

Does the First Visible Crescent (FVC) announce the New Moon?

Starting the month wrong would be just as bad as keeping the wrong day as Sabbath. There is no text that explains what a new moon is, but there is nature (which is the first gospel). All nature screams the majesty of YHVH. History is also not silent on the matter. There is indirect information in Scripture that is supportive though. In Scripture, the only weekly Sabbaths that can be date identified are the 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th days of the month and they are regulated by the moon. The ONLY way for the quarter phases to announce them is if the dark of the moon is new moon. There are several reasons why the New Moon is not announced by the first visible crescent—explanation and evidence below...

1. Observation of the first visible crescent (FVC) was originally a Babylonian practice, not Hebrew.

“The Babylonian calendar was a lunisolar calendar with years consisting of 12 lunar months, each beginning when a new crescent moon was first sighted low on the western horizon at sunset, plus an intercalary month inserted as needed by decree. The calendar is based on a Sumerian (Ur III) predecessor preserved in the Umma calendar of Shulgi (ca. 21st century BC).”

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylonian_calendar

“The beginning of the month in the Babylonian calendar was determined by the direct observation by priests of the young crescent moon at sunset after the astronomical New Moon.”

<http://www.friesian.com/calendar.htm>

The link, http://www.tyndale.cam.ac.uk/Egypt/ptolemies/chron/babylonian/chron_bab_cal.htm, leads you to this quote: “The Babylonian calendar was a lunisolar calendar. The Babylonian day began at sunset, and each month notionally began with the first rising of the crescent moon; in essence, a Babylonian month was a synodic lunar month, represented as a 29 or 30 day month. Contemporary records show that the start of the month was actually determined by observation of the new moon wherever possible, or by prediction if not.”

“The months began at the first visibility of the New Moon, and in the 8th century BC court astronomers still reported this important observation to the Assyrian kings.

“Thus, the Babylonian calendar until the end preserved a vestige of the original bipartition of the natural year into two seasons, just as the Babylonian months to the end remained truly lunar and began when the New Moon was first visible in the evening. The day began at sunset. The Jewish adoption of Babylonian calendar customs dates from the period of the Babylonian Exile in the 6th century BC.”

<http://www.ancienthistoricalsociety.org/CalendarsBabylonian.html>

Note: You might be tempted to say, SEE! But be careful here. These websites accurately record the events as history reveals them. It was the “Jews” who adopted the Babylonian calendar, including the days beginning at sunset (the days in Scripture begin at dawn), the months beginning with the first visible crescent, as well as the pagan names of the months and having eggs on the table at Passover (along with other pagan traditions). The Jews are not Israelites; they are Khazars (Edomites) who adopted Judaism in the 8th century A.D. (Ask for this evidence if you are tired of believing lies. The Jews ADMIT they are not Israelites. I have the quotes.) All the months in Scripture are by ordinal numbers. The Israelites certainly apostatized and fell into the same or similar calendar corruption as the Jews, but there the similarities cease.

2. If you observe the weekly Sabbaths based on the FVC, the 4 quarter phases will announce your preparation day except on the odd occasion when one of the quarter phases is out of sync with the others (due to the moon's egg shaped orbit).* There are 4 preparation days each lunar month, but what is so special that they should be announced by the 4 quarter phases. Along with the 4 preparation days, there are 24 other work days in each lunar month, but there are only 4 Sabbaths.

3. Scripture reveals three different categories of day, but if the month begins with the first crescent, these three categories of day cannot be distinguished in nature. A first sliver new moon day would look JUST like the days of the work week, showing an illuminated moon, and the end of the last work week of the month will have 1 or 2 non-illuminated days. Friend, the sun tells you when the day begins; the moon tells you what day it is. Do you suppose that YHVH couldn't figure out how to separate the three categories of day or that nature cannot figure out how to present three distinct days?

Scripture reveals that there are three different categories of day (new moon, work day and Sabbath). There are three different, distinct phases of the moon (dark phase, illuminated phase which is divided into two parts: the 4 quarter phases and non-quarter phases). There are 28 days of a whole lunar month when the moon is illuminated, 4 of which are quarter phase moons. There are 28 week days (4 x 7) in the month, 4 of which are Sabbaths. If you line up the 28 days of illumination with the 28 week days, there are 1-2 dark days after the last Sabbath of the month depending on whether it is a 29 or 30 day month. These 1-2 dark days after the last Sabbath of each month are the new moon days. **

4. There ARE two days of new moon celebration about half of the time. The lunar cycle used to be 30 days every month, but was altered several thousand years ago to 29.5 days. That leaves more than one day left over after the 28 work days each month. If they are not days of the work week, then they must be new moon days. There is only ONE FVC, how does one FVC announce two days of New Moon? What does the second new moon day look like and when does it occur, before or after the FVC?

There is a two day new moon in the OT:

It was on the 29th day of the month that David said to Jonathan, "Tomorrow was the new moon." (1 Samuel 20:5, Jonathan agreed in verse 18). New moon always follows the last Sabbath of the month. David understood that there would be 2 days of feasting (Day 30 and Day 1) which is why he asked Jonathan come into field to shoot the arrows on the 3rd day (the day following the 2nd day of the new moon celebration). David knew that the king would expect him for the 2 days in question, and he was right. The king ignored his absence the first day thinking him unclean or something, but was wroth when he was not there the second day - 1 Samuel 20:24-30. The underlying Hebrew in 1 Samuel 20:27, 34 where it says 2nd day of the month literally means the 2nd day of the chodesh or *new moon* (celebration) not the 2nd day of the *month* as translated. (I asked a non-lunar friend who is fluent in Hebrew). This man didn't just convince me by his answer. Nature did. Nature is the first gospel. There are sometimes one dark day after the last Sabbath of the month, sometimes two. Like this...

23	24	25	26	27	28	29
						30
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Jonathan and David came to their agreement on the 29th day of the month. David was not at the Kings table on day 30, nor on day 1. Jonathan then shot his arrows on the 2nd day of the month. When there are two days of new moon celebration, the second of the two is always the first day of the new month. I can offer you no “verification” for this other than in nature and the Word itself. I have never seen a single study on this point, other than one in opposition to it. But here is the paper trail....

In Scripture, the months ALL used to be 30 days in length, for a total of a 360 lunar/solar year. The luni-solar year was originally 360 days long. Twelve 30 day months = 360 day year. Here is the evidence for this. **Genesis 7:11** says that the flood began on the 17th day of the second month. **Genesis 8:4** says the water prevailed upon the face of the earth until the 17th day of the seventh month. That is 5 months. **Genesis 7:24** and **8:3** say that the water prevailed upon the earth for 150 days. 150 divided by 5 = 30. So there were 5 consecutive 30 day months in Scripture, which is not possible with the current relationship between the earth and moon.

So, we have solid Scriptural proof that the months were all 30 days in length (proof from Creation, and also from the timed prophecies). The lunar cycle is now 29.5 days rather than 30 day in length, which equates to some months consisting of 29 days, others consisting of 30. There are 4 seven day weeks in each month, which accounts for only 28 of the 29 or 30 days. These other days are new moon days.

It was not until YHVH dented His clock that there were 29 day months. I also believe YHVH will correct His calendar in the near future, which means a return to a 360 day year with twelve 30 day months and TWO days of new moon celebration every month.

The dark phase is new moon. The evidence for this is that MANY ancient and scholarly resources reveal that Israel observed the Sabbaths by the quarter phases of the moon. If you start from the first visible crescent, the Sabbaths will never line up with the quarter phases, being a 1-2 day(s) late every week. The only way for the quarter phases to announce the Sabbath is to count the new moon as the first day of the week. Case in point...

Ezekiel 46:1 tells us that the new moon CANNOT be counted as a week day, the gate to the inner court being shut all 6 working days, open on Sabbath and new moon. There are three other witnesses that attest to the work days being separate from the Sabbath and new moon, **Amos 8:5**, **Isaiah 66:23** and **II Kings 4:23**. So the only way to count the lunar cycle and have the three different types of day be marked off with 3 different phases (AND have the Sabbaths announced by the quarter phases) is for the dark phase to be new moon. The illuminated phase to be for the work week, of which the quarter phases announce the Sabbaths.

Count the month this way and the quarter phases will announce the Sabbaths the evening before the 8th and 15th and at dawn of the 22nd and 29th days of each month. Sometimes there are 2 dark days after the last Sabbath of the month. The only way to always have a one day new moon is for there to only be ONE dark day after the 29th day of the month. That single dark day would be the first day of the new month; day 29 followed by day one. When there are 2 dark days (no illuminated moon) after the 29th day of the month, what would you do with them? They are not illuminated as the other 28 days.

When there is only one dark day after the 29th day of the month, conjunction took place on the 29th, followed by one day of the dark phase of the moon. When there are two days of the dark phase after the 29th of the month, conjunction will have taken place on the day AFTER the 29th. Because conjunction splits a day in half (the first part being in the old month, the last part after conjunction being in the new month), what month does this day belong in? Old or new? Answer: It is part of the old month because it BEGAN in the old month. A day cannot be part old month and part new month at the same time. The moon is in an elliptical orbit, meaning that conjunction will never (rarely) take place at dawn, when a new day and a new month could begin at the same moment. So the first of two consecutive dark days is day 30 of the old month.

This is exactly the scenario found in **I Samuel 20**. When it says 2nd day of the month, the Hebrew is second day of chodesh. The first meaning of chodesh is new moon (renewal), it only means month by implication. In David's day, the clock had not yet been dented, so every month was 30 days in length. This is why Saul expected him for two days because every new moon celebration was a two day event.

5. There is also a two day new moon in the NT: *These going before tarried for us at Troas. And we sailed away from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread, and came unto them to Troas in five days; where we abode seven days. And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight. Acts 20:5-7*

Paul took five days to get to Troas after the last day of Unleavened Bread, which is Abib 21. So he arrived on the 26th day of Abib then stayed 7 days.





























1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
	16	17	18	19	20	<u>21</u>	22	
	23	24	25	<u>26</u>	27	28	29	30
1	<u>2</u>	3	4	5	6	7	8	

Remember, new moon days are NOT week days. The only way for Paul to arrive in Troas on the 26th, be in Troas for 7 days and speak until midnight of the first day of the week ready to depart on the morrow is if there is a two day new moon. Day 30 and day 1 (the 2 days of a 2 day new moon celebration) would not be counted against the week. Look above and count 'em: 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 1, 2 (that's seven days) as he was going to depart on the morrow. The second day of the second month (underlined above) MUST be the first day of the week in order for the math to work. This passage is a stumbling block for the Gregorian calendar as there is no way to successfully manufacture or force the end of the 7 day stay to fall on the first day of the week.

6. Genesis 1:1-2 proves that the new moon days are dark days. This was the first day (a segment of time that occurred before the first work week) of the first month of earth's history, and it was dark. If the 2nd month of earth's history began with a new moon, and LAST month began with a new moon, then the first month of earth's history did too. And as pointed out, the first new moon day was dark.

All the waxing gibbous moons seen above the red line below (the first 15 days of the month) are identified at sunset the evening BEFORE the numbered day in the box. All the waning gibbous moons seen below the red line (the last 14-15 days of the month) are identified at dawn of the numbered day in the box. If you do not see the signal until after the Sabbath is over, that is not much of a signal is it?

If you start the month after the first visible crescent, not a single Sabbath will be announced by a quarter phase moon, and **Genesis 1:14** clearly says that the moon would regulate the mo'edim, the Sabbath being the first mo'edim listed in **Leviticus 23**, see verses 1-3. **Genesis 1:14** also says that the two lights would be for signs, the Hebrew meaning signal or beacon.

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
						 First Quarter
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
						 Full moon
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
						 Third Quarter
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
						 Last Sliver May or may not be seen

1

New moon Day

8

First Quarter

15

Full moon

22

Third Quarter

29

**Last Sliver
May or may not be seen**

30

Dark moon

1





























New moon Day

The graph on this page shows how the lunar calendar works. Each quarter phase ends its respective week, announcing the weekly Sabbath (**red font**). All three categories of day are distinctly different. The New moon days (**blue font**) are not illuminated. The week days (black font), including the weekly Sabbaths ARE illuminated, but the quarter phases which are approximately 7 days apart are used appropriately for each Sabbath. If the dark days are recognized as a third category of day, and put in the place of the new moon days, suddenly each and every Sabbath is announced by a quarter phase moon. When the first crescent is misappropriated as the new moon, not a single Sabbath is announced by a quarter phase moon except on the occasion that a phase is out of sync. See calendar on following page.

7. Philo lived in the 1st century observing the SAME lunar-solar calendar Yeshua observed. Philo was a delegate chosen to represent Israel before the Vicar of Rome. Do you think they would have chosen a representative who observed a calendar that differed from Israel's?

In **Special Laws I, 35 (178), p. 550** Philo writes...



2	3	4	5	6	7	8
					 First Quarter	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
					 Full moon	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
					 Third Quarter	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
					 Last Sliver may or may not be seen	 Dark Phase

“...there is one principle of reason by which the moon waxes and wanes in equal intervals, both as it increases and diminishes in illumination; the seven lambs because it receives the perfect shapes in periods of seven days—the half-moon in the first seven day period after its conjunction with the sun, full moon in the second; and when it makes its return again, the first is to half-moon, then it ceases at its conjunction with the sun.” [All emphasis supplied by me.]

The half-moon (first quarter moon) is seen at the end of the first week. The full moon rising at the end of the 14th day of the month is seen at the end of the second week announcing the 2nd Sabbath. If the months Philo knew began with the FVC, as shown here, the quarter phases would announce the day before the end of the week.



Please remember that the waxing gibbous moons seen above the red line above are seen at sunset the evening BEFORE the numbered day in the box. All the waning gibbous moons seen below the red line are identified at dawn of the numbered day in the box. Please compare this calendar with the one on the previous page. Nature, Scripture and Philo all speak of the calendar on the previous page.

Those following the Babylonian practice of the FVC announcing new moon day represent the calendar shown above. Please note the distinct difference.

Philo gives a second witness in **On Mating with the Preliminary Studies, XIX, (102), p. 313...**

“For it is said in the Scripture: On the tenth day of this month let each of them take a sheep according to his house; in order that from the tenth, there may be consecrated to the tenth, that is to Elohim, the sacrifices which have been preserved in the soul, which is illuminated in two portions out of the three, until it is entirely changed in every part, and becomes a heavenly brilliancy like a full moon, at the height of its increase at the end of the second week”.

Please note that the calendar on page 6 shows 4 Sabbaths, none of which are announced by a quarter phase moon. Please also note that the last week has 6 days which are announced by a visible phase of the moon, the last Sabbath is not, announced by a dark phase. Of the following two days of New Moon, one is revealed by a dark phase, one is announced by the first crescent. Starting the month with the first visible crescent offers none of the symmetry described in the second paragraph of #3 above and shown in the calendar model on page 5.

I hope you will ask more questions and examine the evidence. Nature does not lie. If you observe the first crescent as new moon, if you are honest and looking for the moon at the appropriate time you will immediately notice that your Sabbaths are not announced by the quarter phase. Regardless of where you live all of us can see the first and third quarters of the moon, they are the same all over the earth. If you begin your month with the FVC, the days I call Sabbath will be your preparation day. The only way we will ever keep the same Sabbath is if you start counting new moon day as a week day (the first of your seven day work week), and as shown in **Ezekiel 46:1**, et al, new moon days are not week days.

I do not use the Babylonian new moon practice; I use the one in Scripture. If you call the dark days after the 29th day of the month (whether one or two) the days of new moon celebration, then all your Sabbaths will be announced by the quarter phase of the moon, just as is recorded in Israel’s history. In this manner, the days of new moon celebration are distinctly different from the work week. The work week is illuminated (the quarter phases announce the Sabbaths), and the new moon days are dark.

If you believe that the months begin with the sighting of the FVC, I challenge you to look at the moon before each of your Sabbaths this month. Don’t take my word for it, go outside and look. Look at sunset the evening before Sabbath for the first two weeks of the month, and at dawn of the last two Sabbaths or as near dawn as you wake up. If you will do this, you will see your Sabbaths are not announced by the quarter phase moon, the quarter phases will announce your preparation days.

The graph on page 5 shows how the lunar calendar works. Each quarter phase ends its respective week, announcing the weekly Sabbath (**red** font). All three categories of day are distinctly different. The New moon days (**blue** font) are not illuminated. The week days (black font), including the weekly Sabbaths ARE illuminated, but the quarter phases which are approximately 7 days apart are used appropriately for each Sabbath. If the dark days are recognized as a third category of day, and put in the place of the new moon days, suddenly each and every Sabbath is announced by a quarter phase moon. When the first visible crescent is misappropriated as the new moon, none of the Sabbaths are announced by a quarter phase moon.

If we are going to proclaim to the world that we observe the Sabbaths by the moon, then our calendar should at least substantiate that claim. There are 2 dark days in a whole, 30 day lunar month, and 28 days when the moon is illuminated, 4 of which are the Sabbath. There are 2 days of new moon celebration in a whole 30 day month, and 28 days of weeks, 4 of which are the Sabbath. Does this seem like a coincidence to you? The sun tells you when a new day has begun, the MOON, however, tells you which day it is.

Let me ask the first visible crescent folks a question. There was originally ONLY 30 day months, 28 days of which were/are week days ($4 \times 7 = 28$), which leaves 2 days remaining as days of new moon celebration. Remember, there are three categories of day; the days that are not week days (work days or Sabbaths) are new moon days. There are no other options. Even today when there is a 30 day month, BOTH of the new moon days are dark, with no visible moon. **IF** the first visible crescent announces new moon, what announces the other day of new moon? Are there TWO first visible crescents each month—one to announce each day of new moon? The original months were lunar, and consisted of 30 days, not 29, and will return to 30 day months in the latter days. There are only 28 week days each month. This leaves either one or two remaining, and these are new moon days.

All the timed prophecies are based on 30 day months. Remember? Time, times and a half a time was based on a 360 day year. $12 \times 30 = 360$. In Daniel's day, the calendar established at Creation was still in existence, so time (360), times (720) and half a time (180) totaled 1260 days, see **Daniel 12:7** and Revelation 12:14. In Revelation 11:2 and 13:5, this prophecy is numbered by 42 months. $1260 / 30 = 42$. This is an END time prophecy and the ONLY way it can be counted accurately is if the Father restores His calendar to as it was at Creation. But then, we are told that would happen as well...

Isaiah 58:12 *And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.*

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Miller

www.CreationCalendar.com

Endnotes:

* - If you don't believe me, go outside and look. For the first two weeks of a lunar month, the time to look at the moon in order to tell what day the morrow will bring is at sunset. For the last two weeks of the lunar month, the time to look for the moon in order to tell what day that day will be is at (or shortly after) dawn. Looking for the moon at any or every hour will only serve to confuse you. If you will do this, you will discover that the dome of the heavens is a clock face. Looking at the clock on the wall at 3:00 should reveal the big hand on the 12 and the little hand on the 3. It is a pattern. If it is truly a first or third quarter moon, the flat side will be perpendicular to earth (or very nearly so) and is almost always straight before you and up if you are looking south (in the northern hemisphere). The moon can look full for 2-3 days in a row, the observed full moon is the one that rises in the east at or shortly after the sun sets (in the west), being 180 degrees across the heavens from the FVC which was seen 2 weeks previous just above the western horizon shortly after sunset.

If you count your lunar month from the FVC, the 4 quarter phases will be seen announcing preparation day, not your Sabbaths. Again, if you don't believe me, go outside and look. Do you want to BE right or DO right? If you are going to keep the lunar calendar Sabbaths, you owe it to yourself to find out how to DO it correctly. The patterns I've pointed out above are not my invention. They are not my opinion. They are facts of nature. All nature screams the majesty of YHVH, and nature does not lie. Men do.

****** - This kind of symmetry, hand in glove thing, does not occur in nature without cause. *Never does nature say one thing and wisdom another.*

This is copyrighted material. You may copy it is often as you wish, as long as you copy it right.