

How to Determine Months and Years Using the Lunar Calendar

This short how-to article has been written to fill the requests of many brethren for a simple method, which can be used by anyone to figure the start of months and years and thus the specific feast days or appointed times of meeting with God. This simple basic methodology is founded on several clear biblical principles and doctrines, which follow:

- 1) The biblical day starts and ends at sunset.
- 2) The biblical month can only be 29 or 30 days in length.
- 3) The start of the biblical month is the first crescent of the moon, which can be seen by the naked eye from Israel and more specifically the region around Jerusalem or the territory of Judah.
- 4) There are no less than 12 lunar months or more than 13 lunar months in any given biblical year.
- 5) Prior to the end of the 12th lunar month the fields of wild barley in Israel are inspected to determine if they will be physiologically mature enough to reproduce themselves before the 14th day of the next month. If so that month will be the 1st month of the New Year. If not the next month will become the 13th month or intercalated month of the current year to allow the barley to mature so it can be used as an acceptable wavesheaf offering on the first day of the week (Sunday), which falls during the 7 days of Unleavened Bread. That day starts the 7-week biblical harvest to Pentecost or the feast of Weeks.

These fundamental and foundational truths are the basis for the biblical calendar of God, which was given to mankind so they could accurately proclaim the feasts of the Lord as described and commanded in Leviticus 23 and elsewhere. If you are offended by what I have said up to this point as some who teach and believe otherwise may be, I suggest you stop reading so you don't destroy any more brain cells. It is my suggestion that you search for whatever it is you are looking for somewhere else, for the calendar of God is not for everyone at this time.

So how do I determine these critical dates living in Kendall, NY based on the 5 biblical truths stated above? First and foremost I truly believe Jesus Christ is the same yesterday (old covenant), today (new covenant), and forever (the kingdom) and that He has never left us or forsaken us as to having the ability to determine these things as part of our personal, one on one relationship with Him. He has left us a very accurate record in the bible as to how to determine His appointed times so that all who are called of God at the end of the age need not have to live in the biblical land of Israel. We have instant communication at our fingertips. (We have written many articles related to the many aspects of this subject and will not be going into great depth in this article for they are all available on the site: <http://steve.brun.com/brianconvery.html> or to any who request a hard copy).

I believe that here at the end of the age God has given us increased ability through technology to acquire knowledge, and that we are to use that to better worship the Father in spirit and in truth and to be better able to prepare ourselves to be the bride of Christ at His return.

Some of the tools available to this generation to do so are as follows:

- 1) The Internet. It is a vehicle, which has been used to disseminate a lot of evil but also much good. Some have taken the stance that it is actually a source of evil, which is a very big error. Satan is the source of evil. He has been able to deceive and in fact convert many unto his perverted and putrefied method of thinking. Much of mankind thus puts forth his perversion and follows it like little lemmings running to the sea not knowing they are blindly following the ones ahead of them

to certain death. The Internet is nothing more than a vehicle for information and communication. It is up to each of us how we use it and what we view. Through the use of this vehicle for communication we can be in contact with brethren and others all over the world in mere seconds. This has proven to be a great asset to brethren in the body of Christ as they have been scattered all over the four corners of the earth. First hand accounts of New Moon sightings are sent out by individuals and groups living in Israel each month. (Then a chain of other types of communication methods continues the flow of this information). One such group is the Israeli New Moon Society. Another is the Karaite Korner. One can retrieve the information off of their web sites or can request to be placed on their e-mail notification lists. They can be used as very valuable tools but we must use reason and discernment in all that we do and view.

- 2) Another tool is the availability of many lunar computer programs, which calculate new moon visibility. Dr. Roy Hoffman of the Israeli New Moon Society has one, which he makes available to others. I personally use Bruce Armstrong's algorithms. Bruce is from the Central Highlands Church of God in Australia. You can retrieve his information from the website at: www.chcpublications.net/. Steve Bruns has it available for downloading in a printed yearly format through 2020 at: http://steve.brun.com/NewMoonsPotential_2000thru2020.pdf. This program gives the algorithms for each lunar month's probable visibility by the naked eye from Jerusalem. It is easy to follow for Steve has put each year (Gregorian Calendar) on its own page. The probable visibility is listed for each month as well as the figures for the two previous days as well.
- 3) Another tool which can be used is found on the US Naval Observatory website under, "Sun and Moon Data for One Day". You will need to type in the day you are requesting information for, as well as the location of Jerusalem, which is longitude E35.4, latitude N32.2. Also type in UT where it requests the time zone. I have found this tool to be less accurate than the visibility programs.

These 3 technology based tools used together assist us greatly in our pursuit and accuracy of establishing each New Moon and thus the start of the biblical months.

A very important tool in the establishing of the timing of the New Year is the inspection of the fields of wild barley in Israel. The first month of the biblical year is called, "Abib" by God. It is not a coincidence that the Jews who left captivity in Babylon and for that matter those who remained renamed the month Nissan after the Babylonian method of calendar names. They were losing sight of the biblical significance of the meaning of the month and taking up the Babylonian method of establishing the New Year. Abib always begins around the time of year we call Spring here in the Northern Hemisphere. Abib is not just the name of the first biblical month. It is also an agricultural term in its original use. It describes the condition of barley as to its physiological maturity. It is the month in which barley can actually reproduce itself from that year's crop. Thus it is ready for harvest and meets the minimum requirements for a wavesheaf offering to God Almighty. Many today understand that this wavesheaf of the early harvest depicts the body of our Savior, Jesus Christ. He is the start of the salvation of God the Father, the first resurrection. He will be reproducing Himself after the Elohim kind through His bride who is His body as represented by the 7 weeks of harvest.

Each March brethren from the body of Christ meet in Israel a few days before the end of the 12th lunar month to inspect the state of maturity of the wild fields of barley. Through experience gained over the years of doing so and the scriptures of God as their foundation and guide they make a determination whether the acceptable barley will be ready to start harvesting based on biblical teachings found throughout the scriptures. These determinations are posted on several websites for all to view and make choices as to calendar dates. Two are: <http://steve.brun.com/brianconvery.html> and:

of-god.org.uk. You will be able to read about the events of each day's inspections as the group travels around Israel.

Lets look at an example of how this is all put together. We will use the year 2006 for our time frame. The end of the 11th month for the current biblical year will be at sunset on March 1, 2006. That makes March 2nd (Gregorian Calendar) as the first day of the 12th lunar month. Remember all lunar months are no less than 29 days or more than 30 days. Thus 29 days after sunset from the last sighting of the first crescent we start looking for it again. If it does not appear after sunset on the 29th day we know for a fact it will after the next sunset. That is the pattern God has established in the heavens for us to be without excuse here at the end of the age.

As mentioned earlier the start of the 12th lunar month will be March 2nd starting at the previous sunset, for biblical days are from sunset to sunset. Twenty-nine days from that start will be sunset on March 30th. A quick check of the US Naval Observatory website as described earlier will tell us that the conjunction of the sun, moon, and earth will happen at 10:17 Universal Time on March 30th in Jerusalem which equates to 10:17 in the morning. That places the conjunction or "**no moon**" the time that the earth is directly between the sun and the moon on day 28 of the count for the 29th day does not start until sunset on the 30th of March. So the first mathematical opportunity we have of seeing the building moon would be after sunset on the 30th of March. The US Naval Observatory website tells us the first crescent will be visible that night as does Bruce's program as well as others.

Based on this data we can come to the conclusion that the probable date of the first day of the month will be March 31st on the Gregorian calendar. Once again we start the biblical day from the previous sunset. This is all fine and dandy as far as calculations go. However we need to verify it by a sighting from Israel for it is still only the 29th day of the 12th month. Mathematically there still could be one day left. You can follow it through in the calendar provided below.

March 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 First day of 12th Month	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Conjunction 10:17 UT	30 Crescent Visible	31 1st day of Month	

Now we have another important task to accomplish at the end of the 12th lunar month. We must now determine if the barley is mature enough where it will be able to be used as a wavesheaf offering during the 7 days of Unleavened Bread, which occur from the 15th through the 21st of the first month. That

means it must be ready by the middle of the next month. This year there will be more than a dozen members of the body of Christ inspecting the barley during the last week of March. We will be working together to make that determination. If in fact the New Year is proclaimed by the maturity of the barley, as I believe will be the case, then March 31st will be the start of the month of Abib.

If this is the case we are now ready to determine the feast days of God or as many of us refer to them as the “appointed times of meeting” with God. Leviticus 23 is our chief guide in this determination for it gives each of the monthly dates for them. See the following calendar.

April 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					March 31st	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Passover	14 First Day UB	15
16 Wavesheaf	17	18	19	20 Last Day UB	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Thus we could proclaim the following:

- 1) March 31st is the first day of the month of Abib.
- 2) April 13th is the 14th day of the first lunar month and thus the Passover of the Lord.
- 3) April 14th is the 15th day of the month and thus the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
- 4) April 16th is the first day of the week (Sunday) which falls during these 7 days of UB and thus the Wavesheaf offering day and the start of the 7 weeks count to Pentecost or the 50th day.
- 5) April 20th is the 21st day of the lunar month and thus the last day of Unleavened Bread.

Here we have the feast days of God, which are to be observed during the first month. The next commanded annual holy day, which is to be observed needs to be calculated. It is the feast of Pentecost or Feast of Weeks, as I prefer to call it. We are to count 50 days from (including) the Wavesheaf day (April 16th). That brings us to June 4, 2006. This particular holy day will always fall on a Sunday, the first day of the week, the day after the weekly Sabbath or Shabbat. It will also always fall during the 3rd lunar month.

Now all we have left to do is figure out the probable dates for the fall or later feasts of the seventh month.

Using our preprinted months and years guide from Bruce's program made available by Steve we can simply count down to the probable sighting of the first crescent of the 7th lunar month. That brings us to the Gregorian calendar months of September and October. See the sample calendar below.

September 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Conjunction	23
24 Crescent after Sunset	25 Trumpets	26	27	28	29	30

October 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Atonement	5	6	7
8	9 First Day FOT	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Great Last Day	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Following the methods established earlier we see the following:

1. September 25th is the first day of the 7th lunar month and thus the Feast of Trumpets.
2. October 4th is the 10th day of the month and thus the Feast of Atonement.
3. October 9th is the 15th day of the month and thus the start of the 7 days of the Feast of Tabernacles.
4. October 16th is the 22nd day of the month and thus the Feast of the Great Last Day.

That's it folks! Quite simple when we are able to understand and use the technology in a good way that we have at our disposal today. Combine that with the gifts we in the body of Christ have all been given and we can come to be able to worship the Father in spirit and in truth and thus better prepare to be the bride of Christ. Together we are to work in love (outgoing concern for others) to build up the body until we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature and fullness of Christ.

Our peace we give to you.