

# YAIY NEWS



Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of Yahweh.  
Isaiah 2:5 NIV

## Bible Study: The New Year, in Winter?

### What is Yahweh's Calendar?

Yahweh's calendar is an agricultural and lunar based calendar.

1. Mature ears of barley fields for the wavesheaf offering in the spring.
2. The rebuilding part (first visible crescent) of the moon phases occur once every 29 to 30 days. The moon has the root meaning of "light" brought out, one must then watch/look/note/observe the first visible crescent light presented to be able to confirm a new moon. It would then be kept and noted as a new moon (new month).

### Why not use the current Gregorian or even the Jewish calendar today?



The world's calendar is strictly calculated on rules made by man. The world's New Year, for example, begins at the stroke of midnight.

Our present Gregorian calendar ignores new moons, and divides the year into 12 periods, calling them months. Its days begin at midnight, but Scripturally days begin

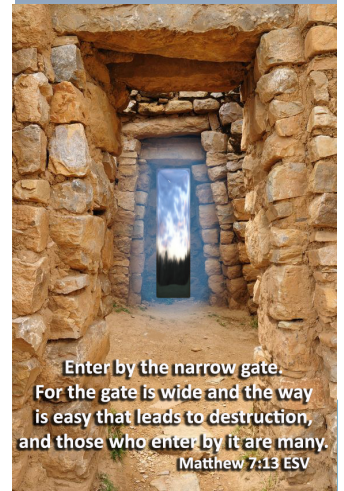
and end with sunset. The calendar in the Bible is based upon moon revolving about the earth, adjusted seasonally by the earth's movement about the sun.

The Biblical calendar begins in the spring, near the time of the vernal equinox, and is based upon an area of Jerusalem where early heads of barley will be available at the time of the Passover season. This was the custom during the time of the Messiah with empirical sightings of the new moon.

After the destruction of the Temple, the Sanhedrin could no longer meet to verify new moon sightings and sanctify the new month. In the year 359 C.E. Hillel II published the present calculated Jewish calendar.

We do not use the present Jewish Calendar for several reasons. They begin their year in the fall in the seventh month of *Tishri* instead of spring. Yahweh clearly tell us in Exodus 12:2 of the spring month of the *abib*, "This month (moon) shall be unto you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you."

The present Jewish calendar has a series of *dehioth* (postponement rules)



Enter by the narrow gate.  
For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction,  
and those who enter by it are many.  
Matthew 7:13 ESV

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## **Bible Study: The New Year, in Winter? ...,cont.**

that are nowhere found in the Bible. For example, the day of Atonement cannot precede or follow the weekly Sabbath. Also, Trumpets shall not occur on a Sabbath. Passover as well can fall only on Monday, Wednesday, Friday or Sabbath.

Arthur Spier's book, *The Comprehensive Hebrew Calendar*, makes this note in explaining the postponements: "In more than 60 percent of all years *Rosh Hashanah* [Trumpets] does not occur on any of the *Molad* [conjunction] but is postponed according to one of the *Dehioth*. Therefore the *Dehioth* [postponements] are actually not the exceptions to the rule but the rule." Yahweh did not give this calendar to Moses, and there is no record that it was used in Yahshua's time.

### **What proof is there that Yahweh's calendar is lunar based?**

Gen. 1:14-19 refers to the 4th day of creation. Some say this proves vernal equinox is to be used based upon the Zodiac signs. See Ex. 12:2; Deut. 16:1. When Yahweh took the people out of Egypt, He pointed out the new moon, after the new growth from the springtime, saying, "This month (new moon) shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month (new moon) of the year for you," Exodus 12:2 ESV. It's the only way to determine the new year and the appointed times of Yahweh (Lev. 23). Historical information by Jewish scholars (Edersheim, Spier, etc.) also show the practice of observing the new moons for each new month was done.

### **Who's land is it that surrounds Jerusalem?**

Zech. 2:12 speaks of the Holy land (Yahweh's land, Hos. 9:3; Ps. 85:1). We look for the maturing barley during the spring, but before the new moon occurs to determine the Biblical New Year. Prophetically, we see a future in which all will go up to Jerusalem to keep the Feasts of Yahweh (Micah 4:2; Zech. 14:16-19), but now we are in a different land and look for the new moon locally as we would for the setting of the sun for the weekly Sabbath day. Prophetically, we are in the time Yahshua spoke of to the woman at the well (John 4:21-24). See our study called *New Moons and Jerusalem Time*.

**Vernal Equinox (V.E.):** "the time when the sun crosses the plain of the earth's equator, making night and day of approximately equal length all over the earth..." — *Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary*

- DOES ANYONE KNOW HOW TO DO THE V.E. FROM SCRIPTURE?
- ARE THERE INSTRUCTIONS IN SCRIPTURE ON HOW TO OBSERVE THE V.E.?

### **What proof is there that Yahweh's calendar is agriculturally based?**

Lev. 23:10-11 speaks of the Wavesheaf (first fruit offering) of barley offered during early spring. This is done in the first month of Yahweh's calendar, verses 4-5.

John 20:11-15 answers the question, "Why did Mary think Yahshua was the gardener? Some think He may have had a wavesheaf in His hand. Two *cheribim*, Ex. 25:17-22. Similar to where Yahshua laid?"

### **How do we know the new moon after early barley (enough for a wavesheaf) is the start of the new year?**

Ex. 9:31 says that the 7th plague of hail destroys the fields of *abib* (barley in the head), just before Passover occurred.

Lev. 2:14 speaks on Abib, the early barley grain well past the milk stage, i.e., mature enough to roast. Milk stage would burst if roasted.

### **When is the first month of Yahweh's calendar?**

Ex. 12:2 speaks of this month, the first month of months.

Deut. 16:1; Ex. 34:18 says that the first month of the year is called, "the month of *Abib*." It's in the spring, not in the dead of winter. We are to observe (take note of) it!

## Bible Study: The New Year, in Winter? ...,cont.

The word “observe” (*shamar* #8104) can have the meaning of “watch,” “to look” and/or “take note of and keep.” The word *shamar* appears some 468 times in the OT (5 times as “watch”) and has numerous translations to the English words: keep, watch (*Vine’s Expository Dictionary*); keep, watch, observe, watch for, wait for & others (BDB Hebrew Lexicon). In Deut. 16:1 - “Observe the month of *Abib*...” could easily read “Watch for the new moon of *Abib*...” To watch for means one must make a visual sighting. The Bible’s new year is in the spring when the warmed earth brings forth new growth. Both the Gregorian calendar, and the Julian calendar before it, have their new year in the dead of winter. The Roman calendar originally had 10 months, with December deriving from the Latin word for tenth.

In 153 B.C.E., January became the first month of the year in the Roman Empire because that was when the Roman consul took over. A January new year was followed in both the Julian and our present Gregorian calendars. Pope Gregory XIII’s papal bull changed the calendar in 1582 and that change remains, demonstrating that our present calendar is a legacy from the Roman Catholic Church.

Thus, January 1 is a date established by man and has nothing to do with Yahweh’s Sacred Calendar. There is no reason we should celebrate an observance that means nothing to Yahweh. In fact, He tells us, “Learn not the way of the nations...” (Jer. 10:2). That is, we should not do what the world does, but come out of the world and follow Yahshua who kept Yahweh’s ways of doing things.

Perhaps there is some redeeming value in spending New Year’s Eve at a religious meeting instead of a bacchanalian, drunken festivity carried on by many at this time of year. However, it would be even more profitable and blessed of Yahweh to spend one’s time observing Yahweh’s specifically commanded seven annual Feast days at the proper times of the year.

The Feast Days were observed by the patriarchs, kept by the Savior, and will be kept in the Kingdom (Zech. 14:16-18; Hos. 12:9; Isa. 66:23; Ezek. 45:21; 46:9; Matt. 26:29). Keeping them now is part of the training to be kings and priests in the Kingdom so that we can learn and teach others (Rev. 1:6; 5:10).

### What about Nisan?

In Esther 3:7, we find the 1st month of *Nisan*, but this was the Babylonian name for the first new month, Neh. 2:1. *Abib* is the Scripturally correct term, and means depending on context, especially, in context of the law, early or maturing grains. A mature grain for roasting (Lev. 2:14), for example, would be a firm dough consistency within the head of grain. Exodus 9:31, 12:2, 13:4, and Leviticus 23:10 show the fields (plural) should be in this state of growth before the new moon of the new year.

We strive to keep the Feast Days as given in the Bible and kept by the Savior. The Jewish Calendar was revealed to the world in the 4th century and is a masterpiece of mathematical and astronomical calculation. Having the year begin in the fall at Trumpets and postponing various Feast Days is nowhere sanctioned by the Bible.

### How do we calculate our calendars?

In our calculated calendars online, and which we send out each year, we calculate future years, to show when the Biblical New Years are expected to be. We use as a reference work, *The Comprehensive Hebrew Calendar*, by Arthur Spier. It takes the calculated Hebrew calendar out to the year 2100. Yahweh, over the last 50 plus years that we’ve checked, has apparently been honoring the Jews’ calculations by keeping things close (as He controls the weather and growth patterns), typically within a few days for Passover, Days of Unleavened Bread, Atonement, etc. This also helps us to determine when a 13th month is to be included.

We use the *United States Naval Observatory* (USNO) to determine when new moons are expected to appear, as they are mathematically predictable.

In all of this, we still follow the Scriptural guideline of visually confirming each new month and year.

## In Loving Memory of Elder Richard Vaow



Elder Richard E. Vaow Sr., 78, of Albuquerque, NM, passed away Monday, December 19, 2016.

Richard was born in Waverly, NY on February 4, 1938. He married his high school sweetheart, Donna. Richard is survived by their Five children - Valerie, Richard, Raymond, Robert, and Laura, Seven grandchildren, and Ten great-grandchildren. Donna pre-

ceded Richard in death in 2004. She had been baptized into Yahshua's Name the same time he had been.

Richard served in the U.S. Navy for 8 years. Among other things, he specialized in radio communications while flying in Navy Blimps. He enjoyed fishing and camping with his family. He was famous for his homemade bread and cinnamon rolls. Richard was actively involved as an elder with Yahweh Assembly in Yahshua. 40 plus, family, friends and brethren, attended his funeral in Albuquerque, NM. A U.S. Navy burial with military honors was also given in the Sante Fe National Cemetery. The Scripture verse (as a theme) at the services was Psalm 116:15, which says, "Precious in the sight of Yahweh is the death of His saints." The reason is undoubtedly because Yahweh knows the suffering of the righteous has ended and a reward is to come with Yahshua's return and resurrection (Rev. 14:12-13). See also Isaiah 57:1-2 and Revelation 2-3.

He will be lovingly remembered by his friends, family, and all who came to know him. Rest well, brother.

## Copyrighted Song Issues



Because of copyright issues with many of the songs we sing, it was decided to remove the MP3s from our website, including the ordering or sending out of any DVDs, CDs or songbooks with copyrighted songs on them. We have in addition, purchased yearly licensing to use such copyrighted songs within worship services at the assembly. We are aware of some churches being sued by labels and artists for upwards of \$200,000 for each copyright infringement.

## To the third and fourth generation?

In Exodus 34:7b, Yahweh says He, "...will by no means clear *the guilty*; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth *generation*." Yet, in Deuteronomy 24:16 and in other locations (2 Kings 14:6; Jer. 31:30; Gal. 6:7-8) it appears that the children will NOT be punished or die for their father's sin and vice versa. How then do we understand this apparent conflict in Scripture. With all Scriptural studies, one has to look at the whole in context.

In this case, we read within the 10 Commandments a clarification. In Exodus 20:5-6, Yahweh says, "...I Yahweh thy Elohim am a jealous El, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of **them that hate Me**; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My commandments." The part not read earlier in Exodus 34:7a says, "And Yahweh passed by before him (Moses), and proclaimed, 'Yahweh, Yahweh Elohim, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin...'" The so-called contradictions in Scripture are cleared up when considered in context.

Yahweh can and does forgive those who humble themselves and forsake their sins against Him. However, if they don't it is then equated with hating Him rather than loving Him. The guilt would therefore remain as would the punishment, which, we are told in Ezekiel chapter 18, is death. Rather we are to love Him and be blessed, even blessed to eternal life.

# YAIY NEWS

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