

Is the Lunar Shabbat Doctrine Idolatrous Moon Worship?

Month 11 Day 24 5991

By The RAMYK Rabbi Apostle Moshe Yoseph Koniuchowsky

I want to address the accusation that Biblical Shabbat worship is idolatry or a form of idolatry.

Some accusations along these lines have been foolishly made. The accusations usually come from those who really either have not fully mastered the issue, or from simply repeating what someone else has said.

The Scriptures remind us that each of us is called to be a Berean and must study this CRUCIAL 4th commandment matter to show ourselves approved unto YHWH, a workman who need not be ashamed, rightfully dividing the sun and moon heavenly calendar according to the WORD of Truth alone.

Ironically some of the fiercest opponents of biblical lunar Shabbat are themselves already using the moon for annual Shabbat-feast-moed keeping. Assuming that weekly Shabbat guardians are idolaters for using the moon, that would also “ipso facto” make all Messianics and other Torah believers in Yahshua idolaters, as all YHWH’s feasts are determined by the moon. Throw in traditional Jews as well, as ALL these groups would by biblical definition be idolaters without exception. All these sects determine the annual feasts by some form of moon based observance Psalm 104:19.

That is a stark and shocking manifestation of hypocrisy. Accusing and labeling lunar Shabbat guardians as idolaters, yet somehow removing themselves from the equation, by excusing their own reliance on the moon for their annual Shabbats-moadim. You will run into MANY of these types of hypocrites as you really press in to study this issue! The truth of the matter is no one who USES the sun and moon to determine times is an idolater. What Deuteronomy and other Scriptures refer to are correct and loving admonitions from Abba YHWH not to worship, bow down, give homage, sing praises, or give obeisance to the moon.

Deuteronomy 4 :19 And lest you lift up your eyes to the shamayim, and when you see the sun, and the moon, and the cochavim, even all the host of the shamayim, should be drawn to worship them, and serve them, which YHWH your Elohim has given to all nations under the whole shamayim. (Given for what? To be worshipped? No! To be used as calendar guides. By whom? ALL nations!)

This warning is repeated in Deuteronomy 17:3. The warning is against worship and servitude, not against the sun and moon merely guiding the times and seasons of ALL NATIONS!

Deuteronomy 34:14 calls the moon a guide that puts forth the BLESSINGS and PRECIOUS THINGS! (The Shabbats, both annual and weekly and the night light!)

Second Kings 23:5 says this:

5 And he put down the idolatrous black robed Kohanim, whom the melechim of Yahudah had ordained to burn incense in the idol temples in the cities of Yahudah, and in the places around Yahrushalayim; those also that burned incense to Ba'al, to the sun, and to the moon and to the planets, and to all the hosts of the shamayim.

Question! Do Messianic, or Nazarene Yisraelite lunar Shabbat followers have a portion of their services where we-they burn incense to the moon and sun gods? Listening to some of the liars and accusers one would think so. Don't believe just any one who seems spiritual and has a mailing list ok? Harken to Scripture alone!

Psalm 8:3 calls all believers to CONSIDER the sun and moon for admiration-pleasant things not homage.

Psalm 81:3 calls **all Israel** to make sure that their annual and WEEKLY Shabbat Aviv 15 falls under a FULL MOON. Was King David an idolater and are all those who start Passover under a full moon idolaters? How will you know if a moon is full uhh...unless you look up! **Do you consider your annual feast days idolatrous because they are all determined by 'la luna?'**

In Psalm 89:37 King David is not called an idolater, but like the MOON, his throne will be established as a guide, a faithful witness to the coming messianic kingdom! We are commanded to view the moon as it is; a faithful guide to all moadim-appointed times Psalm 104:19. Which part of ALL don't we grasp? **The weekly Shabbat is the first moed we are to live and proclaim according to Leviticus 23.** Read it a thousand times if needed until you "get it." You will see for yourself, that ALL set apart gatherings-miqra kodashim are all moon directed and based.

Psalm 148:13 says the moon worships YHWH; so why would we worship a moon that itself worships YHWH? Ecclesiastes 12:1-2 tells us the sun and moon are guides to help us remember to worship the Creator, not the moon itself in the days of our health/youth.

I have never met any Messianic, or Nazarene Israelite believer who sings praise and worship songs to the moon, or has sections of their prayer books/siddurim geared to offering oblation and petitions to the moon and sun. Those making this accusation are simply mean spirited and trying to carry you away from the actual and literal restoration of the biblical Shabbat in our lifetimes, so that you and I, like our forefathers, can continue to be duped. It is a straw man to divert you from truly considering and receiving the beautiful restoration work of Yahshua in the earth.

Do not think that the idea that the weekly Shabbat was lost (actually abandoned) and not guarded properly as some strange new concept! Remember that from the time of Joshua and Samuel, until the reformation and restoration ministries of Ezra and Nehemiah, our own Israelite people had not celebrated the annual moon based Shabbats of Tabernacles, or Passover respectively for some 900 years, even though many thought they were, or thought they didn't need instruction on how to. See Nehemiah 8:17.

Some accusers have even gone so far as to demand, or request that solar-lunar calendar followers be thrown out of, or removed from the congregations for the sin of idolatry, by twisting Scripture, to make it seem like we somehow serve the moon and sun through some kind of perverted worship.

Let's address this briefly:

The Torah says we as believers shall not follow a multitude to do evil or wrong.

Just because the majority does something (regardless of their motivation), in this case fixed "Saturday Shabbat" worship, separate from the moon's phases, we must not simply follow along with the majority, if and when they are clearly in error (This site if given careful study will declare to you from Scripture how they are!).

The accusers have requested that we be thrown out, or removed from their groups. Well don't worry. You cannot throw us out of your groups because # 1, we belong to YHWH's kehilla/congregation and not mans' and #2, we have long ago developed and nurtured our own Torah based congregations, where we are indeed free to follow prophetic leaders not frightened by any biblical restoration truth that YHWH decides to return to us in this hour, at the brink of the millennial reign of our Adon Yahshua.

I have personally repented for persecuting Lunar Shabbat followers in the past, by removing them from the synagogues many years ago when I was the founder and overseer of the Union of Nazarene Yisraelite Congregations before its descent into the nasty and confusing world of ministry based on "Kabba-ALLAH," where in some instances it had become equally authoritative to YHWH's Words. Paul also had to repent from persecuting the assembly as well. We both (Brother Paul and I) have been the recipients of His forgiveness and mercies.

I thought I was doing YHWHs work and "purged" righteous men and women from membership, who were returning to the biblical Shabbat, all in my zeal and ignorance, because I too like some today, thought this was simply intolerable idolatry. Many in this hour are being called to undergo the same awakening and repentance that I had to go through as well.

The accusation that lunar Shabbat is moon worship is simply biblically and historically absurd. It would make Abraham, Shem, Noah and Enoch all the righteous men of antiquity, seem to be moon worshipers, as their consultations of the sun and moon for days and seasons are well known and recorded in history.

These heavenly witnesses of the sun and moon are mere **GUIDES**, not deities to YHWH's people. Don't be duped! Here is some documentation (there is lots more out there for study) showing that our patriarchs only had the sun and moon and stars as time guides. They did not have the benefit of religious bodies to assist, advanced calculated calendars like Hillel's Jewish calendar, or Rome's Gregorian calendar, nor scientists with telescopes and the US Naval Observatory (It's good they didn't, as if they did, they also would have been way off, as these sources other than the US Naval Observatory are all erroneous!). The only guides they had were the sun and moon and stars/constellations, as those were the only guides they needed! Our righteous forefathers would never be moon, or

sun worshipers, but were advocates of the biblical solar-lunar calendar, by following the 2 faithful heavenly witnesses.

Josephus describes the patriarch Abraham, for instance, as “skillful in understanding all things and persuasive to his listeners concerning that which he, without fail, inferred and he depicts him as arriving at the truth of monotheism through rational inference, based on the observation of Nature (Ant. I.155-156). As a result, the tale of Sarah’s sojourn in the house of Pharaoh in Ant. I.161-168 differs strikingly from its counterpart in Genesis (12:10-20); here, the account is transformed into an opportunity to depict Abraham in conversation with Egyptian wise-men, teaching them astronomical and mathematical wisdom and engaging in theological debate. Tacit is the suggestion that the pious Jews of Josephus’ own time are those who remember and emulate Abraham and Amram (Moses’s father, who was also well versed in sun and moon guidance) alike. Jewish tradition says that Moses was taught the calendar and new moons when YHWH simply called to him to “look up.” Does that make him an idolater, as Moses looked at the moon for New Moon/Rosh Chodesh/Shabbat guidance?

You don’t think Moses consulted the Hillel calendar do you? (-:

Josephus Antiquities Book I Chapter 4 says this about astronomy amongst our forefathers:

9. Now when Noah had lived three hundred and fifty years after the Flood, and that all that time happily, he died, having lived the number of nine hundred and fifty years. But let no one, upon comparing the lives of the ancients with our lives, and with the few years which we now live, think that what we have said of them is false; or make the shortness of our lives at present an argument, that neither did they attain to so long a duration of life, for those ancients were beloved of God, and [lately] made by God himself; and because their food was then fitter for the prolongation of life, might well live so great a number of years: and besides, God afforded them a longer time of life on account of their virtue, and the good use they made of it in astronomical and geometrical discoveries, which would not have afforded the time of foretelling [the periods of the stars] unless they had lived six hundred years; for the great year is completed in that interval.

Josephus Flavious says that one reason that the patriarchs lived longer is because they were kept around to determine the times and seasons as forerunners of the nation of Israel and to teach such to the heathen.

Were they idolaters? Some would answer yes; others would deny the veracity of such historical tradition. If they deny this history of ours, then they are left to explain how the ancients told time, as manmade calendars were not in wide circulation, if they existed at all in some small pockets of higher civility.

More from Josephus Antiquities Book I Chapter 8

2 Abram conferred with each of them, and, confuting the reasonings they made use of, every one for their own practices, demonstrated that such reasonings were vain and void of truth:

whereupon he was admired by them in those conferences as a very wise man, and one of great sagacity, when he discoursed on any subject he undertook; and this not only in understanding it, but in persuading other men also to assent to him. He communicated to them arithmetic, **and delivered to them the science of astronomy; for before Abram came into Egypt they were unacquainted with those parts of learning**; for that science came from the Chaldeans [later] into Egypt and from thence to the Greeks also.

So we see that astronomy and sun and moon timing is a gift given to Israel to teach the nations like Abraham did. Is that what you have been doing? Or are you still learning and struggling to free yourself from the Saturday fixation, a Roman myth even adopted by Judaism, along with the rest of the world, in her sad and protracted exile. It is as I have taught elsewhere on this site. No one thinking logically that acknowledges that s.a.tan has in fact tampered with and changed all the annual Shabbats, would somehow love YHWH enough to leave the weekly Shabbat intact without corruption. Sadly s.a.tan has succeeded in corrupting all of YHWH's appointed moon based times! But s.a.tan is not as smart as the Set Apart Spirit proceeding from Yahshua and the Father, through His prophets and that selfsame Ruach is unmasking this end time beast, to his shame and to YHWH's kingdom glory! To be free of Saturday Romanism, requires deliverance not mere mental ascent. Hosea teaches us that whenever Israel needs national deliverance, it is not through nice flowery sermons, or priests, or shepherds over flocks, but through the sometimes unpleasant uprooting ministries and calling of "root canal" type PROPHETS, who love YHWH more than the accolades' of men. See Hosea 12:13.

The Book of Enoch although certainly NOT inspired Scripture, grants us historical evidence to Enoch's usage of the gates of the sun and the moon's risings. It was common knowledge that Abraham, Moses, Noah and Enoch and ALL the forefathers, all used the heavenly witnesses to determine correct unadulterated time. **It was s.a.tan who turned the correct solar-lunar calendar and the beauty of astronomy into astrology, punishable by death in Torah!**

Do the accusers also feel that the patriarchs of Israel, all approved of by YHWH and given A+ faith report cards, should be removed from YHWH's Hebrews Chapter 11 Hall of Fame of Faith because of idolatry?

From these and many other well known historical sources, we can confirm the Scriptural admonition that we are to see and use the moon and sun and stars, **as pleasant guides**, thankful for them, but reserve our obeisance and servitude towards YHWH-Yahshua alone! Selah!