

NO TIME LOST

Some people who are opposed to the seventh-day sabbath have come up with many reasons why it should not be kept. To many, some of these reasons sound like reasonable justifications for not keeping a seventh-day Sabbath, but the reasons do not reflect the full knowledge of the Sabbath and how and why it is kept. We will examine instances where some people suggest that the days of the week have been altered, thus, supposedly providing justification for not keeping the Sabbath since, according to these people, it may not actually be on the seventh day of the week due to these historical events.

Before delving into the historical events allegedly causing shifts in the weekly cycle of days, let's obtain some background information regarding the weekly cycle of days throughout time. There has been testimony from astronomers stating that since before the Christian era, they have found none of the changes in calendars affecting the weekly cycle. F. W. Dyson, a former Astronomer Royal, of the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, London, England had this to say:

"As far as I know, in the various changes of the calendar, there has been no change in the seven-day rota of the week, which has come down from very early times."

From James Robertson, the former Director American Ephemeris of the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C., said this about the weekly cycle:

"... we have had occasion to investigate the results of the works of specialists in chronology and we have never found one of them that has ever had the slightest doubt about the continuity of the weekly cycle since long before the Christian era...There has been no change in our calendar in past centuries that has affected in any way the cycle of the week."

The last astronomer we quote is Professor D. Eginitis, director of the Observatory of Athens, and this is what he had to say:

"The continuity of the week...has crossed the centuries, and all known calendars, still intact."

What we are establishing here is that the 7-day week, as it exists today, has been following the same order long before the time of Jesus. Astronomers have found that the cycle of the days of the week has not changed. In past eras, men have discarded the seven day week and have made 4-day, 8-day and 5-day cycle weeks, just as the European nations have been talking about a world calendar of a cycle of ten days. Nevertheless, the seven-day week has been with us since time immemorial.

Let us now delve into the main topic of alleged shifts in days of the week throughout history. One past event that allegedly resulted in days supposedly being "lost" was at the time of the changing of the calendar from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar. There are some who claim the cycle of the week was changed with the introduction of the Gregorian calendar. It is true that the calendar we use today was changed, but there was no change that disturbed the weekly seven-day cycle. The calendar we use today was first called the Julian calendar (called after Julius Caesar because it originated during his reign). The old Roman calendar was not accurately based on the

movements of the celestial bodies, so the result was the shifting of seasons. Julius Caesar commissioned the Alexandrian astronomer, Sosigines, to study the Roman calendar and make the necessary changes. In 46 B.C., the change was made to the new calendar, but there was no change in the cycle of the days of the week. To honour Caesar for the new calendar, it was called the Julian Calendar, and the month of July was named after him.

Augustus Caesar also wanted a month of the year named after him when he succeeded Julius. He had the month Sextilis renamed to August after him, and in doing so, he took a day from February and added it to August to make 31 days in that month, so that Julius' month would not have a day more than his month. This left February with 28 days instead of 29 days. But these changes by Augustus did not change the cycle of seven days in a week.

As time went on, it was determined that the Julian calendar had a discrepancy. It was thought when the calendar was designed that the year was 365.25 mean solar days, but the year actually consisted of 365.242195 days in a year. Believing there to be 365.25 days a year at the time when the Julian Calendar was designed, there was inserted an extra day in February every four years to take care of the 1/4 day accumulating each year. For over 1,600 years, the Julian Calendar was used. It was later learned that the year was 12 minutes and fourteen seconds shorter than the year estimated by Sosigines. Therefore, by the time of Pope Gregory XIII, this time unaccounted for had grown into ten days by 1582 A.D., and the spring equinox fell on March 11th instead of March 21st in that year.

Gregory decided to correct this error. He summoned a man named Lilius to find a method to correct the calendar error. It was decided to drop or to omit "ten date" days from the calendar but not shift the names of the days to correct the error. In October, 1582, the change was made: Thursday, October 4th, remained the same, and the following day remained Friday, but the date was changed to the 15th (instead of the 5th) of October. With this change the calendar became known as the Gregorian Calendar. Note that the date (i.e. the number) changed, but not the name of the day. The weekly cycle was not affected, and no days were lost. See Figure 1 at the end of this booklet. Note that England did not adopt the Gregorian Calendar until 1752, when Wednesday the 2nd of September, was followed by Thursday 14th of September.

Some people debate whether Joshua's Long Day (see Joshua 10:12 to 14), was a day when time was changed. The argument is that because an extra day was added, the sabbath of today would not fall in its weekly cycle. Let us turn to the text that is being spoken about in Joshua:

"Then spoke Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies, Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day. And there was no day like that before it or after it..."

Note that the passage says the sun "*hasted not to go down about a whole day.*" It is unclear whether 'whole day' means there was 36 hours of daylight (ie. regular

daylight of 12 hours plus an extra 24 hours of light) or 24 hours of daylight (ie. regular 12 hours of daylight plus an extra 12 hours of daylight as in a typical 24 hour day consisting of 12 hours of darkness and 12 hours of light). The question for the purposes of our topic is not the amount of hours the sun stood still, but did it change the cycle of the week. Some religious groups teach that Joshua's calling for the sun to stand still made up two days, thereby, changing the weekly cycle of time. However, we need to carefully read verses 13 and 14 again to understand what occurred:

"...the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and basted not to go down about a whole day."

The day was still from evening until evening. It was still one day, but an extra long day with an extra long light portion. Reference to a 'whole day' refers to the equivalent number of hours of the light portion but there is no indication there was another cycle of darkness and light which comprises a sidereal day. It is written, that *"there was no day like that before..."*. Note that the verse clarifies it was a 'day', not 'days'. If that long day fell on a Wednesday (ie. fourth day of the week), the following day with the going down of the sun was still Thursday (ie. fifth day of the week). Remember that God made the day from one evening (sunset) to the next evening (sunset). There was no change in the week's cycle, only the length (in hours) of that particular day.

Another concern that some have with keeping the Sabbath relates to when a person is travelling east or west around the world, there is the 'losing' and 'gaining' of time. Most people know that when crossing the international date line, the date shifts ahead one day going west and we lose a day on returning. Those who oppose the keeping of the seventh-day sabbath suggest that this proves one cannot be sure what day the Sabbath is on. This is not true. The International Date Line is an imaginary date line. If you were to cross the date line 365 times in the next 5 years travelling from east to west only, one could say you would have gained 365 days on passing the International late Line. But ask yourself: are you 6 years older or 5 years older? We know you are only 5 years older because crossing the date line would not make you any older because the date line is not a reality but simply a means of measuring time. The rotation of the earth does not change the time of day where you live. The sun does not set at the same time every where in the world, however, the weekly cycle does. So whether you live in Toronto or Tokyo, the Sabbath would be held according to that region's time as it relates to the earth's rotation. However, the seventh day is the same in what ever part of the world you may live.

Another stumbling block for some is the teaching that the weekly cycle is disrupted every year at Passover. The argument is that the first feast day sabbath was the beginning of a new weekly cycle. The previous year ended fourteen days before the first Passover sabbath, making the first day of Nisan, the beginning of the Jewish new year, a new month, and a new weekly cycle. This is wrong, however, because the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread were set according to the dates of the first month, not a shift in the weekly cycle of days.

To end this tract, we hope the reader can see that there has been no time lost or shift in the days of the week since mankind has been keeping a record throughout a continual period of close to 2,500 years or longer. As we have shown, there has been

a change in dates here and there, but there has not been any change in the week's cycle of days.

Figure 1

OCTOBER 1582						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						