shabbat
* On the 6 th day of the week, or the Preparation, the moon phase usually 'completes in its own configuration,' announcing for 'the seventh day' or Sabbath Day, (here called Shabbat,) 'on which its configurations are complete.' (Philo) * (On new moon day, the moon is not seen during the daytime.) "Light is received into the moon on the first day of the month." (Philo & the Book of Enoch.) The moon rises and moves across the sky with the sun during day, but cannot be seen until sunset. *Worship day, in which no commerce is engaged (Amos 8:5).						1 st – *New Moon Day  seen around sunset
2 Early Sliver  rises with sun	3  rises after sunrise	4 Waxing Crescent  rises near mid-morn	5  rises at nearly noon	6  equally in day & night	7 Right Half Moon  around noon	8 th – First Quarter  around noon
9 Waxing to Full  rises early afternoon	10  rises mid-afternoon	11 Waxing Gibbous  rises early night watch	12  equally in night & day	13  around midnight	14 Becomes Full  around sunrise	15 th – Full Moon  around sunrise
16 Waning from Full  rises after sunset	17  rises late night watch	18 Waning Gibbous  around sunrise	19  around sunrise	20  around sunrise	21 Left Half Moon  around sunrise	22 nd – Third Quarter  around sunrise
23 Waning Quarter  around sunrise	24  around sunrise	25 Waning Crescent  around sunrise	26  around sunrise	27  around sunrise	28 Last Sliver  around sunrise	29 th – *Sliver or dark phase  around sunrise
* (Last sliver may be seen on the 29 th if it is a 30-day month.) When the last sliver is seen on the 28 th , it is announcing ahead for the 4 th Shabbat, during the dark phase of the moon. The day after Shabbat will be new moon day. - The moon's phases vary a little from these pictures, depending upon the length of the month. * When the last sliver is seen on Shabbat, it announces a 2-day period in which the moon is not seen during the daytime. A 'long weekend' type of new moon celebration is often observed (I Samuel 20). (No Scriptural command for the 30 th .)						(30 th) – dark phase  *new moon time

Personal Calendar Worksheet

* (stars) indicate helpful hints for making calendar
begin with green *, next teal *, observe patterns from month to month

1 st day	2 nd day	3 rd day	4 th day	5 th day	6 th day Preparation	New Moon Shabbat
* If the first sliver is seen around sunset on the 29 th , but not past twilight into the night, it may be a 'false start,' not announcing that the day was the first of the month. – To double-check, confirm the day when moon becomes full (14 th) in almanac or moon phase calculator for the last month & the next month. *Last Sliver – on morning of 28 th of short month – on 29 th of long month						* 1 st First Sliver **
2	3	4 waxing right quarter	5	6	7	8 th 1 st Quarter **
9	10	11 waxing Gibbous	12	13	14 *moon becomes full *sunset **	15 th Full Moon **
16	17	18 waning Gibbous	19	20	21	22 nd 3 rd Quarter **
23	24	25 waning left Quarter	26	27	28 *Last Sliver	29 th dark phase ** short month
*1 st -find time moon becomes full in almanac – or moon phase calculator – on day that sun sets around the time the moon rises – which is the 14 th – announcing for Shabbat *2 nd – compare time of sunset to time moon becomes full / before sunset around moonrise – short month –after twilight – long month. **Note Gregorian date as needed.						(30 th) dark phase ** long month

Note moonrise and set times and observe the moon's shape and path across the sky. Draw the shape of the moon on the calendar date if you like, and the time it 'completes in its own configurations' announcing for the Shabbat. This gives a sense of continuity, so we aren't just looking at the moon occasionally, yet expecting to interpret its quiet language properly. The moon travels across the sky in an arc shape, like a rainbow. Look for the announcing first quarter on the 7th around sunset at the top of the arc. Look for the announcing full moon in the east around sunset on the 14th for the Sabbath. Look for the announcing third quarter around sunrise at the top of the arc on the morning of the 22nd. Look for the announcing last sliver in the east around sunrise on the 28th and 29th. If the last sliver is on the 28th, it will be a 29-day month. If it is on the 29th, it will be a 30-day month. **Moon Phase Calendar chart by Tom & Elisheba Nelson**

As We Learn More of His Ways

TIME TO WORSHIP

As the sun goes down, let us take the time to worship
and thank Yah for His care throughout the day.
His tender love is drawing our hearts to Him;
Revealing His Son and His loving way.

As the sun comes up, let us take the time to worship
and thank Yah for His care throughout the night.
His tender love is drawing our hearts to Him;
Reminding us we're children of the light.

'Come away with Me in the morning and the evening;
at the rising and the setting of the sun.
Commune with Me as I call your heart to worship
and My Spirit makes us One.'

"I am the light of the world," Messiah tells us;
And He only says what He hears our Father say.
"Ye are the light of the world," He also tells us.
Remember, we are children of the day.

'So let us, who are of the day, be sober;
Putting on the breastplate of faith and love.
And for a helmet, the hope of salvation;
Obeying the commands of our Father above.'

'Come away with Me in the morning and the evening;
at the rising and the setting of the sun.
Commune with Me as I call your heart to worship
and My Spirit makes us One.'

By Elisheba Nelson

We carefully and prayerfully consider all that the Scriptures have to say on a particular issue. We want to learn more about our Abba's ways so we will be able to walk freely in His kingdom. As we learn to be taught by His Spirit, we begin to understand our freedom in our Messiah to be true to Him regardless of what others think.

Our Messiah told us,

"If you continue in my Word, then are ye my disciples in deed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.... Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever, but the Son abideth forever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." (John 8:31-36)

As we learn more about our Heavenly Father's loving ways, our hearts are softened, and we desire to obey Him in every way we understand. We do not want to be servants of sin any more, but will search the Scriptures for ourselves.

"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." (II Corinthians 10:5)

Our Heavenly Father is healing His children from the feeling that we need to conform to the teachings of a particular church organization 'to be saved.' He doesn't want us to do what others tell us because they claim to be 'the true church,' and they threaten that we will lose our souls or go to hell if we don't agree with them. He wants us to obey Him, rather than other humans that may falsely claim to represent Him. When we are true to Him, we have this promise:

"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." (Matthew 5:11-12)

May you find the freedom of Abba's Sabbath on THE ORIGINAL TIMEPIECE according to the lights in the heavens, to be a special blessing, and the courage to honor His Words above all of the traditions of men. The Sabbath is a perpetual covenant with His children, because He is the One that sanctifies us.

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