

Love Is For Ever -- Rediscovering Abba's Fantastic Truths

Please read Joshua 6:1-15

Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho

Israel marched around Jericho one time on the first day and one time each on days 2-6 then seven times on the seventh day. Every able bodied Israelite was dressed for battle. They carried with them every weapon at their disposal. They even carried with them into battle the Sacred Ark of the Covenant. This was a seven day battle, siege really. Which begs the question, **Which day was the Sabbath?**

- a. The first (or the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, or 6th) day was the Sabbath.
- b. The seventh day was the Sabbath.
- c. Israel didn't march around Jericho on the Sabbath.
- d. It does not matter which day was the Sabbath, Israel was obeying YHVH by marching around Jericho.
- e. We don't have enough evidence to determine which day was the Sabbath.

My wife, Bethany, asked her Sabbath School teachers this every three years when the Battle of Jericho was taught from Kindergarten up to early teen. She got one of two answers every time, either, "I don't know" or "The seventh day, of course." She felt that the teachers who admitted they didn't know were probably telling the truth because YHVH certainly would not send Israel into battle on the Sabbath.

As a teenager in Academy, Bethany posed this question to her Bible teacher. While he admitted that certainly the walls would not have toppled on the Sabbath he seemed confused that Israel may have been sent into battle on the Sabbath at all. War was considered work and not a Sabbath activity. Friend, do you know the answer?

There are two very salient points to be made here. 1. This was a seven consecutive day event. 2. There is no evidence anywhere in Scripture that YHVH ever sent His people into battle on the Sabbath.

Torah observers correctly say that when the words *Commandments*, *Statutes*, and *Judgments* appear in the same passage of Scripture that they cannot be referring to the same thing. These are the three separate divisions of YHVH's codified law. There are not just two (Moral and ceremonial) as is commonly taught. The doctrine of two divisions of the law was invented to stem the tide of the Reformation and is the work of Catholic Scholar, Thomas Aquinas. Aquinas found that, according to Hebrew law, the Sabbath is a statute (only the first 2 commandments are actually "Commandments", the next 3 are Statutes and the last 5 are Judgments). Aquinas' argument to the reformers was that if they kept the Sabbath, they had to keep ALL the statutes. Since the reformers believed the lie that the Statutes were the "law of Moses" and not the Law of YHVH, Aquinas successfully squelched the Sabbath.

That said, please consider the following: When work days, new moon days and Sabbaths appear in the same passage, is it ever possible for these days to occupy the same 24 hour period of time concurrently, or do these days fall into three separate categories? The passages below mention the different types of days. The Scriptural evidence is that there are three distinct categories of days; work days, new moon days and Sabbaths. The work days are very different from the new moons and Sabbaths. But don't take our word for it...

*Thus saith the Sovereign YHVH; The gate of the inner court that looketh toward the east shall be shut the six working days; but on the Sabbath it shall be opened, and in the day of the new moon it shall be opened. **Ezekiel 46:1**. Verse 3 says that they would come to worship YHVH on the New Moon and Sabbath, but not on work days.*

Ezekiel 46:1 is the only place in Scripture that mentions all three types of days in the same passage, but the following texts very clearly reveal that the working days are separate from the new moon days and Sabbaths.

Second witness: After her son died, the Shunammite raced to her husband in the field (where he was working) to ask him for a donkey and a servant so she could go see Elijah. Her husband asked, *Wherefore wilt thou go to him to day? it is neither new moon, nor Sabbath.* **II Kings 4:23**. It was unusual to go see the holy man on a work day.

Third witness: Future work days will also be observed as separate from the worship days: *And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith YHVH. Isaiah 66:23* [We won't come to worship YHVH on the work days.]

Fourth witness: ... *When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the Sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit? Amos 8:5.* These retailers couldn't wait to set out their "goods" and cheat the people on any of the six working days.

The New Moon is neither a Sabbath, nor a common work day. A work/commerce day is not a worship day. The Sabbath and new moons are worship days. Do the math (it is an algebra problem) and you will discover that there are three separate categories of days in YHVH's calendar: new moon days, work days, and Sabbaths. Since Scripture indicates that these days cannot take place at the same time, do not overlap or share the same space, we need to rework our understanding of YHVH's calendar. No true doctrine will lose anything by close examination.

Which of the seven days of this battle around Jericho was the weekly Sabbath? Every Sabbath keeper must address this problem. With a solar calendar, Israel would have had to have marched around the city at least once on the weekly Sabbath. Defending themselves on the Sabbath is one thing, but there is no evidence in Scripture that Israel was ever sent by Almighty Yah into battle *on the offensive* on the Sabbath.

Which day WAS the Sabbath during Joshua's battle? You can find the answer in Scripture but most are embracing a solar-only calendar from the Dark Ages and cannot see, they've been too long in the sun. The Gregorian calendar was created in 1582 by a Jesuit astronomer and Pope Gregory XIII. The Julian calendar was inaccurate to the tune of 11 minutes and 14 seconds per year. Sixteen centuries later, the calendar was 10 days off season. Enter stage left, the Gregorian calendar. Please note that this Gregorian calendar begins the days at midnight, not as commanded in Scripture (**Genesis 1**). The Gregorian calendar begins the year in the dead of winter, not in the Spring as in Scripture (**Exodus 12:1-14**). Also, the Julian and its successor, the Gregorian calendar, removed the new moon from the calculation of the months. "In 46 B.C., Julius Caesar asked astronomer Sosigenes to suggest ways to improve the calendar. Acting on Sosigenes suggestions, Caesar ordered the Romans to disregard the moon in calculating their calendars." *World Book Encyclopedia, Vol. 3, p. 28.* As you know, the months in Scripture begin with New Moon day. Friend, since every other measurement of time has been counterfeited by man/Satan, what gives you the calm assurance that the pagan/papal Gregorian calendar has preserved the weekly Sabbath?

A clue to this Sabbath dilemma is found in the *Book of Jasher*, chapter 88:14. Jasher is mentioned two times in the Old Testament: **Joshua 10:13** and **II Samuel 1:18**. Jasher is a historical account of Yah's people from Eden to Joshua. It was written in the same era as some of the Old Testament. According to the Book of Jasher, the battle of Jericho began on the first day of the second month. The month in Scripture is as follows. After the new moon (the first day of the month) there are the six working days (2-7) followed by the Sabbath (day 8) and so on...

						1 New moon
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Sabbath
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Sabbath
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Sabbath
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Sabbath

In Scripture, every weekly Sabbath that can be date identified is always on either the 8th, 15th, 22nd or 29th days of the month. The Creator's months. The 8th day of the **month IS** the 7th day of the **week**, likewise the 15th, 22nd and 29th.

Joshua 6 says that Israel marched around Jericho one time on the first day, but does not say the first day of WHAT. Jasher fills in the blank—the first day of the second month. Since the authors of Scripture believed that the book of Jasher was an accurate historical account, we have no reason to doubt it unless it contradicts Scripture.

Answer: **c.** The children of Israel did not march around Jericho on the Sabbath because they were observing the Creator's calendar, not a pagan/papal solar-only Roman calendar. Whoever is in charge is in charge of the calendar. The calendar you observe tells you when to work and when to worship. WHEN you worship tells heaven and the on-looking universe WHO you worship. It's THAT serious. *The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, My people doth not consider. Isaiah 1:3*

Be a Berean!