

Didn't Constantine change the Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday?

It is true that Constantine promoted Sunday and passed a law enforcing its observance in AD 321. But this is a simplification that masks the true issue. He did more than just changing one day to another: *He changed the entire calendar.*

- He changed the eight-day week of the Julian calendar to the seven-day week named after the planetary "gods".

- He changed the religious observations from the Hebrew calendar, in which the weeks were anchored to the Lunar month, to a continuously cycling seven day week independent from the month.

The reason most Jews keep Saturday today is the same exact reason that most Christians keep Sunday.

- because of *Constantine's calendar change*, and the persecutions by which he enforced it.

Prior to this, in 46-45 BC, Julius Caesar had separated the months and weeks from the Moon and made a continuous eight day cycle, but he did not enforce it on other nations living within the Empire.

Constantine created a big compromise. **He blended the Hebrew idea of a seven day week with the Julian concept of a continuous weekly cycle, and added the veneration of the "Sun God" from Mithrasim to create the Roman calendar used today.** (There was a slight modification done in 1582 by Pope Gregory 13th, but this did not change the weekly cycle introduced by Constantine.)

When Constantine changed the observation of Passover to Easter with the Council of Nicaea in AD 325, there was much more involved than meets the eye. At first glance, the reckoning of Easter and Passover seem similar:

- Easter is the first Sunday following the first Full Moon after the Spring Equinox.
- Passover is fourteen days after the first New Moon of Spring (and will of course be on a Full Moon).

Note that Easter must always fall on a specific day of the week, a Sunday. But in order to have the day Sunday, **there has to be a calendar with a seven day continuous weekly cycle.** This means that the **eight day Julian calendar cannot be used**, and **neither can the Hebrew calendar** whose weeks start at the beginning of the month.

In order to "change Passover to Easter", the entire system of calendation had to be changed. This is what Constantine did.

The Jewish response to this was that the Sanhedrin, under leadership of Rabbi Hillel II in AD 358, altered the Biblical calendar. Since Jews under the leadership of a Rabbi believe that the Rabbi has power to change Biblical laws, and the Catholics believe that the Pope has power to do the same, Constantine's calendar was accepted by the nominal majority of Jews and Catholics.

The Jews continued to worship on a seventh day, but it was no longer was on the Biblical calendar, and so was not really the Biblical Sabbath. The Catholics, of course, kept Sunday, and the Protestants which came out of them generally continue to do the same.

Do the Jews today know that the original Sabbath was based upon the lunar calendar?

The scholars do:

"The New Moon is still, and the Sabbath originally was, dependent on the Lunar cycle." The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia, page 410, Article "Holidays"

"Saturday" must be the Sabbath, because the word "Sabbath" is used for that day in many different languages.

These are modern languages which developed these words following the time of the Roman Empire and Constantine. Notice the Roman Catholic influence, for example, in Spanish:

Saturday = Sabado, Sunday = Domingo.

Domingo means "Lord's Day", the Catholic day of worship, which is the first day of the week. Sabado reflects the Catholic idea of the Jewish Sabbath.

Even if the Roman Church knows that the original calendar was lunar, they need to call Saturday the "Jewish Sabbath" to fit their claims that the Resurrection occurred on Easter Sunday, the first day of the Gregorian week.

(However, the days of the week referred to in the Gospel are actually on the Hebrew, not Roman calendar, since the event centers around Passover, which is determined by a Hebrew lunar calendar.)

Doesn't Colossians 2:14-16 say that the new moons and Sabbaths were "nailed to the cross"?

To see what Colossians 2:14-16 means, it is best to start at the beginning of Colossians. There are three themes.

- reconciliation and forgiveness of sins is accomplished by the blood of Christ on the cross (1:14, 1:20-22)
- the body of Christ is his church (1:18, 1:24)
- beware of man who will try to beguile you (2:4, 2:8)

No man has the authority to judge about worship days, only the "body of Christ" (the Church) which understands that they "are" (not "were") shadows of things "to come" (not "already came"). The KJV translators changed the meaning by adding the word "is" between "body" and "Christ". Here is my paraphrase:

Colossians 2.13 *And you, being dead in your sins with your sinful nature not yet cut away by a spiritual circumcision, he has now enlivened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 2.14 Blotting out the record of broken commandments that was against us, which was evidence condemning us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; 2.15 And having spoiled principalities and powers (by removing the devil's accusations) he made a show of them (the powers of darkness) openly, triumphing over them in it. 2.16 Therefore, let no pagan philosopher judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: 2.17 which are a shadow of things to come; but the body of Christ, the church. (Unlike the pagans, the church understands the meaning of these things, and can properly judge their prophetic significance.)*

see **World-Calendar.info** for details

(Part 4 of a series on the True Sabbath)

Questions and Answers on the Sabbath and Lunar Calendar

How can you break up the seven-day cycle?

Is that really a bad thing? The jubilee years break up the cycle of seven-year land Sabbaths, and people accept that. (Every seventh year is a land Sabbath. Then, after seven of these, which is 49 years, there is the Jubilee year.)

The real question is how can you be sure that there really is a seven-day continuous cycle in the Biblical Calendar? Note that the Bible contains many references to the New Moon, or New Moons, in context of the Sabbath. The New Moon initiates a seven day cycle for the rest of the month.

(The Hebrew word translated "month" in the KJV is the **same exact word** translated "new moon" elsewhere, Strong's #2320. The English word "month" is related to the word "moon".)

What happens if you don't see the moon - because of clouds, etc? Do you skip that Sabbath?

Questions like these are often intended to discredit the Lunar Sabbath specifically, but they could be equally applied to any of the Feasts which everyone agrees were based on a Lunar Calendar. The Israelites were quite capable of determining the New Moon under various weather conditions thousands of years ago.