

# DID SOMEONE MENTION CALENDARS?

By Neville V. Stevens

New International Version used throughout unless otherwise specified.

Knowledge is being increased like never before, and suddenly everyone seems to be an expert in everything. The problem is that it's misinformation that seems to be most prominent. Mainstream Christianity has long been the source of shrouded mystery and deception of all things relating to God. They've built their case on flimsy evidence that has no basis in the Word of God. God's holy time no longer means anything to them. Even in the Churches of God there has been a new flush of misinformation and sensationalism. Now everyone, it seems, has a new slant on God's Holy Days, and the Sacred Calendar especially. And how they pour forth their nonsense!

The calculation of God's Sacred Calendar is based on two things: the solar year and the lunar year. But the lengths of these do not correspond to each other, the solar year being 365¼ days, and the lunar year just 354 days. So there is a discrepancy of eleven days that must be accounted for! Did God make provision for this difference? Did Almighty God know that these two would not align? Of course He did, and He made provision for it.

It was the teachers of the Law that were instructed to establish the alignment of months every year and the start of God's Sacred Calendar, and these teachers of the Law were Aaron and his sons. These in turn instructed all the Levites in all manner of Law. Because the Levites were not given any specific inheritance, they were permitted to take up residence among any of the Tribes of Israel to build their houses and settle down. Consequently, they tended to filter among the 12 Tribes. This was God's purpose in ensuring that every Tribe had teachers. It was the Levites who were called to Temple duty on a rotating basis. This roster was divided into 24 courses of two weeks each. And each Levite was called to duty according to his course. The 24 courses were still in effect at the time of Christ. We find this instruction in **Luke 1:5** "In the time of Herod king of Judah there was a priest named Zechariah, *who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah*; his wife Elizabeth was *also a descendant of Aaron*. **Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing ALL the Lord's Commandments and regulations blamelessly.**" I don't really want to digress, but it needs to be said for the benefit of all those who *claim* that the Ten Commandments cannot be kept today (for reasons known only to themselves) that Zechariah and Elizabeth were upright in God's eyes – they observed ALL the Lord's Commandments and regulations blamelessly. This is the perfect example for those who teach misinformation out of hatred for all God's Commandments and regulations. These teachers of misinformation actually try to instruct the Levites with their evil. Are they upright in God's eyes? Well, you be the judge!

And now we have these teachers of misinformation trying to prove that time has been lost, and the Sacred Calendar no longer complies with their calendar. And which calendar is it that they are so worried about? Is it God's Sacred Calendar? No, it's not! All their huffing and puffing is about the Gregorian Calendar. They scour the earth for 'scholars' who support their views that time has been 'lost' or changed, and seize on anything that would mock God's Sacred Calendar.

But let's put aside all their nonsense and consider the facts. God sets the seasons and the months. Now if you were marooned on a desert island with nothing, you could still establish God's Sacred Calendar! How? By stabbing a stick in the ground and waiting until the shadow reaches its full extent to the north at midday (in the northern latitudes), and begins its migration south again, you will know that the spring or vernal equinox will occur around 91 days later when the sun is directly over the equator. This will be the beginning of months to you – just as God instructed Moses (**Ex 12:1**). The first full moon after this is the day of the Passover. The Passover cannot fall before the vernal equinox, although the beginning of months can. This day of the full moon will be the 14<sup>th</sup> Nisan or Abib. Alternatively, instead of counting the days, you could count the next three full moons, and the next full moon after this would be the Passover – the 14<sup>th</sup> Nisan. After this, if you have been instructed about the three Holy Day seasons, you will know exactly on which day all the other Holy Days occur. You would not need any other calendar. In

fact, there is no other calendar that could be calculated without prior knowledge of the present date. If marooned on a desert island, your only calendar would be the one that God instituted, and your seasons and months would be regulated by it. And this was the only way the ancients could calculate the seasons. Because the time for planting crops was important, most cultures had a form of obelisk with a pointer on top for determining the longest shadow in the depth of winter and the coming return of spring. Even mainstream Christianity adopted this, and frequently there was an obelisk set in the ground in front of a church with shadow markers to mark the seasons. There were even elaborate sundials to mark the time and the seasons.

For those who like to see a few quotes from other scholars before they can believe fundamental truth, here's one for you: **One of the greatest of the early astronomers in Alexandria itself was Aristarchus (fl. c. 270BC), who constructed a modified sundial called a skaphe – a spherical bowl with a needle standing in the center like a miniature obelisk to cast shadows against lines marked off on the bowl's surface. Using this device he could measure the height and direction of the sun. This allowed him to figure out that **the sun shines light against a half moon, as seen on earth, at an angle of 87 degrees. From this he surmised that the sun is many times the size of the earth and must be very far away.****

Aristarchus also deduced that **the earth circles the sun**, an astronomical theory that ran counter to the accepted orthodoxy that the sun circled a stationary earth. He argued that the sun seems to move across the sky because **the earth spins on its axis**. But lacking a telescope and accurate star charts, Aristarchus could not prove something considered ludicrous by an earth-centered world, one that would remain convinced the sun was subservient to our little planet for another eighteen centuries, until the age of Copernicus and Galileo.' (*The Calendar* by David Ewing Duncan, 1999, pp 34)

The difference between the teachers of misinformation and the teachers of the Law is, the teachers of the Law are only concerned about God's instructions and faithfully follow them. All the hocus-pocus of foolish people means nothing. The type of mumbo-jumbo you hear today from people who are clawing to gain some proselytes for themselves is childish to say the least. Even those who teach the Law are not exempt from including their own spurious reasoning to God's Law today. Instead of teaching according to God's Law, they have become teachers of misinformation. They like to add burdens on all their followers and to give the impression that they themselves obey them; particularly when it comes to God's weekly Holyday – the Sabbath.

Then there are those who hate God's Sabbath, and say it can't be kept perfectly, so they deliberately violate it. Now if God's instructions were *to work* on the Sabbath, some might need some instruction on *how to work*, but since God's instructions are *to rest*, most people are able to do this quite capably by themselves. You don't need to be a rocket-scientist to know how to rest. And is it a burden to rest? Most people know the difference between their usual work patterns and their day off. Resting and relaxing shouldn't be a problem to anyone unless they are suffering from some form of loco-mo-ataxia, which would then be a real spiritual problem for them.

Those who teach the Law in the Churches, and those who don't, have some similarities. They both add burdens. The Commandment keepers love to add to the Law, particularly picky little issues, such as 'should I turn a door-knob', or 'turn on a light switch', and those who don't keep the Commandments insist that everyone should *not* rest – presumably they should be engaging in their weekly work habits. Both are hypocrites! Christ spoke of them in this way: **Matt 23:15** "Woe to you, teachers of the Law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win one convert, and when he becomes one, **you make him twice as much the son of hell as you are.**" Hey, wait a minute! Who are the 'teachers of the Law' that Christ is speaking of here? Could there be some differences between those who teach the Law according to their own interpretations, and those who teach the Law according to God's instructions, and is this in accordance with Christ's teachings? It surely is: **Matt 13:52** "He said to them, "Therefore **every teacher of the Law** who has been *instructed* about the **Kingdom of Heaven** is **like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old**" So it seems there are some teachers of the law who have *not* been *instructed* but decide for themselves to be *teachers* of the Law anyway. Obedience to the Law is one thing, but those who want to be *teachers* had better be sure they are teaching according to God's Law and *not their own additions to the Law*. Those who have been *instructed* about the **Kingdom of God** are surely the **true teachers of the Law!** And these are taught by God: **John 6:44** "**No-one can come to me unless the Father** who sent me *draws him*, and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the Prophets: "**They will all be taught by God**". Most readers should understand that only those **whom the Father draws** can **come to Christ**, and those whom the Father teaches are those He reserved for His very own (**Num 8:16**), and everyone should know that this had not changed even in the

days of John the Baptist. The role of John the Baptist was specifically to prepare the Way for Christ. It was the same then as it is now.

Students of the Bible should know *where* John the Baptist began his teachings. It was from the Book of Isaiah (**Isa 40:2**). And he made this very clear to all (**Luke 3:4**). All these things have been made very clear in numerous articles at our website. But it's the 'teachers of the Law' who have busied themselves trying to corrupt God's Sacred Calendar who are the focus of this article. They want you to believe that at the end of six thousand long years, they have discovered that God's reasoning was faulty, and no-one has been obeying God's Sacred Calendar for hundreds of years. And of course, in their view, God is to blame because He never recorded a calendar like the Julian or Gregorian calendars. And let me tell you something based on the authority of God: If you were on a desert island, and you calculated the beginning of months according to God's formula, and to the best of your ability, and it turned out that you were one day out in your calculation – **you would be blameless in God's eyes!!** Has it ever happened in the course of the past 3½thousand years? Possibly. No-one could say for sure. But does the mistake become compounded? Never! And the reason is that **the beginning of months is calculated anew every year.**

There should be no confusion over the beginning of the New Year, at least according to the approximate month. When the month of September was named, it was in accordance with the French/Gauls name for seven (sept). October was named according the Latin for eight (as in Octavius and octopus), and means the eighth month. November (neuve) is the ninth month, and December, like a *decimal* number means ten. July was named after Julius Caesar who calculated the Julian calendar to bring the seasons back into line with the solar year. August was named after Julius' successor (Augustus Caesar), but the habit of naming months after Roman Caesars was dropped after this before they ran out of months to honour future rulers. January and February were named after Roman gods, and were the eleventh and twelfth months. The first month is March according to the record of the Julian and Gregorian calendars. The first month of Spring is a good time to make war. It's not much fun going to war in the middle of winter with snow everywhere, so they named the first month after the Roman god Mars – the god of war. And it was quite common for armies to **March** out in the name of the god of war. It was also considered a good omen of success.

To prepare the armies and psyche them for war, festivals were held in honour of Eostre (from which the female hormone estrogen is named), and these festivals were orgies of drunken behaviour and licentiousness. They considered four days of this to be sufficient in preparation for war, but the armies were assured that there would be plenty more of it after victory among the conquered. Most couldn't wait to get started. The festival of Easter was the big drawcard in preparation for war.

Even Constantine, hundreds of years after the start of the Roman Empire wanted to keep this festival alive. It was perfect for motivating armies, and this buffoon was a shrewd politician. Whereas the Roman Empire considered Christians to be only fit for slaughter (a trait that has been present in all Gentile pagans), the proliferation of Christians caused him to see things in a new light. He saw Christianity as no threat to his crown provided he made all the rules. And this is where politics came into it all. He couldn't afford to alienate the pagan citizens of the Roman Empire, who had served him well, but neither would it hurt to have the gratitude of the Christian world rub off on the pagans. So he organized the famous council of Nicaea (Iznik in Turkey today and about 80 miles from Constantinople) in June of 325AD.

The story goes that Constantine arrived on the 19<sup>th</sup> June, and seated himself on a golden throne, and was presented with a wad of papers detailing the differences that existed between Christians (there was two major factional differences) and pagans. He listened to opening arguments and then rose to reply. He began by saying, "*I your fellow-servant am deeply pained whenever the Church of God is in dissension, a worse evil than the evil of war.*" In a flourish of theatrics, he then strode to a brazier burning in the center of the room, and burned the wad of papers, and began the real oratory. He explained that a uniform doctrine had to be established that would hold Christianity in good stead for centuries to come, and this would require ***uniformity in all aspects of beliefs***, and also ***uniformity in establishing time and seasons***. This was the task, and this is what must be accomplished. Having set the task, he retired to allow the bishops to consider the appropriate steps and bring forth a universal doctrine in which there were no schisms or dissension.

The problem was that the Roman Empire was already divided between east and west, and there were considerable differences even in basic Christian beliefs. But it wasn't only in Christian beliefs, but in secular and pagan interests as well. Constantine had warred against the west and killed the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius Valerius Maxentius and seized absolute control of the whole Roman Empire.

The whole Empire had become fractionalized and there was dissension everywhere. The story goes that he had a dream the night before the battle and ordered his troops to paint a cross on their battle shields. After he won the battle, he declared victory in the name of the Christian God. By emphasizing the failure of the pagan gods to produce lasting results, he set the stage for a re-think. To the superstitious pagans, this victory had real meaning, and provided a hedge against former beliefs.

There are two different stories over who first influenced Constantine's thinking about Christianity. One says his wife, and the other his mother. The most reliable account is that of his mother Helena (248-328AD) who was born in Britain. In order to be a Christian in Britain at that time, she must have been a Celt. The Anglo-Saxons certainly weren't Christians in that period (*hundreds of years later, Charlemagne was still beating the tar out of them because of their pagan rituals*). She was devoted to her son Constantine, and was a great supporter of Christianity. With the support of her son she was able to build literally dozens of churches from Judea to Gaul (France) including the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, which survives to this day.

The bishops present at the Council of Nicaea were from areas far and wide. Some were from Gaul, some from Rome, Constantinople, Alexandria in Egypt, and also from the Holy Land. There was a wide diversity of representation. Interestingly, they all spoke Greek, and this was the language of the communication at the Council, except for Constantine's first delivery, which was in Latin.

The Roman bishops saw the Council as the perfect platform for unifying all of Christendom, but not only this, they also saw an opportunity to establish Christianity as a universal religion, bringing into the fold everyone under the influence of the Roman Empire. Perhaps at the time it seemed to be the noble thing to do, but at the very outset, things started to go horribly wrong. There were two major schools of thought between east and west, and the differences were considerable. The Roman side of the debate didn't want to see the man Jesus as a separate entity to Almighty God for fear of upsetting Constantine. They knew from experience, as in the case of Herod the Great what can happen when a ruler sees a rival emerging as king, so they wanted to combine the Christ and Almighty God as one indivisible entity.

The east would have none of it! Jesus was the Son of God the Father, and He came to reveal the Father. Jesus made it very plain that the Father was greater than He. They couldn't be the same individual! And this was the line taken by Arius against the argument of the trinity. The two main spokesmen for the debate were Arius of Alexandria and the Roman Catholic bishop of Alexandria. The Romans could see their opportunity for unifying the Empire under one powerful ruler slipping away, and argued strenuously, reverting to politics, they emphasized the danger of promoting a Mighty King in opposition to the present ruler Constantine. The Roman bishops had the council numbers stacked anyway, so it was virtually a done deal. The merits of the debate meant nothing. When the vote was taken, the '*doctrine of the trinity*' was established, and the other side of the debate, referred to as Arianism, was declared to be anathema – a heretical affront to God. This decision set the tenor of the whole council as a 'them and us' contest.

There was a sizable representation from Alexandria in Egypt, and these were Jewish Christians. You'll recall the *countries* (**Acts 2:9**), which were represented in the time of Peter in Jerusalem in 30AD shortly after Christ's resurrection. You'll also recall that Peter addresses them as '*fellow Jews*' (**V14**) and '*men of Israel*' in **V22**. And this was the crux of the matter at the time of the Council of Nicaea. The Gentile Christians, *who were established by Paul*, seemed to have an inferiority complex and deeply resented Jewish Christians. To the Jews, the holy things were holy indeed, especially *Jerusalem!* But the Gentiles liked *Rome*. You'll recall how Paul had to cut the Gentiles down to size on one occasion by saying, "**Do not be arrogant, but be afraid. For if God didn't spare the natural branches, He will not spare you either.**" (**Rom 11:21**). To the Jews the Scriptures were sacred, but to the Gentiles they were a means to an end. Whatever was politically viable would be retained, and whatever was not, would be whitewashed.

The next item on the agenda at the Council of Nicaea, was *the establishment of times and seasons* as Constantine had requested. And note that they didn't want to *change* times and seasons, but to *establish* them according to a *unified* calendar. Calendar 'creep' had become evident since Julius Caesar first established the calendar bearing his name. He established a year of 365 days, with the first month beginning at the traditional time in March – the time of the Spring Equinox. Later it was noticed that the seasons were beginning to differ from the calendar. This was because Julius had not taken into account the extra ¼ day, for a total of 365¼ days. So by 8 BC Caesar Augustus had regulated the calendar over a three-year period to get it back in season, and established the leap year by adding an extra day to the twelfth month of February every four years. (*This is when Augustus requested to be honoured by the naming of the month of August for his role in fixing the calendar*). Well that seemed to fix the problem – until the time of

Constantine. It was known that the year was not just 365¼ days, but 365¼ days *plus eleven minutes*, and the eleven minutes had resulted in 3 days of calendar ‘creep’.

While all this was fine and good as far as the solar year was concerned, it had nothing to do with the lunar year, *which was eleven days shorter*. Julius Caesar thought he had rectified this with the addition of 11 days to some of the months. He reasoned that since ‘*months*’ means ‘*moons*’, there should be 12 months or moons in the year, and these should be equal to the solar year. To a pagan, this was a good solution for aligning the seasons. The fact that this put the moon’s cycle was out of sync with the months didn’t matter to him. The lunar month is only 29½ days, not 30 or 31, therefore the months were no longer coordinated with the moon’s orbit. The result being that the different phases of the moon could occur randomly throughout the year. For those who like to use their pocket calculators, if you calculate, using the distance of the moon, and its speed as it circumscribes a path around the earth, you will find it yields just 27.3 days – *the sidereal month*. Because the earth is orbiting the sun at around 111,000 km per hour, the moon must complete more than just a uniform orbit, in fact, an ellipse, as it moves to complete its cycle of phases around the earth, and results in a 29.5 day orbit, which is called *the synodic month*. One of the great mysteries in all this is, that the moon rotates on its axis once every 27.3 days – the same period as its *sidereal orbit*, and the same hemisphere of the moon always faces the earth. And the mystery? Why isn’t the moon’s axial rotation progressing by 2.2 days per month in relation to the earth and periodically exposing its dark side? There is an answer, but you’ll have to figure it out for yourselves.

Even today, many calendars depict the *phases of the moon* as a long-standing custom, because of the association with *the months*. The phases of the moon in relation to the months was a matter of great concern to the Jewish Christians in Alexandria! Alexandria was considered to be the seat of learning in the world at that time, and the Roman Bishops sought to make a change against the *established science* of Alexandria. They wanted Rome as the world authority in all things spiritual. If a universal calendar was to be adopted, it had to be precisely accurate, at least at the starting point of the spring equinox.

As the main debate got underway in Nicaea, it was evident to all that Jesus Christ was the Passover Lamb, and it was necessary for the Passover to be observed according to Christ’s instructions to His followers. There was no contest here. The Passover had to be observed with the unleavened bread (or the wafer biscuits used by the Catholics today) and wine (which only the priest drinks in the Catholic Church). The Roman bishops were well aware of the ceremony conducted by Christ, and even today, the Pope traditionally washes a few feet at Easter in a half-hearted effort to simulate the Passover ceremony, but always on a Friday, rather than the true date of the Passover.

Neither was there any debate over the *season* of the Passover – it had to occur in the first month. All agreed! It was the day of the spring equinox that needed to be hard-wired to the calendar of the Emperors. And this is what Constantine had requested. The Roman bishops argued for an absolute date of 25<sup>th</sup> March for the start of the spring equinox, the Alexandrians wanted 21<sup>st</sup> March. At that time, the spring equinox was probably closer to 22<sup>nd</sup> than the 21<sup>st</sup> because of the eleven minutes of difference that had accumulated over the centuries, but the Alexandrians opted to compensate for the future, and this would have ensured another fifty years before another day had to be deducted. Good sense should have prevailed among the Roman bishops, because they knew that the spring equinox was already out of sync by three days, but they stubbornly refused to concede to the Alexandrians. This mistake was to have greater ramifications on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1582 when Pope Gregory ordered 10 days be completely removed from the Julian calendar to fix the time of the spring equinox, thereby establishing the Gregorian calendar. This actually caused rioting in the streets because ignorant people believed the Pope had taken 10 days off their lives. It also caused a lot of consternation between both money-lenders and their clients when loans were called in 10 days early.

The matter of the spring equinox couldn’t be resolved among the factional parties of the Nicæan Council, but the outcome of the vote was assured anyway by the numerical odds of the Romans. And while the Romans had the illusion that they had won the debate, the fact is that those who had aligned with Arius in both the ‘trinity’ debate and the debate over the date of the spring equinox, continued to do so. This is evident in a letter written by Catholic monk Augustine. In 387, the Catholic monk Augustine wrote a fuming letter to the Catholic Church in Rome complaining that ‘*Easter*’ was now being kept on two different dates: The Alexandrians (Eastern Orthodox) on 25 April, and the western Romans on the 18 April – a week earlier. But what really enraged him was that the Arian Church in Gaul was commemorating a day in the *middle of the week – 21 April*. He noted in his letter that ‘*the Arian Church was still thriving despite Nicæa’s condemnation of their founders doctrine as heresy*’ (**for refusing the ‘*Doctrine of the Trinity*’**).

The love/hate relationship between the two major factions soon turned into one of pure hatred by the Romans against everything Jewish, and the term ‘Judaizing’ became a dirty word. Jewish Christians were determined to retain all the instructions of Moses and Aaron. They knew that the Holy line was through Aaron, and the priesthood was vested in his descendants, even in the days of John the Baptist. It could be added that it’s a strange coincidence that the original defender of the Faith was named Arius of Alexandria. Arius himself was determined to follow the instructions of Aaron in all things to do with the priesthood, including the Holy Days, and the Council of Nicaea changed nothing. The Celts in Gaul were still calculating the Holy Days according to the Sacred Calendar. And this is what inflamed the Catholic monk Augustine.

At the Council of Nicaea, all parties agreed that the New Year started on the day of the spring equinox – the time when the earth completes its circumnavigation of the sun and is directly over the equator. All parties also agreed that **the Passover falls on the first day of the full moon – the first one after the spring equinox**. All parties agreed that the first **full-moon Passover** (or ‘Easter’ as the Roman Catholics called it) established the Holy Calendar and the 14<sup>th</sup> Nisan – regardless of whether the first day of the first month fell before or after the Spring Equinox. The Alexandrians had kept records for hundreds of years, which even predated Christ, and were irrefutably accurate. At no time did the Roman Bishops dispute their accuracy, nor did they deny the Wednesday Passover in 30 AD. In fact, the Roman Bishops wanted to ignore the 14<sup>th</sup> Nisan Passover in favour of the first Sunday following it to ensure a uniform Easter of four days in the manner that the Easter festival had always been kept. No matter how hard they tried, they couldn’t offer any justification of the fourth day of Easter – Monday! But this didn’t matter to them! After all, if they could enforce their views on all Christendom, what could God do about it? Later generations of these savage brutes would launch a persecution against all who disagreed with them. Not much has changed! Teach God’s Truth today and everyone wants to kill you. Remember how Christ said, ‘*Because I teach the Truth you want to kill me.*’ And they answered, ‘*Want to kill you? Are you mad! Who is trying to kill you?*’ (Paraphrased from **John 7:19-20**) And what did they do? **They killed Him!** In fact they had already boasted in Jerusalem that they planned to kill Him (**V25**). People who are in the grip of Satan are usually inveterate liars – this is their trademark. Christ also mentions in **V18** that those who teach for the **honour of God**, rather than for their *own honour*, are **men of Truth** and *there is nothing false about them*.

Perhaps the best summary of the calculations that were proposed at the Council of Nicaea are those found in the book *The Calendar* by David Ewing Duncan. His descriptions are a reference to a *graph* by Dionysius who was commissioned in 532 to calculate Easter for the next hundred years.

Duncan seems to cover it reasonably well on page 98 of his book:

- II. To calculate the true Easter, astronomers started by noting the ‘age’ – or phase – of the moon during a given year on a set date in the solar calendar. This was arbitrarily set by Dionysius at 22<sup>nd</sup> March, the day after the official spring equinox as determined at the time of the Council of Nicaea. For instance, in 532 the moon’s age was 0 days old on 22<sup>nd</sup> March – a new moon. This age number is called an *epact*. Because the lunar years run 11 days fast against the solar year, the age of the moon on any given date in the Julian calendar will always be 11 days ‘older’ the next year. Thus in 533 the epact of the moon was not 0, but 11.
- III. A year later, in 534, the epact moved another 11 days back, for a total of 22 days of movement since 532. But because the moon runs in a 29½day cycle (rounded up to 30 days by Dionysius), the next year, 535, has an epact of 3, determined by taking 22 + 11 plus the 30 day month (*which needed to be added*). And on it goes with eleven added to each year, running on a 30-day lunar cycle.
- IV. The epact is important because in the 19-year lunar cycle this number will always be the same for each year in the cycle. This formula made it simple for anyone with a rudimentary knowledge of numbers to calculate Easter, though later time reckoners would realize that the moon does not fit precisely in this cycle, since the lunar month is actually less than 30 days. Whether or not to use epacts became a hotly debated topic during the deliberations in the sixteenth century that led to the Gregorian reforms in 1582.
- V. This is the week that fell on 24<sup>th</sup> March, which was used to determine on which date the Sunday after the equinox would fall.

- VI. The year in the 19-year lunar cycle. (*My comment: Dionysius realized that the epacts ran in a 19-year pattern just as the Jews observed. This caused considerable heartburn for those deliberating the Gregorian calendar in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.*)
- VII. This is the beginning of **the Passover**, corresponding to **14 Nisan** in the **Jewish calendar** – a date that the Christian time reckoners were ordered to **avoid** by the bishops at Nicaea, who dictated that Easter could *never* be held on the day Passover begins. If the calculations for Easter indicate a date for **14 Nisan**, the celebration was **moved to the following Sunday**.
- VIII. The correct date each year for Easter Sunday, based on the formula in use at the time of the Council of Nicaea in 325. This has Easter falling on the first Sunday **after the first full moon following the Spring Equinox**.  
(*End of David Ewing Duncan's description of Dionysius' graph for determining Easter.*)

So you begin to see how the reasoning went to distance themselves from Arianism, and to ensure that the Easter Festival took precedence over the true Passover. Essentially, Dionysius opted for the same formula as the Alexandrians in adding a lunar month seven times in each 19 years. The reason he did this is because the formula works.

All parties agreed that **the Passover** falls on the **first full moon following the Spring Equinox**. There is no contest here. Rome wanted to retain Easter as a pre-war festival, in deference to Constantine, and argued that Christ the Passover arose on a Sunday (*which isn't true!*) and this day of the week had to be preserved rather than the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month as specified by God. This would slot in nicely with the 4-day pagan festival of Easter. Constantine would be so pleased. The Alexandrians would have none of it! It should be added that the same author of the book mentioned above, refers to the calculations of the Alexandrian Jews as arcane, pharaonic, and secretive, and a city of stargazers. But he overlooks the fact that the Jewish Christians used the ancient formula which was still correct in the days of Christ, and the same formula which the Roman Catholics used – except the Alexandrians continued to use 14 Nisan – not the Sunday *after* the Passover. Both used the Spring equinox as the starting point for the calculation of the beginning of months, and **the first full moon after it** for the **14<sup>th</sup> Nisan (Passover)**. The only difference is the Roman Catholics opted for the **Sunday following the full moon rather than the full-moon Passover**. But the Catholics also added the proviso that if the Passover fell at any time in their 4-day Easter festival, then Easter would defer to the following Sunday.

The hatred for the Aaronic priesthood was such that the Catholics set up their **own priesthood** with a **permanent high priest – the Pope**. And to combat the teachings of Aaron, they made the Pope infallible in matters of Scripture (and any other political issue he became involved in). And as for the **Feast of Unleavened Bread**, it was far too Jewish, and they purposely forbade it with a command to eat **yeast buns (hot cross buns)** in defiance of it. Generally, Gentiles, and all who think like Gentiles, become absolute Gentiles in God's eyes, and are no longer qualified for grafting into the Olive Tree.

## The Sacred Calendar

Why is it so difficult for someone to check the date and day of the week for the Passover in 30AD? It's a relatively simple, one-line, equation that any high-school student could calculate. This equation is available on at least a dozen websites. But the good news is, that there are several calendar calculators that will do this for you. These have placed the equation in a few lines of code, which produces a nicely graphed display.

In the following graph, you will notice the most important date of all: **The Passover, on the 14<sup>th</sup> Nisan, 30 AD (Jewish year: 3790)**. You will note that it falls on a **Wednesday**.

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**WARNING: Results for year 1752 C.E. and before may not be accurate. Hebc does not take into account a correction of twelve days was introduced by Pope Gregory XIII known as the Gregorian Reformation. For more information, see [Gregorian and Julian Calendars](#).**

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## << April 30 >>

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 12th of Nisan, 3790	<b>2</b> 13th of Nisan, 3790	<b>3</b> 14th of Nisan, 3790 <a href="#">Ta'anis</a> <a href="#">Bechoros /</a> <a href="#">Erev Pesach /</a>	<b>4</b> 15th of Nisan, 3790 <a href="#">Pesach I /</a>	<b>5</b> 16th of Nisan, 3790 <a href="#">Pesach II /</a>	<b>6</b> 17th of Nisan, 3790 <a href="#">Pesach III (CH"M) /</a>
<b>7</b> 18th of Nisan, 3790 <a href="#">Pesach IV (CH"M) /</a>	<b>8</b> 19th of Nisan, 3790 <a href="#">Pesach V (CH"M) /</a>	<b>9</b> 20th of Nisan, 3790 <a href="#">Pesach VI (CH"M) /</a>	<b>10</b> 21st of Nisan, 3790 <a href="#">Pesach VII /</a>	<b>11</b> 22nd of Nisan, 3790 <a href="#">Pesach VIII /</a>	<b>12</b> 23rd of Nisan, 3790	<b>13</b> 24th of Nisan, 3790
<b>14</b> 25th of Nisan, 3790	<b>15</b> 26th of Nisan, 3790	<b>16</b> 27th of Nisan, 3790	<b>17</b> 28th of Nisan, 3790	<b>18</b> 29th of Nisan, 3790	<b>19</b> 30th of Nisan, 3790 <a href="#">Rosh Chodesh Iyyar /</a>	<b>20</b> 1st of Iyyar, 3790 <a href="#">Rosh Chodesh Iyyar /</a>
<b>21</b> 2nd of Iyyar, 3790	<b>22</b> 3rd of Iyyar, 3790	<b>23</b> 4th of Iyyar, 3790	<b>24</b> 5th of Iyyar, 3790	<b>25</b> 6th of Iyyar, 3790	<b>26</b> 7th of Iyyar, 3790	<b>27</b> 8th of Iyyar, 3790
<b>28</b> 9th of Iyyar, 3790	<b>29</b> 10th of Iyyar, 3790	<b>30</b> 11th of Iyyar, 3790				

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You may have noticed the disclaimer **in red letters**. Let's be perfectly frank, this is the first thing you noticed and immediately assumed the calendar could be in error. You noticed a reference to 12 days, but you probably didn't notice the year that these are associated with. The year is **1752**; nearly 200 years after Pope Gregory XXIII introduced the Gregorian calendar in **1582**. And what happened in **1752**? ***The British parliament adopted the Gregorian calendar!*** Prior to this, the Anglican Protestants had a snout on the Roman Catholics, and refused to accede to anything emanating from the Vatican. Most of Britain's trading partners had adopted it, and trading dates required a recalculation of delivery dates. It was an intolerable situation and in 1751, Philip Stanhope, the Earl of Chesterfield, introduced a bill in parliament to adopt the Gregorian calendar. The bill passed the three readings and became law despite considerable heartburn from the Anglican Archbishop. And so **Wednesday, 2 September**, 1752, was followed by **Thursday, 14 September**. This is where the 12 days come from. In fact, it was eleven days (day 3 to day 13 were removed), but the weekly seven-day cycle was left intact, as it always has been. Eleven days, rather than ten were deducted because in the year 1700 a day had been added in the Julian Calendar according to Lilius' century leap-year rules, but the Gregorian Calendar didn't add it. So it was decided to remove it and completely align with the Gregorian.

The other major change was the abandonment of the New Year in 24 March (the date of the Spring equinox) for the Gregorian adoption of January 1. On Thursday, September 14, 1752, the changes were complete. The code writers of the above calendar calculator decided to ignore any error that may occur if anyone uses it to determine an exact date ***between 1582 and 1752***.

The above graph is absolutely accurate and clearly identifies the day of the week on which the most famous of all Passovers occurred on the **14<sup>th</sup> Nisan or Abib**. It was on a **Wednesday!** But just as importantly, it also shows that the New Year of the Sacred Calendar started **SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE THE SPRING EQUINOX**. In 30 AD, the Spring Equinox fell about the 24<sup>th</sup> March. Three centuries later in 325 AD, because of the 11 minutes, the Spring Equinox was around the 21<sup>st</sup> March. This 11 minutes was later compensated for in the Julian calendar by Lilius' century leap-year rules, when a day would be added at the beginning of each century to align the Spring Equinox and ensure a 24<sup>th</sup> March equinox. The Gregorian calendar made a further adjustment of ten days in 1582.

And how could this Passover occur on any other year than 30 AD? Christ was born while Herod the Great was still alive, and Herod died in 4 BC. Christ was born in the seventh month of the Sacred Calendar, that is, about six months into the year 4 BC, or 3½ years prior to Year 1 of the Julian Calendar. Herod died about 3 months later. When Jesus appeared publicly, he began to be about 30 years old. Not 29 or 31, but 30 years old! This places His appearance in the middle of year 26, around the time of the Feast of Trumpets. His ministry lasted 3½ years, and He died on **14 Nisan, 30 AD**, which fell on a **Wednesday** as evidenced by the calendar of that year.

As far as the date of Jesus' birth, there is plenty of evidence to show the flocks were still out grazing at that time, rather than in stalls as the snow fell, which would have been the case in December. And the volume of this information now available utterly trashes the lie that Jesus was born on December 25. Since Jesus' appearance was 30 years after his birth, the only calculation needed to be done to establish his date of birth is to deduct 3½ years from the Passover on which He died, which brings us to Feast of Trumpets, 26 AD, and then deduct His age (30) to arrive at the date of His birth (for the benefit of those who insist that He was born on December 25<sup>th</sup>).

Many deceivers, including Dionysius, have adopted a December 25 date in 1 AD. Dionysius tried to fudge the year of Christ's birth to arrive at 33 AD for the Passover of His death, ***which just happened to be a Friday Passover***, and was perfect for their deceptive Easter celebrations. But nothing these deceivers can do can erase the **historical record** of Herod's death in **4 BC**. And Jesus was born before Herod's death (**Matt 2:13-23**). The problem with many people today is they can't bring themselves to believe God unless some obscure 'scholar' from the distant past confirms their own personal beliefs. What neo-pagan 'scholars' said centuries ago is *not* Scripture. Why people quote them as if they were men of God is beyond any form of sound reasoning. Does God's Truth rely on such men? Anyone who relies on such useless information is going to be very frustrated because all they will get are endless contradictions.

**Note:** The amusing side of all this is, that if you decide the **first day** of the Holy Calendar must fall **after** the Spring equinox, then you will never prove a **Wednesday** Passover in 30 AD or any year either side of it. The reason why Dionysius chose to fudge the year of Christ's birth for 1 AD was to arrive at a year that had a **Friday Passover** (33 AD). If he, like so many calendar 'experts' today, had chosen a date for the start of the New Year **after** the spring equinox, then he would have been out of luck. No '**Good Friday**'!

## Judah, Jews and Levites.

It should be remembered that when the House of Judah split with the northern Ten Tribes of Israel, it was the Levites and the Jews and a few from the tiny Tribe of Benjamin that remained faithful to the Holy City. The southern kingdom is referred to by God as Judah, and the northern kingdom as Israel, though sometimes the northern kingdom is also referred to as Ephraim. Based on tribal lines, the Apostle Paul was not a Jew of the Tribe of Judah, but of the Tribe of Benjamin, but he still called himself a Jew. Paul was careful to ensure that all understood that the citizens of the southern kingdom were collectively called Jews. Jews were the keepers of the Scriptures and everything to do with preserving the Scriptures. ***At the time of Christ***, the Jews in the Holy City calculated the Holy Days.

Seven hundred and fifty years after the northern Ten Tribes of Israel went into captivity and became 'lost' (around 720 BC) Judah was still calculating the Holy Days according to the guidelines given to Aaron. And what do you know? They still had it right! **Again and again Christ confirmed their calculations by observing the same Holy Days!**

I suppose the next stage of the game being played by all the '*calendar experts*' today is to claim that Christ was also wrong. Their crazy reasoning will probably go something like this: '*The Jews had lost track of time and were observing the wrong Holy Days, and since Jesus also observed the same days, He can't really be the Messiah.*' Have you noticed all the fake Jews around today? They are neither Jews inwardly or outwardly – they are merely fakes! But didn't God the Father warn us of them? This is what the Father instructed: **Rev 2:9** "...I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are of the synagogue of Satan." And in **Rev 3:9** "I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars – I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you." God is going to make these wretched liars fall down at the feet of those He loves and to acknowledge which ones He loves. Notice that He doesn't love these lying, fake Jews! And these lying cretins are proliferating everywhere. If God doesn't love them, then any who do had better take stock of what Godliness really means! Be sure you understand that God is speaking of lying, fake Jews – not real Jews! The fake Jews of the synagogue of Satan are easily recognized. They have *one or more* of the following characteristics:

1. They dress to look like Jews even though they are not Jews. Oddly enough, even Jesus didn't dress like the Jews, and openly criticized the way they dressed because they dressed to impress others. In other words they dressed to stand out from the crowd. Jesus even said that those who wear fine clothes live in kings' palaces (**Matt 11:8**). (There is nothing wrong with fine clothes provided they are comparable to normal standards). The problem arises when people dress to enhance their own 'glorious' image.
2. They use Hebrew names, which sounds so very spiritual to others, and often adopt Hebrew names in place of their own. These people are lying deceivers who masquerade as real Jews. As a point of interest, there are plenty of Jews today who don't have 'Jewish' names. The '*sacred names*' fiasco is designed by these fake Jews to give others the impression they understand Hebrew – which they don't! And they most certainly don't understand the Scriptures – *in any language!*
3. They deny that Jesus is the **Christ – the Mighty Commander of Armies** – who will restore Israel and destroy His enemies. They don't seem to understand what '*Christ*' or '*Messiah*' means! His disciples certainly understood though (**Luke 24:21**).
4. They partially reject Christ by rejecting His message for a sanguine variation of their own, designed to steer all their followers away from Truth. They inject sickening sanctimony designed to make the Mighty Christ look like a 'kick-sand-in-his-face' weakling.
5. They reject all prophecy – except that which they have made up from their own imagination. The truth of this is evidenced by the fact that God mentions these fake Jews *twice* in the final book of prophecy – the Book of Revelation (**Rev 2:9, 3:9**).
6. They will reject the Passover, opting for the 'Lord's supper' instead. They will openly refute what Christ said when He spoke of His final Passover with His disciples before His departure (**Matt 26:17-18**). They apparently don't believe that **Christ is our Passover** (**1Cor 5:7**). Perhaps they believe He's their '*Lord's Supper*' – a totally meaningless and unbiblical term!

7. Alternatively, they will observe the Passover – but on the wrong day! Not with a whole lamb, mind you, that has just been slaughtered on the 14<sup>th</sup> Nisan, and the blood splashed on the door frame, but with a ‘seder’ featuring the leg-bone of a lamb, whatever that’s supposed to mean! You’ll find nothing in the Bible to support their actions. All this is designed to emulate a large section of the Jewish community whom God has blinded to this day (mind you, this is all about to change – **Zech 12:10**).

There is, of course, a subtle variation between **Satan’s synagogue** and **Satan’s mosque** even though both **hate real Jews** and the **House of Israel**. A Jew is one who is one inwardly – from the heart! A real Jew mourns for the Holy City of Jerusalem, and bewails the atrocities that are being committed there by Satan’s agents – the Moslems. They long for the establishment of God’s Kingdom and the restoration of the earth. The real Jews are the ones who took the Christian message around the world after Christ’s departure. Though many if not most of them were Levites. Matthew certainly was, and so was Luke. We know that Barnabas was also a Levite along with John the Baptist and many of his followers. There is also a strong possibility that Jesus was **part-Levite**. Elizabeth and Mary were cousins, and Elizabeth was a descendant of Aaron. John the Baptist and Jesus were cousins. At least someone in these two close families had crossed tribal lines, and this was probably true for generations prior to this. And there was never any instruction from God that there should be no tribal intermarriage among the Israelites. In fact, it was through tribal intermarriage that the Tribe of Benjamin survived. One thing we can be sure of, Jesus was of the **line of David** through His mother Mary. And a genealogical **line** doesn’t mean that both parents have to be of the same Tribe, only one of them. If I understand this correctly, for Elizabeth to be Mary’s cousin (and remember that *both* Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah were Levites – **Luke 1:6**), one of Mary’s parents must have been a Levite, and a brother or sister to the parents of either Zechariah or Elizabeth. If there is another explanation for this I would be happy to hear it. There’s an old Jewish joke that says genealogies should always be calculated through the mother, because you can never be sure who the father was! And frequently, genealogies were aligned through the mother.

As far as genealogies go, even Christ’s genealogy was not from an unbroken chain of only Jews from the Tribe of Judah. We have the account of Ruth, a Moabitess (**Ruth 1:22**), who married Boaz, and bore Obed, who bore Jesse, the father of David, from whom Jesus descended (**Matt 1:5-6**). At the time of Christ, genealogies were so well known that no dispute ever arose of whether Jesus was born the **Son of David**; it was acknowledged that He was! And of course, the **House of David includes both Jews and Levites** (**Zech 12:10-14**).

It was to the Jews that God entrusted the sacred Scriptures for safe preservation (**Rom 3:2**). And it’s just as well. Imagine if this was entrusted to the Gentiles! Their track record is absolutely appalling in regard to the Scriptures. On the slightest whim they went after anyone who disagreed with them – whether Jews or other Christians!

Since it’s God’s primary objective to establish a Kingdom that will last forever, it’s the southern kingdom that will be brought into primary focus. It’s the Jewish people who have served their hard labour over many centuries of persecution and holocausts. These are the example that all must follow when their turn comes. Forceful men will lay hold of the Kingdom of God. For centuries, the Jewish people have been slaughtered and driven out of everywhere – **until they reached the Holy Land**. They know that this is the land that God gave them long ago, and they are prepared to fight for God’s Holy Land. Only the Jews love the Holy Land so much they refuse to give it up. While Ephraim (U.S.), and for that matter, all the northern ten Tribes of Israel, are trying to force them to give this land to God’s enemies, the Israelis are becoming increasingly aware of their hypocrisy! Bin Laden is a terrorist, so is Saddam Hussein, but apparently Yasser Arafat is not!

It’s been said before but it bears repeating: **Salvation is of the Jews!** It’s the southern kingdom that will be called to duty. You are soon to see a transformation that you couldn’t imagine! God foreshadows it in **Isa 40:1-2** “Comfort, comfort **MY PEOPLE**,” says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and rejoice that **her HARD SERVICE has now been COMPLETED**, that **HER SIN HAS BEEN PAID FOR**, that she has received from the LORD’S hand **DOUBLE FOR ALL HER SINS**.” You’ll recognize the next verse (**V3**) as the start of the ministry of John the Baptist – the place in Scripture where he began.

God has appointed someone to speak tenderly to **GOD’S PEOPLE**, those who love God’s Holy City and who sigh and cry for all the atrocities done in it, and to advise them that their hard service has been completed – well, almost. Just a little bit longer. They’re almost there! The Israelis have a strong army, but nowhere near as strong as the army that God will train for 3½ years. These are the forceful men

(and women) who will take the Kingdom of God by force. And the royal **House of David** will be established. God has spoken of that time: **Zech 12:10** “And I will pour out on the **House of David** and the **inhabitants of Jerusalem** a **spirit of grace and supplication**. They will look on me, **the One they have pierced**, and **they will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only child**, and **grieve bitterly for Him as one grieves for a firstborn son**. On that day the weeping in Jerusalem will be great, like the weeping of Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. **The land will mourn**, each clan by itself, with their wives by themselves: the **clan of the House of David and their wives**, the **clan of the House of Nathan and their wives**, the **clan of the House of Levi and their wives**, the **clan of Shimei and their wives**, and **all the rest of the clans and their wives.**” Shimei could be a relative of David, but it seems more likely that this is speaking of the *Shimei* of the Gershonite **clan of Levi (Num 3:17-21)**.

If you hope to be saved and rescued, then it wouldn't hurt to start showing some moral support for the southern kingdom of Israel right now. They've already suffered double for their sins, and if you only have to suffer half as much, be aware that this is going to seriously try you. All that has happened to the Jews over the centuries is about to happen to you if you are a part of the '*lost ten Tribes*'. But you have the advantage! You will have someone to rescue you when you are transported like cattle to a far-off land and enslaved. Right now, the security of the whole world is in freefall, but you've probably been reassured that peace will be restored soon, and all will be well. It won't happen!

As at this date (the Passover season for 2002) there has been an epidemic of suicide bombers in tiny Israel. The Israelis are being terrorized by Moslem swine determined to kill every Israeli, but the rulers of the heavenly realms have other objectives as well. They want to see the whole House of Israel wiped from the face of the earth – and particularly the U.S. Fortunately for Americans, since Sept 11, internal security has prevented any suicide bombers from doing their work within their borders, right? At the airports, security guards are looking for small packets of plastic explosives; the type used by Palestinian bombers, and the hopes of the American people are buoyed by the fact that no-one could get past their security.

Presently, the American people are being bombarded with propaganda to make them feel safe. One example of this was the silly nonsense that a crop-duster aircraft could not deliver water-based anthrax because the nozzle-size used for crop-dusting is too large, and the droplet size would not release the anthrax. Whoever advanced this lie knows nothing about crop-dusting. Forget all about nozzle-size! If the plane flew high enough, the anthrax would be dry powder by the time it hit the earth. The object of terrorists is to create terror whether in a large city or a small town. Either target would have the desired result in the deranged minds of Islamic terrorists.

As far as airport security is concerned, do terrorists really need small packets of plastic explosives to cause terrorism? Garden centers across America have massive quantities of explosives. It's a fertilizer called ammonium nitrate, which when mixed with diesel fuel becomes a powerful bomb. Timothy McVeigh used it to destroy a building and kill dozens of people.

It seems that according to official American sources, a terrorist is someone who hides in a cave and has a gun, or else someone who boards a plane with some explosives in his shoe. Oddly enough, the official definition of terrorism doesn't seem to cover suicide bombers who walk into a hotel and kill 22 people and mutilate 100 others if they happen to be Moslem and have a leader called Yasser Arafat. Bin Laden is a terrorist, so is Saddam Hussein, Colonel Gaddafi, Mohammed Omar, and a few others, but not Yasser Arafat! How strange! We seem to be passing through some sort of twilight zone.

Those of us who are aware of the activities of degenerate Moslems and their global objectives were awaiting the inevitable carnage of the start of the Passover season in Israel. Right on schedule they acted! Did you notice the gold price has begun to soar, along with the oil price, and the slump of the U.S. dollar? These are typical signs of impending war.

In the eight days of the Passover season this year we saw two synagogues in Europe firebombed by Moslem lunatics and at least two others prevented. Are you beginning to notice the trend? Did God know what He was talking about when He predicted that the Babylonians would sweep across the earth? Did He describe them as **ruthless and impetuous people**, and as a **feared and dreaded people (Hab 1:6-7)**? And did God link this prophecy to the return of the Mighty Champion, the Mighty Christ, who will **arise** to shake the earth and **make the mountains crumble (Hab 3:3-6)**?

## **BABYLON**

As far as calendars are concerned, there are a growing number of people trying to relate God's Sacred Calendar to Babylon. The argument goes that the Jewish calendar has Babylonian names, and therefore it must be of pagan origins.

They seem to forget that the ruler of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar specifically requested men of special intellect from among the Jews to be brought to his palace and educated. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego became very notable for their great wisdom.

The sticking point with the detractors of God's Sacred Calendar is a name, specifically 'Nisan'. They insist that it's pagan. It's certainly not the name that God uses in reference to the first month – Abib. So why do the Jews use it? Or for that matter why do I use it? Well, I'll tell you.

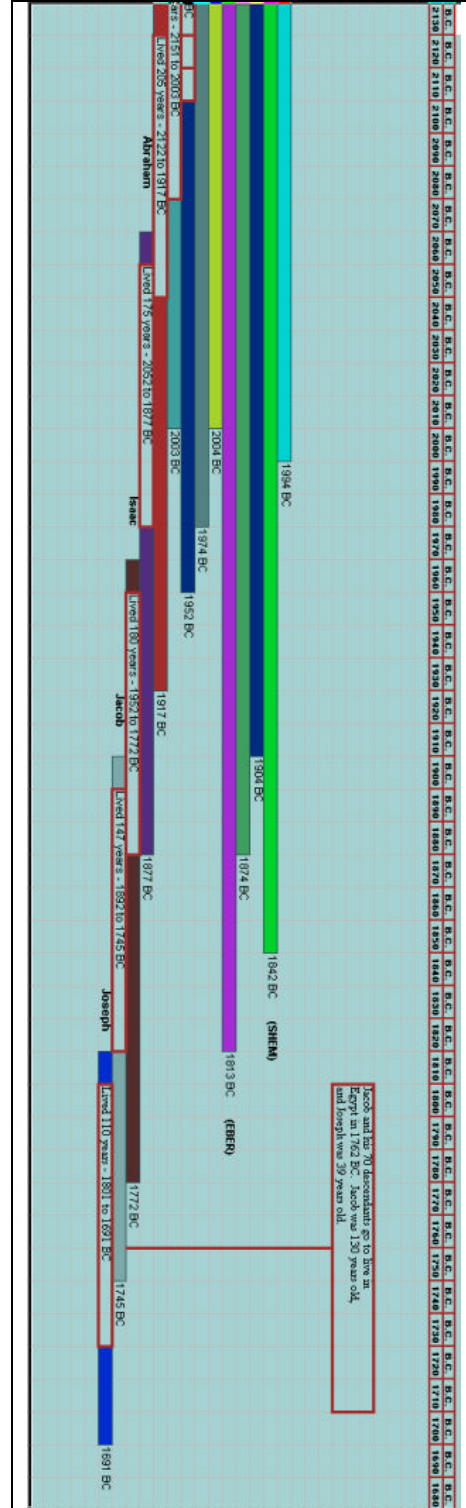
Firstly, God speaks of *mystery* in relation to Babylon the Great. God doesn't leave us to guess the meaning of *mystery*, though many have assumed they can. In fact, there has probably been more written about the 'mystery of Babylon' than any other prophecy, and never have they even come close to understanding its meaning.

Secondly, people sound off about calendars and seem to have no idea what a calendar is based on. Mankind has always observed the seasons because they repeat every year. They understood that the sun moved higher in the sky in a north-south axis every year until it reached its zenith at the height of summer. They also knew that the moon appeared in 12 cycles over the course of these solar activities. Consequently a calendar was a natural progression for estimating the coming sun in full strength. The beginning of the warm months was considered the start of the year. It was customary to celebrate spring through a variety of gods.

The genealogy from Adam to Abraham, as recorded in the Bible, reveals some interesting things. Notably, two very long-lived individuals were Shem and Eber. Both lived longer than Abraham. We have a reference to Eber's long life in the Book of Job by one of his so-called 'friends': **Job 15:8** "Do you listen to God's council? Do you limit wisdom to yourself? What insights do you have that we do not have? The grey-haired and the aged are on our side, **men even older than your father.**" This is a reference to the great age of Eber, who was in fact Job's grandfather. Job's friends were apparently aligning themselves with Shem, who was even older than Job's grandfather, and was probably still alive at that time. Job's 'friends' were Arabs, the descendants of Ishmael and Esau.

But let's put things into perspective. The year of the Great Flood was 1560 years after Adam, or around 2440 BC. Noah lived for 350 years after the flood, and died in 2090 BC. Abraham was born in 2051, about 39 years after Noah died. Abraham lived in the Fertile Crescent – the area covering the Euphrates Basin. From there, God called him out to go to a land that He planned to give him and his descendants forever. It's worth noting that Shem (Noah's son) died *after* Abraham. Abraham died in 1876 BC, and Shem in 1842 BC. It's also worth noting that only Abraham, Sarah and his nephew Lot left the region of Babylon, Shem and the rest of his offspring didn't! The descendants of Shem are generally called *Arameans*. Isaac's wife Rebekah was the daughter of Bethuel the *Aramean* and sister to Laban the *Aramean* (**Gen 25:20**).

It was through Abraham and his descendants that the whole world would be blessed. And this is where the division of all mankind continued – through one man whom God



describes as His friend. Only the descendants of Abraham would reach the pinnacle of God’s love and care. The rest of mankind was abandoned to their own devices. This is what God said to Abraham: **Gen 22:17** “I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.” So it’s bad luck for anyone who is *not* of Abraham’s seed! God made His choice a long time ago. The Godly seed passed from Abraham and Sarah to Isaac their son: **Gen 26:2** “The LORD appeared to Isaac and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; live in this land for a while, and I will be with you and bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham. I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because Abraham obeyed me and kept my requirements, my commands, my decrees and my laws.”

Isaac had two sons, Esau and Jacob; they were twins, though Esau was born first. Esau was a wild man and a hunter, while Jacob preferred to stay in the tents and adopted a more studious lifestyle (**Gen 25:27**). Esau knew of his father Isaac’s love of venison and continually plied him with the choicest parts to gain his favour. This ploy seemed to work, because Isaac tended to overlook Esau’s faults because of this meat. He was, however, deeply grieved by Esau’s womanizing with the Hittite Canaanites. At age 40 he had married two of them (**Gen 26:34**). These women were detestable to Isaac and Rebekah (**V35**). Rebekah later expressed her feelings in even stronger terms: **Gen 27:46** “Then Rebekah said to Isaac, “I’m disgusted with living because of these Hittite women. If Jacob takes a wife from among the women of this land, from Hittite women like these, my life will not be worth living.” It’s so funny that people today can’t distinguish good from evil and fail to recognize the evil generated by Satan’s brood! Rebekah was literally disgusted with living because of them. Realizing his father’s displeasure and his advancing age, and that the time of the acquisition of inheritance was drawing near, Esau took a wife from the Ishmaelites: **Gen 28:8** “Esau then realized how displeasing the Canaanite women were to his father Isaac, so he went to Ishmael and married Mahalah, the sister of Nebaioth and daughter of Ishmael son of Abraham, in addition to the wives he already had.” He was determined to receive all Isaac’s inheritance, even if it meant killing Jacob to get it (**Gen 27:41**). He had already sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of red stew and this is *why he is also called Edom* (**Gen 25:30**). Everyone knew of this deal, and began to call Esau ‘red stew’ or ‘Edom’. So Esau despised the birthright that Jacob desired so greatly, because Esau realized that what he couldn’t have by conventional means, he could later acquire by murder. Esau had plied his father Isaac with venison to gain his favour, yet Jacob was able to acquire the birthright with a bowl of lentils. In this sense, Esau got what he deserved! He lost the precious birthright. It wasn’t the Godly line of the birthright that Esau was concerned with, but only the material possessions accumulated by Isaac, and he got a firm grip on these in Jacob’s long absence.

Later, when Jacob was returning with his wives, his children and all his possessions, Esau heard about it, and expecting that Jacob would be demanding his inheritance, set out with a band of fighting men. Instead of demanding his inheritance, Jacob presented gifts and possessions that so overwhelmed Esau that he softened his resolve and welcomed Jacob back. Esau acknowledged that he already had great wealth and didn’t really need the gifts. Jacob, however, was sure in the knowledge that he had gained the greater gift from God Himself. It happened as he set out from Beersheba to begin his long sojourn in Haran, some 20 years before: **Gen 28:12** “He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the LORD, and He said: “I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the east and to the west, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land.” This ‘*stairway resting on earth with its top reaching to heaven*’ is what so many pagans have tried to emulate. From earliest times the pagans called their structure a ziggurat. But it wasn’t Almighty God



An artist’s impression of the Temple. Note the ziggurat appearance of the altar, which stands before the Temple housing the Sacred Rock – the former place of God’s Throne. This is what pagans have simulated down through the ages. Note the Great Sea resting on 12 bulls in the lower left of picture.

standing at the top of their *pagan ziggurats*, but the rulers of the heavenly realms. It was these rulers that demanded the worship of their human subjects, and even human sacrifices. The reason God appeared to Jacob in a dream was so he could have the vision of this Godly ‘ziggurat’ on which rested the Throne of God – the very place where rebellion began, and the very place where it will all end!

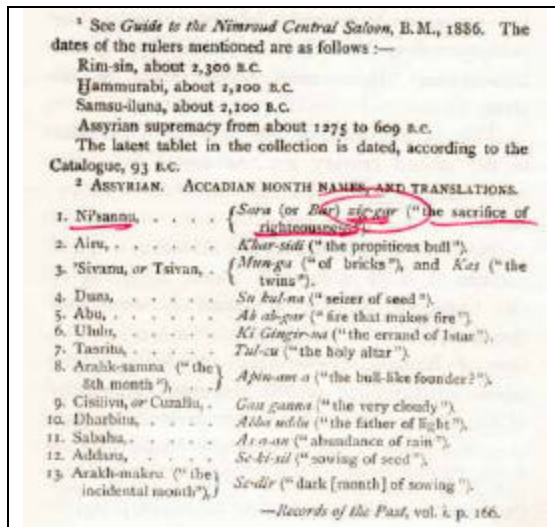
You may like to know what once stood outside the Temple, which housed the Sacred Rock, the remnant of the cornerstone or capstone of the place of God’s Throne. It’s the Altar, which God designed and commanded to be placed in front of the Holy Rock. It’s on this Altar that bulls were slaughtered and burned. Almighty God saw fit to record all these things so we can learn some important lessons.

Most Bible students would be aware that God recorded the layout and structure of the Temple for a very great purpose. God gave this instruction to Ezekiel and it bears repeating: **Eze 43:10** “Son of man, describe the Temple to the people of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their sins. Let them consider the plan, and if they are ashamed of all they have done, make known to them the design of the Temple – its arrangements, its exits and entrances – its whole design and all its regulations and Laws. Write them down before them so that they may be faithful to its design and follow all its regulations. This is the Law of the Temple: All the surrounding area on top of the mountain will be Most Holy. Such is the Law of the Temple.” God wants the people of Israel to come to their senses and be ashamed at their sins. Presently, all the waffling going on, even in the Churches, is doing nothing to explain the true meaning of the Temple and God’s Great Plan. Neither is it helpful when ignorant people speak of a ‘*Babylon*’ that they have devised in their own minds. Not the Babylon that God speaks of, it should be pointed out, but a ‘Babylon’ they have generated from their own imaginations. Their empty and worthless ‘*prophecy*’ explains nothing!

One thing the name ‘Nisan’ does is to explain that the earliest civilizations acknowledged the same month as God for the beginning of the New Year. But it does more than this. The name ‘Nisan’ carries the connotation of the meaning of the first month, and this was discovered on tablets of stone dating back to Hammurabi, possibly 22<sup>nd</sup> century B.C, and two German astronomers Epping and Strassmaier translated these around 1886 AD. These tablets reveal that the inhabitants of the Fertile Triangle knew of and observed the calendar as prescribed by the solar and lunar seasons. Importantly, they knew that certain months had specific meaning, particularly the first month of Nisan. It relates to the great ziggurat that once existed, *the very one that Jacob recalled in his dream*. This first month memorializes former and future events of a Kingdom that will last forever.

One thing we do know is that Noah imparted knowledge to Shem concerning the months and the seasons. From earliest times, we know the first month and its meaning was preserved by the Shemites. It memorializes the rebellion that led to six thousand years of human tragedy.

The Shemites are a white race and there are plenty of them on earth today, but not all of them are of the bloodline of the 12 Tribes of Israel, though many have a similar appearance. So there are plenty of white Gentiles on this earth, and *unless* they descend from Jacob, **they are Gentiles!** It’s not known whether Shem remained faithful to God throughout his life, but all indications are that he wasn’t faithful! Yet it was through Shem that the holy seed was transmitted to Abraham. When God called Abraham out from among them, He was in fact, abandoning all others to their own devices. Abraham was of the stock of Shem, and the name ‘Semite’ is derived from this association with Shem, and continues to this day, and generally applies to the southern Tribes of Judah and Levi. Anti-Semitism is particularly rife among the Moslems today; particularly against the Israelis and the U.S, yet the Arabs are Semites themselves.



This information was translated from the original clay tablets dated from the time of the rulers mentioned here. All these tablets are on exhibition in the British Museum. Importantly, they preserve the true meaning of the first month of Nisan – the name that was known to Abraham, and the name preserved by Daniel a thousand years later. Note the reference to *zig-gar (ziggurat)* and its association to *‘the sacrifice of righteousness’*.

Abraham was a notable scholar among the Chaldeans, among whom he formerly lived. Josephus tells us that Abraham was very persuasive in describing **the sun and the moon, and all the heavenly bodies**. But what really piqued his countrymen was that he ascribed the orderliness of all the heavenly bodies to the Great Creator God. The Chaldeans and the people of Mesopotamia had already moved away from acknowledging the One True God, and some started to plot trouble for Abraham (*Jos. Antiq. Bk. 1, Ch. 7*). This was when God decided that it was time for Abraham to leave, and he went to live in Canaan.

Later, when a famine had gripped the land of Canaan, Abraham went to Egypt. He was given permission to converse with the learned men of the land. Josephus describes it all in this way: *‘For whereas the Egyptians were formerly addicted to different customs, and despised one another’s sacred and accustomed rites, and were very angry with one another on that account, Abram conferred with each of them, and, confuting the reasonings they made use of, everyone for their own practices, demonstrated that such reasonings were vain and void of truth; whereupon he was admired by them in those conferences as a very wise man, and one of great sagacity, when he discoursed on any subject he undertook; and this not only in understanding it, but in persuading other men also to assent to him. He communicated to them **arithmetic**, and delivered to them the **science of astronomy**; for before Abram came into Egypt, they were unacquainted with those parts of learning; for that science came from the Chaldeans into Egypt, and from thence to the Greeks also’* (*Jos. Antiq. Bk. 1, Ch. 8*).

So Abraham preserved the knowledge of the Shemite Chaldeans, knowledge that had become corrupted by those who wanted to discredit Almighty God. And while the Chaldeans knew that Abraham was right in what he said, they despised him for introducing truths that they had endeavoured to conceal. The Chaldeans favoured the worship of the sun, moon and stars and all the constellations. They devised the Zodiac, and endeavoured to regulate their lives by it. Many of them made a good living from selling this worthless information, just as many do today. Abraham made the point that the heavenly bodies were regulated by the Divine Creator Himself, and therefore have no power of their own (*Ch. 7, VI*). Abraham’s reasoning was not well received by those who practice divination.

Importantly, it was the man of God, Abraham, who was the ‘father of the faithful’ who preserved and described the seasons according to the sun and moon, and reestablished the God’s Sacred Calendar, which is still in use today. There are many things relating to God’s Sacred Calendar that directly point to the Holy City and the Temple. After the 12 Tribes of Israel entered into slavery in Egypt, it was necessary for God to confirm the beginning of the year and the Holy Days to Moses. And what He confirmed was exactly what Abraham had formerly observed, and that which the remnant of the Southern Kingdom continued to observe right up to the time of Christ and beyond. There really isn’t anything new under the sun in relation to God’s divinely appointed Holy Calendar.

All the so-called Biblical ‘scholars’ who have suddenly decided to ‘reinvent the wheel’ in relation to God’s Truth have left their run a little late! They should have searched with all their hearts while there was yet time. Their time has run out and they are no further advanced. Now they must bear the consequences of their own stupidity. They didn’t want to serve God faithfully in the good times, now they have no alternative to serve Him in great suffering, turmoil and want of all things. Hasn’t God warned again and again? If you are among those who couldn’t believe what God has plainly said, if you are one of those who believed God needed your very foolish, fanciful opinions regarding **His prophecy**, then you deserve everything you get! God doesn’t need you, but He is about to demonstrate how desperately you need Him!

It’s the end of the road for all those who think they are something, when they are nothing. God despises arrogant boasters, and for them there is no way back. So saddle up for the ride of your life! You couldn’t or wouldn’t serve God in His tender mercy, now prepare to serve Him in His absolute fury or die in the process – forever! But don’t take my word for it; you will shortly see it all with your own eyes.

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