

1106 Hall  
Gladewater, TX 75647  
October 14, 1985

E.N. Mahtood  
P.O. Box 961  
Gladewater, TX 75647

Dear Ms. Mahtood,

That the J.W. organization does not keep the Passover on the Nisan 14 date of the Hebrew Calendar should be clear from the enclosed materials, some of which are from your own organization. Under Pastor Russell the Nisan 14 date was chosen 81% of the time, under Judge Rutherford only 32% of the time, and under President Knorr (thru 1975) only 23.5% of the time. Why?

Nor does the Feb. 1, 1976 issue of The Watchtower claim to keep Nisan 14. Rather an arbitrary date, i.e. "According to our present method of calculation ... "

Note the enclosed March 1975 Hebrew Calendar page. Tuesday, March 25 is Nisan 13. Nisan 14 will begin when the sun goes down on March 25. And that is when the Jews even to this day begin their search for leaven. It is the time Jesus and His disciples kept the Passover. The Jews to this day stay indoors till midnight, just as ancient Israel did the same night in Egypt. And, I might add, Judas did not return till midnight.

So you can clearly see that the Jews, the Hebrew Calendar, and the Worldwide Church of God recognize the beginning hours of Nisan 14.

The beginning hours of Nisan 15 are after sunset March 26. The Jews observe their "Feast of the Passover" one day late as they did in the time of Jesus; they do this because they killed their Passover at 3 pm in the afternoon of Nisan 14, rather than at the beginning of Nisan 14 as Jesus and His disciples did.

The Worldwide Church of God also observes the "Feast of the Passover" as a "high Sabbath", i.e. an annual Holyday.

The J.W. organization kept its Passover after sunset on Thursday, March 27! That was on the beginning of Nisan 16 as per the Hebrew Calendar that is before your very eyes!

Proof of the date of J.W. observance is from their August 13, 1975 letter to me. Double proof is page 73 of the Feb. 1, 1976 issue of The Watchtower!

To further demonstrate this J.W. digression from the Hebrew Calendar I enclose a listing of A Century of Passover Dates which I accumulated from Zion's Watch Tower, The Watchtower, my nephew, and the above mentioned August 13, 1975 letter. [The term "evening" has the meaning "after sunset" rather than the southern U.S. meaning of "afternoon".]

October 14, 1985

Thus while many J.W.s believe they are observing the date on the Hebrew Calendar, in reality they are only doing so about one year in four. Why this change? Pastor Russell also used calculation and arrived at a different date in certain years; he placed the emphasis on the observation, rather than the date itself, and many who followed his teaching observed the date he recommended, others followed other ways.

Now what you could help me with is a listing of the "evening" (after sunset) for the years 1976 this way. I do not have a convenient way to obtain them. That I would appreciate.

And one more item you could help me with. I ran onto the name Big Sandy in the May 15, 1908 issue of Zion's Watchtower and wonder if any of the 17 people who observed the Passover at that time have descendants that are with you today. That would be an easy question for you to ask your members.

I had done considerable research on the early history of Big Sandy for Annie's Attic and was fascinated with the events that led to the various changes in these nearby communities. Did the people who reported to Pastor Russell belong to one of the congregations now at Big Sandy?

Or did they follow the lead of Judge Rutherford and are they the early members of the group that now meets at Gladewater.

What difference does it make? None really, but just out of curiosity. I wonder also when I do research on my own family tree whether any of them observed the Passover and other customs that we now follow. Generally I think they were Lutheran, but back in the 1600's they did not have much choice in Europe.

Will look forward to word from you.

Oh, there is one more item of interest. The Hebrew Calendar Nisan 14 date will "wander 40 days in the wilderness" of the other days of the solar year, i.e. the seasons. But if one takes the "nearest full moon after the spring equinox" that date will only vary by 29 or 30 days. It is just an interesting observation.

I have never found any reason to change from the God-given Hebrew Calendar. The early Roman Catholic Church dumped it and picked up the Julian calendar and later the Gregorian, and they made rules for Passover, i.e. Easter, Ishstar, Oster, so that it was never coincide with the "blindness of the Jews". There action was deliberate and determined to avoid any agreement with the date the Jewish people continued to observed. This led to the "Quarto-decimian Controversy, which is probably written up in your publications also somewhere.

But this is enough for now. Will look forward to whatever information you might be able to furnish on early Big Sandy. And also the Passover dates you observed 1976 through 1985.

Sincerely,

  
Kenneth C. Herrmann

<u>Year</u>	<u>Year of Cycle</u>	<u>Evening of Passover Observance</u>	<u>Passover Day &amp; Evening of Jewish Observ.</u>	<u>Evening of Jehovah's Witnesses Observance</u>	<u>Golden Number</u>	<u>"Paschal Full Moon"</u>	<u>Sunday of Easter Observance</u>
1960*	1	Su Apr 10	M Apr 11	Su Apr 10	4	M April 11	Su April 17
1961	2	R Mar 30	F Mar 31	R Mar 30	5	F March 31	Su April 2
1962	3*	T Apr 17	W Apr 18	T Apr 17	6	W April 18	Su April 22
1963	4	Su Apr 7	M Apr 8	M Apr 8	7	M April 8	Su April 14
1964*	5	R Mar 26	F Mar 27	Sa Mar 28	8	Sa March 28	Su March 29
1965	6*	R Apr 15	F Apr 16	F Apr 16	9	F April 16	Su April 18
1966	7	Su Apr 3	M Apr 4	T Apr 5	10	T April 5	Su April 10
1967	8*	Su Apr 23	M Apr 24	Sa Mar 25	11	Sa March 25	Su March 26
1968*	9	R Apr 11	F Apr 12	F Apr 12	12	Sa April 13	Su April 14
1969	10	T Apr 1	W Apr 2	T Apr 1	13	W April 2	Su April 6
1970	11*	Su Apr 19	M Apr 20		14	Su March 22	Su March 29
1971	12	R Apr 8	F Apr 9		15	Sa April 10	Su April 11
1972*	13	T Mar 28	W Mar 29		16	R March 30	Su April 2
1973	14*	Su Apr 15	M Apr 16		17	T April 17	Su April 22
1974	15	F Apr 5	Sa Apr 6		18	Su April 7	Su April 14
1975	16	T Mar 25	W Mar 26		19	R March 27	Su March 30
1976*	17*	T Apr 13	W Apr 14		1	W April 14	Su April 18
1977	18	F Apr 1	Sa Apr 2		2	Su April 3	Su April 10
1978	19*	R Apr 20	F Apr 21		3	R March 23	Su March 26