

David said,
Tomorrow is the New Moon
How did he know? He hadn't seen it yet.

For some time, we had been perplexed over this statement. And recently YHWH revealed His hand to us. It was a wonderful and timely revelation. But then, YHWH is always on time isn't He?

Why were we even researching the new moon? First let us give you a little background. We started observing the Creator's calendar appointments in the fall of 2000. We had resisted this message for several months because it was not the tradition of our fathers. Praise Yah, we eventually relented and listened to the friends who were trying to deliver this message.

Naturally, after we took that initial step toward Torah observance, we had a lot of questions. Again, we were blessed with a few mentors who taught us to think rather than teaching us what to think. All the answers we sought were in Scripture, we just had to become better students of the Word than we had previously been.

We were disappointed to discover that even amongst Torah observers that there were several divisions because of differing "doctrine". Of course, the more truth that is accepted, the more the Adversary tries to create division. The more red herrings and bunny trails he can place in our way the better the likelihood that some of these truth seekers will get sidetracked and off the path that YHWH has illuminated before us. The new moon is one such issue.

Does the new moon begin at conjunction or the visible crescent?

One thing I asked was "What constitutes a new moon?" The answer I got from "veteran" feast keepers was, "the visible crescent." This appealed to my logic because it seemed foolish to have lookouts on the hills looking for nothing. Conjunction is an invisible (at least to us) moment in time—going out and trying to spot it would be an effort in futility. If there were indeed spotters on the Palestinian hills, the only sensible thing is for them to be looking for something that they could see; the visible crescent or possibly something else.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith YHWH. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8-9 (KJV)

OK, let's put what "man" thinks on the back burner, and examine the information available in Scripture. Oddly, Scripture is strangely silent regarding what YHWH means by the phrase "new moon." There are stipulations for activities that are (or are not) to be done on a new moon day, but the words "conjunction" or "visible crescent" do not appear in the Word of Yah. So let's look between the lines of the information that we are given.

First of all, the moon is ordained by YHWH as a time piece. **Genesis 1:14, Psalm 104:19** gives us the two witnesses we need to make this a truth established by YHWH, but it does not tell us how the time piece works. That the sun was the timepiece ordained to rule the day (even to even **Lev. 23:32, Gen. 1:3-5**) and the year (spring to spring, **Ex. 12:2**) is a statement of the obvious.

Let's entertain what else **Genesis 1:14** says. The lights in the heavens were also given for signs and seasons. The word *seasons* is translated from the Hebrew word *mo'ed*, which means *appointed times*. In order to arrive at these appointed times, one must ascertain when the new moon takes place because the appointed times fall on specific days of the month. The new moon is always the first day of each month. So we can easily conclude that the moon is the timepiece that rules the month.

We have covered the day, year and the month. A day is one revolution of the earth on its axis with the sun as the time keeper. A year is one revolution of earth in its orbit around the sun. The month is from one new moon to the next. What other major segment of time is there? The week. We have been told that there is no light in the cosmos that is on a 7 day cycle which is said to prove that the week is "holdover" evidence from the Creation week thus proving Creation in spite of the claims of evolutionists.

Even though this is what we were taught and believed for nearly 40 years, there is no Scriptural evidence to support the idea that both the 7 day week has been observed in perpetuity or that the Sabbath has been every seventh day since Creation. What Scripture does support is that there are three categories of days (the Gregorian calendar presents only two—rest days and work days).

Along with work days and rest days, there are new moon days to be reckoned with in Yah's calendar. They are neither work days, nor Sabbaths. When three subjects are listed in the same sentence, they cannot be the same thing. They are 3 separate subjects and as segments of time, they cannot occupy the same 24 hour period.

Ezekiel 46:1 lists the three categories of days. There are 3 other witnesses to the 3 categories of days found in **2 Kings 4:23**, **Amos 8:5**, and **Isaiah 66:23**. In these passages, a third category (work days in each instance) is obvious by its exclusion.

The new moon is not a Sabbath; the Sabbath and new moon are non-commerce days. A commerce day is a work day not a worship day. The Sabbath and new moons are worship days. Do the math—you will discover that there are 3 categories of days in YHWH's calendar.

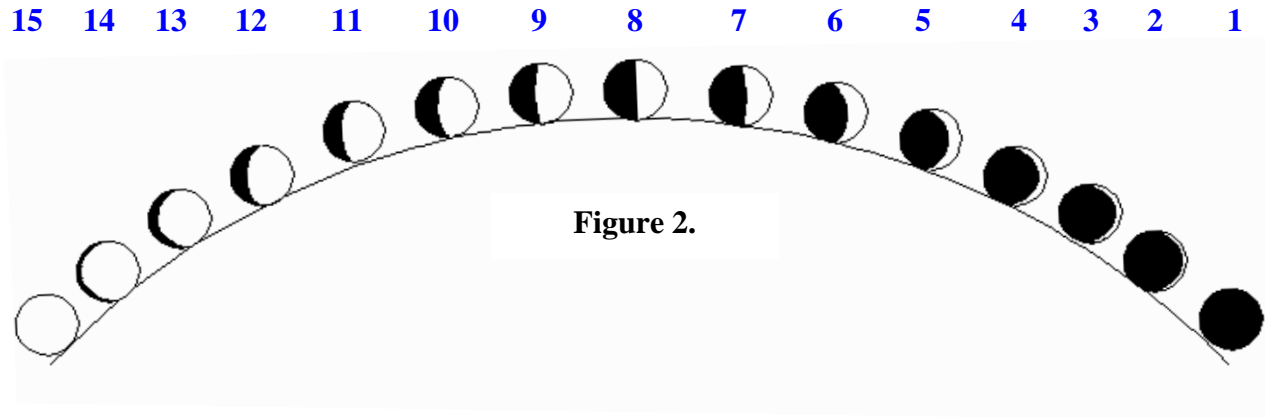
Scripture also records that every Sabbath in Scripture that is given an exact date is always the 8th, 15th, 22nd, or 29th day of a month. The evidence for this will not be presented in the scope of this study, but is available. The goal of this study is to prove how this information works in perfect harmony with the other evidence as revealed in the Holy Word of YHWH and with nature, YHWH's other faithful witness.

This is how Yah's calendar looks (every month). The new moon days are in **Blue** and the Sabbaths are in **Red** and of course, the work days are in black.

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

Figure 1.

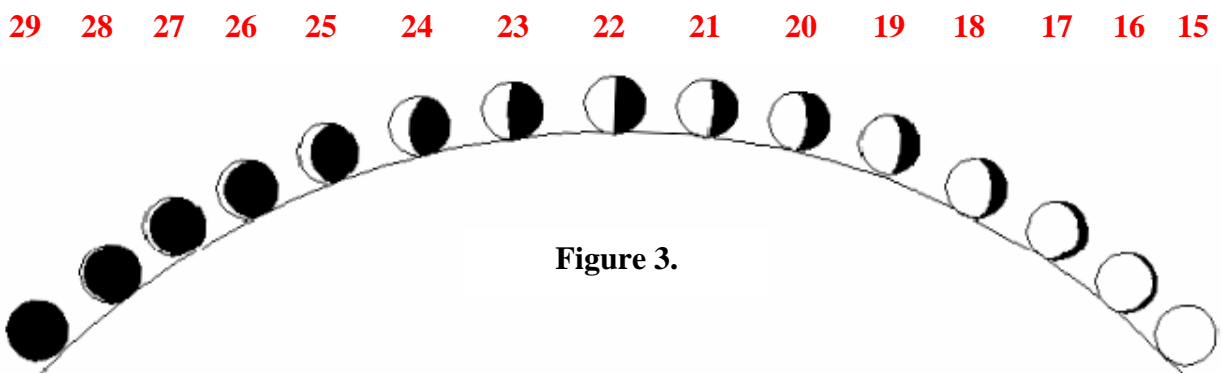
A picture is worth a thousand words so here is how YHWH’s calendar works. **Figure 2** below is pictured as if you were facing south, the dark (or new) moon on the far right is to the west and the full moon to the extreme left is to the east. This sequence represents the waxing moon which gets a little larger every night. This, in sequence from right to left, is how the moon will look and its approximate position on the sky’s dome at sunset on that night of the month.



Notice that there are approximately 7 days from the day 1 (new moon) to the first quarter moon (day 8). And there are approximately seven days from the 8th to the 15th (full moon).

Figure 3 below is for the waning moon. Each of these moons (in sequence from right to left) is how the moon will look and its approximate position on the sky’s dome at sunrise (not sunset this time) on that morning of the month. Again, we are looking south with the full moon (day 15) to the west (far right) and the “no moon” or dark of the moon to the east (extreme left). During the waning moon, the moon is up during a portion of the day. This time the moon gets a little smaller every day. The Sabbath moon is the 1st quarter, full, 3rd quarter moon and no moon.

Once again, notice there are about seven days from the full moon to the 22nd (the third quarter moon) and that seven days after that is the 29th (no moon). So there is a light in the cosmos that is on a seven day cycle, and it can (and does) regulate the week.



The Hebrew word translated as “New Moon” is Strong’s H#2320, kho’-desh, which is from the primary root, khaw-dash’ (H#2318) which means *to be new, causatively to rebuild*. If the waning moon is considered old, at what point is it said to be new? As soon as it begins to wax larger, and the **moment** that takes place is at conjunction. See figure 4.

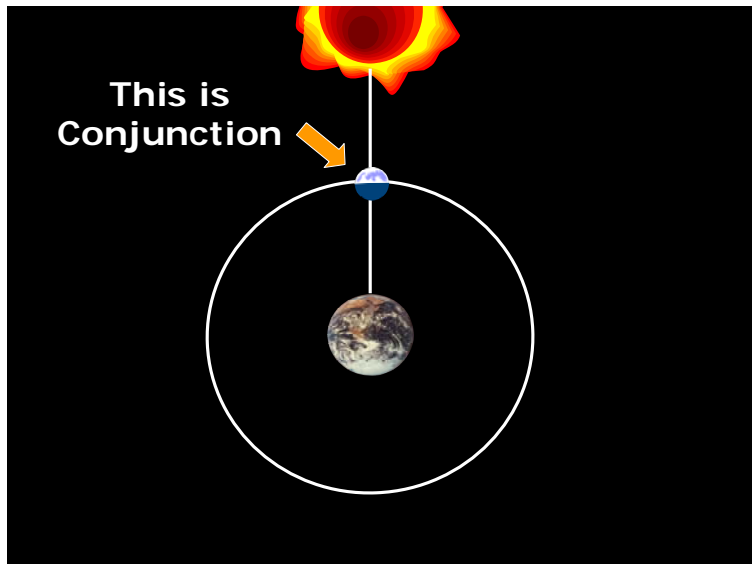


Figure 4.

When the moon merely breaks the plane between the earth and sun it is called conjunction. If the moon passes through the LINE between earth and sun it is a conjunction, but causes an eclipse of the sun. We can't see the moon at its conjunction, it is between the earth and the sun, but at the moment it enters its rebuilding phase, it becomes new.

Of note, there are 29 and 30 day months in YHWH's calendar. In the deficient (29 day) months the conjunction takes place on the 29th day, meaning that the next day is new moon (day 1 of the subsequent month). Thus, there is only a one day new moon celebration (day 1).

In the whole (30 day) months, conjunction takes place on day 30 rather than day 29 as in the deficient (29 day) month. And after the Sabbath of the 29th, there is a two day new moon celebration (day 30 of the old month and day 1 of the new month). There will be no visible moon on either night. After the last Sabbath of the month, (the 29th) there is a new moon celebration until the moon is indeed considered new. If the moon conjuncts during some portion of a day, the first part of that day is in the old month and the remaining portion is new. However, this day cannot be considered the new moon day (day 1 of the coming month) because a portion of it was in the old month. This is a Scriptural concept.

When a leper had been cured of his leprosy and came before Aaron, when was he considered clean? Not at that moment, rather he had to wait until even, until the beginning of the new day. He could not be considered clean (renewed) the day of his cleansing because he had already been unclean for a portion of that day, so he had to wait until sundown (when the new day began) before he could be called clean. This same design is incorporated into the cleansing process of a person with runny sores, and issue of some sort, or a menstrual period. At even (sundown) after their scheduled days of purification they were then considered clean.

Note: There is a medical reason why YHWH instituted "even" as the time when cleansing took place. Germs must be kept warm by a host body. In the semi-arid environment that the children of Israel lived in, it became very cool at night. At even, as the sun set, the affected person would take a ritual bath and was then considered clean because the coolness/cold of the night prevented the germs or uncleanness from growing or spreading. A rather intelligent plan, wouldn't you agree? This is why we refrigerate food items after opening.

Scripture has revealed to us the lights that rule the day, the year and the month. Now let's see if Scripture actually ordains any of the lights in the heavens to rule the week.

Genesis 1:14 also says, the lights in the heavens were given for signs. The word *signs* is translated from the Hebrew word, 'owth (Strong's H#226) which means *signal* or *beacon*. The timepiece in question regulates its particular segment of time by turning on and off—like a radio tower or lighthouse.

Well the sun rules the day and the year, but other than being a little higher or lower on the sky's dome (depending on the time of year), it never changes, it looks the same every day of the year. The moon however is a different story. Every 24 hours it noticeably changes. Over the course of a month, it turns on (waxes) and off (waned). Can it rule the week? Should it surprise you that the phases of the moon are on an approximate seven day cycle? Surprise! And this, brethren, is the key that unlocks Scripture's silent mystery: Does the month begin at conjunction or the visible crescent? This is also how David in **1 Samuel 20:5** knew in advance that the morrow would be the New Moon.

Read **1 Samuel 20**. Discovering how YHWH determines the different days of the week is not that difficult, but you need a rudimentary understanding of YHWH's calendar first. Day one is a new moon day, followed by six working days which is then followed by the seventh day Sabbath. The term "Sabbath complete" means 6 work days followed by a Sabbath. There are four complete weeks and 1-2 new moon days in each month. Look again at the calendar (**figure 1**) on page 2. The months generally (but not always) had 30 then 29 days on a rotating basis.

Here's how it works: The temple was built so the entrance was to the east. Those entering were facing the west (as a prohibitive measure—so no one would worship the rising sun). It was the priest's job to call the feasts and new moons, and as they were receiving the folks at the temple, they were indeed facing the rising sun, and for good reason. As the moon grows old (waned), every morning a smaller and smaller crescent is seen closer and closer to the eastern horizon. See **figure 3** on page 3. Conjunction day is the day the sun rises without the moon being seen first.

So it was on the 29th day of the month that David said to Jonathan, "Tomorrow was the new moon." David knew because that morning the moon had come up before the sun meaning that the old month had not yet passed, which meant that it would be a 30 day (or whole) month, not a 29 day (deficient) one. David understood that there would be two days of feasting (Day 30 and Day 1) which is why he requested that Jonathan come into field to shoot the arrows on the third day (the day following the second day of the new moon celebration). The underlying Hebrew in **1 Samuel 20:27, 34** literally means the 2nd day of the *new moon* (celebration) not the 2nd day of the month as translated. (I asked a Hebrew student).

There is not as much cloud interference in semi-arid Palestine, so observing the heavenly lights is a much easier proposition. I have witnessed each of these events, though, because of weather patterns/cloud cover, I have not been able to witness an entire month's end/beginning. I have however seen each of these segments over a period of three months. The method put forth by Scripture actually works quite well. Just like clockwork.

We have been told that you cannot see the moon for 2-3 days on either side of the conjunction which is untrue and really not relevant. This “argument” usually comes from good folks who believe that the visual crescent marks the new moon. A newly waxing moon can be seen with the naked eye and perfect atmospheric conditions about 17 hours after conjunction. So it is safe to say that someone at another location can see the old moon up until about 17 hours before conjunction. Granted, you cannot see the moon 17 hours before conjunction and 17 hours after conjunction from the same location. However, the moon is new at conjunction, not from the visual crescent. Just because you cannot see the moon when it becomes new (at conjunction) does not mean that it is not new.

It is true, if months were observed from the visual crescent, then depending on what point over earth the moon conjuncts, it might be from 17 to 40+ hours after conjunction before you spot the first visible crescent, which presents a problem. There is always a full moon on the first day of Unleavened Bread, the evening that separates the 14th and 15th of Abib. If we wait until the visible crescent to start counting the days of the month, we will miss having the full moon at the “appointed time” by 24-48 hours. Counting from the conjunction eliminates this problem.

If David foreknew when the new moons were, then you and I, on this end of history, should be able to utilize the same method to reckon time as did Israel. When you figure out how to do that then you are observing YHWH’s calendar. This is what we have found.

By observing a lunar/solar calendar, we have been accused of not keeping the Sabbath. Really!?! And by whose standard or calendar would that be? We keep YHWH’s calendar, not that of man.

YHWH’s calendar and the Gregorian calendar do not intersect even for a moment. The days of the Gregorian calendar are from midnight to midnight. YHWH said that they are from even to even. The Gregorian calendar year begins in the dead of winter when YHWH said that the first month of Spring begins the year. The solar Julian/Gregorian calendar (by decree of Cesaer then Pope Gregory) does away with the new moons in the calculation of months. YHWH ordained the new moon for the calculation of the months. The Gregorian calendar espouses Sunday as the day of rest/worship. YHWH said that the Sabbath is His day of worship. The Gregorian calendar is totally inaccurate, completely devoid of truth. There is no light in it. Why, therefore do we look to the moon to tell us when to observe YHWH’s feasts, and then turn our gaze away from YHWH’s method of reckoning time to the Gregorian calendar to find the Sabbath?

Even Nature screams this truth established by the Father. The visible crescent may be as much as 1-2 days after the conjunction due to various factors. If we calculate the new moon from the visible crescent, our feasts days will be off by as much as 2 days. If done every month, at least you would be consistent by your own reckoning, but listen! Passover-Unleavened Bread always begins at the time of the full moon which makes for easier traveling to the feast among other reasons. If we calculate Passover (Abib 14) from the visible crescent, we could in essence begin this feast by as much as 2 days after the full moon.

Brethren, the full moon is always 14 ½ -15 days after the conjunction; right on time for the feast if we count from conjunction rather than the visible crescent. We are not just making this stuff up. Scripture is literally full of things that we have never been able to see before because we have refused to look or we have not known or even thought to look.

Nature always proves the Father's Law but we can only hear it when we are in tune with nature and/or Scripture. The truths that Father so easily reveals to those who humble themselves before Him He does not openly reveal to those who think themselves wise, learned, or mighty...

For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

But YHWH hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and YHWH hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

*And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath YHWH chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are, **1 Corinthians 1:26-28***

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

*Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! **Isaiah 5:20-21***

He shall break in pieces mighty men without number, and set others in their stead.

Therefore He knoweth their works, and He overturneth them in the night, so that they are destroyed.

He striketh them as wicked men in the open sight of others;

*Because they turned back from Him, and would not consider any of His ways: **Job 34:24-27***

Observing the feasts and new moons is commanded in Torah: *Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your Mighty One: I am YHWH your Mighty One. **Numbers 10:10***

“In rejecting the truth, men reject its Author. In trampling upon the law of G-d, they deny the authority of the Lawgiver. It is as easy to make an idol of false doctrines and theories as to fashion an idol of wood or stone. Satan leads men to conceive of G-d in a false character, as having attributes which He does not possess. A philosophical idol is enthroned in the place of Jehovah [YHWH]; while the true G-d, as He is revealed in His Word, in Chr-st, and in the works of creation, is worshiped by but few. Thousands deify nature, while they deny the G-d of nature. Tho in a different form, idolatry exists in the Christian world to-day as verily as it existed among ancient Israel in the days of Elijah. The god of many professedly wise men, of philosophers, poets, politicians, journalists, the god of polished fashionable circles, of many colleges and universities, even of some theological institutions, is little better than Baal, the sun-god of Phoenicia.” *Signs of the Times, 7-04-1899*

*Yahushua answered and said, I thank Thee, O Father, Master of heaven and earth, because Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. **Matthew 11:25***

“The truth ... is revealed to the childlike and humble. At the outset its advocates are few. By great men of the world and by a world conforming church, they [the childlike and humble] are opposed and despised....

“As in earlier ages, the special truths for this time are found, not with the ecclesiastical authorities, but with men and women who are not too learned or too wise to believe the Word of G-d.” *Christ's Object Lessons, p. 78-79*

Scripture clearly tells us that the lights in the heavens regulate time. The Moon clearly was created to regulate the Mo'edim (appointed times), two witnesses--**Genesis 1:14-15, Psalm 104:19**. It does not say which of His appointed times, which a reason alone says must mean all of His appointments are regulated by the moon, not just the ones we choose to observe. **Leviticus 23:2-3** says that the Sabbath is YHWH's first appointed time (feast).

There is one last issue that needs to be addressed. A year in prophecy is 360 days long or 12 thirty day months. Why did the prophets write such a thing since we know that the year is 365 days long today (solar year) and the lunar year is 354 days? It is clear from Scripture that the year USED to be 360 days long. Read **Genesis 7:11** and compare with **Genesis 8:4** and **Genesis 7:24-8:3**. The 17th day of second month to the 17th day of the seventh month is exactly five months. $5 \times 30 = 150$ days. History proves this point as well. Immanuel Velikovsky found that **every** ancient calendar utilized the moon to count off 12 thirty day months with weeks of seven days being marked off by the phases of the moon. These ancient calendars all had 360 days.

There are only 2 ways for every ancient civilization in the Fertile Crescent to have had the same lunar/solar calendar. There was either knowledge handed down from a common source or they were all observing the same luminaries in the heavens, which they were. Velikovsky also found that it was at the same time that all the ancient calendars began to change. He determined that there was some world wide cosmic cataclysm that took place which altered the relationship of the earth to the lights in the heavens slightly. There are several events in Scripture that could have done exactly that: the flood, the exodus, Joshua's battle and Hezekiah's sundial. There is another reason that will not be explored as it is outside the scope of this study.

Briefly, Velikovsky also found that on all the ancient star maps that our planet Mars was originally a blue planet (it had water) and that Venus was not on ANY of these same ancient star maps. He speculates (using good science and also using the historical account of ancient eye witnesses) that Venus was originally a massive comet that came perilously close to Mars collapsing its atmosphere which effectively vacuumed all the water off of Mars. The comet, carrying the water from Mars then came perilously close to earth, depositing that water and causing a flood on earth of cataclysmic proportions. The immense pressure from the near collision also caused earth's mantle to fracture.

Re-read the flood account about the water coming both up and down and wonder. Mars is now a red (desert) planet, devoid of water and Venus was subsequently captured by the sun settling in as the second planet from the sun. As odd as it sounds, this event very well could have altered the relationship between earth and its moon.

The *time, times and the dividing of time* is prophetic code. $360 \text{ days} + 720 \text{ days} + 180 \text{ days} =$ the 1260 day prophecies we see in Daniel and Revelation. A "time" in Hebrew understanding is a year, which is recognized from creation as having 360 days. Prophetically, a day is equal to a year, **Numbers 14:34** and **Ezekiel 4:6**. So, prophetically speaking, 1260 days = 1260 years. The saints would be given into the hand of the fourth beast for a time, times and half a time, **Daniel 7:25**. Care to guess how long the Papacy reigned unchecked? You might ask the 50-120 million who lost their lives during the Dark Ages for refusing to bow to Rome. The Pope received his seat in Rome from the emperor Constantine in 538 AD. Now add 1260.

In 1798, (538 + 1260 = 1798) Berthier, the French general under Napoleon's order, invaded the Vatican and took the Pope prisoner where he later died in captivity. It was not until WW1, when Mussolini gave the Vatican back, that the Papacy regained her throne. At that time, the *San Francisco Chronicle* headline screamed in huge print, "Deadly Wound Healed." Read **Revelation 13** and shudder.

Note: I am not discounting another (literal, rather than prophetic) application of these timed prophecies at the very end. I will not say that these have already been fulfilled and will have no further application. Scripture is clear that Daniel will speak again at the end of the days.

Again, we need to ask—Why did the prophets present the year as having 360 days if the original year established at Creation was 365 days? The answer is easier than you might expect. The prophets were presenting timed prophecies that were based on the manner and method that YHWH uses to keep time. When you ponder this faced with the corruptness of the Gregorian calendar, it does not take a giant step of the intellect to determine that the prophets were correct. Under Divine influence, the prophets of old were foretelling future events using YHWH's Creation calendar, a lunar/solar calendar, not man's "solar only" invention. The Julian calendar did not exist until B.C. 46. The Gregorian calendar did not exist until A.D. 1582. Will you have us believe that Sabbath keepers were keeping the wrong day as Sabbath or did not know when the Sabbath was until the Julian/Gregorian calendars came along and "informed" mankind when the seventh day was?

We need to anoint our eyes with eye salve that we may see (**Revelation 3:18b**). The cloud is moving. We need either to follow or be left in the wilderness. Read **Isaiah 29:9-24**.

Respectfully submitted,

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