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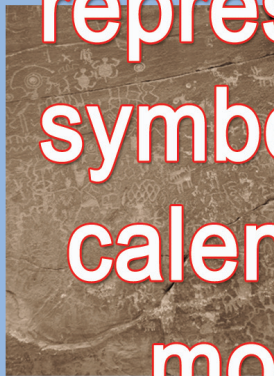
Beacon



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The eight symbols seen here represent but a few of the symbols connected to the calendars of ancient and modern civilizations



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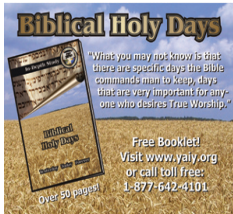


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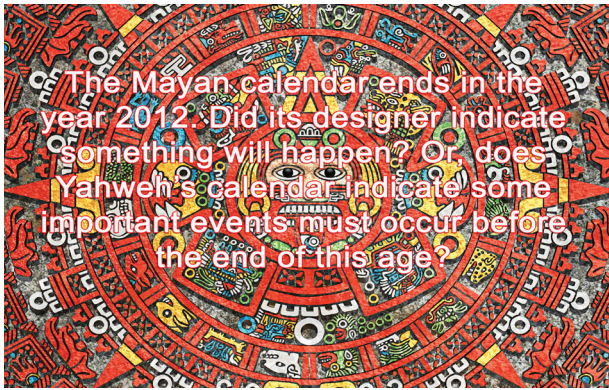
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Our Mission and purpose is to reach people around the world with the message of the revealed personal Names of Yahweh and His Son Yahshua the Messiah, as well as teaching the salvation truths that have been neglected for centuries.

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The Determination of Yahweh's Appointed Times

The Way That Seemeth Right

Among the various Sabbath-keeping groups that have accepted the keeping of Yahweh's Moed (appointed times) as commanded in Leviticus 23, which were to be a "statute forever," there is still some confusion concerning whether the Bible based calendar should be followed. The world has elected to be guided by our secular calendar and observe the days of churchianity. This includes Sunday, xmas, Easter, lent, halloween, Valentines, New Year, etc. These days stem from paganism and should be rejected. Carnal man has rejected the Scriptural calendar which was followed by Yahshua and included the weekly and annual Sabbaths.

In turning from our present Gregorian calendar which most of the world follows, we must reject the pagan-based days of worship and turn to Yahweh's special times. The big question now is, should we follow the Jewish calendar which lists the Saturday Sabbath as well as the Annual Sabbaths? While we feel the Jewish Calendar is basically correct in delineating the months, they are often off a day or two because of their postponements. The present Jewish Calendar was introduced to the world in 359 C.E.

The Biblical calendar is based upon the visible new moons and each month will have alternately 29 or 30 days. The year begins with green barley ears in Israel, which generally is the new moon nearest the vernal equinox. The Biblical calendar parallels the Jewish calendar but does not accept the Rabbinic postponements.

The Proper Time

The striking of the blood upon the lintel and doorposts of the Israelites dwelling in Egypt was to be done on the proper day if the firstborn were to survive, Exodus 12. Had the Jews "out of every nation under heaven" not been devout and kept Pentecost (Shavuoth) at the proper time, they would not have witnessed the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the 120 disciples who "were all with one accord in one place," Acts 2. We, who are living in the latter days, must carefully determine the exact days upon which Yahweh promises to meet with His people, the "Moed" or the "appointed times." The next un-

fulfilled Annual Sabbath after Pentecost is the day of Trumpets (1Thess. 4:16, Matt. 24:31, 1Cor. 15:52). This could well be the "time appointed" of Daniel 11:27 and 35.

By not observing these Moed or "appointed times" at the proper season, we may well miss the significance of the day as did the Jews who killed the Passover Lamb a day late and did not perceive the true LAMB slain from the foundation of the world. [Compare John 13, where the disciples and Yahshua kept the Passover, with John 18:28.]

Confusion of the Times

One of the objections to the Observance of the Biblical calendar has for its basis the addition of the 13th month Ve-Adar. It is claimed this is not Scriptural, for there is no Bible command this be done. However, neither is there an exact number of days to be found a month (from one new moon to the next) delineated in the Scripture.

Rabbi Hillel II in the years following the last temple very accurately said that from one new moon to the next was 29 days, 12 hours, 44 minutes and 3 ½ seconds. It is necessary, therefore, to have one month of 30 days and a month of 29 days to even out the irregularity of hours, minutes and seconds. The entire problem of determining the proper calendar has its basis in the difference of the solar year's 365 days and the lunar year 354 days. The problem is reconciling 12 lunar months that fall 11 days short of the 365 days of the solar year. In three years, the 11 days add up to 33 days or a full month.

Biblical Support of Ve-Adar

Genesis 1:14 reads in part, "Let there be lights...and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years." (Note the "lights" are not to be observed for seasons, days and years, such as observing the equinox which is condemned in Deut. 18:10). This verse itself indicates a lunar-solar year, for the Bible assigns a regulation of the year's length indifferently to both sun and moon. Just as it is necessary to add an extra day every other month to compensate for the irregularity of the month's days, it is also necessary to add another month from time to time to bring the lunar months to correspond to the seasons of

the year which are governed by the sun. [Questions arise over a 13 month year from time to time.]

If this is not done, we would be following the Mohammedan calendar, an absolutely lunar system in which every month follows the moon closely, but wanders through all four seasons during a period of 33 years. If the rule of no 13th month is followed, the month of Abib comes in spring, then midsummer, then at the harvest season, and then would fall at the time when one should observe the Feast of Tabernacles. A leap year is necessary to keep the months in season.

Many times in prophecy we know that a day stands for a year (Num. 14:34). In the 4th chapter of Ezekiel we read in verse 5 that Ezekiel has to lie on his left side 390 days. Because a prophetic month is 30 days, we can see that Ezekiel was actually showing us a year of 13 months (13 x 30 = 390 days). Yahweh did not pick numbers like this haphazardly. There is a purpose in showing that He approves of Ve-Adar, or leap year. The addition of the 13th month of 30 days reveals the prophetic month given Israel. No matter which calendar is followed, approximately every third year will have 13 new moons [or months].

Changing the Times

It is an accepted fact that the earliest believers observed Passover and the other feasts in accordance with the Biblical calendar (Act 2:1, 13:14, 16:13, 18:4, 18:21, 20:6, 20:16). They did so until the time of Constantine at the Council of Nicea in 325 C.E. The Roman church resented dependence upon the Jews for arranging its ecclesiastical year. The church had to contact the Jews to learn the date of Passover so they could establish Easter. The church has since estab-

lished Easter as the first Sunday following the full moon, following the Vernal Equinox.

To remove this taint of Judaism, the Council of Nicea adopted the vernal equinox as the point in which they determined the pagan Easter (Ashtoreth) celebration. Rome adopted the Egyptian solar system of 12 months plus the pagan Easter teachings, and this is the basis of our secular calendar in the Western world. A little reflection upon the word "month," which means "of the moon," shows our secular calendar does not follow the moons at all but has 12 months of basically 30 or 31 days.

There is a prediction in Daniel 7:25 that a vile person shall think to change the times and the laws. This could not be the Jews, who

are known for their scrupulous keeping of the Sabbath and the Feast days. The credit for the changing of the times and the laws goes to the Roman Catholic Church, which, in 325 C.E. at the Council of Nicea, in effect did away with the Biblical calendar, and in 365 C.E. at the Council of Laodicea established worship on the venerable day of the sun. This was that which was predicted as shown by the Smith-Goodspeed and Moffatt translations where we read, "Would attempt to change sacred seasons and the law." The Y2K was thought by some to be a time of changing our calendar to fulfill prophecy.

The Biblical calendar has since been largely ignored and our pagan Gregorian calendar has been followed by the Western world. No wonder Daniel 7:25 says that he "shall wear out the saints of the most high" in their endeavor to follow the days Yahweh has proclaimed we should keep in obedience to Him. 2Thess. 2:3,4 also brings this out by saying "Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called Yahweh or that is worshiped." One way to exalt oneself above Yahweh would be to change His Law, His commandments of days of worship. Degeneration of Yahweh's people from purity began as they cooperated through compromise with paganism.

Calendar Evident in David's Time

Hillel II made the Jewish calendar available to the Jews in 359 C.E. to avoid confusion among the Jews following their dispersion at the destruction of the second temple in 70 C.E. and the Bar Kochba rebellion of 135 C.E. This insured the Jews around the world would all be keeping the same moons, festivals and holidays at the same time. In the past, this calendar was used only to check

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'Days, Months, Times, Years'

A Look at Galatians 4:10-11

What did Paul mean when he wrote to the Galatians in 4:10-11 about keeping special days, months, times, and years? Was he telling them they no longer should keep the seventh-day Sabbath and other holy days of Leviticus 23? Here is the clear answer.

The people of Galatia, who occupied a region of what is today modern Turkey, were not Israelites but European, Celtic immigrants, according to the Anchor Bible Dictionary. They were a heathen people—gentiles—who had never heard of Yahweh's truth until Paul brought them the message of salvation. Likely the assemblies addressed were Antioch, Iconium, Derbe and Lystra.

Clarke's Commentary says that the religion of the ancient Galatians "was extremely corrupt and superstitious, and they are said to have worshiped the mother of [deities] under the name of Agdistis, and to have offered human sacrifices of the prisoners they took in war...A tall and valiant people, who went nearly naked; and used for arms a sword and buckler. The impetuosity of their attack is stated to have been irresistible, and this generally made them victorious."

After his salutation, Paul reprimands the Galatians by writing: "I marvel that you are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of [Messiah] unto another evangel: Which is not

the observations and testimonies of witnesses who watched for the new moon. This same calendar was in use within 200 years after the death of Alexander the Great according to the Arab scholar AL-Birumi. He also makes a point that Noah "computed and fixed the beginning of the months by calculations, because heaven was covered and clouded for so long as six months, during which time neither new moon nor any other phase of the moon could be observed," The Chronology of Ancient Nations, pp. 67-68.

There is Scriptural proof that this same calendar was in use in David's time and was calculated, for he said, "Tomorrow is the new moon," 1 Sam. 20:5, 24, 27. How could one know that the following day is a new moon unless some record and calculations be made? Yet no one doubts that David was anyone but a man after Yahweh's own heart (Act 13:22). Here is proof positive that a calculated calendar was already in use circa 1000 years before Messiah!

The Sabbath of the Jews

Many Sabbath-keepers make reference to the Jews when questioned about which day is the Sabbath. A big point is made of the fact that the Jews have kept the Sabbath for nearly 2,000 years ever since their return from Babylon. Overlooked, however, is the simple fact that when the Jews returned to Palestine in 1948 from all over the world, there was no disputing over which were the proper days to keep sacred from Passover to the Feast of Tabernacles. If there were some question over which were the proper days of the appointed time of Yahweh, a case might be made for the alleged corruption of the Biblical calendar. The present Jewish calendar is the result of careful calculations by educated astronomers. Yahweh's calendar

is based upon the crops grown in Israel. The Feast days are geared to the three main harvests: barley, wheat, and grapes and oil. We have shown in our booklet "Biblical vs. Jewish Calendar" the difference between the Jewish and the true Biblical calendar. In Biblical times months were always established by the first visible crescent of the new moons. While we accept the months of the Jewish calendar, the actual days may be off a day or two because of their man-made postponements which are foreign to the Bible.

The Earth Bringeth Forth Fruit

Two methods of reckoning calendar time were available to the primitive people, which were as follows: 1) Base time on the peri-

odic motion of the sun, moon, and stars; and 2) base time on the periodic growth of plants, grain, and fruit.

The former method originated with those worshiping the heavenly bodies, those who followed the signs of the zodiac. Such following of astrology is condemned in the Bible in such places as Deut. 18:10, Gal. 4:9, and Col. 2:8. In these latter two references, the word "elements" as explained in Thayer's Lexicon is more applicable to the context of Paul's writings and reads, "the heavenly bodies," either as parts of the heavens, or (as others think) because in them the elements of man's life and destiny were supposed to reside. "Elements" could well be translated "astrological signs" and has to do with not only the zodiac, but looking for signs such as the summer and winter solstices or the winter or vernal equinox.

Just as there is condemnation in the Scriptures for looking to the heavenly bodies for signs, there is direct command to look to earth and the crops brought forth. Deut. 16:1 reads "Observe the month of Abib." Observe is from Strong's 8104 (shamar) and means "attend to, be ware, be circumspect, take heed, keep, mark, look narrowly, regard, observe, wait for." This is a direct command!

Green Ears, Not Ripe Ears

Abib must be the month in which the green ears appear. Following the directions as given in Deut. 16, an Israelite would note the New Moon in the beginning of spring and check the barley fields for the appearance of the heads of grain. If he found the grain short, and no heads forming, he would wait until the next month. At the time of the New Moon, he would again check the barley fields and when he noted a balling in the ear, he would know that this

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New Moons and Jerusalem Time

Isaiah tells us the entire world will be honoring the New Moons and the Sabbaths as they worship Yahweh in the coming Kingdom. As students of Yahweh's word, we should be observing them now, becoming knowledgeable about New Moons as well as the Sabbaths that we might be able to help others along the way. Both New Moons and Sabbaths are to be observed in the Kingdom as we note in the following:

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 Yahweh. (Isaiah 66:23 AV)

Likewise the people of the land shall worship at the door of this gate before Yahweh in the Sabbaths and in the new moons. (Ezekiel 46:3 AV)

The time may come that we will be isolated from the body of Messiah, but we are still obligated to keep His set times as an act of obedience. We are also told in the New Testament they are prophetic (Col. 2:16-17), that is, they foreshadow future events. The greater our understanding the greater is our responsibility to walk in His ways.

ANCIENT NEW MOON OBSERVANCES

In anticipation of the New Moon, Jewish moon watchers anciently were stationed on high prominences around Israel. When the moon was sighted, they would light a bright fire signaling to waiting Temple priesthood the New Moon had been seen and the new month has started. However, both the Samaritans and Botheans began lighting fires on other days to confuse the Jews. Runners were then

was the month of Abib when he could garner an omer (handful) of green ears after the Sabbath during the days of unleavened bread. Shavuoth (Pentecost) is to be counted from when the sickle is put to the standing corn. (Deut. 16:9)

Because all true believers are commanded to watch for the crops in Palestine, we should be alert to what is going on in the Holy Land. This is where the Messiah will set His foot upon His return to this earth (Zech. 14:4), from which the law will go forth (Isaiah 2:3). The Biblical calendar is based upon the agricultural crops in Palestine, and is given us for a guide for the keeping of the Annual Sabbaths.

Several witnesses from Israel have commented that ever since Israel became recognized as a nation in 1948, Yahweh has honored their calendar. When the Jewish calendar has a leap year, the barley crop is delayed. When the month of Abib is upon us, the green barley is there. Again, we remind our readers that due to the unbiblical *dehioth* [postpone-ments] the Jewish calendar may be off a day or so.

Biblical References

Of all months, Abib stands alone as not having an ordinal number. It has no number because it is coincidental with the certain season. Abib is always THE ABIB as an appellation of the season of the new ears of grain. We read of the second month in Gen. 7:11, third in Esth. 8:9, fourth in 2Kings 25:3, etc. In addition to the month of Abib (which means green ears) the names of the other months themselves indicate a solar reckoning so that these months make a regular appearance at the proper season: Zif= "Blossom"; Bul="Rain," The Hebrew month Ethanim = "Gifts" (of the harvest, oil, fruit, corn). Proper obser- vances of Yahweh's Feasts are

dependent upon the stages of the agricultural years: Passover, the oblation of the omer of barley, and Shavuoth, wheat or grain harvest, and Tabernacles, ingathering of oil, fruit and wine – Fall Harvest.

There is no command to use the vernal equinox in the Scriptures, but as pointed out, this practice is actually condemned because it is a sign to the pagan worshipers.

The Hebrew months are mentioned in the Scriptures—Abib, Deut. 16:1; Zif, 1Kings 6:1; Bul, 1Kings 6:38; Ethanim, 1Kings 8:2. The Jewish calendar is said to be based on the Bible, but man has tampered with it by adding various interpretations to it. For example, never does Atonement fall before or fall immediately after a weekly Sabbath in the present Jewish calendar. [This rule was

added to give a day's preparation either before or after Atonement. But where does Scripture justify such a change?]

The Year's Beginning

There are some who reject the Biblical calendar on the basis that the Biblical beginning of the new year begins in the spring of the year. This is not entirely true, however, for we can see from Ex. 23:16 and 34:22 that the end of the year is at the feast of In-gathering, several months before spring begins.

Also, the Jubilee year begins in the fall of the year beginning in the seventh month, for this heralds the Jubilee YEARS' beginning. This is the time of the year when the Messiah may well return at the last trump (Lev. 25:9, 1Thess. 4:16, Matt. 24:31, 1 Cor. 15:52) to put down all governments at this time and set up His own Kingdom and establish His own CIVIL rules here on this earth with divine laws and judgments. (Dan. 7:14)

The spiritual significance is that we as believers begin our life in Him in the "Spring" when the first-fruits begin to develop "heads of grain." We begin our spiritual life by accepting the shed blood of the Messiah and grow up in Him, and in the "Fall" of the year those who have been faithful unto the end join Him at the harvest season to take over the rule of the civil gov- ernments here on earth.

Proof in Our Time

A very simple test of which is the proper month for Abib would be to ascertain which was the month in 1970 wherein the green ear ap- peared. This was a year in which the 13th month Ve-Adar was added. In a letter from Israel to the Faith Staff directed to Pastor Samuel Graham, it was unequiv- ocaly declared that the barley harvest would not begin until May. This means that Yahweh (who

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Prophetic Truths in the Sabbaticals and Jubilees

After wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, Israel finally crossed the Jordan and somewhat conquered the land Yahweh had promised. They had not been thorough in driving out the enemy, however, leaving pockets of heathen culture that would prove to be Israel's downfall.

Deuteronomy chapter 7 relates that Israel would find a wicked people in their land. These were vile pagans and removal of them surgically was Yahweh's solution. He had warned Israel that these people would prove a snare and they should not intermarry with them or have any dealings with them socially, religiously or in any other way. Israel was to annihilate them. Yahweh even gave miraculous help to accomplish this task.

Had Israel done what was commanded, they would have prospered in the Promised Land. But because they disobeyed, their punishment was years of servitude to their enemies.

Israel as a nation found it hard to accept the startling concept that Yahweh would allow His Chosen ones to be taken captive by a foreign power; by a king who worshiped idols and followed pagan ways. It simply was too difficult to grasp that Yahweh had for the time being disowned Israel and would move them out of the Land He had promised them!

Northern Tribes Go to Assyria

The northern ten tribes, often referred to as "Ephraim," were taken captive to the area of present-day northern Iraq by the Assyrians and subsequently moved north and west, over the Caucasus Mountains (hence the term "Caucasian"). This occurred in the seventh century BCE.

The southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin were allowed to remain in the land for a time, having the

controls the seasons) did not approve of the early March reckoning of Passover, but did approve of the Jewish calendar, which listed April 20th as the proper day of Passover. March 22 was a month too early and the grain was not sufficiently grown to garner a handful of barley ears. All through the years Yahweh has honored His Biblical calendar by delaying the spring season whenever a necessary 13th month is added. (See Mt. Zion Reporter, March, 1970, page 11 – Passover).

Just as Yahweh is able to control the crops prior to the Sabbath and Jubilee years by making them “bumper crops,” enough to last three years (Lev. 25:21), so He controls the seasons and makes them fall in line with the inspired Biblical calendar. Rejection of the vernal equinox is readily apparent by the late green ears in 1970.

Follow in His Jewish Steps

We are commanded to be followers of the Savior as well as to follow the example set by the apostles in such places in 1Cor. 11:1, Phil. 3:17, and 1Pet. 2:21. There is no Scriptural evidence that the disciples or the Messiah followed any other than the Biblical calendar. Our Savior observed the official calendar of Israel as determined in those days by the Sadducees. Yahshua observed this calendar by not only acknowledging the feast of dedication, but observed all the commanded feasts of Leviticus 23 as well (Luke 2:42, 22:15; John 2:23, 7:10, 7:37, 11:56, 13:1, Matt. 26:2, 26:17; Mark 14:12, etc.).

Yahshua kept the Feast days of Leviticus 23 as well as the weekly Sabbaths. He did not keep xmas, Easter, Halloween, Lent, St. Valentine’s day. Why should we? We are to walk in His steps.

From 1Chron. 12:32 we learn that it was the tribe of Issachar

that has “understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do.” In Gen. 46:13 we learn that Job was of the tribe of Issachar, therefore familiar with the calendar. In Job 9:9 and 38:31-33 we learn that Job was a mathematician and an astronomer – a son of Issachar. The sons of Issachar apparently were the astronomers and knew the heavens and safeguarded Israel’s calendar. These rules of the calendar were preserved through the priests of Jerusalem from generation to generation and published by Hillel II.

Salvation Is of the Jews

We are forced to abide by the present Gregorian calendar of our day. However, there is no reason at all why we should take up

the pagan days and celebrate the days the worldly merchants attempt to force upon us such as Easter, xmas, etc. We are told not to “*learn the way of the heathen,*” Jer. 10:4. You should become familiar with the holy days in Yahweh’s calendar which will be kept in the Kingdom. There is no Scriptural indication that we should follow any other than the Biblical calendar where the months are accounted for by the visible new moons. If you do not already have YAIY’s wall calendar for the year, be sure to request yours today!

Isaiah tells us, “*From one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before Me, saith Yahweh,*” Isaiah 66:23. Note that it will be the new moon which will bring us each new month. You should get in the habit now to seek the visible new moons and make preparation now for your station in the Kingdom. Revelation 1:6 says you are to be a king and a priest!

Many people ignorantly refer to Yahweh’s Feast days as being Jewish, and feel they are something to do with animal sacrifices. However, these special times are called Yahweh’s Feasts,

And Yahweh spake unto Moses, saying, “Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, ‘Concerning the feasts of Yahweh, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my feasts. Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of Yahweh in all your dwellings. These are the feasts of Yahweh, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons,’” Leviticus 23:1-4.

Even so, we are to be spiritual

<see **Times** page 22>

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Yahweh’s Feasts

What should you do when you learn there are Biblical holy days that you should be observing now? How do you know when they should be kept and where do you keep them? These and other important questions are answered here. There are scriptural holy days that the True Worshiper is commanded to keep, rather than the paganistic ones most of the world indulges in today.

Thoughtful people who study their Bible in earnest soon raise the question, should not we also be observing the annual Feast days today in addition to the weekly Sabbath?

Are these days indeed still binding on Yahweh’s people in today’s modern ages? If we are to observe these times, where do we gather to keep them? What do we do at the Feasts? What time of the year are we to observe them? How long are they?

Abraham, Father of the Faithful

All who have entered into the New Covenant with Yahweh are to have the same attitude of faithful Abraham who did not flinch from doing Yahweh’s will, for “*Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws,*” Genesis 26:5.

Abraham departed Ur of the Chaldees, the pagan moon-city, journeyed to Palestine and to Bethel, from there to Egypt and back to Bethel. (Some Bible scholars perceive his travels and stop-overs a foreshadowing of the



Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread



In the Northern Hemisphere there are three harvest seasons: spring (barley harvest), summer (wheat harvest) and fall (numerous field crops). These three time frames correspond to the three time frames when man is commanded by Yahweh to gather together to celebrate some of Yahweh's annual Holy Days.

Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year. Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:) And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field. Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before Yahweh Elohim, Ex. 23:14-17.

Hence, the three time frames we are to gather together correspond to 1) Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread, 2) Pentecost (sometimes called the Feast of Weeks or the Feast of Firstfruits), and 3) the Feast of Tabernacles or the Feast of Ingathering, and the Last Great Day. The two that are not included, but still required to keep, are the Feast of Trumpets and the Day of Atonement. Each of Yahweh's Holy Days points directly or indirectly to our Savior, Yahshua Messiah.

Passover – Not the First Day of the Days of Unleavened Bread

Ancient Israel was told to keep Passover as a day of remembrance and to celebrate it as a feast in Yahweh's honor, pointing to Yahshua.

And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to Yahweh throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever, Ex. 12:14.

The word *memorial* comes from the Hebrew (Strong's #OT:2146) zikrown (zik-rone'); from OT:2142; a memento (or memorable thing, day or writing); and is translated memorial or record in the King James Version of the Bible. The root word of

zikrown is Strong's #2142, zakar (zaw-kar'). Zakar has numerous translations in the KJV, among them being "remember or to make to be remembered."

In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is Yahweh's passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto Yahweh: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread, Lev 23:5-6.

The first and last days of these seven days are amongst those days Yahweh considers to be holy.

In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto Yahweh seven days: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein, Lev 23:7-8.

Passover (day number 14 of the month Abib) and the Days of Unleavened Bread (days numbered 15 through 21) are two separate time periods.

Does Christianity today remember the day of Yahshua's death, Passover, once a year? No, certainly not. Instead, they celebrate the day of His birth as Christmas and the day of His resurrection as Easter. Each of these celebrated days has pagan origins. Celebrating these also counters Eccl. 7:1, which tells us which day is more important.

A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth, Eccl. 7:1.

The Encyclopedia Judaica tells us: "The Feast of Passover consists of two parts: the Passover Ceremony and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Originally, both parts existed separately, but at the beginning of the exile they were combined" (vol. 13, "Passover," p. 169).

Passover – Its True Meaning

Ex. 12:42 reads,

It [is] a night to be much observed unto Yahweh for bringing them out of the land of Egypt: this [is] that night of Yahweh to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations.

The Jewish Tanakh gives the following reading for this verse:

"That was for [Yahweh] a night of vigil to bring

them out of the land of Egypt; that same night is [Yahweh's], one of vigil for all the children of Israel throughout the ages."

The word translated "observed" is Strong's #8107 (shimmur), from #8104 (shamar), meaning an observance. On #8104 Strong says "A primitive root; properly to hedge about (as with thorns), i.e. guard; gen. To protect, attend to, etc.: beware, be circumspect, take heed, keep, mark, look narrowly, observe, preserve, regard, reserve, save, sure, wait, watch." Clearly the meaning is watchings.

The Greek word translated "watch" is Strong's #1453 (gregoreo) and means to be vigilant and wide-awake; to be alert: be or stay awake, to keep awake, be alert, i.e. watch.

Can we fathom in our minds what the Israelites were feeling during the night of the first Passover? It seems reasonable that they could not sleep because they knew that the destroying angel would be coming to kill all the firstborn. They were told to place the blood of the sacrificial lamb on the doorposts and lintels for protection from the avenging angel. They were warned to remain within the protection of their blood-marked houses the entire evening. Ps. 30:5 is referring to this:

Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

The Israelites did leave Egypt by night – the night after Passover:

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

Some believe Deut. 16:1 says that the Israelites left the land of Egypt to start their

trek to the Promised Land. However, the Israelites kept the Passover after the sun set beginning the 14th of Abib as recorded in the Scriptures.

During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship Yahweh as you have requested. Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me." The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. "For otherwise," they said, "we will all die!" So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing. The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. Yahweh had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians, Ex. 12:31-36 NIV.

After the Israelites spent the entire night portion of Passover in their houses they did as they were instructed to do by Moses, including spoiling the Egyptians:

And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: And Yahweh

gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians, Ex 12:35-36.

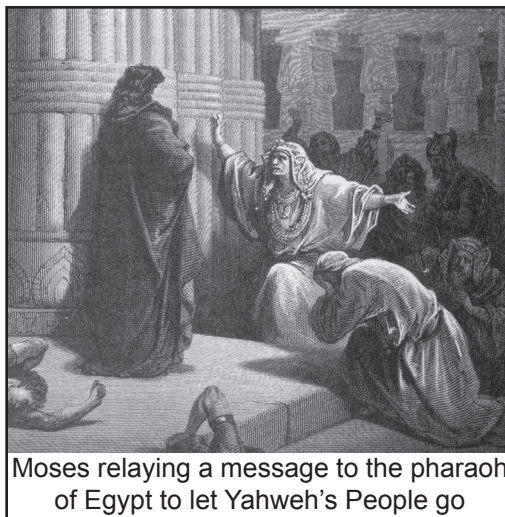
The events of the day portion of Passover are relatively easy to reconstruct. On the morning of the 14th the remains of the sacrificial lamb were taken out, the people began gathering their family, flocks, and herds and assembled at Rameses, some 30 miles from Goshen.

And they departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the morrow after the passover the children of Israel went out with an high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians, Num. 33:3.

Yahshua Kept Passover

Yahshua kept the Passover at the right time and thus fulfilled all righteousness up to the time of His death. His disciples did not have any difficulty keeping Passover at the right time.

And he [Yahshua] sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the passover, that we may eat. And they said unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare? And he said unto them, Behold, when ye are entered into the city, there shall a man meet you, bearing a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he entereth in. And ye shall say unto the goodman of the house, The Master saith unto thee, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples? And he shall shew you a large upper room furnished: there make ready. And they went, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover. And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. And he said unto them, "With desire I have desired to



Moses relaying a message to the pharaoh of Egypt to let Yahweh's People go

eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of Yahweh", Luke 22:8-16.

After Yahshua celebrated Passover with His disciples they went to the garden of Gethsemane to pray. Here Yahshua told them to be alert and watchful, just as the Israelites were told to do on the night of Passover.

And when they had sung a Psalm, they went out into the mount of Olives...My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with Me...And when He came unto the disciples, and found them asleep, and said unto Peter, What, could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, that you enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh is weak, Matt. 26:30, 38, 40-41.

Shortly, Yahshua was taken prisoner and then impaled the following day before the Jews had celebrated their late Passover.

Since Yahshua kept the law perfectly, should we not also keep Passover on the beginning of Abib 14?

Paul Kept Passover

Paul was of the tribe of Benjamin, a Pharisee. He was an apostle to the Gentiles and he taught them to observe what some call the "Feasts of the Jews."

Corinth was a Hellenistic, metropolitan community and a crossroads of trade and commerce. In 1 Cor. 5:7-8 Paul tells the people of Corinth that Yahshua is the Passover Lamb sacrificed for us:

Purge out therefore the old leaven that you may be a new lump as you are unleavened. For even the Messiah our Passover is sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast...

For Paul to write this it is quite evident that these days are not

done away with by Yahshua's death. It is obvious that Passover and the feast days referred to are still obligatory.

Passover – Preparation For Unleavened Bread

Passover, Abib 14, is the day preceding the first High Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The King James Version of Scriptures describes Passover as the preparation day, the day Yahshua was put to death for the sins of mankind.

It is indeed a preparation day. It is a day when one is to prepare for the days of unleavened bread by cleansing their houses of all leaven. The day following Passover is a High Sabbath. So the followers of Yahshua wanted to take His body down before the

first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread began:

The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the [tree] on the Sabbath day, (for that Sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away, John 19:31.

Feast of Unleavened Bread

The Feast or the Days of Unleavened Bread lasts for seven complete days, with the first day and the last day being High Days or annual Sabbaths. On the first High Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread was the time when the Israelites left Egypt,

The Israelites set out from Rameses on the fifteenth day of the first month, the day after the Passover. They marched out boldly in full view of all the Egyptians, who were burying all their firstborn, whom Yahweh had struck down among them; for Yahweh had brought judgment on their elohims, Num. 33:3-4 NIV.

The first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread is then a memorial for the time when the Israelites left Egypt.

We learn that the Israelites spent 430 years in Egypt before they left to return to the Promised Land.

Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years, Ex. 12:40.

How did they know where to go?

And Yahweh went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people, Ex. 13:21-22.

When the Israelites left Egypt, where did they head?

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Mini - Study



Why Passover is NOT a High Day

Perhaps because some Jews eventually and wrongfully combined the Passover with the first high day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, some believe that Passover on the fourteenth of Abib is also the high day, the first day of Unleavened Bread. But is it?

If these two observances don't stand on their own as distinct observances, why do they each have their own designation: "Passover" and "Feast of Unleavened Bread"? Similarly, the seven-day Feast of Tabernacles is separate from the last Great Day on the eighth, each having its own identification and meaning, even as one comes immediately after the other.

Overwhelming evidence in both Old and New Testaments shows that Passover was never considered a high day or kept as a Sabbath. The Passover was, however, a memorial of a certain event, and it was that particular event that was to be remembered in its own distinctive way separate from the Feast that follows.

Originally the Jews kept two separate observances, just as Yahweh had commanded in Exodus 12 and Leviticus 23. But at the time of their exile to Babylon the Jews began to keep the two as a combined observance. It is this later, unscriptural practice that has contributed to much of the confusion, especially for New Testament readers who are forced to follow translators who allowed later Jewish practice to influence their translations.

Noteworthy, however, are the more Scriptural Karaite Jews and Samaritans who still observe Passover on the 14th and the Feast of Unleavened Bread beginning the 15th (see *Which Day Is the Passover?* by Phinehas Ben Zadock).

This is what the *Encyclopedia Judaica* says: "The feast of Passover consists of two parts: The Passover

So Yahweh led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt armed for battle, Ex. 13:18 NIV.

Yahweh had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians. The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Succoth. There were about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. Many other people went up with them, as well as large droves of livestock, both flocks and herds. With the dough they had brought from Egypt, they baked cakes of unleavened bread. The dough was without yeast because they had been driven out of Egypt and did not have time to prepare food for themselves, Ex. 12:36-39 NIV.

When the Israelites left the bondage of Egypt they did not have time to prepare leavened bread. From the time of their departure (first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread) until they crossed over the Red Sea (the seventh day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread) they ate unleavened bread.

In the parting of the waters of the Red Sea we find that Israel became completely free of Egyptian influence because Yahweh caused all of the Egyptians who followed Israel to die.

Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea, Ex. 15:4.

Celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. In the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first

day. For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And whoever eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel, whether he is an alien or native-born. Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread, Ex. 12:17-20 NIV.

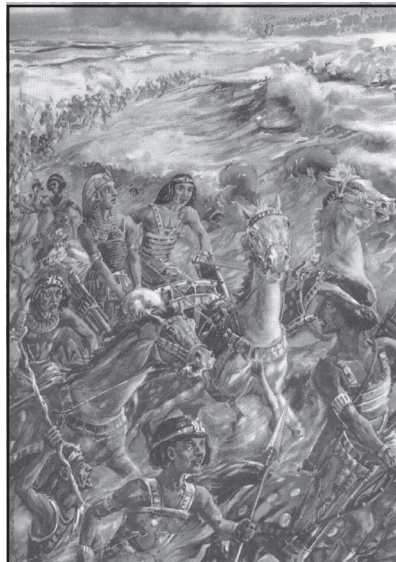
Housecleaning

The first day and the last day of the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread are two of Yahweh's seven annual Holy Days.

To properly keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread we must do so both physically and spiritually. During this period of time no leaven is to be found within the house nor is to be eaten. We are to remove all leaven products from our homes. Actually, these verses also state that one is to eat unleavened bread at this time.

Physically, leaven is that which produces fermentation in a mass of dough.

A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump, Gal 5:9.



In the parting of the waters of the Red Sea we find that Israel became completely free of Egyptian influence because Yahweh caused all of the Egyptians who followed Israel to die

The word leaveneth is the translation of the Greek "zumoo" meaning to cause to ferment.

Leaven breaks down flour, causing decay in the dough.

On the other side, there are two verses, Lev. 7:13 and Lev. 23:17, which show that the showbread and a praise offering to Yahweh both contained leaven, which sweetened the bread.

Where leaven is the translation in the Old Testament of the King James Version it refers to the physical usage (yeast).

Spiritually, we are to remove any and all things that may cause us to be led astray.

Purge out therefore the old leaven that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Messiah our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth, 1 Cor. 5:7-8.

Where leaven is the translation in the New Testament of the King James Version it may refer to the physical usage at times, but it usually will have a spiritual meaning also.

Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees, Matt. 16:12.

And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod, Mark 8:15.

In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, in-somuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy, Luke 12:1.

From the first two Scriptures we learn that there are three groups of people that Yahshua tells His disciples to watch out for: the

Pharisees, the Sadducees and the Herodians.

Luke 12:1 speaks to the leaven of the Pharisees as the religious hypocrisy exhibited in their external ceremonialism. The leaven of the Sadducees was their disbelief in an afterlife and the coming of the Messiah. The leaven of the Herodians dealt with a political family who opposed Yahshua.

Matt. 16:12 specifies that the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees is their doctrine while Luke 12:1 says the same thing about the Pharisees.

Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth, 1 Cor. 5:8.

In the last two Scriptures there are three words of interest: hypocrisy, malice and wickedness. Through examination we will find that they are related to unhealthy attitudes.

Hypocrisy is a translation of the Greek "Hupokrisis" (Strong's #5272), whose root word means to play a part, deceitful pretending.

Malice is a translation of the Greek "Kakia" (Strong's #2549), whose root word means to have ill will, desire to injure.

Wickedness comes from the Greek "Poneria" (Strong's 4189), whose root word means to be hurtful or evil.

1 Cor. 5:8 then says that one must avoid those activities which center on deceiving others or which have evil purposes directed towards others.

Sincerity is a translation of the Greek "Eilikrineia" (Strong's #1505), whose root word means to be genuine.

Truth comes from the Greek "Aletheia" (Strong's #225), whose root words mean not concealing.

Therefore, during the day portion of Passover, we are to make

sure that no leaven and no leavened products are found in our homes. Our actions then, during the time of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (each of the seven days), should be to make sure our homes are leaven free and that we are to be genuinely truthful.

Wave Sheaf

That part of the Passover/Unleavened Bread season that is overlooked deals with the wave sheaf offering.

Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, 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 firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: And he shall wave the sheaf before Yahweh, to be accepted for you: on the mor-

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Mini Study



Our Savior's Resurrection

Try as you may, you simply cannot fit three days and three nights into a Friday afternoon impalement to Sunday morning resurrection. Yet, the three days and nights are the only sign given that the Savior was the true Messiah (Matt. 12:40). Here's the answer to this paradox!

One of the most perplexing problems faced by many Bible students is the question of how Friday could be the day our Savior was put to death. Let us check carefully what the Bible teaches. Note the following Bible passage:

"Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered saying, Master, we would see a sign from You.

"But He answered and said unto them, an evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

"For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the fish's belly; so shall the Son of man be three day and three nights in the heart of the earth," Matthew 12:38-40.

Note carefully the "as" and "so" in verse 40. Yahshua definitely states, "Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights." In no way can three full days and three full nights be squeezed into a period from Friday afternoon until Sunday morning. (Yahshua was quoting Jonah 1:17.)

Yet, the argument by those contending for a Friday-Sunday teaching is that the Jews counted a part of a day as a whole day. This supposedly allows "three days and three nights" to somehow be sandwiched into the time period from Friday to Sunday.

Those arguing the point show certain examples in the Old Testament where parts of days are counted as whole days. In Hebrew idiom this may be true. But in Hebrew, when the word "nights" is

row after the sabbath the priest shall wave it, Lev. 23:10-11.

The Sabbath spoken of here is the Hebrew "Shabbath" and speaks of the weekly Sabbath. The harvest spoken of here is barley. This wave sheaf was not offered until the Israelites entry into the Promised Land and raised a crop as it was not possible for them to raise crops during their sojourn in the Wilderness of Zin after leaving Egypt. This wave sheaf offering was to be made on the day after the weekly Sabbath which occurs during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

The Feast of Firstfruits is also called the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Harvest in the Old Testament, Pentecost in the New Testament. The grain harvested at this time was wheat. The harvest spoken of in Lev. 23:10 is barley. This sheaf is often referred to as the first of the firstfruits.

Pentecost points ahead to the time when the firstfruits will be gathered. Yahshua, Himself, is referred to as the first of the firstfruits because He arose during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

And thou shalt observe the feast of weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the feast of ingathering at the year's end, Ex 34:22.

But every man in his own order: Messiah the firstfruits; afterward they that are Messiah's at his coming, 1 Cor. 15:23.

Just as the wave sheaf had to be presented unto Yahweh (Lev. 23:10-11) on the first day of the week, Yahshua could not let Mar-iam cling to Him until He had presented Himself unto His Father as an acceptable sacrifice,

Yahshua saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my Elohim, and your Elohim, John 20:17.



Substitution

Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread are not celebrated by the Christian world today. Instead, they celebrate Easter, which has its pagan origins. The Christian world is more interested in Easter eggs, Easter bunnies and hot cross buns. What do the traditions which use these objects have to do with Yahshua's resurrection?

In some pagan customs the Heaven and Earth were thought to have been formed from two halves of an egg. As the egg was an obvious symbol to early Christians of Yahshua's resurrection, it was felt to be a most appropriate and holy part of the Eastertide celebration. Even as early as the Middle Ages, eggs were colored to be given as gifts at Easter.

On the first day of Lent, and during the six weeks that follow, many bakeries and homes bake hot cross buns. They are generally only served during the Lenten season, preserving their Christian



significance. Yet they are probably the outgrowth of the ancient pagan sacramental cakes eaten by Anglo-Saxons in honor of their goddess "Eostre." Supposedly, the early clergy tried to stop the use of the sacramental cakes but as they could not, they gave them Christian meaning by blessing them and decorating them with the cross.

As the nation's largest ethnic group, German Americans have deeply influenced the culture of the United States. Many examples of this influence are now considered basic ingredients of American life. The celebration of Christmas in the United States, for example, reflects German Christmas customs. German Americans introduced Christmas trees and gift giving. A German American artist, Thomas Nast, created the traditional image of Santa Claus. German Americans also introduced the Easter Bunny.

In ancient Greece the deities of the sun were Helios and Apollo. The worship of Helios was widespread; temples were built in Corinth, Argos, Troezen (no longer in existence), and many other cities, but the principal seat was on the island of Rhodes, in the Dodecanese, where four white horses were sacrificed annually to the idols. A similar sacrifice was offered on the summit of Mount Hagios Elias, in the Taïyotos Mountains, in Laconia. In time virtually all the functions of Helios were transferred to the idol Apollo, in his identity as Phoebus. Sun worship persisted in Europe even after the introduction of Christianity, as is evidenced by its disguised survival in such traditional Christian practices as the Easter bonfire and the Yule log on Christmas.

Conclusion

Bible verses do confirm that the Feasts will be observed in the



Kingdom. Yahweh said that His Feasts would be kept by an ordinance forever.

In the New Covenant era we are to observe Passover as a memorial of the Savior's having given His life for the sins of the world. Passover is not a Feast day (Hebrew = chag, joyous, happy time), but along with the annual Feasts it will be observed again, but likely with a deeper and new meaning.

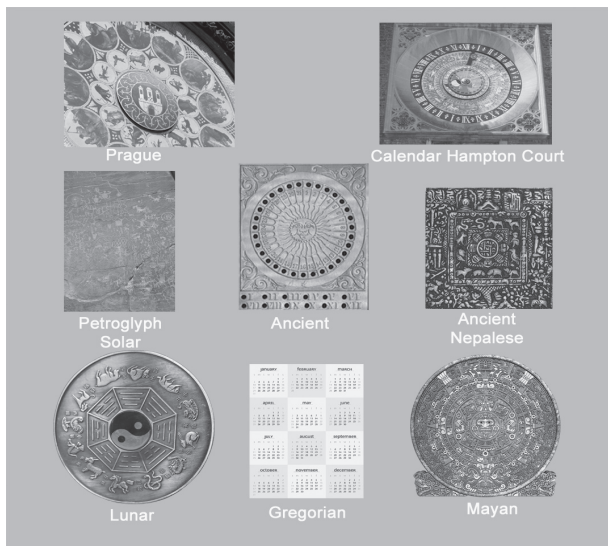
They will likely recall the Savior's return to this earth where He will gather the remnant of His flock and bring them to Zion. There He will establish His rulership and rule this earth with a rod or iron, Rev. 2:26-27.

Yahweh's Word tells us to remember Yahshua's death, not His resurrection. Without the sacrifice of Yahshua we would not have any hope for a future in the Kingdom. To be part of the coming Kingdom, Scriptures tell us that we are to be faithful to the end.

Elder Roger G. Meyer



Beware of Pagan Calendars



When considering the intricate movement of the solar system, and the seemingly consistent patterns produced, it looks like a working clock of biblical proportions. There is no question that the spherical pattern of rotation, which is even noted at subatomic levels in creation, can produce a reliable means of telling time.

Days, weeks, and months are easily observed to move in this pattern of rotation. With the going down of the sun, or more technically, the spinning and rotating of the earth around the sun, we see a new day begin. Biblically this is the start of a 24 hour day. The end of a day is also at sunset.

The Bible tells us from creation that the weekly pattern is made up of 7 days (each having a nighttime and daytime), with the 7th day being designated as holy from the other 6 days, Gen 2:2-3.

The months are also a set pattern, in which we find either the 29th or 30th day as the complete rotation of the moon (with its phases, having come around the earth). The visible crescent, just past the astronomical new moon or conjunction (molad) phase, is viewed in the western sky just after sunset. There is basically a 29 ½ to 30 day pattern to follow.

An Exact Year?

While the day, week, and even the month are known, through visible observation (as kept by the ancient Israelites of the Bible, into New Testament times), to figure the year by using the celestial bodies is as complex a task as can be. Peter James, a writer of ancient history and archeology, and Dr. Nick Thorpe, an archeologist in prehistory, wrote in *Ancient Inventions* (1994), page 488-499:

“At a very early date, mankind would have had at its disposal accurate knowledge of both the moon’s phases and the length of the year—enough to devise

a workable calendar, one might think. However, that’s where the real difficulties began. The intrinsic problem with all calendars is that our superficially harmonious solar system is actually a complete jumble.

“One revolution of the earth on its axis makes a day, but 365 of these revolutions are not equal to the time it takes for the earth to orbit around the sun (i.e., one year), which amounts to 365.242199 days. Likewise a lunar month is not a round figure—it is actually 29.53059 days. And while there are roughly twelve lunar months in a year, they add up to only 354.36706 days—eleven days short of the solar year.

“Try taking all these factors into account in one system and you will have quite a headache. Devising a calendar that works has thus been one of mankind’s longest quests.”

Egypt’s Year

Egypt was known to have had at least two calendars at one point, and they were used side by side. It has been noted that they kept both calendars due to the reverence they had for venerable objects of worship. They would just continue to update them, as needed.

The first Egyptian sun calendar of 360 days (12 X 30 day months) ran into problems with the seasons getting out of alignment. They helped the problem by adding on five days each year.

Adjustments like this seem to be the practice of most every civilization trying to come up with an accurate calendar.

Noted as a “slipping calendar” in *Ancient Inventions*, by Peter James and Nick Thorpe (1994), page 493, “...the Egyptians, like other ancient Near Eastern peoples (including the Sumerians, Babylonians and Jews), made regular calendar reforms to keep things in step.”

Chinese New Year, New Year, New Year...

The Chinese are known for some amazing accomplishments in medicinal herbs, firework displays to scare away evil spirits, as well as calendar calculations. Though, it took a few tries to get a fairly accurate calendar to work:

"In ancient China the surviving 'oracle bones,' used by the rulers of the Shang Dynasty to foretell the future...show that the Chinese had a Lunar calendar similar to that of the Sumerians...Later on, the importance of having a reliable calendar grew after it became tied to astrology, and one of the emperor's prime responsibilities was to ensure that the calendar was running accurately. Accordingly, around a hundred calendrical reforms were initiated by the imperial court," Ancient Inventions, by Peter James and Nick Thorpe (1994), page 490.

Enter the Zodiac

Societies, while coming up with some viable calendars through trial and error of determining the movement of the sun, moon and stars, were chained to the belief that they could foretell the future while giving homage to the sky deities they worshiped.

In the Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible, by Elwell, W. A., & Beitzel, B. J. (1988), page 223, we find,

"The earliest known account of the use of astrology comes from ancient Sumer, a region in the lower Euphrates river valley. The Sumerian Gudea cylinders contain an account of a dream of King Gudea in which the goddess Nidaba came to him holding a tablet inscribed with a map of the heavens. The dream indicated that it was a propitious time for Gudea to build the Eninnu temple.

"Astrology flourished in ancient Babylon under the influence of priests. It was integrally linked

with the serious study of celestial phenomena. The superstitious Babylonians were intensely concerned with omens, so it is understandable that they would attempt to find omens in the observable movements of the sun, moon, planets, and stars. To the best of our knowledge the Babylonians originated the zodiac. They also drew up a monthly calendar of days that were propitious and days on which activity should be reduced to a minimum for fear of incurring the anger of one or more deities."

Eclipses were eagerly predicted because of their bad omen against kings. It is said that substitute kings would be placed in office during those times to prevent any harm to the real king. Comets were also seen as bad omens for the people.

Both the pre-Israelite nations of Egyptians and ancient Babylonians could divide the heavens into a type of zodiacal chart to find bad omens and other signs, via the ecliptical pattern of the sun, etc. Does the Bible point to such a known chart?

We know that Job had knowledge of certain star constellations (Job 9:9), otherwise Yahweh would not have addressed Job in the way He did (Job 38:31-32). With the exception of Orion, in some charts today, it seems the ancient zodiac charts lack the three constellations both Job and Yahweh mention.

Historically, Babylon had stockpiles (thousands upon thousands) of clay cuneiform tablets, which seems impressive, but doesn't really tell us what the ancient Israelites did.

It is noteworthy to point out that the earliest zodiacal charts from the Sumerian culture had six divisions of constellations, with two seasons, spring and fall. Babylonian charts had 18 and 12 divisions, at different times, but seemed to keep with the seasonal

patterns of twos.

Assyria, further north, had three. Egypt's civil year seems to also have had three, based upon the Nile's annual water levels of flooding, absence, and flow.

Some ancient zodiacal charts have been found with 13 animal type constellations within them. The animals were all worshiped, just as the sun and moon were.

The question we need to ask is, "Did the Babylonian and Egyptian reckoning of the spring (vernal) equinox stem from Yahweh's directive found in Genesis?" Vernal equinox is defined as, "the time when the sun crosses the plane of the earth's equator, making night and day of approximately equal length all over the earth..." – Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary

After all, Babylonians and Egyptians were using the lights of the sun, moon, and stars just as Genesis 1:14 said. Yahweh said they would be for "signs and for seasons and for days and years."

Yahweh also directed the seventh day as a day of rest in the book of Genesis, but then no other details are given until the book of Exodus. Are there more details about the biblical calendar (the one Yahweh wanted Israel to use) later in Scripture?

Could Yahweh have chosen a slightly different means for Israel since they were to be separate from the other nations, including the one they just came out of, who were using these types of pagan calendrical systems?

"...lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which Yahweh thy Elohim hath divided (given) unto all nations under the whole heaven," Duet 4:19.

Ancient Pagan Societies

It's no secret, ancient societies,

stemming long ago from Sumra (alternative spellings: Sumer or Sumur) and Akkadian civilizations, literally worshiped the sun, moon, and stars.

Ur, located in the lower area of Sumra, at the northwest end of the Persian Gulf Sea, is the city of the moon deity where Abram was originally called out from. It was also known later, at least by the Egyptians, as "The city of the Sun," The Armana Letters (EA 67 Notes), by William L. Moran.

"Annukaki (the gods of the high sky)" is referenced in the Babylonian Code of Hammurabi.

Pagan worship of the heavens along with foretelling the future (divination, astrology) was prevalent in ancient times. It was so bad that the Pharaohs (kings) of Egypt, themselves, were being worshiped as deities from the start of their reign.

Regrettably, even among Israel, there were those willing to prophesy falsely and accept false idols as their elohim, Isa 47:13, Ezek 8:6-16, and all of chapter 13.

Astronomers/Astrologers

The religious people of those societies, other than Abram (whose name became Abraham), were made up of astrologers, rather than astronomers alone. In a sense, they were scientists, priests, astrologers and astronomers, all rolled up into one.

The mathematical achievements made by the Babylonians were impressive. They even had the basic 60 minute hour timed out. In fact, they used 60 (sexagesimal) as a standard throughout their math calculations, just as we would use 10 (decimal) in ours. They would have known of the vernal equinox, too.

Egypt also had capabilities with water clocks and sundials. They were even able to position large cut stones perfectly, both horizon-

tally and vertically (by means of plumb lines and other string techniques), to make the pyramids. They evidently positioned them to be in line with certain star constellations, and the sun itself. The airshafts going into the pyramids all point to specific stars. They knew the planetary movements and they are said to have had the ability to determine the vernal equinox accurately. They could do this with Obelisks. Four-sided upright granite Obelisks were strategically placed in certain locations to honor the rising as well as the setting of their sun deity.

It has also been observed that they eventually put in stone what is called the Zodiac of Dendara (found on the wall of an Egyptian temple - see insert below) which was evidently used as horoscopes are today. It's now housed in the Museum of Louvre located in Paris, France. These "Easter-n" pagan ways go back to Babylon and the ancient Sumerians.

The Return from Babylon

Ezra and Nehemiah, after returning to Jerusalem from Babylon, taught Yahweh's law and kept the 7th month Feasts. Many of Judah, however, stayed behind in Babylon. The captivity of 70 years had brought up a new generation that assimilated into the lush Babylonian lifestyle. They just didn't feel a need to leave it.

Judah, under Ezra and Nehemiah, continued using the Babylonian names for the months, but that is not proof they accepted

the zodiac chart as their guide. We ourselves reference calendar names today to communicate, but also recognize that they are out of sync with the pattern Yahweh gave Moses. The Babylonian months were close in comparison, but not always exact.

It should be noted that a calendar, given from Yahweh, should not be difficult for mankind to follow. Pagan ones should be rejected, as King Josiah did for 31 years as a good king, before Judah went into the captivity of Babylon:

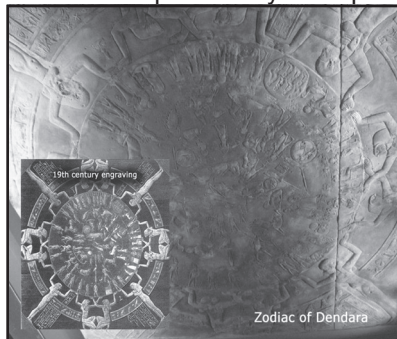
"...he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets (constellations), and to all the host of heaven," 2 Kings 23:5.

If only they had maintained their proper worship of Yahweh. But (just 2 ½ years and four bad kings later) after Josiah's reign, backsliding Judah went into captivity under Babylonian rule. It's a lesson for us today not to turn away nor backslide into a former sinful lifestyle.

Advanced Calendars

The Mayan temples and culture are said to have produced one of the most accurate calendars of all the ancient societies. Their 365 day calendar was quite remarkable. The Mayan priests would go to the top of their ziggurat type stair stepped temples at night for astrological observation, while during the day, the sun would (because of the skylights at the top and sides of the top part of the temples) mark its path along the upper floor.

Their temples were all positioned in the same direction, even those in distant areas away from each other, and streets are all noted to be paralleled one to another. They were quite ingenious in their abili-



ties; they were methodical in their planning; they had a fundamental knowledge of both trigonometry and geometry.

However, as with all the other ancient societies with knowledge of astronomy, they had pagan beliefs and were basically prognosticators. They were astrologers. In fact, they've given the winter solstice of December 21st, 2012, as the time when the world will change abruptly. Some think this will be the time when humans will shift in consciousness to the "next level," a type of evolutionary advancement.

Many other cultures have come to the similar erroneous conclusions and offer 2012 as a very significant year of inception or transition. Interestingly enough, many of these "advanced" early societies also have a winged serpent portrayed within their cultural ruins. One can draw their own conclusion why that is, but no doubt the devil is in the details, influencing mankind in a negative way from the beginning.

The Mayans will be remembered for their sun calendar (the calendar that abruptly ends on December 21st, 2012), but they'll also be known as the people who would cut the beating heart out of a person to hold up to their gods as well as sacrificing their own children for similar reasons. Their erected temples seem to have dead children's bones buried on each of the four corners. Is it any wonder Yahweh wanted His People Israel to be separate from these other nations?

As advances occurred in the Hellenistic era, with less horrendous paganism and a more astronomical mindset, devices such as the Antikythera Mechanism were made possible. This mechanism with an estimated 29+ moving gear wheels (evidently for determining calendrical information), made around 150-100 B.C.E., was quite the technology back at

that time.

Another device, with Greek lettering, is the Byzantine Sundial-Calendar (roughly 500 C.E.), which has only 8 gear wheels, but is able to provide dates by positioning the sun and moon among the zodiac.

Similar astronomical calendars were created by individuals like Abu Said al-Sijzi around 1050 C.E. More astronomical clocks were made during the times of medieval Europe.

A little known fact is sea voyages, by the stars, led to a navigational need for the invention of precise time pieces. Competition and rewards for such a reliable timepiece led to the accurate watches we have today.

Besides having accurate watches, we now have other things at our disposal, such as the United States Naval Observatory (USNO) which gives us extremely detailed information when looking to calculate a calendar. But with all this technology, we can still do better by following Yahweh's way of doing things.

Israel's Year

After coming out of Egypt, Yahweh said to Moses, in Ex 12:3,

"This month, shall be the beginning of months to you."

Scripture tells us Moses was trained in all the wisdom of Egypt, Acts 7:22. He already would have known when a new year started according to Egyptian reckoning.

Why would Yahweh tell him "this month," if Moses already knew it was the "beginning of months"? One gets the distinct impression this was something new for Moses and for all of Israel.

We know Yahweh has a way of separating the clean from the unclean, Lev 10:10. The question is, is that what He did here?

It is implied in some resources that the Hebrews (Israelites) anciently used calculation and vernal equinox reckoning, but this would

have caused confusion. Yahweh didn't give them a calendar that would do that,

"For Yahweh is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all assemblies of the saints," 1 Cor 14:33.

It is, however, what we have seen the rest of the nations wrestling with:

"A lunar year of 12 months was approximately 11 days shorter than the solar year, so additional days were inserted to make up for the difference. The practice of insertion, known as intercalation, was a device common to several lunar calendar systems. The ancient Chinese compensated by adding an intercalary month every 30 years to their calendar, which consisted of 12 months of 29 or 30 days each. The Muslim lunar calendar, still used throughout Islam, also recognized 30 years as a cycle. Beginning with the second year within each cycle, and at subsequent intervals of three years, a "leap year" (a year of abnormal length) is observed. In that framework a leap year comprises 355 days as opposed to the ordinary Muslim year of 354 days. Calculation of the ancient Hebrew year suffered the same problems as other lunar calendars." – Tyndale Bible dictionary, Elwell, W. A., & Comfort, P. W. (2001), page 250.

The conclusion that the "Hebrew year suffered the same problems" is wrong, because it assumes the vernal equinox was originally used by Israel to calculate the beginning of each year in which man made calculations or intercalations (adding days or months) would need to have been done to keep the seasons in their proper place within the calendar.

The Wave Sheaf

The Israelites were given a new command to follow once leaving Egypt and entering the Promised Land. The evidence of the wave sheaf offering, which was required

to be offered on the day after the weekly Sabbath which occurs during the Days of Unleavened Bread, is key to understanding what we are to be looking for in determining the beginning of the year which Yahweh designated for Israel, and therefore, for us today.

We need to know the proper days, weeks, and months, to be able to keep His Holy Days properly and at their proper Appointed Times. Significantly, the barley was in the early milk stage of the ear, in the month of Abib, when it was destroyed by the hail event in Egypt, Ex 9:31-32.

The barley must be in that early ear “milk stage” to be able to be shaken or beaten slightly off the stalk, which could then be roasted on a fire for food. It would be the proper stage for harvesting and therefore presentable to the priests, Lev 2:14.

The priests would then wave it before Yahweh. It would be accepted by Yahweh and the people then looked forward to the blessing Yahweh put forth on the rest of the harvest. It was an incentive to get it done as soon as possible, besides Yahweh telling them,

“You shall not delay the offering from your harvest...” Ex 22:29 NASU.

The wave sheaf timing, and therefore the early search for it, allows the new moon shown at that time to be designated as the start of the new year. It is the “beginning of months.” Those months will typically be twelve in number, but occasionally a month will be added, when the wave sheaf arrives late. It is Yahweh’s doing and not man’s. Think about all the corrections man has done over thousands of years in trying to produce an accurate calendar.

Yahweh allows and determines the late growth of Abib. He controls the weather by how much sun and rain the seeded ground gets, Ex 9:29, Zech 10:1.

The sun is indeed part of the

key, with its warmth measured out (technically known as “heat units”), in unlocking the opening mechanism of the seed. However, too many clouds, snow on the ground or cold winds blowing, and there will not be adequate warmth to unlock the growth. Rain, of course, is also needed.

The point is this: vernal equinox timing is not always an accurate indicator for a wave sheaf of early ears of barley to be ready, since other weather factors play a part in the overall process.

In examining all of this, we can understand clearly why Abib is the first month indicator, along with the new moon, Ps 104:19. What we are given in Scripture is an agricultural and lunar calendar.

A New Commandment For Israel

Concerning when Yahweh told Moses when the new year would be, we find the following:

“This month refers to the time when the events of chapter 12 took place. It became the first month in the Hebrew calendar, which begins with the new moon appearing during the second half of March or the first half of April. It is not yet named, so translators should not give it a name here. But in 13.4 and 23.15 it is called ‘Abib.’ ...Shall be is not in the Hebrew (literally ‘this month for you’), but ‘is’ or ‘is to be’ should be understood here. This is the announcement of a new calendar for the Israelites.” – A handbook on Exodus. UBS handbook series; Helps for translators (page 270), by Osborn, N. D., & Hatton, H. (1999). New York: United Bible Societies (used by permission).

We should also be mindful of what Yahweh told Israel later, as a reminder,

“You shall not do what is done in the land of Egypt where you lived, nor are you to do what is done in the land of Canaan where I am

bringing you; you shall not walk in their statutes,” Lev 18:3 NASU.

If Yahweh did create constellations to be a measuring tool for the calendars initially (Gen 1:14?), we must admit that pagan societies have taken a hold of them to not only worship them, but to also build calendrical systems around them. Maybe, just maybe, it’s better to think that Yahweh never intended Genesis 1:14 to be proof-texted to say, “Build calendar systems using divisions of the constellations and do lots of mathematical equations to ‘work out’ the perfect calendar for yourselves.”

Yahweh has warned us not to be like the pagans and does make a distinction.

“...Then you will know that Yahweh makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel,” Ex 11:7 NIV.

Early Ears of Barley (Abib)

Abib is sometimes termed as “early ears” or “green ears” of grain (corn, KJV). It seems that there is enough evidence to conclude both as being accurate. We find the following etymological information on the term Abib:

Ex 13:4 “Ver 4—In the month Abib. The name of the month had not been previously mentioned. Some have derived it from the Egyptian Epiphi. As, however, ab means ‘greenness’ in Hebrew, and abib ‘green ears of corn,’ while ibba meant ‘fruit’ in Chaldee (Dan. 4:12, 14), and abbon means ‘green herbs’ in Arabic, there is no need of a foreign derivation for the word. The month of ‘greenness,’ or of ‘green ears of corn,’ would be both appropriate and intelligible.” – The Pulpit Commentary: Exodus Vol. I. (2004), page 299, by H. D. M. Spence-Jones, Ed.

The cyclical agricultural pattern we find in the Abib, and later harvests going into the fall, show us Yahweh’s hand in creation. A pattern He can adjust with the weath-

er, so as to have Abib show early or late according to His will.

In following this pattern, there is no risk of being disobedient to Yahweh's time table of events throughout the year. Making sure Abib was observed by Israel in ancient times would assure that the fall harvest would be brought in before the Feast of Tabernacles was to be kept, Lev 23:39.

Therefore, they would have plenty of 2nd tithe (Deut 14:22-26) for the Feast of Tabernacles and they wouldn't need to worry about an upcoming harvest. It would already be taken care of since the wave sheaf command and timing was kept according to Yahweh's word. They could then freely rejoice before Yahweh during the Feast, as commanded, Lev 23:40.

Since Israel was an agricultural society, it would have been second nature for them to do this each year. Today, we have Scripture as a standard for calculating and observing Yahweh's time-table for the whole year.

Yahweh's Holy Land

With Yahweh's calendar there is no guess work, if we just keep His commandments in mind. We only need to know when there is enough barley for a wave sheaf in Israel. We know that the new moon after it is the beginning of months, i.e., the new year.

It can't be the new moon before, since the early barley is the clear scriptural indicator of when the new year is to occur. The new moon would then be the "beginning of months," based upon the early barley being ready in the land. Yahweh has His eyes on the Holy Land for the beginning and ending of the year:

A land which Yahweh thy Elohim careth for: the eyes of Yahweh thy Elohim are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year, Deut 11:12.

The land of Israel is indeed identified as Yahweh's Holy Land, Zech 2:12. A land to which we look for the early ears (Abib) of barley. It's the spring harvest; the first harvest, in which, both Messiah (the Wave Sheaf) and the brethren in the first resurrection (the first fruits) are alluded to.

Yahshua the Wave Sheaf

The wave sheaf is rich in symbolism for Yahshua, the Messiah (the First of the first harvest). He is, as is the wave sheaf, the "First of the first." This is exactly how the wave sheaf is described in Scripture.

Yahshua is pointed to in Scripture as the "First of the first":

"...now is Messiah risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that [sleep]... every man in his own order: Messiah the firstfruits; afterward they that are Messiah's at His coming," 1 Cor 15:20, 23.

This is basically saying that those who are dead (asleep) in Messiah will be raised up to eternal life at His return. Those that have never died, but are living at His return, will not be changed to Spirit beings until the dead in Messiah are raised first (see also 1 Thess 4:15-17).

This should not be a long process, but once the dead in Messiah are raised, then those who never died a first death (those alive at the end of the age) will be changed to pure spirit. To put it bluntly, this will be a mind-blowing experience for all involved.

Symbolically, Yahshua, the Wave Sheaf offering, is accepted on our behalf. Notice two almost insignificant words in Leviticus 23:11,

"And he (the high priest) shall wave the sheaf before Yahweh, to be accepted for you..."

Yahshua was accepted for us, and now He is the High Priest in heaven interceding and mediating on our behalf under the Melchizedek order, Heb 9:11 .

The first resurrection for Yahweh's people is mentioned as the best one to be in:

"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of Elohim and of Messiah, and shall reign with Him (on earth, Rev 5:10) a thousand years," Rev 20:6.

Yahshua is also noted as being the "beginning and the end," Rev 22:13. If we relate that to the timing of the year with the wave sheaf, we may gain further insight.

The Time of Messiah

Philo of Alexandria is sometimes quoted to prove a vernal equinox reckoning during New Testament times by the Jews in Jerusalem. He himself evidently lived during that time, but it is noted in the works of Philo:

"Although the month in which the autumnal equinox occurs is first in sequence according to solar orbits, it is not considered first in the law (page 582)...He lived his entire life in Alexandria, Egypt, the location of the single largest Jewish community outside of Palestine in this period...So far as is known, Philo visited the temple in Jerusalem only once in his lifetime (page 4)." – The works of Philo: Complete and unabridged, Philo, o. A., & Yonge, C. D. (1996, c1993).

Philo no doubt knew of the solstices and zodiacal reckonings in Egypt, but we know from historical records and archeological evidence that it goes back to paganism. Ancient Egypt, as we've already seen, was also a major pagan influence, worshipping their own Pharaohs as deities.

It's interesting that Philo, according to the historians, never really seemed to put forth effort to keep the Feasts in Jerusalem while the Temple was standing. However, we recognize there was a prohibition against Greeks going beyond a certain area (Court of

the Gentiles) within the Jerusalem Temple area.

Another group at the time of Messiah, called the Samaritans (thought by some to be at least a partial remnant of the lost 10 tribes of Israel, 2 Chron 34:9; John 4:12), were also forbidden to enter the Jerusalem Temple area. Therefore, they built their own Temple to Yahweh on Mount Gerizim. It was destroyed in 128 B.C.E.

After the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple in 70 C.E., everyone was left to fend for themselves as the Sanhedrin lost control. Items, such as the calendar, were now up for grabs.

It is reasonable to think, since the vernal equinox timing is often in agreement with when Abib shows, that there is not much controversy. This probably was the case the year Yahshua kept Passover with His disciples.

Abib vs. Vernal Equinox

It's important to understand if Yahweh decides to delay the growth of the early ears of Barley, then there's a major problem. The problem being those keeping vernal equinox would not be able to obey the command to offer a wave sheaf offering at the correct time.

The point may be considered moot by most, since we don't offer a wave sheaf under the Melchizedek Order. However, we are to keep the Feast Days at their proper times. When they are to be kept is as important as how they are to be kept.

There is no detailed information concerning the vernal equinox in the Bible. Think about it; not even the attempt to use a Hebrew word like *tequphah* (Strong's # 8622) – a cycle or closing of time, such as a 9-month gestation period, 1 Sam 1:20 – explains advocating the promotion of a vernal (spring) equinox. While on the other hand, detailed timing and offering of the wave sheaf is absolutely clear in the Bible.

It is a simple concept that if the wave sheaf command is followed, it will always give the correct timing for the beginning and ending of each year.

It's interesting to note the vernal equinox was made law within the Catholic Church for reckoning their Easter celebration. Their anti-Semitic viewpoint is also noted which further alienated them from Judah and anyone else that kept Sabbath, Feasts, etc.

"In the course of the third century the Roman practice gained ground everywhere in the East, and, to anticipate the result, was established by the council of Nicaea in 325 [C.E.] as the law of the whole church. This council considered it unbecoming, in Christians to follow the usage of the unbelieving, hostile Jews, and ordained that Easter should always be celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon succeeding the vernal equinox (March 21), and always after the Jewish Passover. If the full moon occurs on a Sunday, Easter-day is the Sunday after. By this arrangement Easter may take place as early as March 22, or as late as April 25." – History of the Christian Church, Schaff, P., & Schaff, D. S. (1997).

Abib vs. Today's Calendar

The *dehioth* (postponements), seen in the Jewish calendar and implemented by Hillel II (2nd) around 359 C.E. to keep Sabbaths from falling back to back, is not justified by Scripture. In this case, and many others, the end most certainly does not justify the means.

The following Scripture comes to mind when thinking of what the Pharisees did in the past:

They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders...., Matt 23:4.

The confusion and burden in the numbers is also evident by

looking at the short history of the Julian into the Gregorian calendar of 1852, which ended up making a 21 day month in October of 1852.

"Julian and Gregorian Calendars. Sweeping reforms in the Roman calendar were instituted by Julius Caesar in 44 b.c. with the help of Sosigenes, a Greek scholar who based his solar calendar on a year of 365¼ days. Although the radically transformed calendar ended much confusion, its year was about 11 minutes longer than the true solar year. Since the Julian calendar was used for more than 15 centuries, that tiny error eventually produced gross discrepancies. Bede, an 8th-century English monk and historian, and Roger Bacon, a 13th-century English Franciscan friar and scientist, were among those who reported on the problems of the Julian calendar. By a.d. 1580 the equinoxes were falling 10 days earlier in the year than they had in 44 b.c.

"By 1582 the errors of the Julian calendar were deemed too great to tolerate; in that year Pope Gregory XIII issued a decree abolishing the ancient calendar. In its place he substituted what is commonly known as the Gregorian calendar. At first, few countries beyond the influence of the papacy accepted the new calendar. Some resisted the changeover for centuries. Britain, for example, refused to adopt the Gregorian calendar until 1752, Russia until 1918, and Turkey until 1928.

"Gregory's edict took effect in October 1582. In that initial month the 5th day was designated the 15th, thereby compensating for the loss of the approximately 10 days from the Julian calendar. Simply stated, the Gregorian rule declared that a year whose number is exactly divisible by four would be a leap year, with the exception of century years (such as 1700, 1800, 1900, etc.) unless they were an exact multiple of 400 (such as 1600, 2000, etc.). In each

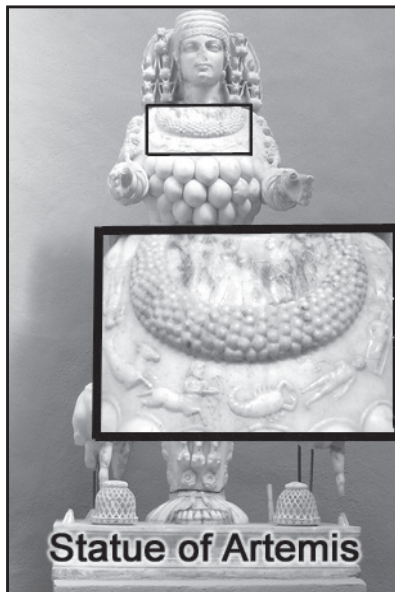
leap year February would have 29 days instead of its normal 28. February in the Julian calendar had been shortened from 29 to 28 days by the emperor Augustus in order to add a day to his month (August)—to make it the same length as the month named for Julius Caesar (July)! The Gregorian calendar left the lengths of the months the same as in the Julian (as revised by Augustus).” —Baker encyclopedia of the Bible. Elwell, W. A., & Beitzel, B. J. (1988), page 400.

All these changes, all these years, again and again. It is clearly shown, as quoted at the beginning, “Devising a calendar that works has thus been one of mankind’s longest quests.”

An Ancient Hebrew Calendar?

Thought of as a student’s tablet, a stone tablet was found with Hebrew writing in the area of Gezer, a Canaanite dwelling that Israel went into and conquered (Josh 10:33) and was later kept as a Levitical city among Ephraim territory, Josh 16:3; 21:21. It is one of the first Hebrew writing examples to have been found. The tablet is referred to as the “Gezer Calendar” in most circles today. The interesting thing about all of this is: it acknowledges a lunar and agricultural connection, though evidently showing the beginning of the year in the fall.

In Documents from Old Testament Times, edited by D. Winton Thomas (1958), page 201, we find the tablet translated to say, “Two months of ingathering. Two months of sowing. Two months of late sowing (or spring growth). Month of pulling flax. Month when everything



Statue of Artemis

[else] is harvested. Two months of pruning [vines]. Month of summer fruit.”

A seemingly unrelated section in Amos 7:1 (NIV) says, “*This is what the Sovereign Yahweh showed me: He was preparing swarms of locusts after the king’s share had been harvested and just as the second crop was coming up.*” Concerning the Hebrew word *leqeš*, “The term translated ‘the second crop’ (*leqeš*) occurs twice here but nowhere else in the Bible. In the Gezer Calendar the term *leqeš* designates the fifth and sixth months of the year. Since the list of months begins in the fall, the fifth and sixth months would be in March-April of the Western calendar.” -- The New American Commentary (Amos, Obadiah, Jonah) by Smith, B. K., & Page, F. S., page 128.



La riforma del Calendrio

The answer to why the Gezer tablet had the fall crop listed first may be due to syncretism. “*Neither did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites that dwelt in Gezer; but the Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them,*” Judges 1:29. However, this is unlikely, since the tablet is early Hebrew writing.

Alternatively, the tablet may very well have been a teaching to recall the harvests after the Sabbatical pattern, i.e., Atonement to Atonement (Sept/Oct to Sept/Oct) every 7 years, Lev 25:1-5. This may actually have some weight, knowing the Sabbaticals came into disuse (2 Chron 36:21), but would most likely have had some conservative teachers wanting to keep the commandment alive for the younger generation growing up.

The Gezer tablet could also just be answers to questions posed by a teacher. In any case, we find archeological evidence pointing to an agricultural and lunar connection in Israel’s history. The tablet dating (971-910 B.C.E), if correct, is to Solomon’s time in power.

It should be pointed out that the zodiac and equinox reckonings are sorely missing in any of Israel’s history, unless you take a closer look to the creatures of worship on the walls described in Ezekiel 8:10 (592-570 B.C.E.), which look to be like a description of zodiac type creatures we now find common in horoscopes today.

It’s the same type of zodiac that is worn as a necklace by the famous pagan fertility statue of

Artemis with the scorpion at the forefront. Notice also the scorpion being pointed to within the zodiac of the painting (La riforma del Calendrio) depicting the historical discussion concerning the correction of the Julian calendar by

Pope Gregory XIII, in 1852.

As Scripture says, "...there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known," Luke 12:2.

In Conclusion

There is more that could be considered, but we find a number of things when we look at ancient calendars. Most notably is the pagan connection among them. For us, we are to follow Yahweh's word and not the devices or the fanciful star charts of men, Acts 5:29.

We, therefore, reiterate the following points:

1. According to the Bible, the new moon, after Abib is confirmed, starts the "beginning of months."
2. Yahweh's instructions give us the timing of the wave sheaf.
3. Yahweh controls the weather, and therefore controls the calendar.
4. Following calendars with calculations, such as the vernal equinox, can put us a full month out of sync with the month of Abib.
5. The nation's calendars over the years have had numerous man-made adjustments to become more accurate.
6. While recent advanced technology (e.g., USNO) and calculations (or intercalations) have served to give us an accurate means and timing of years with seasons kept in place, and without pagan worship, the simplicity of observing the biblical indicators for the time to keep His Holy Days gives us guaranteed accuracy. It also keeps us mindful of Him and His ways, rather than the world and its ways.
7. The zodiacal calendars with the divisions of constellations were clearly used for pagan worship early on in civilizations and are not found anywhere as instructions for Israel to follow.

Elder David Brett

<Times from page 7>

Jews, Rev. 2:9 and 3:9. In prophecy written for our time and the soon-coming establishment of the Kingdom of the Heavens, it is the Mount of Olives where Yahshua will stand in that day, just outside Jerusalem, as the Jew who is given the pre-eminent position of having the keys of salvation,

We are given the importance of the Jews as having pre-eminence in the plan of salvation in Romans 1:16, 2:9, 10:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Messiah: for it is the power of Yahweh unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek... Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile.

In the years just ahead of us we are given the importance of the Jew in true worship of Yahweh in such places as Zech. 2:12 and 8:23 where we learn that people will actually seek out the Jew to learn how to worship Yahweh in Spirit and in Truth. People will seek out the Jew because they have heard that Yahweh is with him.

Backsliding Israel

In contrast to the way of life of the Jews who still keep these days, Israel rejected the Feast days of Yahweh. Israel was condemned because she fell from the steadfastness in keeping the weekly and Annual Sabbaths. Isaiah 1:13-14 show that the feasts which Israel was to keep are not referred to by Yahweh as "HIS" feasts or "MY" feasts, but they have degenerated to the point that Yahweh calls them "YOUR new moons" and "YOUR appointed feasts," and

He says He hates them! Yahweh goes on in Hosea 2:11 and says He will cause her [Israel's] mirth, HER feast days, HER new moons. HER Sabbaths, HER solemn Feasts to cease. (See also Amos 5:21)

Notice these condemnations are of ISRAEL!! It was Israel that has neglected the Biblical calendar. Do not fall into the same trap and be taken up with the ways of our paganized society. Following the ways of our secular world only leads us to turn from the paths of righteousness. The average so-called "Christian" is not even aware of those days which Yahweh has commanded us to keep so we can teach others about them. Rome introduced the solar calendar with all its pagan holidays and succeeded in burying the Annual Sabbaths of Yahweh. Instead, we have Sunday worship, and with it the forgetting of our Creator, and the teachings of evolution. Easter and egg and rabbit of fertility. Halloween and doctrine of immortality of the soul. Xmas and the saturnalia worship of the sun, along with drunkenness, reveling, and worship by the children of St. Nicholas. New Year's parties and along with all of these, astrology and worship of the zodiac appearing in my daily papers.

All of these have successfully put our true Elohim in the background and caused the people to forget Yahweh. Keeping track of time by Yahweh's new moons will help us keep His days in mind. Thus, we can draw closer to Him as we seek the narrow way that leads to life eternal. Join us!

OH THAT MY PEOPLE WOULD HEARKEN UNTO ME THAT ISRAEL WOULD WALK IN MY WAYS! (Psalm 81:13)

Elder Donald R. Mansager



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