

CONSTANTINE CHANGED CALENDAR

HOW ROMAN/BABYLONIAN CYCLES CAME TO DOMINATE MODERN TIME.

In this Section we will deal with the time-reckoning of three different groups in the New Testament Era. These three groups are the Romans, the Hebrews and the man from Galilee and his disciples. Through this examination we will come to get a grasp on how time-reckoning evolved from the Scriptural system into the calendar most of us are on in modern times. As we examine the facts be prepared for some startling surprises. We start with the Roman system that evolved into essentially the system we have today.

THE ROMAN REPUBLICAN CALENDAR

The very earliest calendar used by the Romans was lunar, similar to others we have discussed in these lessons, although details of that most-ancient Roman Calendar are obscure. By later Republican times, the Roman Calendar is well documented. Certain Roman religious customs, as well as the monthly subdivisions of *Kalends*, *Nones*, and *Ides*, indicate that the calendar was lunar, and that months began upon direct observation by a priest of the new moon crescent.

In the Roman Republican calendar, the months contained three primary markers -- the Kalends, the Nones and the Ides. The Kalends were always the first day of the month. The Nones were usually the 5th but sometimes the 7th, and the Ides were the 15th but sometimes the 13th. All the days after the Ides were numbered by counting down towards the next month's Kalends. Incidentally, this Latin word, *Kalends* is where our English word *Calendar* comes from. This system was vaguely like the lunar "weeks" we have found in other calendars, in the sense of being tied to the moon's cycle. The holidays were generally bunched together to form continuous celebrations, and the remaining days of the month were usually nondescript workdays.

It is in the Roman Republican calendar that we find a recurring cycle distinct from the lunar cycle. This was still not a week such as we know it today, but after a few more centuries, well after the New Testament era, eventually evolved into it. This "week" had a recurring cycle of 8-days called the *nundinae* = nine-days (nine because of inclusive counting). This was by no means an unchangeable cycle, as our modern 7-day week seems to be, however. This is shown from the fact that it was not always 8 days, at times it was 10, based upon convenience and commerce. The Roman "week" was not religious in significance, but originally indicated days upon which a market would be held in Rome. It was simply a schedule of when business could be done and was something like a train or bus schedule might be viewed today. In that sense it was not viewed strictly as a division of time as the week is viewed today. Extant Roman calendars indicate this interval by giving each consecutive day a letter A through H. Note that this was simply a space marker for each day. The Romans did not call the individual days "day A," "day B," "day C," etc.

THE JULIAN CALENDAR

The Julian calendar was a major modification by Julius Caesar of the Republican calendar. As *pontifex maximus*, Caesar was responsible for the smooth operation of Rome's calendar, which previous neglect by other pontifices had been allowed to fall behind the seasons. In the second year of Caesar's dictatorship (47 BC) the calendar was running as much as 90 days behind the seasons, due largely to political manipulation of the calendar. Caesar began his calendar reform by ordering an ordinary leap year (intercalation of one lunar month). That was not sufficient to deal with the problem. Therefore, during his second consulship he inserted 67 days (exactly how isn't perfectly clear, but probably 2 months between November and December of 22 and 23 days, plus another intercalary month after February). With this "fix", by the end of the year we know as 46 BC, the calendar was pretty much back in sync with the seasons. As you might imagine, these changes caused a great deal of confusion at the time. In fact, later writers called it the *annis confusionis* (year of confusion).

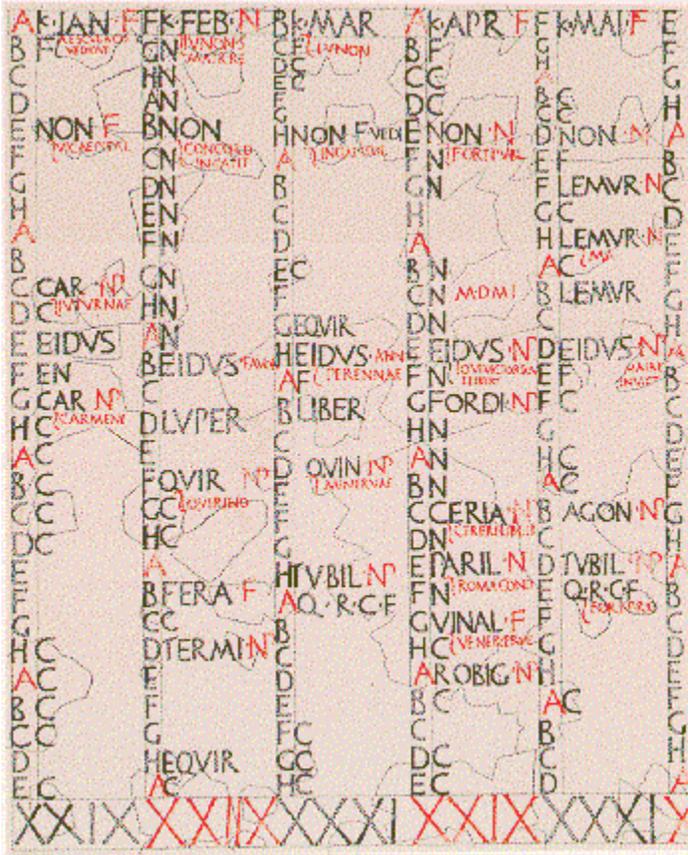
The New Encyclopedia Britannica elaborates: *The origin of the calendric system in general use today - the Gregorian calendar - can be traced back to the Roman republican calendar, which is thought to have been introduced by the fifth king of Rome, Tarquinius Priscus (616-579 BCE)... By 46 BCE the calendar had become so hopelessly confused that Julius Caesar was forced to initiate a reform of the entire system. Caesar invited the Alexandrian astronomer Sosigenes to undertake this task. Sosigenes suggested abandoning the lunar system altogether and replacing it with a tropical year of 365.25 days. Further, to correct the accumulation of previous errors, a total of 90 intercalary days had to be added to 46 BCE, meaning that January 1, 45 BCE, occurred in what would have been the middle of March. To prevent the problem from recurring, Sosigenes suggested that an extra day be added to every fourth February. The adoption of such reformatory measures resulted in the establishment of the Julian calendar, which was used for roughly the next 1,600 years.*

Thus, the Julian Calendar marked a major change from the Lunar Republican Calendar, being a Solar calendar and the predecessor of the Calendar still in use today. It was not until 1582 AD that Pope Gregory XIII decreed a modification to the Julian calendar, giving us the "Gregorian Calendar" that governs modern time. The New Encyclopedia Britannica explains why that became necessary: *During that time (since the initiation of the Julian calendar in 46 BC), however, the disagreement between the Julian year of 365.25 days and the tropical year of 365.242199 gradually produced significant errors. The discrepancy mounted at a rate of 11 minutes 14 seconds per year until it was a full 10 days in 1545, when the Council of Trent authorized Pope Paul III to take corrective action. No solution was found for many years. In 1572 Pope Gregory III agreed to issue a papal bull drawn up by the Jesuit astronomer Christopher Clavius. Ten years later, when the edict was finally proclaimed, 10 days in October were skipped to bring the calendar back in line.*

Considered as a theoretical calendar (i.e., projecting it back before it was actually invented), the Gregorian calendar matches up with the Julian in the third century CE. Because the pre-Julian Roman calendar was not regular, the custom of historians is to use the Julian calendar proleptically for earlier

dates. That is, dates before 45 BC, which are naturally recorded in different calendars, are translated into the Julian calendar.

ACTUAL JULIAN CALENDARS CIRCA FIRST CENTURY



The actual Julian calendar represented here is from the time when the Julian calendar was already well-established. Although the original calendar of the Roman Republican period was replaced, some conventions of the earlier Republican era calendar continued to be maintained in the new calendar. One important feature carried over into the Julian Calendar from the earlier Republican Calendar was the 8 day “market” cycle, represented by letters A through H on the calendar. The 7-day Roman planetary week (7 day cycle named after the planet gods) had not yet evolved and is nowhere to be found on this first century Julian calendar. As we shall see, the 7-day planetary week was a later innovation initially unrelated to market days.

This is significant for Scripture study. **We must understand that the Romans had no 7-day week during the New Testament era. Any reference to a**

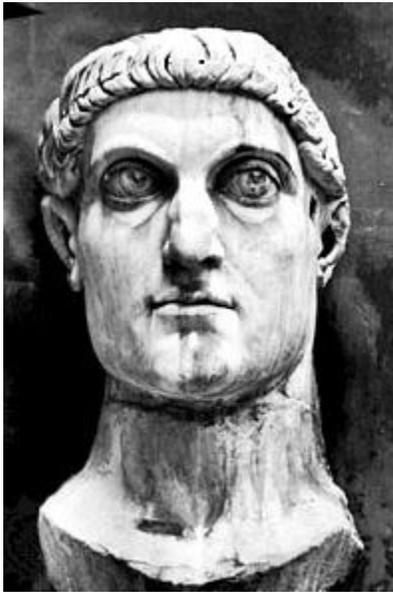
"week" in the New Testament IS NOT a reference to the same cycle known today as a week. The 7-day cycle known today as a week was completely unknown to the Romans of New Testament times, having not been adopted by them yet!



A 7 Day Planetary Week Emerged. Antrols the first hour of the day named after it. This system was brought into Hellenistic Egypt from Mesopotamia, specifically Babylon, where astrology had been practiced for millenniums and where seven had always been a propitious number ("lucky" 7). This pagan idea developed into a scheme among the Romans where certain days became connected with each of the seven planetary "gods." A connection of each day with one of the seven planetary gods began to spread through the Roman Empire around the turn of the first century. The earliest evidence of the beginning of the development of the planetary week was found at Pompeii, the amazing Roman city destroyed by a volcanic eruption during the final quarter of the first century. A wall inscription with the heading 'days of the gods' lists the planets in the order Saturn, Sun, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus.

This original order of the planetary week (starting with Saturn's day) varies from the week eventually written into Roman law in the fourth century, which features the Sun's day as the first day of the planetary week. We should stress again that this innovation of a 7-day planetary week did not arise in the Roman Empire till after the writing of most if not all of the New Testament books; *"Since the earliest evidence for the existence of the planetary week is to be dated toward the end of the first century A.D."* - W. Rordorf

Even then, the religious planetary 7-day cycle did not have the force of time-reckoning later associated with it. It would take over a century more for the ceremonial planetary week to evolve into the institution of a continual 7-day weekly cycle used in dates. The earliest known instance of this is from 205 AD, in an inscription from Karlsburg, Transylvania, while the earliest case from the eastern empire is a school lesson from Egypt, dated 294 C.E.



CONSTANTINE ENFORCES ROMAN / BABYLONIAN TIME AT THE LATE DATE OF 321 AD.

In 321 AD the Emperor Constantine the Great permanently grafted the astrological planetary week system onto the Roman calendar, making the first day of this new week the day of the Sun and a day of rest and worship for all, and imposing the sequence and names to the days of the planetary week as we know them today. With this official edict the market week and the planetary week were finally and permanently fused into one continuous seven day cycle named after the "gods". By edict of the Emperor Roman-Babylonish time was suddenly transformed into "Christian" time. While there were holdouts for a while, the new Roman system of time was adopted throughout most of western Europe: in the Germanic languages, such as Old English, the names of four of the Roman gods were converted into those of the

corresponding Germanic gods.

PAGAN WEEK DAY NAMES TELL THE STORY

All of this should be sufficient to demonstrate that the week we are so familiar with today originated as an amalgamation of paganism and commercialism and was not in any sense given to us by Yahuah. In fact, the pagan origin of the planetary week is still to be seen in the names of the days of the week in use today:

Planetary "god"	Latin	Germanic "god"	Modern English	Modern Italian
Sun	Solis		Sunday	domenica
Moon	Lunae		Monday	lunedì
Mars	Martis	Tiu	Tuesday	martedì
Mercury	Mercurii	Woden	Wednesday	mercoledì
Jupiter	Jovis	Thor	Thursday	giovedì
Venus	Veneris	Freya	Friday	venerdì
Saturn	Saturni		Saturday	sabato

THE PAGAN PLANETARY WEEK HAS NO CORRELATION TO SCRIPTURAL TIME

The above facts are not in tune with the common perception that the current seven day week has always existed, and has existed in the same order in which we find it today. Historically that just isn't true, yet quotes such as the following are produced and repeated as "proof" that the seven day week has been an uninterrupted institution from the beginning of time: *"It is to be noted that in the Christian period, the order of days in the week has never been interrupted. Thus, when Gregory XIII reformed the calendar in 1582, Thursday, 4 October, was followed by Friday, 15 October. So in England, in 1752, Wednesday, 2 September, was followed by Thursday, 14 September."* (*The Catholic Encyclopedia* (1910 Edition, Vol. 3, page 740, in the article "Chronology")

In reality, it is irrelevant that the order of the days of the planetary week "in the Christian period" may have remained "uninterrupted" with the Gregorian calendar change in 1582 AD. The "Christian period" *The Catholic Encyclopedia* is necessarily talking about is not the New Testament era (first century), but from 321 AD when Emperor Constantine, the first historic Pope, institutionalized the planetary week. The salient point here is therefore obvious to the avid Scripture student and truth-seeker. Namely, 321 AD is just too late a time to be Scripturally relevant. Further, the order of the Roman planetary week was never tied to any Scriptural numbering of days of the "week." Indeed, the Roman week evolved completely separately from Scriptural time and changed in order with "Saturday" being moved from the first day to the last day of the Roman week. In short, even if there were such a thing as a Scriptural weekly cycle continuing unbroken from creation forward we could not assume that "Saturn's day", now the last day of the Roman week, is the same as the "seventh day" of the creation week. If Sabbath-keeping depended upon identifying the true seventh day of a continuous cycle of weeks from creation forward then Sabbath-keeping is impossible, for there is no unbroken cycle of Roman weeks that tie in directly to the Scriptural calendar! Saturday and Sunday Sabbath-keeping are both equally based on the myth of the first century Roman week that never existed. Thank Yah that He "made the moon for appointments!" Unless He had done so we would have no way to determine when to meet Him to keep His Sabbaths.

OUT OF SYNC WITH THE CREATOR'S TIME CYCLES - IN SYNC WITH BABYLON

I would conclude this lesson by suggesting that the Roman system of time reckoning institutionalized by Constantine the Great has had a much more profound effect on us than we can scarcely realize. Yahuah gave us a system of time-reckoning tied directly to the natural order he created. By it any child can easily keep in step with Him according to the natural cycles that are meant to bless us in body, mind and spirit. By contrast, the Roman system, based on commercial greed and pagan Babylonian religion, has the effect of divorcing us from the natural order. It has put us on a 7-day treadmill that has little or no connection whatever with anything Yah created and that tends to keep us out of sync with both creation and Creator. Its purpose is to keep us in sync with an artificial and de-humanized hamster-wheel mindset controlled by the ungodly world system of "Babylon" in rebellion to the healthful natural order and rule of Yah. This has harmful effects upon us in body, mind and spirit that we probably can't even begin to imagine. Friends, we have been almost totally asleep at the wheel, intoxicated by poisons we

have taken for granted because we've never known any different. It's time to wake up and get a grip while it is still barely possible.

Bearing witness to the Light, the truth contained in Yahuah's written word.

- Troy Miller

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