

A Quick Thought:

Did Israel gather or eat Manna on New Moon days?

Satyrday Sabbatarianism have tried to use the story of the manna as “proof” that the Lunar Sabbath is a false teaching. They say the narrative in **Exodus 16** offers no instruction for Israel to pick up manna (or not) during their 40 years in the wilderness. These same folks admit that the new moons were observed, but because there is no mention of them in conjunction with the falling of the manna, they say that this proves that the seven day weeks are not interrupted by the new moon days and therefore, manna **MUST** have fallen on the new moon days. In the same breath, these same well meaning folks insist that the days of the week go 1-2-3-4-5-6-7 uninterrupted all the way back to Creation, and with no evidence other than our present Gregorian calendar and their tradition, say that Satyrday IS that seventh day.

Let me propose that this is not the case—for several reasons. (1) When Israel was walking in the Torah, they always observed the same lunar-solar calendar established in **Genesis 1**. (2) With this calendar, the days of new moon are described as a third category of day in **Ezekiel 46:1**, **II Kings 4:23**, **Isaiah 66:23** and **Amos 8:5**. Since new moon is a third category of day (neither a work day nor Sabbath) elsewhere in Scripture, then it was a third category of day during Israel’s wilderness sojourn. (3) By insisting that Israel gathered manna on new moon days during their wilderness sojourn, they are adding to Torah, in violation of **Deuteronomy 4:2**. Scripture does not say whether Israel gathered or ate manna on new moon days, so they can only speculate. Where Scripture is silent, silence (on our part) is golden. (4) Satyrday is only the seventh day of the week by virtue of Emperor Constantine. In 321 A.D., he venerated the day of the sun which moved satyrday from its coveted position as the first day of the week to the seventh day of the week.

Historically, Israel fasted on new moon days. Says Hutton Webster, “the establishment of a periodic week ending in a Sabbath observed every seventh day was doubtless responsible for the gradual obsolescence of the new moon festival as a period of general abstinence, since with continuous weeks the new-moon day and the Sabbath Day would from time to time coincide” (*Rest Days*, p. 255).

“Each new moon was celebrated with a fast” (*Jewish Family Celebrations*, p. 35).

And we also find the following: “the sacred festival of the new moon, which the people give notice of with trumpets, and the day of fasting, on which abstinence from all meats and drinks is enjoined . . .” (*Philo, Book 26, XXX, 159*).

I find it interesting that science has shown that fasting once a month is great for your health. Satyrday Sabbath keepers who have knowledge of the health message should jump up and shout, but they won’t because they must also admit defeat regarding the manna issue.

The land Sabbaths were important enough to the Father to cause Israel to go into captivity for 70 years in Babylon for NOT observing them. These land Sabbaths were also in 7 year sequences (like the days of weeks). Israel could sow and reap for the 6 years, but on the land Sabbath, they were to abstain. The Father caused a triple portion of produce to be harvested on the 6th year to provide food for Israel during the 6th year, the 7th year (land Sabbath) and the first year of the subsequent 7 year sequence, since there was no sowing/reaping during the 7th year land Sabbath. Also, there was neither sowing, nor reaping during the year of Jubilee. So the 48th year of the Jubilee cycle had to provide produce for FOUR years (the 48th, 49th, 50th and the first year of the subsequent Jubilee cycle).

My point: Just because there is nothing said about eating manna on new moon days during the 40 year wilderness sojourn does not prove anything. This in no wise disproves the Creation Calendar. Actually, the Jubilee cycle proves just the opposite. The day(s) of new moon interrupt(s) the weeks, and the 50th year interrupts the seven 7 year counts, it cannot double as the first year of the following Jubilee cycle because you can sow and reap on the first year of each land Sabbath, **Leviticus 25:3**. Israel apparently fasted on new moon, and in similar fashion, no one could sow and reap during the 50th year of Jubilee, **Leviticus 25:11**. New moon days are a third category of day; the year of Jubilee is a third category of year. It is neither one of the six year of sowing/reaping, nor is it a 7th year land Sabbath.

The cloud is moving. We need either to follow or be left in the wilderness.