

The Sabbath: When is it?

Twelve Criteria of the True Crucifixion & Resurrection Date

By K. L. French

Sir Isaac Newton discovered it in the late 1600's. The Roman Catholic Church discovered it shortly thereafter. William Miller and Samuel Snow discovered it in 1843. Grace Amadon and the Seventh-day Adventist General Conference Research Committee discovered it in 1938.

So what was it they discovered?

They found that it was impossible to harmonize the twelve criteria of Christ's crucifixion date with the Julian/Gregorian calendar. However, all of them found the twelve criteria perfectly fit God's Biblical luni-solar calendar (see Genesis 1:14-19.) As a result of this discovery, the Roman Catholic Church applied only five (somewhat skewed) criteria to an all together different year (A.D. 33) of the Julian/Gregorian calendar. This allowed them to retain an Easter Sunday resurrection. William Miller and Samuel Snow, as a result of their study, were able to connect all the dots (dates) of the 2300 day/year prophecy of Daniel 8 and 9 using A.D. 31. Grace Amadon and the General Conference Research Committee found it impossible to reconcile these 12 crucifixion criteria with the Julian calendar. With over 5000 pages of research, including correspondence to and from astronomers all over the world, they clung by faith to A.D. 31 as the crucifixion year, but were unable to reconcile the Passover full moon requirement with a Friday.

Traditionally, it has been claimed that ever since creation 6000 years ago, a continuous weekly cycle has never been broken. In addition, it has been argued that Saturday must be the true Sabbath because that is the day observed by modern Jews. However, the Jews themselves admit that *they* altered their calendar in the 4th century A.D.

The key to establishing the crucifixion date lies in the *twelve criteria* that identify the dates for the crucifixion and resurrection.

Correct knowledge of the crucifixion date establishes which calendar was used by Christ Himself in observing the seventh-day Sabbath.

*“From the days of Ezra and Nehemiah to the present time, a long series of historical and astronomical source materials now offer a complete picture of the new moon and her phases. Every detail of her performance is described either on tablets, stone, or parchment, or in books of ancient and modern astronomy. **Thus has the way been prepared for effective chronological study with reference to Jewish luni-solar time, and its bearing upon the death-year of Christ.**”*
Grace Amadon, Research Committee of S.D.A. Church, 1938

A halo of light and glory clustered about the time of Jesus’ death and resurrection, immortalizing the sacred facts that He was the Saviour of the world. Early Writings 197

Historical Evidence

“He shall insult the Most High, he shall torment/wear out the holy ones of the Most High and he shall attempt to change the calendar and the ordinance” Daniel 7:25 (John Knox’ translation.)

“Under the reign of Constantius (337-362) the persecutions of the Jews reached such a height that . . . the computation of the calendar [was] forbidden under pain of severe punishment” (excerpts from *The Jewish Encyclopedia*, “Calendar.”)

“Sabbath and New Moon (Rosh Hodesh), both periodically recurring in the course of the year. The New Moon is still, and the Sabbath originally was, dependent upon the lunar cycle” (*Universal Jewish Encyclopedia*, 410.)

“Neither was it lawful for a man to keep sabbath days or ancient fasts, or to profess himself at all to be a Jew.” 2 Macabees 6:6

Historical Evidence

“The Israelites . . . made the Sabbath the feasts of a living and holy God. The work of man became symbolic of the work of God, and human rest of divine rest, so that the Sabbaths became preeminently days of rest. Since, moreover, the LUNAR MONTH had 29 or 30 days, the normal lapse of time between Sabbaths was six days, although sometimes seven or eight; and six working days were accordingly assigned to the creation, which was to furnish a prototype for human life. *The connection of the Sabbath with lunar phases, however, was [later] discarded by the Israelites . . .*” (*The New Schaff-Herzog Religious Encyclopedia*, 135-136.)

If the evidence born out in this study can be proven true, then successive weeks as we have known them on the Julian/Gregorian calendar “have been broken” since the time of creation. Secondly, Saturday as we know it today **cannot** be the true seventh-day Sabbath of God.

And the times of this ignorance God winked at. . . . Acts 17:30

Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. “Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.” Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Heb 4:1, 7, 11-13

While this study only scratches the surface of this important and weighty subject, you will be able to see for yourself in the diagrams below the discrepancies between the two calendars as they overlay each other.

These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. Acts 17:10-11

Below is the Julian/Gregorian calendar followed by the Biblical Luni-solar calendar as they would appear for April of A.D. 31, the specific month of Christ’s crucifixion. Following these, are two calendar overlays which show the discrepancy between the two calendars, specifically as it relates to the seventh-day Sabbath.

As you can see this is a basic Julian/Gregorian calendar for A.D. 31. Using the *twelve criteria* that are listed on page 9, is it possible to conclusively pinpoint the crucifixion, Sabbath and resurrection days?

Julian/Gregorian

April A.D. 31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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					

The Biblical Hebrew practice was to begin the month on the day following the first visible crescent moon. The first visible crescent was visible on the night of April 11, in A.D. 31, therefore the 12th was observed as New Moon day.

“The Millerites were clear . . . that the first day of the new month always followed the moon’s first appearance, and did not precede it.” Grace Amadon, 1939

The days of the Hebrew month were numbered from 1 to 29 or 30. New Moon day is called day 1 (this is the first day of the month, but not the first day of the work week); the first Sabbath is the 8th day of the month and 7th day of the week; the second Sabbath is day 15; the third Sabbath is day 22; and the last Sabbath is day 29. This is how every month of every year looks since it was put in place at creation. The only exception is half the months of each year have 29 days and half have 30.

[Scroll down to see calendar.]

Creator's Lunisolar Calendar

Abib/Nissan A.D. 31

Day 1

Day 2

Day 3

Day 4

Day 5

Day 6

Sabbath

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Sabbath
					Last day of previous month & night of First sighting of the horned crescent.	New Moon 1 st day
First day of Week					Preparation Day	Sabbath
2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th
First day of Week					Crucifixion Passover Feast 14 th Full Moon day Preparation day 6th day of the week	True Sabbath Rest 15 th of Creation Feast of Unleavened Bread Begins
9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th		
First day of Week Resurrection 16 th Wave Sheaf Offering					Preparation Day	Sabbath
17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	
First day of Week					Preparation Day	Sabbath
23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th Conjunction	29 th
30 th Translation Day						

Historical Evidence

According to Iranaeus, "Pope Sixtus I, was the first to celebrate a Sunday Easter in Rome instead of the traditional Nisan 14 [day after full moon] date on the lunar calendar. This change from the luni-solar to a fixed solar calendar occurred in Rome during the repressive measures which were enacted against all Jewish customs and practices, including the lunar calendar, during the reign of Emperor Hadrian. With the fall of the Nazarene headquarters . . . at Jerusalem, this new Roman calendar quickly spread throughout 'Christendom.' This new calendar not only replaced yearly festival dates such as Passover, but it also *revamped the concept of the week and its seventh day.*"

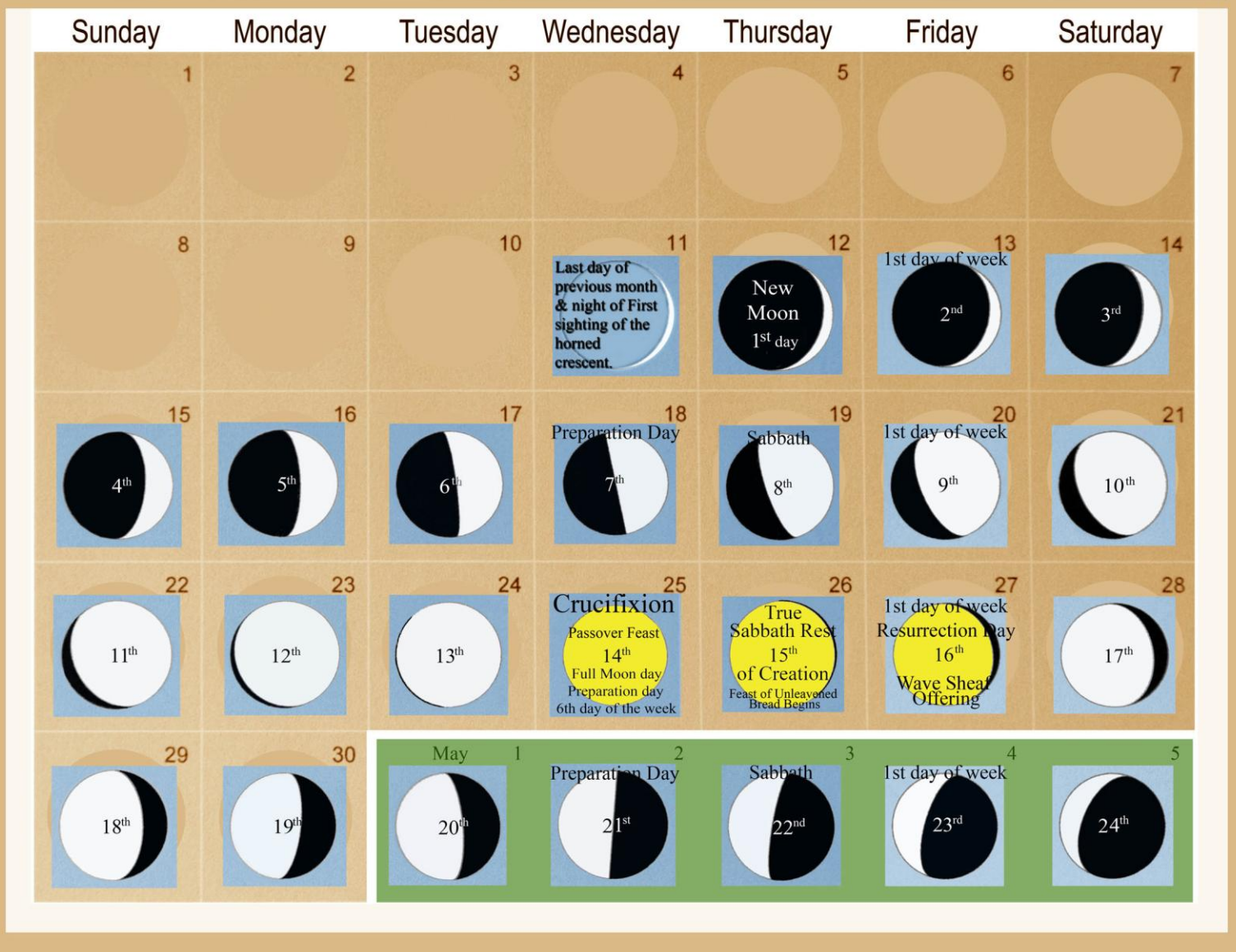
As you look at the following calendar overlay, ask yourself four questions:

1. Is the New Moon day also the first day of the Julian/Gregorian calendar?
2. Counting inclusively from the New Moon day, is the 14th day of the luni-solar calendar on the 6th day of the Julian/Gregorian calendar week as well?
3. Is the day following the 14th day the seventh-day Sabbath?
4. If the succession of weeks as we have known them has never been broken, then all the Sabbaths will line up, the luni-solar with the Julian/Gregorian Saturday. Do the Julian/Gregorian Saturdays perfectly match the seventh-day Sabbaths of the luni-solar calendar in the overlay diagrams below?

Below, you will see the Julian/Gregorian calendar is the framework of squares with the dates in brown, with the Biblical Luni-solar calendar as an overlay in blue, and is represented by the phases of the moon. It will appear that the Luni-solar calendar floats thru the Julian/Gregorian calendar, but in fact the opposite is true. Here you will see the discrepancy between the two calendars, specifically as it relates to the seventh-day Sabbath. This clearly reveals how the twelve criteria act as God's ordained GPS in the sky to pinpoint the exact year, day and hour as well as the true calendar system.

Overlay Lunisolar over Julian/Gregorian

April AD 31



Below you will see the reverse of the above calendar. Here the luni-solar calendar is the framework in blue, with the Julian/Gregorian calendar as an overlay in gold lettering. You will see that the Julian/Gregorian calendar floats thru God's luni-solar calendar.

Overlay Julian/Gregorian for April and May over Lunisolar - Abib/Nissan

A.D. 31

Day 1 Day 2 Day 3 Day 4 Day 5 Day 6 Sabbath

Friday 6	Saturday 7	Sunday 8	Monday 9	Tuesday 10	Wednesday 11	Thursday 12
					Last day of previous month & night of First sighting of the horned crescent.	New Moon 1st day
2nd 1st Day of Week	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
Friday 20 1st Day of Week	Saturday 21	Sunday 22	Monday 23	Tuesday 24	Wednesday 25 Passover Crucifixion 14th Full Moon day Preparation day 6th day of the week	Thursday 26 True Sabbath Rest 15th of Creation Feast of Unleavened Bread Begins
Friday 27 Resurrection 16th Wave Sheaf Offering 1st Day of Week	Saturday 28	Sunday 29	Monday 30	Tuesday 1 May Begins	Wednesday 2	Thursday 3
Friday 4 23rd 1st Day of Week	Saturday 5 24th	Sunday 6 25th	Monday 7 26th	Tuesday 8 27th	Wednesday 9 28th Conjunction	Thursday 10 29th
Friday 11 30th Translation Day						

To clearly establish the facts of the crucifixion of Christ, begin with the year, followed by the season, the month and, finally, the day, as each is a foundation for the next.

Twelve Criteria for the True Crucifixion & Resurrection Days

1. **YEAR**: A.D. 31 – Messiah cut off in midst of the week as established in the 70 week Prophecy of Daniel and proclaimed by William Miller in 1843.

Dan 9:24-27 “Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city . . . Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks . . . And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off . . . he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.”

Great Controversy 327: “In the autumn of A.D. 27 Christ was baptized by John . . . “In the midst of the week He shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease.” In A.D. 31, three and a half years after His baptism, our Lord was crucified.”

2. **SEASON**: First month of spring coinciding with ripe barley

If the barley was not ready for the harvest, then an additional month was added, postponing the New Year for the duration of one full lunar cycle. Thus, it was a 13-month year; an embolismic (leap) year.

*Lev 23:5 “In the **fourteenth day** of the first month at even is the Lord’s passover.”*

Lev. 23:9 “When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the first fruits of your

harvest unto the priest, and he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, on the morrow after the Sabbath.” (This was always in the spring just as the barley was ready to be harvested.)

Great Controversy 327: “In the autumn of A.D. 27 Christ was baptized. . . . In A.D. 31, three and a half years after His baptism, our Lord was crucified.” (Thus making this the spring of the Year) See also Acts 10:38 and Mark 1:14, 15.

3. **MONTH: First month of the year called Abib/Nissan**

This lunation provided a full moon falling between the Julian/Gregorian dates of April 8 to May 6.

Deut. 16:1 “Observe the month of Abib, and keep the passover unto the LORD thy God: for in the month of Abib the LORD thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt by night.”

Great Controversy 399: “On the fourteenth day of the first Jewish month, the very day and month on which for fifteen long centuries the Passover lamb had been slain. . . .”

Also see E. G. White: *Great Controversy 399 and Patriarchs and Prophets 486. Ex. 23:15.*

4. **DAY OF MONTH: 14th day after first sighting of crescent moon**

*Lev 23:5 “In the **fourteenth day** of the first month at even is the Lord’s Passover.”*

*Great Controversy 399: “On **the fourteenth day** of the first Jewish month, the very day and month on which for fifteen long centuries the Passover lamb had been slain. . . .”*

Also see E. G. White: *Great Controversy 399 and Patriarchs and Prophets 486.*

5. **DAY OF THE WEEK: 6th day of the Week**

John 19:31 “The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was a high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.”

Matt. 28:1 “In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulcher.” (This is a process of deduction.)

Desire of Ages (DA) 794 “On the sixth day of the week they had seen their Master die . . .”

Also see E. G. White: DA 769-774, 794 Ps.81:3

6. **PREPARATION DAY: This is always the day before the Sabbath.**

Matt 27:62 “ Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate saying, ‘Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, “After three days I will rise.” Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, “He has risen from the dead.” So the last deception will be worse than the first.’”

Mark 15:42-44 Now when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

DA 774 “At the setting of the sun on the evening of the preparation day the trumpets sounded, signifying that the Sabbath had begun. The Passover was observed as it had been for centuries, while He to whom it pointed had been slain by wicked hands, and lay in Joseph’s tomb. On the Sabbath the courts of the temple were filled with worshipers.

Also see E. G. White: DA 771

7. FULL MOON DAY: (Day following the night of the full moon)

This is a process of deduction as the day of the Full Moon is always 14 days, counting inclusively, from the New Moon day. So, if the New Moon was first seen in the night sky on the night of (Julian calendar's) April 11th, then the 12th was called New Moon Day. The 12th being day 1, count fourteen days to arrive at the true Passover day. You should have arrived at April 25. (We are only using Julian/Gregorian month names and day numbers for clarification.)

Ps 81:3 "Blow the trumpet at the time of the New Moon, at the full moon, on our solemn feast day. For this is a statute for Israel, a law of the God of Jacob."

DA 685 "In company with His disciples, the Saviour slowly made His way to the garden of Gethsemane. The Passover moon, broad and full, shone from a cloudless sky. The city of pilgrims' tents was hushed into silence".

8. PASSOVER FEAST

Lev 23:5 "In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the Lord's Passover".

*Great Controversy 399 "The slaying of the Passover lamb was a shadow of the death of Christ. Says Paul: "Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us." 1 Cor. 5:7. . . . **These types were fulfilled, not only as to the event, but as to the time.** On the fourteenth day of the first Jewish month, the very day and month on which for fifteen long centuries the Passover lamb had been slain, Christ, having eaten the Passover with His disciples, instituted that feast which was to commemorate His own death as "the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world."*

Also see E. G. White: DA 571, *Spiritual Gifts*, Vol. 3, 225

9. HOUR of HIS CRUCIFIXION

- **Placed on the Cross at the third hour (9:00 a.m.) :**

Mark 15:25-26 “Now it was the third hour, and they crucified Him.”

- **Darkness over all the land between sixth and ninth hour: (12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.)**

Matt 27:45-46 “Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land.”

Mark 15:33-34 “Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.”

“Nature itself was in sympathy with the scene. The sun shone clearly until midday, when suddenly it seemed to be blotted out. All about the cross was darkness as deep as the blackest midnight. This supernatural darkness lasted fully three hours”. Jesus – The Final Hours by E. G. White

- **Christ Died at the ninth hour (3:00 p.m.):**

*Matt 27:46-55 “And **about the ninth** hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?’”*

*E. G. White: “At the **ninth hour** the darkness lifted from the people, but still wrapped the Savior as with a mantle. The lightning seemed to be hurled at Him as He hung upon the cross . . . A light encircled the cross, and the face of the Savior shone with a glory like the sun. He then bowed His head upon His breast and died.” (Jesus – The Final Hours)*

10. FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD COMMENCES (Seven day Feast)

It begins on the 15th day of Abib, lasts seven days and ends at the end of the 21st day which is the 6th day of the week and designated a Feast sabbath. So, the 21st is a Feast sabbath and the 22 is the regular seventh-day Sabbath for the month of Abib.

*Ex 12:18 “In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. **For seven days** no leaven shall be found in your houses, since*

whoever eats what is leavened, that same person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel. . . .”

11. SABBATH REST IN THE TOMB & HIGH SABBATH (on the 15th day of the month.)

Notice this is the same seven day cycle as that of Creation: the Julian calendar had not yet been adopted by the Hebrew people. This particular seventh-day Sabbath was called a High Sabbath because the ceremonial sabbath, the first day of Feast of Unleavened Bread, began on that day.

Matt 28:1-2 “Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.”

*John 19:31-32 “Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (**for that Sabbath was a high day**), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.”*

*DA 774 “At the setting of the sun on the evening of the preparation **day the trumpets sounded, signifying that the Sabbath had begun.** The Passover was observed as it had been for centuries, while He to whom it pointed had been slain by wicked hands, and lay in Joseph’s tomb. **On the Sabbath the courts of the temple were filled with worshipers.**”*

*Universal Jewish Encyclopedia, page 410: “**Sabbath and New Moon (Rosh Hodesh), both periodically recur in the course of the year. The New Moon is still, and the Sabbath originally was, dependent upon the lunar cycle.**”*

12. WAVE SHEAF OFFERING & RESURRECTION Day

This is the first day of the next week.

Lev. 23:9 “When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the first fruits of your

harvest unto the priest, and he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, on the morrow after the Sabbath”.

Mark 16:9 “Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons.”

*1Cor. 15:20-22 “But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came **the resurrection of the dead**. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.”*

Great Controversy 399 “The sheaf of first fruits, which at the time of the Passover was waved before the Lord, was typical of the resurrection of Christ”.

The twelve criteria listed above, establish the luni-solar calendar used at the time of Christ and excludes the Julian/Gregorian calendars with their false seventh-day Sabbaths. Clearly the twelve criteria are descriptive only of the one true calendar of God’s creation. As a banner waving high in the heavens, His calendar only declares glory and honor to the Creator. If the above twelve criteria could have been reconciled to the Julian/Gregorian calendar, it would have been done long ago. In the seventeenth century, following the documentation of Sir Isaac Newton, the Pope of Rome sought a year that would reconcile some of the criteria with their Roman calendar. This is History. This is why, to this day, the Catholic Church and most Protestant denominations teach that Christ was crucified in the year A.D. 33. This is no small matter.

The year A.D. 31 was established by the Millerites only after William Miller and Samuel Snow were led by God to an understanding of His luni-solar calendar as originally taught by the Karaite Jews. Only then were they able to connect all the dots (dates) that perfectly completed the 2300 day/year prophecy. Ellen White verified October 22, 1844. The real problem with the crucifixion date does not appear until one understands the requirement of a full moon preceding Passover. This is where the discrepancies between the two calendars establish the impossibility of a *Friday* crucifixion in A.D. 31. It quickly becomes clear that the continuous weekly cycle of the Julian/Gregorian calendars are not in harmony with the Creator’s Luni-solar calendar.