

God's Words define the True Calendar!

When the Jews returned from their Babylonian captivity, they brought with them a calendar heavily influenced by the Babylonian calendar, along with a Babylonian name for the first month of the year, 'Nisan', instead of the old name for the first month previously used in Canaan before the captivity – the 'Abib'.

That name is important because of its meaning. It means first-ripe barley, barley ready to harvest. That's why, wherever it is found in the Bible it is preceded by the definite article, though the translators ignore this - "the", so, "*the Abib*", that is, "*the month of the abib*", the barley harvest in Israel, and it is this month which is always the first month of the year in the *true* calendar of God.

The very existence of the phrase "the Abib" in the Bible, despite its neglect by the Jews and God's Church, establishes the existence and authority of the calendar based on the agricultural seasons, which pre-existed the calendar used by the Jews and the Church of God today, but is **identical** to the calendar which defined God's Holy days for the Jews and Jesus Christ when He walked the streets of Jerusalem, before the destruction of the Temple!!

God still determines the start of the month Abib today, by His control of the weather in Israel, and though the Jews stick to their man-made Babylonian calendar, which this year, 2024, was over one month late in determining the new year, the true calendar of God was 100% CORRECT, as it always is, thus correctly determining all the **true** Holy days of God, unlike those who blindly followed the Rabbinic calendar of the Jews, whose 'holy' days were all actually false, because they missed the Wave-Sheaf by a month! Leviticus 23: 9-11, "[And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.](#)"

These words of God determine the start of the year **and all the Holy Days**, and God cannot make a mistake, which is why His faithful **obey** Leviticus 23:4, last part, not a false calendar proclaimed hundreds of years ahead!

Some, however, are unable to see God's words, and claim that the Bible contains no prescription for a calendar! It was in the Rabbinical period, after the Temple was destroyed and most Jews were driven from the land, that the written treatise of a detailed calendrical system first appeared in the Mishnah.

This came about because after the fall of the Temple in 70 AD, when the priests no longer had access to their barley fields on the Mount of Olives, the primary source of information on the progress of the barley harvest which the priests needed for the Wave Sheaf offering, was lost to them. Also, driven out of the land, they had lost the opportunity to observe the appearance of the new moon from within Israel, which, together with the evidence of the barley, determines the beginning of the new year, and the true calendar of God, as we have just read in God's word.

Then, they had to rely on their inferior calculations learned during their captivity in Babylon, but it was the best they could do, in the circumstances. Actually, the Sanhedrin, prior to the temple's destruction, at **the time of Christ** was still using that Rabbinic calculated calendar *as a check* against the *visual* reports of the observers, to make sure that their claims were feasible. Nevertheless, the barley and the moon at that time remained **the required primary evidence** to figure the Holy Days.

After the fall of the Temple, and their expulsion, this calculated Rabbinic/ Babylonian calendar became the only Jewish calendar, which then underwent continued adaptations, called postponements, to try to make it more accurate, for some 900 years after the death of Christ, when most of the Jews remained widely scattered.

Despite their gradual return to Israel as Zionism grew, their adaptations failed to achieve the accuracy of the sighting of the **observed lunar crescent**, due to the unreliable orbit of the moon, which is why their observers are practicing for *their* planned return to observation of the moon, when they can get 70 rabbis in the Sanhedrin to agree! (See our 2003 film, "The Month of The Abib", shot in Israel.)

Only in 2002 did God begin to restore understanding of the significance of the Abib and the Wave Sheaf, to just a small but diligent handful of His people, until now, many hundreds, probably thousands, have discovered the true calendar of God and follow the *true* Holy Days based on God's Commands, in many countries around the world.

We recognise that many people have anciently known of the vernal equinox which they believe begins the Spring new year, the foundation of a calendar year, but this belief **does not come from the Bible**, nor is it an accurate foundation for God's Holy-days. **Nothing** can replace the **God given evidence** of the first-ripe barley harvest or the *actual* appearance of the new crescent moon!

God Himself needed to set the First Month of the year, and this He did when Israel escaped from Egypt, in Exodus 12:2, '[This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.](#)' From that date on there would be a succession of months, 12 months making an ordinary year, but every 2 or 3 years, a 13th month would need to be added, making a 'leap' or "intercalated" 13-month year.

God Himself determines which years will have 13 months, by His control of the weather. This Divine control automatically keeps each year in sync with the seasons, and is not subject to error, unlike the *calculated Rabbinic* calendar, because, typically, when the barley **was** ready to harvest this year, 2024, the man-made calculated Rabbinic Calendar predicted a 13th month needed to be added. Wrong! The result for the Jews and the Church of God: No Wave-Sheaf was then available to sanctify their false calendar, but it doesn't seem to worry the sleepy Church of God!

It did not worry the *Worldwide* Church of God, under the lead of H. W. Armstrong, long ago, when He established that church, but it concerned God so much that, after giving them time to repent, He fulfilled Ezekiel 8:5-6, and scattered that hierarchical church to the winds for allowing **Babylon** to undermine His words and the keeping of the true Holy Days, Matt. (20:25-27) But today, the scattered church of God, perhaps concerned with its numbers and income, has still not learned the lesson!

We should understand that God's Calendar and the Sabbath and Holy Days of Leviticus 23, existed long before the Old Covenant, and in the Kingdom of God, will be vitally important under the New Covenant too. **Zechariah 14:16-18, Isaiah 66:23.** Then, the calculated calendar will be obsolete and cast aside as Babylonian idolatry, and all people will learn to walk in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, 1 Peter 2:21, John 4:35.

It is interesting to note that that the Karate Jews, who stick closely to God's words, guided by the same true observational calendar principles, are believed to have records of 3 intercalated years in a row occurring in the true calendar, which shows how divinely adaptable God's true calendar really is, even in the face of a coming future nuclear winter!

It is also significant that in the year of Christ's return for His Bride, only the spiritual *virgins* are found to have faith enough to follow the example of Jesus Christ. *They* have not let themselves become defiled with false teaching because they carefully study the words of God and *follow* in Christ's footsteps. Revelation 14:1,4, **'And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. 'These are they which were **not defiled** with women; for they are virgins. These are they which **follow the Lamb** whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, **being the firstfruits** unto God and to the Lamb.'**

1 Peter 2:21, **'For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that **you** should follow His steps,'** and become His Firstfruit Bride! Do you follow His words, and walk in His steps?