

1106 Hall
Gladewater, TX 75647
September 10, 1975

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society

Attention: EG:EI in regard to your August 13, 1975 letter

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your recent letter giving the missing dates for my study of Memorial dates published by the Society over the years. I have put together a tabulation and have enclosed several copies. I would appreciate it if the dates 1927 through 1968 could be doublechecked and a copy returned to me. They were provided by a nephew, a Watchtower Society member and are probably right but a doublecheck would do no harm.

The documentation for the rest of the dates would be as follows: Center columns give the Roman dates for Nisan 13 and hence also for the after sunset portion of Nisan 14 for Passover observance. They are from a computer printout based on the rules of the Hebrew Calendar and are in agreement with dates given in the Jewish Encyclopedia article entitled Calendar. Those from 1900 this way can be easily verified by Arthur Speer's authoritative work The Comprehensive Hebrew Calendar.

You mention future publication of an article on the basis for Memorial dates as you calculate them. I would be more than happy to correspond with the individual assigned to this task, and could suggest what he must do to provide a convincing argument for any Memorial date other than the Nisan 14 of the Hebrew Calendar.

Briefly let me list a few. The current Hebrew Calendar goes back to the time when it was made public by Hillel II about 360 A.D. From there it goes back to Moses and the Exodus, and from there an exact count of days back another 430 years to Abram, and from there back to Noah and the Flood, and then another stretch of years back to 3761 B.C. the date of the beginning of the Calendar as per Jewish history, and we have evidence of the functioning of a solar-lunar calendar all the way back to Adam.

Now if we are to stray from this God-given Calendar, where is the Authority to do so? And where is the Calendar to use through the rest of the year? A single "Memorial date" is hardly sufficient, for Zech. 14 tells of Egyptians who will "keep the Feast of Tabernacles" with all nation of the world at that time. Where is the month Tishri if we discard the Hebrew Calendar? And where the Day of Atonement which should figure in the binding of Satan at the beginning of the Millennium?

Which years are a 13th month: And which months but 29 days while other have 30? When was the Authority for the management of the Calendar and the "fixing" of the date of Tishri 1 ever transferred to the Christian apostles? And to their followers in the succeeding centuries, for all were in ignorance until 360 A.D. Until that time it was in the hands of official Jewish caretakers. Early Passover keeping Christians were called Quartodecimani because they kept "Easter" on the 14th of the Hebrew Calendar.

If then you would care to do me an additional favor in return for the enclosed tabulation (which must be rather startling in its implications), I would appreciate a proofreading of your Memorial dates for 1927-1968 and any comment that you might will to add.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth C. Herrmann

August

A century of Passover Dates, and Watchtower dates where different
By Kenneth C. Herrmann August 18, 1975

W.T. date early	Nisan 14 Evening of Passover Observance	W.T. date late	W.T. date early	Nisan 14 Evening of Passover Observance	W.T. date late
	F Apr 7, 1876		Mar 27	Su Mar 28, 1926	
	Tu Mar 27, 7			F Apr 15, 7	
	Tu Apr 16, 8			Tu Apr 3, 8	Apr 4
	Su Apr 6, 9		Mar 24	Tu Apr 23, 9	
Mar 24	Th Mar 25, 1880			F Apr 11, 1930	Apr 12
	Tu Apr 12, 1	Apr 14		Tu Mar 31, 1	Apr 1
	Su Apr 2, 2		Mar 20	Tu Apr 19, 2	
	F Apr 20, 3	Apr 21		Su Apr 29, 3	
	Tu Apr 8, 4		Mar 28	Th Mar 29, 4	
	Su Mar 29, 5			Tu Apr 16, 5	Apr 17
	Su Apr 18, 6			Su Apr 5, 6	Apr 6
	Th Apr 7, 7			Th Mar 25, 7	Mar 26
	Su Mar 25, 8			Th Apr 14, 8	Apr 15
	Su Apr 14, 9			Su Apr 2, 9	Apr 4
	Th Apr 3, 1890		Mar 23	Su Apr 21, 1940	
	Tu Apr 21, 1			Th Apr 10, 1	Apr 11
	Su Apr 10, 2			Tu Mar 31, 2	
	Th Mar 30, 3			Su Apr 18, 3	Apr 19
	Th Apr 19, 4			Th Apr 6, 4	Apr 8
	Su Apr 7, 5			Tu Mar 27, 5	Mar 28
	F Mar 27, 6			Su Apr 14, 6	Apr 16
	Th Apr 15, 7			Th Apr 3, 7	Apr 6
	Tu Apr 5, 8		Mar 25	Th Apr 22, 8	
	F Mar 24, 9	Mar 26		Tu Apr 12, 9	
	Th Apr 12, 1900		Mar 23	F Mar 31, 1950	Apr 1
	Tu Apr 2, 1			Th Apr 19, 1	
	Su Apr 20, 2			Tu Apr 8, 2	Apr 10
	F Apr 10, 3			Su Mar 29, 3	Mar 30
	Tu Mar 29, 4			F Apr 16, 4	Apr 17
Apr 16	Tu Apr 18, 5			Tu Apr 5, 5	Apr 7
	Su Apr 8, 6			Su Mar 25, 6	Mar 26
	Th Mar 28, 7			Su Apr 14, 7	
	Tu Apr 14, 8			Th Apr 3, 8	
	Su Apr 4, 9		Mar 23	Tu Apr 21, 9	
	F Apr 22, 1910			Su Apr 10, 1960	
	Tu Apr 11, 1			Th Mar 30, 1	
	Su Mar 31, 2			Tu Apr 17, 2	
Mar 20	Su Apr 20, 3			Su Apr 7, 3	Apr 8
	Th Apr 9, 4	Apr 10		Th Mar 26, 4	Mar 28
	Su Mar 28, 5			Th Apr 15, 5	Apr 16
	Su Apr 16, 6			Su Apr 3, 6	Apr 5
	Th Apr 5, 7		Mar 25	Su Apr 23, 7	
	Tu Mar 26, 8			Th Apr 11, 8	Apr 12
	Su Apr 13, 9			Tu Apr 1, 9	
	Th Apr 1, 1920	Apr 2	Mar 22	Su Apr 19, 1970	
	Th Apr 21, 1			Th Apr 8, 1	Apr 9
	Tu Apr 11, 2			Tu Mar 28, 2	Mar 29
	F Mar 30, 3			Su Apr 15, 3	Apr 17
	Th Apr 17, 4	Apr 18		F Apr 5, 4	Apr 7
	Tu Apr 7, 1925	Apr 8		Tu Mar 25, 1975	Mar 27

Pastor Russell	1880-1916	37 years	3 early	4 late	30 agree or 81%
Judge Rutherford	1917-1941	25	5	12	8 32%
President Knorr	1942-1975	34	5	21	8 23.5%

It would appear that Pastor Russell's first Passover observance was in 1874 (ZWT May 15, 1908 p 4170), these earliest dates are not presently available. His intention: to "celebrate the Memorial Supper upon its anniversary . . . the 14th of Nisan." (ZWT March 1, 1896 p 1943 & various places)