

Discovering the Abib

A long time ago when I was the pastor of the then, 'North West Church of God' in the UK, along came a new couple, Dr Rex Newnham with his wife, Lorna. Rex was the discoverer of the need for the mineral boron in our diet in order to avoid arthritis, and it now appears in all good multi-vitamin and mineral supplements. Both in their 80's, they had been put out of the Philadelphia Church of God for discovering that the calendar used by the Jews today was not in existence as it is now, at the time of Christ. That was news to me, for at that time I had always just accepted that it was the same, unchanged!

We welcomed them and accepted that they would be keeping slightly different Holy Days, but I privately believed that I would soon be able to show them that they were wrong. Many months later – computers were not common in those days – I had a pile of A4 paper a foot high, and had to admit they were correct, or rather *almost* correct, for they had come to believe in the dark new moon, or molad, as the start of the month, though they later joined us in accepting the visible new moon. I had to take it to the brethren, and give them the evidence, after which only one young couple left to join UCG, and a few months later I was on an El Al plane to Israel, for the first Abib 'expedition' with an American who had also discovered the truth, to use *observation* to find the first month of the year, just as history tells us happened at the time of Christ.

When you think about it, as God made the Holy Days for all mankind (Zechariah 14:16-19) and each one pictures a stage in His Plan for us, just as the Feast of Tabernacles pictures the Millennium, would He have forgotten to tell us in His word how to figure the start of the year, and the start of the months, in order that we could find the true Holy Days?

Or would He have given the secret to just a few men, who could then lord it over and control the rest and keep their complex calculations secret, to maintain an elite privileged position?

Knowing our God, is it not more likely that He would have made the process so open and simple that a child could understand it? What do you think? I think you know the answer! Actually, that is good because I had to dump that big pile of evidence when I moved from the UK to Australia, and it makes my task a great deal easier!

So, where to start? Lets start with Exodus 12:2. "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you." Will we be able to predict when it will occur, years in advance? Leviticus 23:4, 'These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.' No, We will only be able to proclaim it near the appointed time. Why? Because it will remain in God's hands, not man's, and He *reveals* it to all, not just to a few men, greedy for power!

Notice that the first month of the year is called Abib. Exodus 13:3-4, 'And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten. Today in the month of **Abib**, you are leaving.' Actually, all inter-linear versions show that it should read, 'In the month of **the Abib**' as it is in the Bible wherever it is mentioned. Most have not noticed the importance if that little word 'the'.

The Abib is the *condition* of the grain when the barley crop in Israel is ready to be harvested, and so it became the name of that month. It simply means ripe barley which, when dried, is capable of providing flour. We can only know when this month starts by examining the wild two row barley in

Israel today (the tough barley that has not been altered since Christ) to see if enough is ripe for a special offering: Leviticus 23:10-11, “[Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘When you enter the land I am going to give you and you reap its harvest, bring to the priest a sheaf of the first grain you harvest.’](#)”

How simple. A child can be taught to recognise this condition in the barley. It needs no complex calculation, no need for any connection to the seventh month, just the acceptance of Exodus 12 and Leviticus 23, the plain words of God, which *automatically* determine the start of the year! There are many other signs in nature which are also coincidental, but the Barley is the primary sign. Please view our visual explanation in our film shot in Israel, ‘The Month of The Abib’, available on the home page.

Thus, God has provided a system that establishes the beginning of the year which keeps His calendar in sync with the seasons, because from time to time at the end of the 12 months, one extra month needs to be added, as there are slightly more than 12 lunar months in the solar year. This simple process is called intercalation, and unlike the complex calculations of the Jews, it ALWAYS provides a sheaf of barley for the Wave Sheaf offering.

Leviticus 23:9-14:

[‘And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land that I give you and reap its harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest, and he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, so that you may be accepted. On the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. And on the day when you wave the sheaf, you shall offer a male lamb a year old without blemish as a burnt offering to the LORD. And the grain offering with it shall be two tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, a food offering to the LORD with a pleasing aroma, and the drink offering with it shall be of wine, a fourth of a hin. And you shall eat neither bread nor grain parched or fresh until this same day, until you have brought the offering of your God: it is a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.’](#)”

I have seen that the *Rabbinic* Calendar (It is not the **Hebrew** Calendar) can be more than one month wrong, when there would have been no Wave Sheaf available, simply because the crop was not ready to be harvested, because it all depends on God’s weather! (As in the film!)

The Jews don’t keep God’s Passover instructions in Exodus 12 because they do not recognise Christ as our Passover Lamb, so they remain in ignorance about the meaning of the Wave Sheaf ceremony too. So, why is it so significant? The Wave Sheaf Offering occurs during the first month of the year, on the day after the Sabbath during the week of Unleavened Bread, Leviticus 23:6-8. It is called the Wave Sheaf because the High Priest, in offering the first Sheaf of the small Firstfruit barley harvest to God, waves it above His Head, and the Bible explains that it pictures the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and His Bride, the Saints, 1 Corinthians 15:20, Revelation 14:4.

[‘But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.’](#)
[‘.... It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb.’](#)

The First Resurrection is then, a small *Spiritual, Firstfruit* Harvest, as against the later, much larger wheat and grape harvest picturing the large 2nd Resurrection, of the “Last Great day” of the Feast of Tabernacles, Leviticus 23:39.

At the time of Christ, the Priests received reports of the development of the barley crop, and as the end of the 12th month neared, they would walk through the Gate Beautiful, at Jerusalem, down and across the Kidron Valley and up past Gethsemane to special fields of barley planted on the Mount of Olives, to inspect their readiness for harvest in 2-3 weeks’ time, during Unleavened Bread. This and

other reports from other locations around Jerusalem would determine whether or not to add one more month to intercalate the year, just as occurs each year today, for thousands of people now recognise that the Rabbis never had any authority to depart from God's instructions which we have read. Matthew 15:9, 'in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'" Mark 7:9, 'And he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!'

At the time of Christ, the Sanhedrin would meet at the end of each month, when witnesses who claimed to have seen the new moon would be questioned. The sanctification of the moon depended on it having been seen by two reliable witnesses. In Exodus 12:2, the word "this" implies that it can be seen. "*This month* [chodesh = new moon] shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you." The Rabbinic calendar of the Jews today starts the month with the Molad, when it cannot be seen at all.

The witnesses were questioned separately. They were asked several questions, including:
Where was it in relation to the sun?
How high in the sky was it?
Which way did the crescent's tips point?
How wide was it?

If the Sanhedrin were satisfied that they corroborated each other correctly, that day was declared "Rosh Chodesh" and it is said that the head of the Sanhedrin proclaimed "Mekudash" – "sanctified." The new month had started.

Counting from its first visible crescent appearance, the moon will become full on the 14th day of the month, just as we read in Psalm 81:3, "*Sound the ram's horn at the New Moon, and when the moon is full, on the day of our festival;*" A reading of this Psalm makes it clear that it is about the Passover on the 14th, but the devious Rabbis actually have the effrontery to say it is about the 15th day of the Seventh month, though verse 5 completely destroys that lie, and their claim to have to count back from that day to find the beginning of the year! The note in the margin there to Psalm 78:5, confirms the truth.

In some years by the *Rabbinic* calendar the full moon does not coincide with the 15th day of the seventh month, and when this and other errors were discovered, postponements were introduced, which were unknown prior to the 4th to 11th centuries CE, showing us that their calendar, first introduced when the Romans drove the Jews from the land, **was not established at a single point in time in the distant Biblical past at all, but developed over centuries, as errors were discovered.**

So, in fact there are no postponements mentioned in the Bible in connection to the Holy Days, and the Mishna up to 200 CE does not contain them. The false Rabbinic calendar continued to be developed up **until the 1100s CE**, but surprisingly, even the most reliable of the Churches of God have clung to this false calendar, which provides false Holy Days, despite God's three times admonition not to add to or take away from His word, and Christ's clear condemnation in Matthew 15:9, Mark 7:7 and Isaiah 29:13.

The Jews however, know that their calendar is wrong, and are only waiting for a Sanhedrin to return to the calendar by which Christ lived, and died, as is revealed in the film. Faithful Christians will follow that calendar used by Jesus Christ, based on the Abib and the New Moon, 1 Peter 2:21, '*For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.*'

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