

THE CALENDAR CHRIST USED

The Roman calendar on your wall originated with Julius Caesar about 45 B.C. But God gave Israel a DIFFERENT calendar! Without a knowledge of it you can not obey the Creator!

by Kenneth C. Herrmann

What is the true calendar provided by God? Has God left it up to each individual to follow whatever calendar he pleases? Or is there an accurate one which He has preserved for us today?

How can we know the proper time to keep Passover, the Feast of Tabernacles and the other sacred days which God commanded for the church?

Take a look at the calendar on your wall first! Isn't it of Christian origin? History answers: "Our (Roman) calendar is not Christian in origin. It descends directly from the Egyptians, who originated the 12 month year, 365 day system. A pagan Egyptian scientist Sosigenes, suggested this plan to the pagan Emperor Julius Caesar, who directed that it go into effect throughout the Roman Empire in 45 B.C. As adopted it indicated its pagan origin by the names of the months--called after Janus, Maia, Juno, etc. The days were not named but numbered on a complicated system involving Ides, Nones, and Calends. It was not until 321 A.D. that the seven-day-week feature was added, when the Emperor Constantine (supposedly) adopted Christianity. Oddly enough for his weekdays he chose pagan names which are still used." From "Journal of Calendar Reform," Sept. 1953, footnote p. 128. (Italics ours.)

Christ taught that man "shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." (Luke 4:4) He accepted the writings of Jeremiah as the inspired word of God---writings which contain the command from God, "Learn not the way of the heathen" (Jer. 10:2). Certainly Christ did not use this heathen Roman calendar.

Then what is the word of God on this question? What calendar did Christ follow? The first evidence of a God given calendar is found in Genesis 1:14. The sun and moon are "for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years."

Our present Roman calendar does not meet this qualification. It divides the year in the dead of the winter. It divides the day in the middle of the night and its month has no reference to the moon. It couldn't be God's calendar.

What, then, is the method of calculating time which God intends?

True Units of Time

The first unit of time revealed in the Bible is the day. Six times in Genesis 1 the term "evening and morning" is used, always with the evening or dark part of the day preceding the morning or daylight part of each day. The day as revealed by God did not begin in the middle of the night but at sunset.

This division of days was understood and followed in Christ's time. When the Sabbath was drawing to a close, those who wished Him to heal waited, and "when the sun was setting all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them." (Luke 4:40)

Although they understood correctly when the day would come to an end, they were not aware of the fact that Christ was willing to heal on the Sabbath day also. The traditions of their Jewish rabbis had caused them to be ignorant of this point.

Notice what Mark records: "And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased and them that were possessed with devils." These people were brought to Christ when the Sabbath day was over, "when the sun did set" (Mark 1:32).

Can the "lights in the firmament of the heaven . . . divide the day from the night" (Gen. 1:14) unless the moment of sunset is used as the proper division of one day from another?

That a new day begins with nightfall is also confirmed by the description of the Day of Atonement occurring on the tenth day of the seventh month. "In the ninth day of the month at even, from even (sunset) unto even (sunset), shall ye celebrate your sabbath" (Lev. 23:27-32). Notice that the tenth day begins at the very close---the evening at sunset---of the ninth day.

The exact moment for a day to end is again revealed by a comparison of Lev. 22:7 with Lev. 15. Individuals designated as unclean by these laws were to bathe and then to be considered clean when the evening came. "When the sun is down, he shall be clean" (Lev. 22:7). A new day would begin at sunset, not at midnight.

God wants you to begin the observance of His holydays at sunset, not in the middle of the night according to a man-made watch.

The Origin of the Week

When did the period of time called the week come into existence? Was it first revealed to Moses and the children of Israel when they came out of Egypt?

Far from it!

Several hundred years prior to the Exodus, Jacob was required to serve Laban seven years for each of his two daughters, Rachel and Leah. Following the first seven years of service for Rachel, Laban tricked him giving him Leah for his wife. A seven day period or week followed before he was allowed to have Rachel also and then only with the stipulation that he was to serve Laban another seven years. (Genesis 29:15-30). They already knew at this time the symbol of a day for a year (An important key in understanding Bible prophecy) and they had knowledge of a seven day week.

Though this is the first time the word "week" occurs in the Bible, yet the first week mentioned is back in the very first chapter of Genesis. Seven consecutive days are listed. The sixth of these seven days was nearly over when Adam was created. This sixth day came to a close with Adam's naming of the animals and his presentation with Eve.

Six of the days of creation were now past. One thing remained yet to be made for man. A day of rest had not yet been set apart. Christ speaks of it in Mark 2:27, "The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath." History records the existence of the seven day week in many ancient nations even before the Exodus. It is easy to see now why God commanded, "Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy." This special seventh day was added on to the week the day after Adam and Eve were created. It was made for them; thus it had to be made at the time they were made--not 2500 years later at the Exodus.

God had completed the physical creation in six literal days, then He "rested on the seventh day, and . . . blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it" (Gen. 2:1,2). To sanctify means to set apart for a holy use.

This weekly cycle of six days of labor with a sabbath devoted to our spiritual needs has never been lost by God's true church. This seven day cycle continued unbroken down through Christ's time. It was a part of the calendar He followed and is a vital part of the Christian calendar for today. For detailed proof that the sabbath of Adam, Abraham, Moses and Christ is known with absolute certainty today, write for Mr. Armstrong's free booklet, "Has Time Been Lost?".

Yes, those who observe the seventh day of the week, called Saturday today, are observing the same seventh day God rested on, blessed and sanctified!

Astronomy gives us no basis why the week should be a period of seven days. A seven day period does not divide evenly into a $29\frac{1}{2}$ day month (from new moon to new moon); neither does it divide evenly into a $365\frac{1}{4}$ day year. No signs in the

heavens can be held accountable for its origin.

The existence of our seven day week demands an explanation. Its only sound logical origin is found in the literal truth of the account of creation week found in Genesis 1 and 2. The week points definitely to a ~~l~~literal seven day period in which God created our present day life forms and brought order out of the chaos that had existed on the earth just prior to this time.

Only by continual observance of the Sabbath between Adam and Christ has man been kept in the knowledge of the correct beginning of this seven day unit of time. An exception to this was the period of slavery of Israel in Egypt after which the date to begin the week, the month and the year were again revealed.

The first day of this month---which occurs at the beginning of spring--- then would be the first day of the new year, The first month of ~~the~~ God's sacred calendar is not January which lies in the dead of the winter, but rather a spring month when the earth is ~~is~~ bringing forth new life. The new month and new year begin together on the same day, independent. however, of the weekly cycle.

It is interesting to note that while the practice of beginning the new year of the Roman calendar with the first of January was begun by Julius Caesar in 45 B.C., this custom was not introduced into Great Britain until 1752. The colonies in America naturally followed the lead of the mother country. Thus, today's history books record George Washington's birthday as having been February 22, 1732, whereas the event would have been recorded in the Washington family Bible as February 11, 1731.

The beginning of the year was moved from April to January making the forward shift of one year for all dates in between. The eleven day discrepancy was due to another change made in the Roman calendar in Britain at that same time. These changes did not affect the sequence of the days of the week in any way.

Evidence on the Month

month

The word/comes from the wood moon. In Hebrew the word for month when speaking of the calendar is identical to that for new moon or moon. The observation of this first faint crescent of the new moon just after sundown was always made from Jerusalem. Word was then spread to the surrounding area that a new month (or moon) was beginning.

God's months begin with the new moon. Yet because of certain special considerations they may begin a day or so later than the astronomical "new moon" noted on many of our calendars ~~is~~ today. The observation had to be made from Jerusalem and is stated in Jerusalem time, not from the United States and Central

Standard or Pacific Standard Time. The seven to ten hours difference in time between Jerusalem and the part of the United States one lives in can make our own observations and estimations as to when we would want to begin a new month somewhat misleading.

You can prove that each month begins with the new moon by comparing Num. 28:11 with I Chronicles 23:31. In every instance these monthly offerings were made on the day of the new moon.

Compare these scriptures: "In the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings." (Num. 10:10). Concerning one of His holydays, God commanded, "In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath (rest), a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation." (Lev. 23:24) Then in reference to this same day Psalms 81:3 states, "Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day."

These leave no doubt that the start of a new month was to be regulated by the moon. Each new month began with the discovery of a the crescent of a new moon in the western sky just after sundown following the 29th or 30th day of a preceding month.

Do these months coincide with the months of the Roman calendar which was also in existence at Christ's time and with which he was certainly familiar?