

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG, *Chairman*

March 25, 1971

Mrs. H. F. Shore
P.O. Box 610
Boerne, Texas 78006

Dear Mrs. Shore:

Your letter of March 21 asks a series of questions with regard to the Sacred Calendar. You go through some calculations, end up with the wrong conclusions and want to know where you have erred.

The basic problem is that the sources of information you have gone to are not official and are in confusion. I have yet to see a non-Jewish publication that can properly and clearly define the workings of the Sacred Calendar. Yet we have taught it to our computer here, and it has produced an accurate listing of the holydays for the last 2000 years.

The simplest way for the newcomer is to depend on our production of the Sacred Calendar. It is copied from an official Jewish source. And the "oracles of God" were entrusted to the Jews. The next method would be to go to Webster's Dictionary, look up Jewish Calendar and accept the date of the Feast of Trumpets (Tishri 1) and calculate backward to the first day of Nisan. From Nisan first you can determine the proper date of passover, the Days of Unleavened Bread and Pentecost. Be certain to use the instructions in the Bible, not those that the Jews follow. It is urgent to understand that God made the Jews preserve the Bible as an oracle and the calendar likewise, yet the Jews do not follow these oracles as they were given. The fall festivals can be determined very easily counting forward from Tishri 1.

The next mistake you make in your calculations is the assumption that "the new moon can be visible only after at least 18 to 22 hours after the conjunction." Many sources give this statement but it is not true. If the conjunction occurs as early as 12:00 noon, the faint

crescent of the moon can be seen under ideal conditions at the moment of sunset. Thus this day of the conjunction could be the first day of the month. Then you are correct in going back to the observation from Palestine. I am not checking through your calculations for accuracy though. But there is another problem. There is good reason for delaying the first day of the month one or more days beyond the Molad so that certain holydays do not fall on certain days of the week. These rules are too complicated to present in a letter, yet we have taught them to our computer and our third-year theology students go through this very thoroughly.

Another error made by typical sources describing the Jewish calendar is the assumption that this present calendar had its origin with Hillel II. The truth is that the calendar calculations existed many, many centuries earlier. They were kept secret from the common people and only the priests, and even only certain ones of them, had access to this information. This knowledge was made available to the public only after the scattering of the Jewish people in 70 A. D. The intent was to allow competent leaders among them to determine the correct days for the holydays even though they were cut off from one central authority at Jerusalem.

But even more fascinating is the information that is coming to light in our present research, that the length of the lunar month and the tropical (solar) year were very exactly known in the days of Adam. The Sacred Calendar, then, goes all the way back to Adam's time and is not at all a fabrication of Hillel II. Rather, he made an adjustment which was according to rules. The intercalation of the 13th month was delayed a single year and succeeding intercalations adjusted likewise. This same procedure had taken place in earlier millennia also, but the knowledge of it was just not open to the public. The calendar was fixed back in the days of Adam and has continued since with careful and continual observations being made by those in authority to see that the Sacred Calendar (a sequence of whole days) did not vary more than a certain amount from the oscillating and slightly changing values of the heavens.

I could send you further information, yet do not know that it would be necessarily what you would want. I personally do not bother with the calculations but very carefully follow an official source, and then double and triple check the work before it is put out. I hope that this letter has been of help to you and that you will continue your interest in our publications.

Sincerely yours,


Kenneth C. Herrmann