

The Calendar of God/Elohim

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This is an updated version of the 2/5/2000 study

The Apostle Peter in his opening remarks to the Church, in his second epistle, tells us in 2 Peter 1:1-2; “. . . To those equally precious with us having obtained faith in the righteousness of our God/Elohim and our Savior, Jesus Christ/Messiah: Favor and acceptance to you, and peace be multiplied by a FULL KNOWLEDGE of God/Elohim, and of Jesus our Lord/Adon.”

Peter wrote this epistle during a time of confusion in and out of the Church. In it, he speaks to us about how to grow in faith until death, how to rely on the scriptures instead of following cunningly devised fables as 2 Pet. 1:16 tells us. He warns us about false prophets among us, false teachers among us; who will bring in destructive heresies. He warns us in 2 Peter 2:15 that these false teachers:

“have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness.”

He likens those false teachers who love wages and speak great swelling words of emptiness and those who were called and are allured to them in unflattering terms in verse 22:

“. . . as a dog returns to his own vomit and a sow having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”

He also reminds us in 2 Peter 3:4-7 that:

“. . .for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue from the beginning of creation. For this they willfully forget that by the Word of God/Elohim the heavens were of old and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth now are kept in store by the same Word, reserved for fire until the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.”

He encourages us in verse 14 to:

“. . . be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;”

And once again cautions us about false teachers who do not understand the scriptures in verse 16:

“. . .in which are some things hard to understand, which those untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as also the rest of the Scriptures.”

Here Peter is referring to the Apostle Paul’s teachings as well as the entire Bible. He tells us Paul received wisdom to be able to write to us. Paul received this instruction from Christ/Messiah not from the other apostles.

Paul is the apostle who was called out of Judaism, out of its errors, and became a Christian.

Galatians 1:13-17:

“For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God/Elohim beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. (Judaism is the tradition of the

fathers). But when it pleased God/Elohim, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His favor and acceptance, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.”

Peter goes on and sums up his second epistle as he started it. 2 Peter 3:17-18:

“... do not be led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the favor, acceptance, and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ/Messiah. . .”

My purpose in writing this study is not to belittle anyone who is called of the Father, for many are as the scriptures tell us. Rom. 12:4-18 states:

“For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ/Messiah, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly devoted to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord/Yehovah; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”

These are compelling words from the apostle Paul. They are simple to say, but difficult for many to implement and follow. They are a description and definition of how the body of Christ/Messiah is constructed and how it is to function.

Yes, we are all placed in the body with different functions, individual members, but all one body, for a purpose which appears to be a mystery to most in this day and age.

These same words are also patterned in Ephesians, the fourth chapter. Paul clearly defines them and also adds to them the purpose for such things. Ephesians 4:1-6:

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord/Yehovah, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord/Yehovah, one faith, one baptism; one God/Elohim (and=poor translation) indeed Father, of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

We are all given the spirit of God/Elohim, when the Father decides, and as such, we all have the fruit of the spirit available to us. Yes, we are all one body. But now Paul will go on and show what we are individually given. For as Romans 12 told us, we have different functions and we are not to treat these functions more highly than we should, but to be of the same mind toward one another and associate with the humble. So now Paul goes on here in Ephesians 4 to teach a mystery to the men of this age. A mystery that most human beings do not, and for that matter, cannot understand at this time. But the called of God/Elohim should. Ephesians 4:7-8; 11-13:

“But to each one of us favor and acceptance was given according to the measure of Christ's/Messiah's gift. Therefore, He says: When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men. 11: And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, (For what purpose?) for the equipping of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying (uplifting) of the body of Christ/Messiah, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God/Elohim, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ/Messiah.”

The first gifts Christ/Messiah gave to His body were that of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers, to build up those being called, to use the scriptures to teach and lead the body until they are united in the faith once delivered (the Bible), and to help everyone called to grow in its use and understanding so that all could use the word of God/Elohim to discern good from evil by reason of their own use so that they could all minister one unto another. These gifts were given in the order of their initial use and are not to be used as layers of ranking as so many are deceived into doing today. **Those who received these gifts initially were to use them to teach those called of God/Elohim to break the bonds of Judaism the traditions of the elders, and to lead them to the knowledge of Christ/Messiah and the Plan of Salvation.** After that, they were used to do the same for the Gentiles, to lead them from their dead idols to the living Christ/Messiah.

Paul continues in Ephesians 4:14-16:

“that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head, Christ/Messiah, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

It is in this understanding and venue that we write. There are so many subjects that could be addressed, but the one of concern here is the calendar of God/Elohim. We read so much gibberish about it from those who are called teachers in the Church. Most of what we read is a mixture of the “milk of the word” and the “guile of men.” There is a lot of confusion within the Church on this simple subject when there should be none. However, it can only be simple if we acknowledge that Jesus Christ/Messiah is the same, yesterday (first covenant), today (second covenant), and forever (the kingdom), as Heb. 13:8 tells us; and that He will never leave nor forsake us as Heb. 13:5 instructs. For the faith once delivered (the Word of God/Elohim) contains everything we need to know for Salvation. It was not written for all mankind at this time, but for those called by the Father; to qualify to be a fitting bride/eternal helpmate for His Son.

Paul tells us in 1 Cor. 2:12-14:

“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God/Elohim, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God/Elohim.

These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the holy spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual, but the natural man does not receive the things of the spirit of God/Elohim, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

When we go outside of the Bible to clarify what is being said in it, we are to do so only in the meaning of a word, the history of the times in question, the meaning of particular worldly practices, etc. We are to never seek spiritual understanding outside of the Bible. We are not to turn to the spirit of the world to define the Word of God/Elohim.

Judaism is one such result of men doing this. The tradition of the elders which were the Mishnaic, or oral law, which have become the basis of the written Talmud, were the result of such corruptive activities. The words of Christ/Messiah Himself throughout the gospels confirm such things. A simple reading of Matthew 15 & 23, as

well as Mark 7, are just some of the clearly spoken words of Christ/Messiah on the subject. The tenets of Judaism reject the Bible as the authority in such things.

Paul, who rejected Judaism to follow Christ/Messiah told Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:16:

“But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.”

And 3:16-17:

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God/Elohim, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God/Elohim may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Do we believe that? Or do we believe Rabbinical Judaism, Roman Catholicism, Protestant Theological mistranslations, or some other teaching of men?

The Bible teaches us in patterns. They are found woven throughout its entirety as Isa. 28:10-13 tells us. Paul encouraged Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:13:

“Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ/Messiah Jesus.”

So with this in mind, let's study the pattern of the calendar from the Word of God/Elohim for the spiritual understanding of it. We will also use the knowledge of man to learn the meaning of key words and the historical perspective of a particular time or event.

We read in Isaiah about how God/Elohim teaches these patterns and why God/Elohim does it this way. Isaiah 28:9-13:

“Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? (Here comes the answer) Those weaned from milk! Those drawn from the breasts! (Not to those who are still being fed milk whether from breast or bottle). For precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little. For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, to whom He said, this is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest, and, this is the refreshing; yet they would not he

But the word of the Lord/Yehovah was to them, precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little, that they might go and fall backward, and be broken and snared and caught.”

To those who are called of the Father, and who are permitted to go beyond the milk of the word as Hebrews 6:1-3 tells us, these patterns of teaching will be refreshing and a rest. But to those who are still feeding on the breast or as Isaiah 28:14 states: “. . . scornful men, who rule this people who are in Jerusalem.”

These patterns will be a snare to them, and they will be caught and fall backwards and be broken.

You be the judge yourself; whether Christ/Messiah, the Word of God/Elohim, has forsaken us and left us to the deceptions and error of the Rabbis, Romans, or Babylonians, as to the Calendar of God/Elohim.

We read in Eccl. 3:1-8:

“To everything there is a season [#2165], a time [#6256] for every purpose under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted; time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to gain, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a

time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.”

This pattern of everything having a season and a time for every purpose under heaven is the foundation to not only the calendar of God/Elohim, but also to the purpose of it, and the Plan of Salvation.

The Hebrew word for season here is #2165, in the Strong’s: “*zeman* from #2163; an appointed occasion: season, time.”

The BDB (Brown Driver Briggs) says of it, “appointed time, time.”

This is the only place in the Bible #2165 is translated as season. This is significant. There are 6 Hebrew words translated as season or seasons in the Bible. The translators have done this fairly randomly. In fact, the word season only appears about 37 times in the O.T. That’s not a wide usage of the word in any shape or form. I will point out here that only one of the six which has a consistency of referring to a “growing season” and those “events or things” associated with it such as “rain in its season” or “stock of corn cometh in his season” is #6256 and at that it is used sparingly. It is also the word we see here in Eccl. 3 that is translated “time”; #6256 or “*et*” is the Hebrew word which the translators feel is associated with the things related to the solar year or that are determined by the sun. That, my friends, is very important as we will see, for God/Elohim chooses His words carefully, with purpose, to fit the patterns They (God/Elohim) have placed in the Bible, the Word of God/Elohim, and through Their creation around surrounding us.

The Hebrew word for #6256 in the Strong’s is: “*eth* from #5703, time, especially (adverbially with preposition) now, when, etc.”

Vine’s has a lot to say about the word “*eth* #6256, time, period of time, appointed time, proper time, season. Basically, this noun connotes time conceived as an opportunity or season. First, the word signifies an appointed, fixed, and set time or period . . . This noun also is used of the concept, proper or appointed time. . . A third use connotes ‘season’ or regular fixed period of time such as springtime. . . This noun also is applied to differing extensions of time. . .”

The principle being taught here in Ecclesiastes is clear. There is an appointed time for every purpose under heaven.

Peter told us earlier, in 2 Peter 3:4; “. . . For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as from the beginning of creation.”

He said this in context of scoffers coming in the last days walking according to their own lusts. But Jesus Christ/Messiah is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is not led by lusts and never has been.

Remember what the apostle Paul told us in Rom. 1:20:

“For the unseen things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, **being understood by the things that are made in creation**, both His eternal power and Godhead, for them to be without excuse”

So, let’s see what both these apostles understood about what took place with creation and its significance to us in understanding the **unchanged** Calendar of God/Elohim which governs Gods/Elohim “appointed times” for all creation, so that we are without excuse.

We need to go to the beginning, to see what God/Elohim did to assist us in our ability to obey Their commandments, and we will, but first we need to go over several other things in building a solid base.

In Lev. 23, we find the only chapter in all the Bible describing **all the feasts of the Lord/Yehovah**, the statutes of God/Elohim, commanded by God/Elohim, to be kept in our worship of Them.

Lev. 23:4 states:

“These are the feasts (moedim #4150) of the Lord/Yehovah, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times.”

The instruction here is very simple. There is no mystery to what is said and note, this proclamation was to be done “at their appointed time” not years or centuries in advance; but year by year.

We are also told in verse 37:

“These are the feasts of the Lord/Yehovah which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire to the Lord/Yehovah, a burnt offering and a grain offering, a sacrifice and drink offerings, everything on its day.”

All this is very specific. No wishy-washy statements there. The called of the Father are commanded to keep these appointed times on and in their day, just as the fathers had after the example of Abraham. Moses, coming after him, was used by God/Elohim to once again bring them (that is wayward Israel) the knowledge of these times and how to keep them, and how to determine when they were, (just like Abraham had done and taught his children). In Gen. 26 we read about God/Elohim telling Isaac, He will extend the blessings to him that He had extended to Abraham, for a very specific reason.

Gen. 26:5:

“because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.”

Yes, Abraham kept the statutes, the holy days of God/Elohim, at their “appointed times” long before Moses instructed Israel on them. Abraham taught them to his children. That is why Peter tells us in 2 Pet. 3:4:

“. . . for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”

Yes, the promise to the called of the Father has not changed, nor has the method of how to determine God’s/Elohim “appointed times” so that we too can do so (just as Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob kept them in their day) by the same method used since the beginning of creation.

So, let’s go to the beginning of the creation chapter to see what God/Elohim did to enable us to keep Their holy days **in and on** their specific 24 hour day.

Let’s remember, these events we are going to read about took place before the creation of man and for that matter, before the other 3 types of flesh which would inhabit the earth with us. 1Cor. 15:39:

“All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fish, and another of birds.”

Gen. 1:28 tells us what God/Elohim purposed for man on earth.

“Then God/Elohim blessed them, and God/Elohim said to them, be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Now that is not a politically correct statement at the end of the age, instead we are to actually worship the earth as our mother, which is the politically acceptable way to think. God/Elohim fully intended man to have dominion over the three other fleshes, and God/Elohim gave man the tools to be able to do so. Some are seen and some are not. The ones that are not seen are attributed to having the spirit of God/Elohim dwelling in us combined with the spirit of man. The other 3 fleshes are led by instinct, but man is very different in this point. God/Elohim placed in man a spirit, which is used for reasoning between right and wrong. That is why it can be said that man is a free moral agent. **No other flesh can make moral and ethical decisions.** The apostle Paul confirms the presence of this “spirit in man” in 1 Cor. 2:11 when he is contrasting this spirit, with the spirit of God/Elohim.

“For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? . . .”

So here in Genesis we are going to see some of the other tools God/Elohim gave man, to be able to follow through with Their commanded and intended purpose for us, so that we are able to keep our “appointed times of meeting” with Them, after Their image and likeness. Gen. 1:14:

“Then God/Elohim said, let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years;”

Now to me that cannot be any clearer; as to intent of what is being said or to its application. There are, however, many teachers today who would try and convince us that God/Elohim has not given us instruction in the Bible as to how to keep His “appointed times of meeting” and many more who accept He has, and then twist the scriptures so we in turn may follow them into error. Here in Gen. 1:14, we can read that even before God/Elohim created man, They set in place the timepiece and method for us to use in obeying Them in such things. They created the sun and the moon and set them in a pattern which occurs over and over again for our use. Their patterns determine the duration of a day, a year, and most importantly seasons (#4150 moedim) which should be translated “appointed time of meeting.” God/Elohim says, They gave them to us “to be for signs.” The reason God/Elohim did that is so that no man could come to Them with an excuse. All who have eyes to see, have the ability to know when Gods/Elohim appointed times are; not only the year, but the very day itself in a monthly cycle. We as individuals, do not need an interpreter for this purpose, just someone to show us how we are to use the timepiece created by God/Elohim so we can all have the same tools. It is very important to understand the meaning of the key Hebrew words used by God/Elohim here in Gen. 1:14, but let’s read on to get specific instruction on how to use these lights for their proper purposes.

Gen. 1:15-18:

“and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens **to give light on the earth**; and it was so. Then God/Elohim made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. The stars also. (The stars are used for navigation because they could be adjusted to their “drift” across the heavens over the millennia, which have come and gone) God/Elohim set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God/Elohim saw that it was good.”

Yes, it was good! In fact, it is great! These tools were given to each and every one of us, who in turn, are to use them to fulfill Gods/Elohim intended purpose for Them and us. It is very important to understand that God/Elohim created these lights before They created the fish, the birds, the creatures which walk and crawl on the earth, and man. Every living thing is tied into the pattern of these two great lights; the sun and the moon. Please do not forget if you think you are to use the stars of the night for determinations of the calendar please be mindful their pattern changes over time when the moon does not. That is why the moon rules the night and not the stars. The moon does not drift out of sight over the millennia as do constellations.

We live in a time when knowledge has increased and many run to and fro. Daniel told us of such things in Dan. 12:4:

“But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.” Daniel also says of this time:

“and those of the people who understand shall instruct many,” (Dan. 11:33) and “Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.” (Dan 12:10)

We live in these times right now. Science today has uncovered many wonders and mysteries of the natural world which man has pondered and observed for millennia. We have answers to many of these marvelous things. Some of the knowledge has been used for the good and much for evil, because man apart from God/Elohim has only the knowledge of the tree of good and evil. Natural man does not have the benefit of the discernment of the spirit of God/Elohim.

Some of this increased knowledge is a great aid to our understanding of the patterns God/Elohim has put in place. One such understanding is that of the great migration of birds, etc. We know for a fact, that the chief reason for triggering the migrations is the decreasing amount of sunlight, or for that matter, the increasing amount during a day, which enables an enzyme to activate in the brain of the 3 types of flesh which are prone to migration.

Jeremiah 8:7:

“Even the storks in the heavens knows her appointed times; and the turtledoves, the swift, and the swallow observe the time of their coming. But My people do not know the judgment of the Lord/Yehovah.”

What judgment are we talking about here? The one in context as to when their appointed times of coming are! The very start to the year!

Song of Solomon 2:11-13:

“For lo, the winter is past (the context), the rain is over and gone (heavy rains), the flowers appear on the earth: the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grapes give a good smell...”

Dear brethren; we are to be without excuse in these matters.

Mankind in general has pondered the migration of billions of birds from the beginning. How did they know when to fly south in great formation and swarms, and then to return north again at seemingly the same time of year over and over again? How did fish know when to spawn; some in the spring and some in the fall? Science has discovered this is not just happenstance. It is part of every species that migrates. God/Elohim designed in each of the other three fleshed and the subsequent different species; a chemical balance in their brains which reacts to the sunlight. That is why we see them having clearly defined patterns at different times of the year. They are affected by both the sun and the moon, with the sun having the greatest effect in the majority of species. Each of the species has no choice in its pattern, for God/Elohim has set it in them, so that they keep their “appointed times.” This is in part what we refer to as instinct. They have no choice as to keeping these “appointed times.” They have no free moral agency, they must respond. Only death, captivity, or dismemberment will keep them from doing so. Man, however, is different. God/Elohim made man in Their image and likeness. Man, is a free moral agent. A spirit was placed in man which enables us to have creative ability through reason and thought. But more than that, man is able to judge between right and wrong, and thus we had the tools to have dominion over the earth. Man, was not subjected to it, but rather it was to him. No other part of the physical creation can reason and comprehend ethical decisions. This was all done by God/Elohim with an incredible purpose in mind.

Even with the dominion that man was given, he was still accountable to obey God/Elohim. The 3 other fleshed have no choice as to obeying their “appointed times.” Only man has the ability to choose to obey his “appointed times” of God/Elohim or not. Satan, the devil, has used every means at his disposal to keep those who are called of the Father from keeping these appointed times on their specific days. Lies, deceit, guile, ignorance, and direct disobedience, can sum them up.

If a snow goose does not heed its “appointed time” in flying south from the shores of James Bay, it will die when the winter sets in. So too will man, if we do not keep our “appointed times” with our Creators. We too will die, but from overexposure to the devil.

These are simple teachings and truths about simple patterns God/Elohim has set in place. They are not mysteries to us, or at least they shouldn't be. We learn about Gods/Elohim eternal power and Godhead through the things which They made. We can learn about the entire Plan of Salvation from the things which just a few decades ago, were unseen to us. The very life cycle of a woman, and that of the moon, and that of the festivals, combine to clearly show and explain the important milestones, the “miqra or rehearsals” in the Plan of Salvation. They instruct us as to the reality of each in its time. God/Elohim is a family; and They are in the process of growing that family after the patterns of creation. Yes, there is a second Adam and second Eve, who will be fruitful and multiply in the family of the great Patriarch, God/Elohim the Father. Now back to Gen. 1:14. The Hebrew words used here will give us clear direction as to how God/Elohim intends us to use these two great lights.

“Then God/Elohim said, let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and appointed times, and for days and years;”

First, we see these two great lights would divide the day (#3117 *yowm*) from the night (#3915 *layil*). Verse 16 tells us how this is done. One is greater than the other in its respective dominion or domain. The daylight portion of a day is ruled by the brighter, the sun, and the night portion of a 24-hour day by the lesser, the moon. Once again, no stars in either of these domains has any dominion. That is very easy to comprehend. It is a pattern set in place by God/Elohim at creation.

The Hebrew word *yowm* #3117 means the daylight portion of a day as well as the combined 24-hour period of both light and dark, depending on the context. Verse 19 tells us a day consists of both evening and morning as does verses 5, 8, 13, 23, and 31. Believe it or not, there are some teaching otherwise.

So here in Gen. 1:14 God/Elohim first deals with the simple premise of what a day is. Then God/Elohim moves on to state: “Let them be for signs.” This is a very big statement in the pattern that God/Elohim just established. These two great lights are to be used for “**signs.**”

The Hebrew word used here in the Strong’s is #226:

“*owth* probably from 225 *uwth* (**in the sense of appearing**); a signal (lit. or fig.); as a flag, beacon, monument, omen, prodigy, evidence, etc.”

This word is very important, so please think about this. Strong’s is clearly saying the word means “something visible” “in the sense of appearing; a signal,” not something “invisible.” That describes the word in a nutshell as we are going to see.

Vine’s says of it:

“*ot* (226) ‘sign, mark’. . . This word represents something by which a person or group is characteristically marked. This is the emphasis in Gen. 4:15: “And the Lord/Yehovah set a mark (NASB ‘sign’) upon Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.’ . . . Num. 2:2 uses *ot* to represent a military banner, while Job 21:29 uses the word of the identifying banners of nomadic tribes. . . (Rahab’s trustworthy mark was the scarlet cord in Josh. 2:12.) “**The word means ‘sign’ as a reminder of one’s duty.** This usage first appears in Gen. 9:12: ‘This (the rainbow) is the token (sign) of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature . . .’ Vine’s goes on, but I think the meaning of the word is clear to all. **It means something you can see with your just your own eyes.** It’s root word clarifies this even more. It is #225 in the Strong’s:

“*uwth*, a prime root; properly to come, i.e. (implied) to assent.”

This is very important once again. God/Elohim used the Hebrew word *ot* as a very key part of His instruction as to His calendar; His means of determining His “appointed times of meeting” with men.

In summing up this word we see it definitely means “something visible!” Remember what we are talking about here, The light of the sun and the moon. And what were they to do? “**give light on the earth**” verses 15 and 17. **It was their light which was important, and that is why the sun rules the day and the moon the night (verse 16).** Neither has any authority outside of their “visible light” which is used as a sign. This is all simple to comprehend. There is nothing difficult about it. We must let the Bible tell us how we use and apply these tools. Both the sun and the moon have their own specific purposes. So, unless you are without sight or live in an environment where you have no access to the outdoors, you can see both.

Remember in verse 14 of Genesis 1; God/Elohim says that they are to be used for 4 things; signs, appointed times, days, and years. Verses 15 and 17 clearly tell us once again that their fundamental purpose is to **give light on the earth**. They both rule during their light giving periods when they can actually be seen, part of their actual bodies, not their dark times, or when they are not visible. Again, that is why the sun rules the day light portion of the 24-hour day from sunrise until sunset and the moon the night portion of the day between sunset and sunrise. We are being told here that we are to use their light in relationship to signs, appointed times, days, and years. It appears that many who teach about the Calendar of God/Elohim are lost on this point based on their calendar conclusions of how they use these two great lights.

The next tremendously important word used here by God/Elohim is translated as “seasons” in verse 14. It is a word which is used and abused by many in their struggle to grow in the favor, acceptance, and knowledge of our Lord/Adon, Jesus Christ/Messiah. This is not the same Hebrew word translated “season” that we looked at earlier in Eccl. 3:1 which states:

“To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.”

The Hebrew word used here in Gen. 1:14 is #4150 in the Strong’s. It is another incredible word used by God/Elohim throughout Their instruction on the calendar and the subsequent dates for Their Holy Days and Festivals for a very important purpose. It is the Hebrew word that God/Elohim chose to attach to Their instruction about Their “appointed times” for man. They didn’t and don’t use any of the other 5 Hebrew words translated as “season or seasons” at any time in relation to this subject. Strong’s says of this word: “*moed*, from #3259 *ya’ad*; properly an appointment, i.e. a fixed time or season; specifically, a festival; conventionally a year; by implication an assembly (as convened for a definite purpose); technically the congregation; by extension the place of meeting; also, a signal (as appointed beforehand).”

God/Elohim certainly chose this word with a purpose in mind. If we do not grasp the meaning of the words He chooses in context, we will fall far short of the lesson being taught. Christ/Messiah is called “The Word” for a reason.

Listen to what the Vine’s has to say about this word.

“*Moed*, ‘appointed place of meeting, meeting.’ The noun *moed* appears in the O.T. 223 times, of which 160 times are in the Pentateuch. (That is the first 5 books of the O.T. written by Moses) . . . The word *moed* keeps its basic meaning of ‘appointed,’ but varies as to what is appointed according to the context: the time, the place, or the meeting itself. The usage of the verb in Amos 3:3 is illuminating: ‘Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?’ Whether they have agreed on a time or place of meeting or the meeting itself is ambiguous. The meaning of *moed* is fixed within the context of Israel’s religion. First, the festivals came to be known as the ‘appointed times’ or the set feasts. These festivals were clearly prescribed in the Pentateuch. The word refers to any ‘festival’ or ‘pilgrimage festival,’ such as Passover (Lev. 23), the feast of Firstfruits, the feast of Tabernacles, or the Day of Atonement. . . The word *moed* also signifies a ‘fixed place.’ This usage is not frequent: ‘For thou hast said in thine heart, ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God/Elohim: I will also sit on the mount of the congregation (*moed*) in the sides of the north . . .’ (Isa. 14:13). In both meanings of *moed*, ‘fixed time’ and ‘fixed place,’ a common denominator is the ‘meeting’ of two or more parties at a certain place and time; hence the usage of *moed* as ‘meeting.’ However, in view of the similarity in meaning between ‘appointed place’ or ‘appointed time’ and ‘meeting,’ translators have a real difficulty in giving a proper translation in each context.”

That is as thorough and concise an explanation and usage of the meaning of the word *moed* as you will find. It is also very accurate in stating that translators have a great difficulty in giving it a proper translation in the context it is used. We know why, because they do not have the spirit of God/Elohim assisting them. Thus, they do not understand the Plan of Salvation, the purpose of these miqra/rehearsals; so they apply a translation to it which fits into their limited understanding and theological filter. That is why we see it translated in Gen. 1:14 as “seasons” when *moed* should be more accurately translated as “fixed time” or “fixed place” or “meeting” or “appointed time.” This is why it is often translated by us as an “appointed time of meeting” on a very specific day. Remember this word applies to two or more “meeting” at a fixed time or place. The translators here assume it is referring to “climate seasons” when in fact, God/Elohim does not use *moed* for that, but as we saw earlier a different Hebrew word is used in that context. Run through the usage of the word *moed* and you will see how it is tied to all the feasts and to very specific days. God/Elohim inspired this word to be used here in Gen. 1:14 to teach us that Their commanded festivals or our “meetings” with Them at specific “appointed times” was and would always be, determined by the activities and the influences of the two great lights

shinning on the earth, not in the dead of space somewhere where they can't be seen. All the four fleshs which inhabit the earth are tied to them for their "appointed times," as well.

The apostle Peter's words ring loud and clear once again ". . . For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

God/Elohim clearly tells us here in Genesis that Their "appointed times" are set **by the visible effects of the time clock They created.**

You can take all the human reasoning and the vain babbling about how God/Elohim has never given us a calendar to follow in the Bible and throw it out the window of your mind, along with all the other lies and deceit of confused individuals who place themselves as teachers in the body to have dominion over us. We are going to see that Jesus Christ/Messiah is the same, "yesterday (the first covenant), today (the second covenant), and forever (the Kingdom)" and that He will never "leave nor forsake us." Our Savior is the author and finisher of our faith, not any man or any organization. We remind you of what the apostle Paul told the Corinthians in 2 Corinthians 1:24:

"Not that we have dominion (rule) over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith **you** stand." So, we see, that before any physical creature was created, God/Elohim put in place a clock, a timepiece, which determines what a day is, what a year is, and what an "appointed time" is. It is impossible for that part of creation governed by instinct to willingly break from them. Only man, who has a spirit in him, can do so. But keep in mind, to willingly break from these "appointed times" will result in chaos and confusion and will ultimately it will lead to death, just as those which are ruled by instinct would. This pattern is set and true, and was instituted at creation, and has continued unbroken for all the four fleshs on the earth.

In verse 14:1 of Genesis we are also told the two great lights are for days and years.

The Hebrew word for days here is #3117 in the Strong's. I mentioned it earlier. The understanding of this word is very simple. It is used two ways in the Bible. One, is to describe the light portion of a day, or daylight. The second, is to describe a 24-hour period of time, from one sunset to another. Lev. 23:32 cannot be any clearer as to when it starts:

"It shall be to you a Sabbath of rest, and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall observe your Sabbath."

Evening here is *ereb*; sunset, not *boger*; sunrise, and certainly not midnight. No, we do not look to the Egyptians or the Romans or any other confused people to determine when Gods/Elohim day starts. Also, as we saw earlier in Gen. 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, and 31: that a day consists of both an evening and a morning. An *ereb* and *boger*. Those are the two "appointed times" when the sun and the earth **meet** at the horizon which are the onset of the dark and light portions of the day. I really can't explain it any simpler than that.

Unfortunately, there are individuals who can't comprehend that teaching. The Hebrew word for years here in Gen. 1:14 is #8141 in the Strong's, *shaneh* from #8138, a year (as a revolution of time). Vine's has a lot to say about it, but in brief it says:

"*sanah* (8141), 'year.' This word has cognates in Ugaritic, Akaddian, Arabic, Aramaic, and Phoenician. Biblical Hebrew attests it about 877 times and in every period. The Hebrew word signifies 'year'. . . There are several ways of determining what a 'year' is. First, the 'year' may be based on the relationship between the seasons and the sun, the solar year or agricultural year. Second, it can be based on a correlation of seasons and the moon (lunar year). Third, the 'year' may be decided on the basis of the correlation between the movement of the earth and the stars (stellar year). . . An exact picture of the Old Testament 'year' is difficult, if not impossible, to obtain."

It is only difficult for those who do not understand the patterns and Plan of Salvation of God/Elohim and do not have His spirit in them to assist them in understanding the things of God/Elohim as 1 Corinthians 2: 6-16 clearly explains to us. We are going to see from the pages of the Bible, that it is not difficult at all to determine which "year" God/Elohim refers to in Gen. 1:14 and Gods/Elohim clear instructions as to using His tools which

They gave us, to do so. We are going to see which of the two great lights are used for a **sign** to determine the “appointed times” for man to meet God/Elohim.

Let me repeat one more time; that in Gen. 1:15, 17 that their intended purpose was to; **“give light on the earth.”** All other purposes are secondary to God/Elohim. Here God/Elohim tells their purpose was to give light for signs in determining “appointed times, days, and years.” Remember, “something visible.”

But they have far more influence on the earth as well. The light and heat of the sun is used for growing all the plant life on the earth whether pigmented with green or not. Do not forget this other function. It was fulfilled prior to the creation of the sun by the Word. That will happen once again in the future as well.

Now let’s see what God/Elohim says about which of the great lights is used to determine appointed times, days, and years respectfully. Psa. 104:19:

“He appointed the moon for seasons (appointed times, #4150 *moed*); The sun knows it’s going down.” (Oh, no, this must be a mistake for everyone knows the sun determines seasons of the year. That is how modern calendars work. God/Elohim must be mistaken!)

Once again, I will repeat that the Hebrew word *moed* should not be translated season. There is a better and more accurate Hebrew word for that purpose as we discussed earlier and as God/Elohim clearly points out here; this not one of them! Unfortunately, the Protestant translators apply their theological filter to it and come up with a very bad deviation from the truth.

Here we learn that the moon was appointed by God/Elohim to be used to determine “appointed times” (*moed*) of our meeting with Them and that the sun knows it’s going down, “sunset,” the beginning and end of a day (sorry sun). The light of the moon is used to determine the “appointed times of meeting” between God/Elohim and man, while the dying light of the sun, or its going down, determines the start and end of any 24-hour given day.

Is this not simple to grasp? This is the simplicity of Christ/Messiah; growing in favor, acceptance, and knowledge.

Translators struggle over this verse because they think the sun and seasons go hand in hand. They think in terms of the solar year and Roman “Catholic” Calendar, influenced by the devil to masquerade as the real calendar.

God/Elohim does not! He plainly instructs us here; the moon, thus the lunar year, is to be used to determine the “appointed times for man.” The sun determines the appointed times of the other 3 fleshes, but that is the focus of another study. Most pagan festivals are determined by following the light of the sun, certainly those of the majority of professing Christianity today do. They use the sun to determine such appointed times of meeting and very often their places of meeting. They use the equinoxes and solstices to determine their festival dates after the solar cycle. God/Elohim just unequivocally just told us here He does not use the sun for His appointed times for mankind but the moon!

There is not one place in the Bible, the inspired Word of God/Elohim, that states or even alludes to, tying the *moed*, “appointed times of meeting” between God/Elohim and man to the sun. Many today try to use human reasoning to teach around this, but do so resulting in a relationship disaster as to keeping the specific days of God/Elohim. They are no different than that of the Universal Church setting up her calendar around the equinoxes and solstices and starting her day at midnight. They use those magic unseen moments in the heavens to establish their times of meeting. Isaiah 1:14:

“Your new moons (unseen from the earth, by the naked eye) and your appointed feasts (established by the sun and its equinoxes) My soul hates; They are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them (He has been tolerating them up to now but not anymore).” If you wish to follow up on this please read our articles, “Why I do not use an Equinox in anything Biblical” and “What Calendar will be used during the Millennial Rule and Thereafter.”

Psa. 104:19 also tells us the fading or dying light of the sun determines the start of a day, not the light of her going up as some are now professing. That is why God/Elohim states, His day starts and ends at sunset, or *ereb*, evening. That law, that pattern, ties the sun to a day. It has been that way since the creation. God/Elohim is clearly telling us about the patterns of both great lights here and how they are to be used as They say, not as man says. I hope we all understand these things for there are many who teach the exact opposite of what God/Elohim states, and many more who mix it all up and twist it so it has the appearance of godliness, but not the substance.

Once again, "He appointed the moon for **appointed times**, *moed*, the sun knows it's going down." The light of the moon is used to determine Gods/Elohim feasts, and the light of the sun, specifically at its going down, or sunset; determines a day. "Going down" is the Hebrew word *mabow* #3996 and Strong's says of it: "from #935; an entrance (the place or the act); specifically, (with or without #8121) sunset or the west; also (adverb with preposition) towards: by which came, as cometh, in coming, as men enter into, entering, entrance into, entry, where goeth, going down and + westward."

Yes, this lower region or boundary of the suns descent is the horizon. That is the means by which we determine the start and finish of Gods/Elohim day. That is how we use the light of the sun. We can all witness this visible sign each and every day as the sun disappears behind the horizon if no cloud cover prevents it and then we enter the time of twilight, the time of its fading light and that of darkness setting in. It's so very simple, if we listen to God/Elohim.

There are some today that teach the moon and sun are both used in determining what is a "month" and "appointed times." In fact, they teach the doctrine of the moon, sun, and earth in conjunction. That is not the case here in Psa. 104:19 and as we will see shortly, not the case anywhere else in the Bible. God/Elohim inspired another key Hebrew word to be used to describe when the light of the moon is to be used to determine the "new moon" or "month." I do hope you all take the time later to read Psa. 104 in its entirety for it is full of many of the wonders God/Elohim has set in place in the natural world from the beginning, etc. Do you remember what Rom. 1:20 told us? "For the unseen things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, both His eternal power and Godhead, for them to be without excuse,"

There is so much to say about the creation of God/Elohim, but today we are dealing with just one aspect of it. I have addressed the whole of the subject, of the patterns of creation which point out God's/Elohim purpose and eternal power and Godhead in the Bible study entitled "The 2 Covenants and the First Resurrection" which is free to download from the site like everything else. Abibofgod.com. But to the subject at hand.

So, the Word of God/Elohim clearly ties the moon to the figuring of the "appointed times" we thus are tied to the lunar cycle and lunar year, not the solar, in determining when and how to determine these very special "times of meeting" for God/Elohim and man. Lev. 23:37

"These are the feasts of the Lord/Yehovah which you shall proclaim holy convocations (miqra/rehearsal), to offer an offering made by fire (That's not money folks.) to the Lord/Yehovah, a burnt offering and a grain offering, a sacrifice and drink offerings, **everything on its day.**"

God/Elohim didn't create the game of horse shoes. It doesn't count being close! One preacher told me and others; that it was okay to be "approximately close." God/Elohim says; it needs to be on its **exact day** which He has chosen. To be able to do this and be without excuse in doing so, God/Elohim put a very simple and clear pattern in place to follow. He has given us clear instruction to follow if we listen to Him and not follow another. There is nothing "secret" about this knowledge. It is there for all to see and understand. We who are called of the Father should not be swayed by those who are deceived and deceiving; to follow another way. Satan has used his tools, and the power at his disposal, to deceive even the elect of God/Elohim.

Let's continue to see what God/Elohim has to say about the timepieces in the sky, and specifically as it applies to the moon determining Their "appointed times of meeting," with us.

Genesis 1 has made it clear that it is the light (seen from the earth with our eyes), of the 2 great lights that we use as "visible signs" or "visible marks" in our determination of days, years, and appointed times.

Just as a meeting of the sun at the horizon determined a day, so too does "a meeting" which takes place, in the sky determine the start of a month. It is not the no moon or conjunction of the sun, earth, and moon; but the conjunction or meeting of the sun and the moon and thus the resulting light seen on the earth with our eyes of that meeting in the sky, a very clear sign. Once again, God/Elohim states we are to use the light of these timepieces to determine days, years, and appointed times, not the darkness! The world declares the **darkness** of the moon cycle as the new moon. That is a tribute to Satans deceptive powers of darkness. So too do the Rabbis. This is called the "conjunction." That's when the earth comes between the sun and the moon. This is where the moon is not visible to us from the surface of the earth with our eyes. It is dark, with no light hitting the earth from the meeting of the sun and the moon for us to see. Rabbinical Judaism and some of the many "Churches of God" declare this is part of their "secret knowledge" in understanding how to determine "appointed times." Is this what God/Elohim teaches? If so, then They have changed the patterns set at creation until now. Gen. 1:15:

"and let them be for **lights** (not darkness) in the firmament of the heavens **to give light on the earth;** (for visible signs, verse 14.) and it was so."

Verse 17 is the reason why God/Elohim made them.

"God/Elohim set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth."

Yes, we are able to see the great events which determine a day, year, and appointed time. We cannot see a conjunction of the earth, moon, and sun. It is invisible to us and this darkness can last over two full days and then some for us to see the first light of the moon (the conjunction or meeting of the sun and the moon) on the earth with our eyes. The 3-way conjunction reeks of a trinity while the 2-way conjunction represents the light between the Father and the Son reflecting on us to witness to. The 3-way conjunction can only be calculated. The Rabbinical calculations are off and no longer accurate, **and they know it.** It is an error to use the "no moon" conjunction as the new moon as God/Elohim instructs us. It is also an error to use the last stage or visible crescent of the dying moon as the start of the month based on the scriptural pattern, as well as the Hebrew language. God/Elohim instructed us They assigned that to the sun in Psa. 104:19 when They specifically singled out the sun, as using its dying light, as a sign of the start and end of a day in creation. The moon is exactly the opposite. We are going to see how God/Elohim leaves no doubt to this shortly, for the new moon is a time of rebuilding, not dying, and certainly not invisibility. You do not have to calculate sunset for you see it with your own two eyes. That also applies to the new moon, the first crescent as well.

The meeting of the two great lights after sunset proclaims a very clear and visible sign in the western sky every 29 or 30 days for all men to see. You do not need a benefactor between you and God/Elohim to declare the new moon for you by calculations, other than you being able to count to 30 yourself. There is nothing secretive about it. The light of the moon rules the night. When the sun sets, it loses its authority to the moon. Many of the called of the Father have believed the lie, the heresy, of Rabbinical Judaism on the point of the "no moon Conjunction."

The Rabbis have their own calculated calendar. Many organizations of men teach this is to be followed when determining the "appointed times of meeting" of God/Elohim. These organizations declare the Rabbis, or Rabbinical Judaism, received and carried out secret knowledge given at Mt. Sinai as to how to calculate the new moon and thus the calendar. These organizations teach, or agree to the teaching, that God/Elohim gave Moses two forms of commandments at Mt. Sinai. One was the written commandments for all to see, and secondly, oral commandments for a chosen few, an elite group to have and to use in leading the unknowing and confused dumb sheep who only received the inferior written form.

Christ/Messiah absolutely and categorically condemns this teaching in Matt. 15, Matt. 23, and Mark 7 for just a few examples. He called them the “traditions of the elders.” We know them today as the “oral law” or Mishnaic law which has no foundation in God/Elohim, quite to the contrary, it is used to override the instructions from God/Elohim. They are taught that the Mishnaic laws are superior to the written Word of God/Elohim by Rabbinical Judaism and are codified in the Rabbis Bible, the Talmud. So did God/Elohim give secret knowledge to Moses, which he in turn passed on to a group of elites, or as Christ/Messiah calls them, benefactors? Either God/Elohim is lying or those who teach such things are. It’s one or the other, no gray areas! Ex. 24:3: 3: “So Moses came and told the people **ALL** the words of the Lord/Yehovah and **ALL** the judgments (ordinances). And **ALL** the people answered with one voice and said, **ALL** the words which the Lord/Yehovah has said we will do.”

So here we see in black and white that **ALL** the people heard **ALL** the words. Verse 4:

“And Moses wrote **ALL** the words of the Lord/Yehovah. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel.” And where did Moses write **ALL** the words of the Lord/Yehovah? Verse 7:

“Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, **ALL** that the Lord/Yehovah has said we will do, and be obedient.”

I certainly hope that puts to rest the “Jewish fable” about “secret knowledge” being passed on from Moses to a group of elites and so forth to our day. That is no different than the pagan doctrine of “apostolic succession” practiced by the Universal (Catholic) Church and all who take her doctrines unto themselves in part or in whole. Never forget what Paul told Titus in Titus 1:14:

“not giving heed to “Jewish fables” and “commandments of men” who turn from the truth.”

Many today who are deceived and deceiving, teach that we are to follow the fables and commandments of Rabbinical Judaism as to the calendar, while I might add; disagreeing with some of their resulting days to keep, such as the 15th Passover and Sivan 6 Pentecost. How convenient, how hypocritical. Either they have this secret knowledge or they don’t. I truly hope the scales fall from these teacher’s eyes as they did from Paul’s, myself, and many others; and then they turn to the truth of God/Elohim and reject Jewish fables and start to worship God/Elohim as He declares, on Their appointed days, and are no longer deceived on this doctrine. It will take a great amount of humility to do so and a great amount of character to change, to do what is right. Paul turned from Judaism to worshipping God/Elohim in spirit and in truth as he tells us in Gal. 1:13-14:

“For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God/Elohim beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.”

Yes, Paul was more zealous for following the “traditions of the elders” than the way of God/Elohim. But Paul rejected his roots in Judaism, which is, the following of the “oral law” and he terms that way as “Jewish fables.”

From time to time, when it served the purpose of preaching Christ/Messiah to the Jews, he would remind those who still followed the tenets of Judaism that he too once walked in that way. 1 Cor. 9:20:

“and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; . . .”

Paul became a Christian! He clearly rejected Judaism, the commandments of men and their Jewish fables, for the light of God/Elohim.

In spite of the clear instruction and vivid examples of such things, there are teachers today who try to put us into bondage of Judaism, and thus themselves. They turn to Rom. 3:1-2 to try to use “a” or “one” scripture to prove that God/Elohim says that is the right thing to do to support their erroneous doctrines.

“What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision?”

Be mindful here, we have two questions being asked in the context of one. Paul answers them in verse 2.

“Much in every way! Chiefly because to them **were** committed the oracles (scriptures of the O.T.) of God/Elohim.”

All Paul is stating here is that the Jews have had an advantage for a long time because they had the scriptures and the Gentiles hadn't. Unfortunately, most of them rejected them for “Jewish fables” and/or “commandments of men” as Christ/Messiah Himself told us time and time again. Matt. 15:7-9:

“Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: these people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”

These deceived teachers declare that we are to follow the errors of Judaism because “to them were committed (entrusted) the scriptures of God/Elohim.” Oh yes, they were entrusted with them. What a mess they made out of them. That's, all of Judah, and they all rejected them for something else. In fact, Judaism rejects the entire New Testament scriptures of God/Elohim just as much of modern Christianity reject or sets aside the Old Testament scriptures. What a crew!

The **whole** Bible was entrusted to those Christians who truly follow Christ/Messiah, for He is the author and finisher of our faith. He is the Alpha and the Omega of the entire Bible not just selective sections.

I encourage you to read all of Matt. 23. In verse 13 God/Elohim calls the Rabbis by their real names in His eyes.

“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.” Did we get that! That is an incredible warning and indictment from Christ/Messiah about them and what they teach and do! Christ/Messiah calls them fools, hypocrites, blind guides, serpents, etc. in this chapter. But the blind teachers of this age, turn to verses 2-3 to proclaim we are to follow their doctrine and teachings on the calendar in spite of what Christ/Messiah declares about them over and over. The most common translation of the Greek goes as such: “saying, the scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say and do not do.”

They do exactly what every politician has done since Satan rebelled against God/Elohim.

The scribes and the Pharisees did sit in Moses' seat. Now what was that? Go back and search the scriptures. Moses' seat was civil government. He was trained in those responsibilities at Pharaoh's court for his future responsibilities with Israel. Moses was not a priest. He did not sit in Aarons seat. Aaron was a priest and ruled over the things of the Tabernacle. These are two distinctly different roles, and they still were at the time of Christ/Messiah. Moses = civil, Aaron = religious. That is why we only see the scribes and Pharisees mentioned here in regard to Moses' seat. They were the lawyers and politicians of their time. The Sadducees, on the other hand, were the descendants of Aaron who controlled the Temple in Jerusalem. These things are clearly seen in the scriptures and are attested to by history. Yet many confused teachers uphold teachings of Rabbinical Judaism all the same, for they try to modernize it in such a way that the called of the Father will be in bondage to them, the so called “ministers” and that they may appear to be enlightened benefactors who are chosen to lead the poor, dumb sheep. Read verses 4-10 and see if you can recognize any of their signs and patterns that Christ/Messiah identifies them by.

A true Christian today follows Christ/Messiah throughout the whole Bible (the first and second covenants) and preserves and obeys the very word of God/Elohim in its entirety. And furthermore, the true Christian will proclaim it, all of it. Paul understood all these things. In Col. 2:16-17 he tells us:

“Therefore let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a feast day or a new moon or Sabbath, which are a shadow (forerunner/foreshadow) of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.”

Yes, we are still following the patterns of Christ/Messiah which were set in place at the beginning of creation. We follow Him and no other. Remember John 1:1-5:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God/Elohim, and the Word was God/Elohim. He was in the beginning with God/Elohim. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.” (That is why we refer to God/Elohim often as: They, Their, Them, etc.)
And verse 14:

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of favor, acceptance, and truth.”

Yes brethren, Jesus Christ/Messiah is the same yesterday (First Covenant), today (Second Covenant), and forever (The Kingdom). He has not changed the patterns He put in place at creation up to this time. We follow these patterns, and those who teach should be instructing others to do the same. Unfortunately, as He prophesied in Ezekiel 34 (about our times) has become so clear. Many are feeding on the called of the Father, rather than feeding them.

That is not an accusation, but an observation and simple fact, and I hope many repent of it and follow the right path unto the Kingdom and Salvation of God/Elohim.

Now back to these great patterns set in Genesis as to determining the “appointed times” of meeting with God/Elohim annually. I hope it is clear, or at the least apparent to you, that God/Elohim says we are to use the moon’s cycle in determining “appointed times” from year to year, as in a lunar year, and not a solar year.

So how do we do this?

Just as the sun has a definite observable starting point in determining the start of a day by using its light, so does the moon have such a defined start for a month. That is when it is first visible after the pattern and law set in Genesis, as to its light and not its darkness.

The Hebrew word for new moon and month, as well as its root word, will show us this is true and bear it out.

That word is #2320 in the Strong’s:

“*chodesh*; from #2318, the new moon; by implication a month.”

The root word of *chodesh* is:

“#2318, *chadash*; a prime root; to be new; causatively to rebuild.”

Put that together please. The new moon is just that, NEW! as in the sense of rebuilding from an old one. This pattern repeats itself every 29 or 30 days. It is the light of the moon showing on the earth which we can see with our eyes which rules the night. When the first light of the new or rebuilding moon is seen over the western horizon after sunset in Israel, we have the start of a new month. Then for approximately 14 days it continues to grow or rebuild until it is full. Then it starts to diminish in brightness and size until it becomes a final crescent, approximately 28 days into its cycle and then it disappears for 1.5 to 2.5 days usually. Then it starts its visible rebuilding process again which is visible to us on the earth, just like it has from the beginning.

Vine’s says of the Hebrew word *hodes*:

“(#2320) ‘new moon; month.’ This noun occurs 283 times in biblical Hebrew and in all periods. The word refers to the day on which the crescent reappears: ‘So David hid himself in the field; and when the new moon was come, the king sat him down to eat meat.’ (1 Sam. 20:24). Isa. 1:14 uses this word of the feast which occurred on that day: ‘Your new moons (festivals) and your appointed feasts my soul hateth . . .’ *Hodes* can refer to a ‘month,’ or the period from one new moon to another. . . These ‘months’ are sometimes named (Exod. 13:4) and sometimes numbered (Gen. 7:11).” That is simple enough and concurs with the Bible in most respects but not all.

Now for its root word in Vine’s.

“*Hadas* (#2318), ‘to renew.’ This verb occurs in post-Mosaic literature. . . The root is found in all the Semitic languages with the same sense; usually the radicals are h-d-th.”

There should be no misunderstanding as to the meaning of these Hebrew words and their intent. The new moon refers to the first crescent appearing and growing from there; rebuilding in plain sight. It is the new

moon which is used to start the count of each month, and then the number of days which follow until the next crescent appears at the start of its rebuilding process again. It is a **clearly visible building process**. It is by this method, by this **light**, that we determine the “appointed times of meeting” between God/Elohim and man in a Biblical year.

Remember the Hebrew word for sign is #226; *ot*, a signal, flag, beacon, etc. Its root word means “to come” not “to go.” These words inspired to be used by God/Elohim are all very important to our instruction as to obeying the Father and the Son.

With what we have covered, it is clear to see that God/Elohim has set in place the sun and the moon in specific patterns as our timepiece, which is the means by which we count; appointed times, days, and years. It should also be clear that God/Elohim says we determine the “appointed times” by using the light of the moon. Thus, the appointed times of Gods/Elohim Calendar for man are based on the lunar cycle and thus the lunar year. It is also plain to see that we use the new or first crescent visible to our eyes on the earth, and not the old or last crescent, and by no means the dark conjunction, to start our counts.

Let’s briefly review the differences between a lunar and a solar year other than one is based on the moon and one on the sun.

The solar year consists of approximately 365 1/4 days. That is why in the Gregorian Calendar and each four years we have a “leap year” to bring the number of days back in line with the sun, otherwise the numbered years would be going out of sync with the actual solar year and the months would not end up in the proper solar season. This has happened in the past and the current calendar used by most of the world is a result of that very thing. Man adjusts this mathematically, and this actually extends out for adjustments of a full day in certain centuries as well as leap years.

A lunar year on the other hand, consists of approximately 354 days. These are determined by 12 months, or 12 cycles of the moon, which consist of approximately 29 1/2 days each. It is simple to see there is an 11-day difference between the lunar and solar years. God/Elohim clearly stated we are to use the moon, not the sun in determining Their appointed times. We are talking about the light here respectively. These appointed times are symbolically tied to **agricultural harvests** in Israel, so as to symbolically tie Gods/Elohim Plan of Salvation to various harvests and specific growing times. These harvests depict the resurrections; early and late, and the last one of cleaning up the useless fruit. However, the sun has biological influence with the growing times. Meteorological conditions (rain, temperature, sunshine) and soil and altitude play very important roles as well. The lunar calendar, in order to keep in sync with the symbolism of the different agricultural harvests, needs to have its “leap years” as well. These assure that the lunar year stays in sync with the grain harvests in Israel. If not, you would find the Passover being kept in the summer, then the fall, then the winter, and then in the “spring” (northern hemisphere talk) once again. This would not support the patterns of the Plan of Salvation as found in the things which are made. We are going to see clear instruction from God/Elohim on how this was, and is, done. This is called intercalation or the adding of a 13th lunar month in a lunar leap year.

The calendar of Rabbinical Judaism uses the method by which their captors in Babylon used and thus taught them. They intercalate a set number of lunar years in a 19-year cycle. In fact, seven times in one of these 19 year cycles, they add one month to the year. This mechanism of set intercalation, regardless of the condition of the grain crops in Israel, is an ancient pagan practice which adds a 30-day month in the third, sixth, eighth, eleventh, fourteenth, seventeenth, and nineteenth years, of the 19-year cycle. There is no variation, they are locked in regardless of anything else, **even the word of God/Elohim**. The Rabbinical version of this was finally set in circa 1176-78 A.D. and it continues in that form even today. It is very important to note, and it should come as no surprise, that the Rabbis do not use the method of intercalation taught in the Bible.

However, there are some in Judaism which do attempt to use the method God/Elohim teaches in the scriptural patterns. We will address this later. I say this with no relevance to following men, one over the other, but to show that all who profess to be “Jews” do not keep the same tenets.

The Rabbinical Calendar followed by many organizations of men, starts its new year on the Feast of Trumpets, on the first day, of the seventh month or what they believe to be the first day of it. That only happens “once is a blue moon” one might say, for often they adjust or postpone the start of the seventh month to keep their traditions. These are the *dehiyyah* of the Rabbis which we will review later. They also count backwards 177 days from their new year to determine which day starts the first month. If that sounds confusing, just wait until you see why and how they do it later. This is the result of an elite group of individuals, or should I say, a group of, “elites” claiming to have secret knowledge of God/Elohim for the express purpose of having dominion over your faith. We will see how quite often this actually displaced the feasts, or appointed times, from falling on the specific day God/Elohim intends them to.

Once again as a reminder, the words of Christ/Messiah to them, Matthew 15:6-9:

“. . . Thus, you have made the commandment of God/Elohim of no effect by your tradition. Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: these people draw near to Me with their mouths, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”

And Isa. 1:14:

“Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates. . .”

We have a clear choice to make. Keep the “appointed times” of the Lord/Yehovah or those of the Rabbinical Jews or for that matter, of Roman Catholicism, etc. We have a clear choice to make as to the new moon and its cycles of God/Elohim or that of Rabbinical Judaism.

There is a very big difference!

Now let’s look at how God/Elohim says to determine what the start of Their new year is, and how to intercalate the months to the grain harvest in Israel from His instructions to Moses and thus to us. Ex. 12:2:

“This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you.”

We are using the lunar cycle here to determine both month and year. But what month are they in? Ex. 13:4:

“On this day, you are going out, in the month Abib.”

There should be nothing difficult to grasp in this instruction from God/Elohim here. The Month of Abib, is the month which starts the Biblical Year. Rabbinical Judaism, once again, stresses we are to start the new year in the 7th month of Tishri. Imagine that! Many today have swallowed the resulting erroneous calendar based on that. God/Elohim has not changed on this point. God/Elohim has not empowered anyone else to do so either. Remember Christ/Messiah is the same yesterday (First Covenant), today (Second Covenant), and forever (The Kingdom).

Here in Exodus, we find ourselves reading about one of the great epic moments in man’s history. Not just in the physical things which were about to happen, but the spiritual symbolism of what they foreshadowed and the renewal of a relationship between God/Elohim to the descendants of Abraham. They had lost their way as to the teaching and understanding their father had taught them prior to their bondage in Egypt.

Joshua 24:14:

“Now therefore fear the Lord/Yehovah, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood (which occurred at the Jordan River), and in Egypt; and serve the Lord/Yehovah.” (A similar pattern will happen at the end of the age.)

God/Elohim was about to awaken them, and instruct them, as to what was required on their part, to enter into a bonding relationship with Him. Their father Abraham had entered into such a bond with God/Elohim long before. He willingly left his country, his family, his friends, houses, etc. He left all the comforts of that, as well as the pagan influence there, and the opportunities to turn back to it, and entered a wilderness to learn from God/Elohim and to trust in His words, and not that of men or a man. God/Elohim blessed him for it. The same pattern is found in the words of Christ/Messiah in the gospels. Luke 18:29-30:

“So He said to them, Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God/Elohim, who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life.”

Christ/Messiah did the same thing Himself to a great extent.

We read of this same pattern in Heb. 11:13-16:

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly opportunity. Therefore, God/Elohim is not ashamed to be called their God/Elohim, for He has prepared a city for them.”

The pattern is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Once again, here in Exodus God/Elohim was about to teach the descendants of the father of the faithful, all about that. Here God/Elohim is about to introduce the promise to Israel, His unbreakable promise He had given to Abraham His friend. He was going to find out if Israel would obey His voice, and keep His charge, His commandments, His statutes, and His laws. We have read about and studied these events extensively in the past. But in this study, we are particularly focusing on their ability, as well as ours, to focus on obeying His voice in regard to keeping His statutes.

Strong’s says the Hebrew word used for statutes here in this sense is:

“#2708, *chuqqah*; feminine of #2706 and means substantially the same. #2706 is: *chog*; from #2710, an enactment, hence an appointment (of time, space, quantity, labor or usage).”

The Vine’s has a lot to say about the Hebrew word used for statute. Let me add here that we should thank God/Elohim for the tools we have at our disposal at the end of the age which help us gain a better understanding of the meaning of these very important Hebrew words, and for that matter, the Greek also, which are used in the Bible.

“*Huqqah* (#2708), ‘statute, regulations, prescriptions, term.’ This noun occurs about 104 times. *Huqqah* is found for the first time in God’s/Elohim words of commendation about Abraham to Isaac: “because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments (*miswah*), my statutes (*huqqah*), and my laws (*torah*).’ (Gen. 26:5), together with its synonyms *mismeret*, *miswah*, and *torah*. The primary use of *huqqah* is in the Pentateuch, especially in Leviticus and Numbers. It is extremely rare in the poetical books and in the prophetic writings (except Jeremiah and Ezekiel).”

Do you know why? **Because Jeremiah and Ezekiel tell us over and over again that these statutes will be kept in earnest once again after Christ/Messiah returns.** Continuing in Vine’s:

“the meaning of ‘fixed’ is similar in usage of *hoq*, in the sense of the laws of nature: ‘Thus says the Lord/Yehovah; If my covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth.’ (Jer. 33:25). Even as the Israelites had a period of rainfall from October to April, there was a fixed period of harvest (from April to June): ‘Neither say they in their heart, let us now fear the Lord/Yehovah our God/Elohim, that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in its season: he reserves unto us the appointed weeks of harvest.’ (Jer 5:24). In addition to regulation of nature, the word *huqqah* signifies regular payments to priests. . . Lev. 7:36. In non-religious usage the word *huqqah* refers to the customs of the nations: ‘After the doings of the land of Egypt, where you dwelt, shall you not do; and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall you not do; neither shall you . . . walk in their ordinances.’ (Lev. 18:3) . . . The most significant use of *huqqah* is God’s/Elohim ‘law.’ It is more specific in meaning than *hoq* (#2706). Whereas *hoq* is a general word for ‘law,’ *huqqah* denotes the ‘law’ of a particular festival or ritual. There is the ‘law’ of the Passover (Exod. 12:4), Unleavened Bread (Exod. 12:17), Feast of Tabernacles (Lev. 23:41), the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:29), the priesthood (Ex. 29:9), and the blood and the fat (Lev. 3:17). The word *huqqah* has

many synonyms. At times, it forms a part of a series of three: 'Beware that thou forget not the Lord/Yehovah your God/Elohim in not keeping His commandments (*miswah*), and his judgments (*mispat*), and his statutes (*huqqah*) which I command thee this day,' (Deut.8:11) . . ."

I hope we get the point as to the meaning of this word. It is used predominantly with Gods/Elohim festivals, His "appointed times of meeting." That is significant, for as we read; Abraham kept them as God/Elohim commanded, as we are also told in Gen. 26:5.

The patterns continue!

Remember what the apostle Peter told us in 2 Pet. 3:4:

"...For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as from the beginning of creation."

And as the apostles tell us in Heb. 13:8:

"Jesus Christ/Messiah is the same yesterday (First Covenant), today (Second Covenant), and forever (The Kingdom)."

Here in Exodus, God/Elohim is instructing Israel and us, as to how to count His beginning of months. This is of tremendous importance to us if we are to develop and maintain a right relationship with God/Elohim. We must remember that. That is predicated as He says on, "obeying My voice and keeping My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws" just as Abraham the father of the faithful had. For in this month we are commanded to keep His first two statutes. That of Passover of the Lord/Yehovah (not the Jews) and Unleavened Bread, or Unleavens.

Abraham kept the statutes of God/Elohim in regard to "nature" and "to appointed times." The two are inseparable. These are: Lev. 23:4;

"the feasts of the Lord/Yehovah, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times,"

Our God/Elohim, our King, our Messiah, promises us He will never leave nor forsake us. Unfortunately, it is not the same for us. For we have done so to Him time and time again. He has remained faithful and true, and has given each and every one of us the means to return and to know Him once again. We have the ability to grow in His favor, acceptance, and knowledge, when God/Elohim imparts in us, His holy spirit.

Every man has the ability to use Their timepiece, but every man alive does not understand its purpose and how to apply it. If we yoke ourselves to Christ/Messiah we start to learn these truths. In Exodus 12 and 13 we are told that the first month is called Abib. Once again there is a lot of meaning in a word. How do we know when Abib is? Remember the months follow the lunar cycle, so we need to know when in that yearly cycle, it begins.

Strong's says of the Hebrew word Abib:

"#24, *Abiyb*; from an unused root (meaning to be tender); green; i.e., a young ear of grain; hence the name of the month *Abib* or *Nisan*."

This word appears in Ex. 13:4; 23:15; 34:18 and Deut. 16:1 in reference to the month. It is also translated as something other than the name of the month in the Bible. We find one occurrence in Ex. 9:31; "Now the flax and the barley were struck, for the barley was in head (*abib*) and the flax was in bud."

Here we see *abib* identified for what it truly is. It is the time and month of the year when barley develops the first mature heads of grain. That is why God/Elohim called the first month *Abib*, for that is the time that the barley has its first mature heads of grain. This is our starting point in determining God's/Elohim "appointed times." Once again God/Elohim gave us a visible sign to make our determination of the "appointed times" listed in Lev. 23. God/Elohim not only tells us the month, but the exact day we are to keep them.

Barley grows wild all over Israel. This wild barley (*Hordeum Spontaneum*) does not receive preferential treatment such as irrigation, fertilization, or cultivation as does domestic barley (*Hordeum Vulgare*). It is subject to the meteorological (weather) conditions of the region. Those are the true growing conditions from year to year. The wild barley grows to maturity at different rates and times around historical Israel. The rates

and times are based on such factors as, temperature, amount of rain, soil conditions, elevation, etc. These meteorological and agricultural conditions control the rate of growth of the wild barley. (See our article entitled: "Abib (Aviv), Wavesheaf, Bride, and The Plan of Salvation" or our booklet: "How to Determine the State of 'Aviv' in the Barley Crop which grows in Israel.")

The span of time from the first barley in a state of *abib* to the last is approximately 7 weeks for harvestable areas in principle. That is a very simple and observable fact of the region. It is substantiated by the word of God/Elohim as well. Deut. 19:9:

"You shall count seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the grain."

That is talking about the barley harvest. That is the type of grain used for the wave sheaf offering during the days of Unleavened Bread. God/Elohim have allowed a seven-week time frame for its harvest if needed. (If its anything like the seven Churches of revelation it will need all the time it can get.)

Over the past 16 years of barley inspections in Israel, We have personally seen wild barley growing in just about every conceivable location around the country, except for the middle of the desert. It grows everywhere; in hotel parking lots in downtown Jerusalem, on the slopes of the Temple Mount and Old City, in the Jordan Valley, in the Negev, in the Galilee, in farmers' fields mixed with other crops, on the slopes of Hermon, and in many other places throughout the land. It grows "like a weed" as the saying goes. It is very difficult to eradicate and it is no wonder why God/Elohim chose it as a sign for use in determining the start of the new year along in harmony with the New Moon.

But! Here in is a problem for some. We receive our direction from the entirety of the scriptures; both Covenant scriptures. Some who undertake these inspections do not, for they insist on using just the first Covenant scriptures and then only the first five books, so they are incomplete in their understanding of what the Creators teach us as to the big picture of the Plan of Salvation. Those who use the first Covenant scriptures exclusively, look for any barley which is mature to declare the start of the year. **Big error according to scripture as well as all the basic agricultural principles used way back then and today.** We are to use barley which grows in good soil, which actually is used for planting crops using common sense, not that which grows in rocky ground and steep slopes. Crops are not planted there for a harvest to produce flour. A very big point folk. Those areas are used for animals grazing thus we call the short, stunted, anemic barley, which grows there; "Goat Grass." Matthew 13:1-9 teaches us all about this in agricultural principles applied spiritually. Christ/Messiah is our Wave Sheaf, accepted on our behalf by the Father, so are we to think goat grass is an acceptable representation of our Savior? If you do, then you are agreeing to accept a lame, malnourished, blotchy, lamb for a Passover sacrifice. We need to use the spiritual eyes we were given at baptism and hands being laid on.

Domestic barley (as well as wild) if irrigated develops a mature head at a much slower pace. We have seen this first hand many times both here in the U.S. and in Israel. Another important point which We will mention is that when the barley becomes *abib* its stalks, as well as its head, reaches a stage of brittleness. One can flick a finger at the head and it will break in two. That is why in Ex. 9:31-32 the barley was destroyed while the wheat and spelt were not. The barley matures much earlier than these others. It was the month of *Abib* as scriptures tell us. That is why God/Elohim calls this first month of the year *abib*. It is relevant to the barley being in a state of *abib* or mature enough to start the harvest. *Abib* is an ancient agricultural term.

It is very safe to say that *Abib* is describing an agricultural state or stage of maturity in barley growth.

In Exodus 9 we read about the 5th, 6th, and 7th plagues which afflicted Egypt. The key component of the 7th plague was hail, very heavy hail. In verses 31 & 32 we read:

"Now the flax and the barley were struck, for the barley was in the head (*abib*) and the flax was in bud. But the wheat and the spelt were not struck, for they are late crops."

Let's read these verses from the J.P. Greens Interlinear Bible.

“And the flax and the barley were smitten. For the barley was in the ear (abib), and the flax in blossom. And the wheat and the spelt were not smitten, for they were late.”

Let’s do a little analysis here. We see that the hail had smitten the barley and the flax. We also see the hail had not smitten the wheat and spelt. God/Elohim has a major lesson for us to learn here. He is going to show us a characteristic of Abib barley. The Hebrew word for smitten here is #5221 in the Strong’s.

“Nakah, a prime root; to strike (lightly or severely, literally or figuratively).”

The BDB says of it in brief:

“smite 1a) with a single non-fatal blow 1b) smite repeatedly. 2) Smite fatally 3) smite attack, attack and destroy 4) of God/Elohim a) smite with a plague, disease, etc.,”

So how are we to apply that word here in Ex. 9: 31-32? It’s obvious. God/Elohim is talking about destroying the barley and the flax crops. In verse 25 we read;

“and the hail struck every plant of the field, and it broke in pieces every tree of the field.”

So here in chapter 9, it is clear to see what God/Elohim is saying when He says the barley and the flax were smitten. But He also told us under these conditions the wheat and spelt were not smitten or destroyed. Why not? And why did God/Elohim give us so clear a contrast, and so detailed a narrative, about this? Because, He is giving us a major clue to a characteristic of Abib/Aviv barley. He says the barley was Abib!

In our journeys to Israel to inspect the barley we have discovered what took place here with the barley in Ex 9 to be a sign of Abib barley. When the plant reaches a specific stage of maturity, the stock can be broken easily. When it reaches this stage, it is in the agricultural condition called Abib or Aviv whichever you prefer for they mean the same thing, and that stage is clearly demonstrated in the field by taking several stocks intact and then slapping them below the heads with your fingers; if Abib they break off. That is what happened when the hail struck the barley. It snapped and fell to the ground, thus being destroyed. When barley is in a younger stage of growth, it is more flexible and pliable and will not break. That is the condition of the barley in some years in Israel, throughout the entire country. This year 2017 is a fine example of that, very young barley all over the entire country at the end of the 12th month thus we intercalated a 13th month. Those who only apply first covenant understanding to their inspections are keeping a different year than us at this time. When the worst snowstorm in 30 years hit the Judean Hills in March one year the barley was all flattened, but, it did not break, for it was far from being in the state of Abib. After the snow melted it sprang up again. Some of the barley was in head and some was not. None of it was Abib.

A point of interest for you may be the fact that barley growing in Egypt matures at relevantly the same time for it all grows in the same region at the same altitude along the Nile River. That is not the case in Israel and is why our Creators allow seven weeks for it to be harvested.

There are some who mistakenly teach that if the barley has a green ear visible it can be proclaimed Abib. That is a terrible error which needs to be corrected. Abib is a very particular and specific agricultural state of barley growth. It does not “float” through the growth cycle of the plant as we will clearly see in the technical portion of this study. The reason why the wheat and the spelt were not destroyed confirms this. The first grain crop harvested in Israel was barley. The wheat harvest started approximately one and a half months after the barley harvest started. (Today that is not the case for most varieties of wheat are from the “winter Wheat” strains not spring wheat.) It is a “later” crop. The Hebrew word describing their condition here is #648 in the Strong’s.

“Aphiyl; from the same as 651 (in the sense of weakness); unripe: not grown up.”

The BDB says of it:

“adjective (darkened, concealed, thence) late, of crops...”

So why is this so significant? Because that is an agricultural stage of maturity! When the scriptures say, it was “darkened, concealed” this means the plant looked like grass with the head having not yet emerged. It was still very young and still concealed in the shaft or in the “boot.” The head of the plant is not visible. It is dark,

concealed. It sounds like it is in its no moon stage. Thus, it does not see light. At this stage, it is very flexible. This is not all merely a “coincidence.” God/Elohim is explaining to us about the state of Abib, and then contrasts it with that of a much younger stage of growth He calls Aphiyl. In Chapter 12:2, He tells us that this time frame takes place in the month of Abib, and it is the start of His calendar year. He names the month after the clearly visible sign of Abib barley. There is no significance to God/Elohim using the barley in Egypt other than it being an example to Israel and us, as to how we are all to determine the process of counting months when they “came into the land” and us subsequently who are scattered all over the earth.

There is no other start to the year. God/Elohim does not recognize or authorize any other. We all have a choice to make. We follow God/Elohim or settle for Roman paganism or Rabbinical Judaism or some other deceptive form of calendar. There is no compromise. We cannot blame another for any error we willingly take up. We should not let another “prove all things” for us, and blindly follow them. It is our responsibility, individually, to seek out our own salvation and to prove all things.

Deut. 12:29-32 commands us not to apply pagan ways to our worship of God/Elohim. The Rabbinical calendar is as pagan and man centered as any can get. It is full of hocus-pocus. It is full of error, of the vanity of men. It is a mixing of God’s/Elohim instruction with that of pagan worship and knowledge. That is the very thing God/Elohim said not to do, and today we see the result of such disobedience and confusion in many who are called of God/Elohim. The Babylonians had a huge influence on the calendar of the Rabbinical Judaism. In the 4th century A.D. the Rabbis added even more twists to it, to add and take from it, to suit their traditions. We will read about all that in their own words later.

Isaiah 47 tells us of the humiliation and uselessness of the ways of Babylon and those who practice them.

Verse 9:

“. . . Because of the multitude of your sorceries, For the great abundance of your enchantments.”

Verses 10, 12-13:

“. . . Your wisdom and your knowledge have warped you; and you have said in your heart, ‘I am, and *there is* no one else besides me. Stand now with your enchantments and the multitude of your sorceries, in which you have labored from your youth, perhaps you will be able to profit, perhaps you will prevail. You are wearied in the multitude of your counsels; let the viewers of the heavens, **the stargazers**, and those giving knowledge of the new moons stand up and save you from these things that shall come upon you.”

We can read about all the antics of astrologers of Babylon in the book of Daniel.

It was the Babylonians who perfected the “art of astrology.” They used the sun, moon, and stars to predict things and times of future events by using the movement of the sun, moon, and stars. (Once again, a trinity) God/Elohim told us we were to use the light of the sun and the moon in the sky for signs (something clearly visible) in determining God’s/Elohim “appointed times of meeting” from year to year, not for divining your future outcomes

Those who practice the “art of astrology” opposed Daniel and the way of God/Elohim, just as those who practice such things do today as well.

Verses 14-15 tell us what their outcome is and will be.

“Behold, they shall be as stubble, the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame; *it shall not be* a coal to be warmed by, *nor* a fire to sit before! (It will be all consuming.) Thus, shall they (the astrologers, stargazers and prognosticators) be to you with whom you have labored, your merchants (or those who have merchandised you) from your youth; they shall wander each one to his own way (not that of God/Elohim). No one shall save you.”

Look at what the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia has to say on the subject of astrology and its spreading.

“Both astronomy and astrology are concerned with the heavenly bodies. Astronomy classifies the laws (Greek *nomos*) of their movement and nature, while astrology looks for intelligible meaning in their relationship to

people and things on earth. Of the many methods of attempting to discover the future by technical methods, astrology has been the most persistent among civilized peoples, although it is matched by the consultation of clairvoyants and mediums who claim to be able to foresee the future. At some time before the 7th century BC the wise men in Mesopotamia thought they had found correspondence between things in heaven and things on earth. Astrological documents are found in the time of Ashurbanipal king of Assyria (668-633 BC). Thus, a priest writes to him: 'The planet Venus is approaching the constellation Virgo. The appearance of the planet Mercury is near. Great wrath will come' (MacNeice, p. 110). Egyptian astrology does not appear until after this date. Astrological predictions at this time were concerned with the destiny of the nation, or of the king as head of the nation. The heavens, as well as sacrificial omens, pointed to lucky and unlucky times for undertaking projects. After the fall of Babylon, the art of astrology was spread by Chaldeans, and ca. 280 BC. Berossus, a Babylonian priest, is said to have set up a school for astrology on the island of Cos (Kos) Greeks and Romans adopted astrology almost as a substitute religion, and from this time onward astrologers offered horoscopes for individuals." (ISBE Volume I A-D page 342.)

These Babylonian practitioners of the art of astrology have heavily influenced the Rabbinical Calendar. We are not to mix God's/Elohim instructions for worshiping Them, with pagan practices or pagan instructions on worship as Deut. 12:29-32 tells us.

"When the Lord/Yehovah your God/Elohim cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land, take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.' You shall not worship the Lord/Yehovah your God/Elohim in that way; for every abomination to the Lord/Yehovah which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods. Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it."

Just look at our nation today. We have multiculturalism and its pagan practices shoved in our face day in and day out. The people flock to these bizarre and strange things. The "Church of God" is not untouched. Many who are called of the Father, are either deceived into these things, or willingly take them up. There is nothing new under the sun. The calendars of the world are just one result of such activities.

To this point we have covered: how the holy days, the "appointed times" of God/Elohim are determined by the lunar cycle, by the light of the moon becoming visible to the naked eye; we establish years by the lunar cycle, not the solar; we determine days by the sun; the month *Abib* starts the new year, and thus the yearly observance of God's/Elohim festivals; *Abib* is named as it is, because it is the time in which the barley first becomes physiologically mature, so it can reproduce itself and thus be harvested. That flies in the face of modern Christianity and Rabbinical Judaism.

Now we are faced with how do we intercalate or balance out the lunar year with the agricultural year, so that these festivals, depicting the harvests of God/Elohim, fall in their appropriate agricultural times. Please remember in none of this do we ever try to balance it out to the "solar year." Following Gods/Elohim methods will always bring the year into the harvest seasons without a miss.

As we saw earlier, the Rabbinical Calendar intercalates 7 specific years, in a 19-year cycle, to adjust the two. This is the method the Rabbis learned from Babylonian astronomers whom were steeped in astrology. It made things simple and more convenient for them, rather than wait on God/Elohim from year to year to see if they needed to add an extra month; they opted for the pagan practice of astrological convenience. Imagine that! Does that sound familiar today? It seemed like a sure thing, so they jumped on it. It did not matter if the barley was in a state of abib or not when **they** started their month Abib because they stopped recognizing the month of Abib as the first month and opted for the seventh month, Tishri. Not all Israel did this however. The priests had kept the proper instruction as to the new year and the succession of months and to declaring new

moons, and as to intercalating an extra month to keep the feasts in their perspective agricultural harvest times to the best of our knowledge.

During the time of Christ/Messiah, these priests were known as the Sadducees as I stated earlier. The Rabbis were the wannabe Scribes and Pharisees. They were always at odds, or nearly always, with the priests or Sadducees as the gospels bear out. The Rabbis rejected the way of God/Elohim for their traditions. The Sadducees were not perfect either, but, they were in control of the Temple and the Calendar of their day. The Rabbis were not of the seed of Aaron but, all the same, wanted control of the Temple and the setting of the calendar dates for festivals and thus have total control; political and religious, over the Jews under the Romans.

We are not attempting to kick a dead dog, but we will point out its error as defined by Christ/Messiah in the Bible, and as it is displayed today. One very important aspect to consider in all of this; between the Pharisees and the Priests, is that many of the priests converted to Christianity as Paul and the other Apostles taught it, which is very different for what masquerades as Christianity today. Acts 6:7; **“And the word of God/Elohim spread, and the number of the disciples multiplies greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.”** Please do not let anyone spin the lie to you that the Karaites were the priests of Christs/Messiahs time for that is a filthy lie. It has been perpetuated by those who wish to enslave members of the body to Judaism and its ways.

We are told in Eph. 5:8, 10-11:

“For you were once darkness, but now light in the Lord/Yehovah. Walk as children of light. A proving what is acceptable to the Lord/Yehovah, and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.”

We do not hate the Rabbis or those who teach their errors; but, we do hate the errors which do lead people away from the truth of God/Elohim; and thus, shuts the kingdom to them at this time. I once walked in some of the same things, but when the scales fell from our eyes through the mercy of our Father and our Savior, we learned to walk in the light of the Lord/Yehovah on this issue of the calendar. No darkness but light!

We must learn to walk in the faith which was once delivered, and that is the Word of God/Elohim. As called of the Father, we treasure it. It is our Creator talking to us. Gods/Elohim Calendar as we are seeing is clearly defined in that book. All we need for salvation is in that book. Christ/Messiah has not left us nor forsaken us. He has not left us to the confusion and chaos of this worlds religious organizations of men.

That is why God/Elohim starts each year in the time of Abib or harvestable heads of barley. We are going to see shortly very simple and specific commands on how to determine Abib and why we must be exact in doing so. But first let’s review the Rabbinical Calendar process to see the unfaithful method they, and those who lead their way, use.

Rabbinical Judaism bases their intercalation and thus, their luni-solar calendar, on a 19-year cycle. They follow the pagan Babylonian practice of adding an extra month in the third, sixth, eleventh, fourteenth, seventeenth, and nineteenth years of a 19-year cycle. It is often referred to as the Metonic cycle. They have declared these years as leap years’ centuries in advance of their happening. They have declared these as the years to add an extra month without ever knowing if the barley would be in a state of Abib or not. God/Elohim says to proclaim these feasts at their **“appointed times,”** not decades in advance, and certainly not centuries in advance.

The Rabbis and all who follow them, as well as the pagan sects of Christianity who follow after Rome, have taken upon themselves the authority to change times and seasons, for as we will see God/Elohim gives us very simple, yet very specific instruction, on how to proclaim and determine Abib from specific year to specific year. With that, He gives us the instruction how to add a month to the lunar year and when to do it.

In Dan. 2:20-23 we read:

“Daniel answered and said: Blessed be the name of God/Elohim forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His. **And He changes the times and seasons**; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. **He reveals deep and secret things**; He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with Him. I thank You and praise You, O God/Elohim of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of You, for You have made known to us the king's demand.”

Do we truly believe that God/Elohim does these things? Do we believe it is He who gives wisdom, knowledge, and understanding to those of us who ask and seek it out in His word?

There is no doubt to one called of the Father that He put in place the mechanisms which change times and growing seasons from year to year. It is They only who set the bounds of such things. No man has the authority to change them. Daniel was part of the captivity in Babylon. He did not give in however. It is not a coincidence that he points out here during that time of captivity, that it is God/Elohim who changes times and seasons and not men. He didn't give in on that either. This is where and when, a sect of the Judaism, were indoctrinated into adopting the 19-year cycle and its form of intercalation, and took God/Elohim out of the picture. Daniel here proclaims the folly of that error by enunciating who in fact controls it.

Many have stumbled over these same things throughout the years, for it was pushed as coming from the “Government of God,” on earth. When we threw off that shackle of men and yoked ourselves to Christ/Messiah, the only Head of His body, we had our eyes opened to His teaching of how to determine His “appointed times,” His holy days and festivals and much, much more. No man should ever be placed between you and your Husband, Jesus Christ/Messiah. The only place in the entire Bible where God/Elohim instructs us about keeping all His feasts or “appointed times” in one continuous lesson is Lev. 23:1-44. It is from these verses that we know what days are God's/Elohim “appointed days.” He addresses each of them in order of their pattern as it points to Their Plan of Salvation. Each on their own merits and unique laws. God/Elohim starts out by telling us these are:

2: “. . . the feasts of the Lord/Yehovah which you shall proclaim holy convocations.”

In verses 5 & 6, He states:

“On the fourteenth of the first month at twilight is the Lord's/Yehovah's Passover and on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord/Yehovah; seven days you **must** eat unleavened bread.”

These are two separate and distinct days and feasts as it clearly tells us here and elsewhere. God/Elohim is very specific about the day and the month as well as the actual month. It is His first month. We know that is the month Abib from Ex. 12 & 13 and Deut. 16. **Abib is the entire month of the new moon when the barley is maturing in the head not just the first day of it.** This is very important, for some deny this. In their calendar theology, they state the barley must be aviv the last day of the 12th month so that is also the case to start the month of Abib. They should really call their doctrine and methodology “The Day of Abib” rather than the Month of Abib as God/Elohim instructs us to call it for a reason. It is very important to understand why God/Elohim says and wants it to be that way. God/Elohim named this first month for what it is so we would not forget His instruction. During this 29 or 30-day month, we have many very important days which we are to keep. They all point to the actions of our Savior in the Plan of Salvation. It is not left up to conjecture or chance. Many who put off the start of the month of Abib using the first day theology are denying the foretold actions of our Savior and Christ/Messiah, for these teachers reject Him and in essence, have deluded others to follow their intents of the heart.

At the end of the cycle of the 12th month (in the lunar year) and if the barley will not be in a state of Abib/Aviv by the middle of the upcoming lunar cycle/month, another month would be added to extend the year to bring the method for determining the “appointed time” of God/Elohim into sync with the harvest times in Israel. The reason why, is because the barley would not be ripe enough in the first half of the upcoming month.

Remember the month of Abib is the month of the first harvestable barley. It is to be in that state of maturity no later than 15 days from the first sighting of the crescent moon. As we are about to see, this has incredible significance to God/Elohim and thus to us. Without this happening, Gods/Elohim Plan of Salvation for mankind with all its sequential parts would not be able to be acted out through Their “appointed times.” The symbolism depicted by these great events, show us the Plan of Salvation in its steps as God/Elohim has set in place by the observance of Their holy days and festivals, each on its appointed day. They are shadows of what is to come. Rehearsals!

On the Passover, (on and in its entirety during the 14th of Abib), Israel was to sacrifice a male lamb in its first year. What if there were no lambs in their first year? That would be a real dilemma, for it was a law of the Passover to do so. To use a sheep or goat older than one year would destroy the symbolism of the great event which points to the unblemished and innocent Lamb of God/Elohim, Jesus Christ/Messiah, dying for our sins, as well as the command itself.

Well, the very same thing applies to all the feasts of God/Elohim. Each is a statute and has its own laws pertaining to it. There is another great event which takes place during the days of Unleavened Bread which is the determining factor as to which month will be the month of Abib. Lev. 23:9-14:

“And the Lord/Yehovah spoke to Moses, saying, speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: `When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the Firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. He shall wave the sheaf before the Lord/Yehovah, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the Lord/Yehovah. Its grain offering, two-tenths of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the Lord/Yehovah, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering of wine, one-fourth of a hin. You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God/Elohim; it is a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.”

The symbolism depicted in these verses is truly awesome and eye opening and the instruction here is clear and crisp as well.

The Wave Sheaf was to be offered during the days of Unleavened Bread. It was an offering of acceptance on our behalf. It started the count to the feast of the Firstfruits, Pentecost, or Weeks; the end of the first harvest as verses 15-17 teach us. The entire continuance of the Plan of Salvation after the Passover depends on the wave sheaf offering which falls during Unleavened Bread. This Wave Sheaf, or the **first of the Firstfruits** of the barley harvest, is the focus of the month of Abib. What if there was no sheaf of the barley to wave? What if the sheaf was unacceptable for one reason or another? What if the sheaf was not mature enough to be ground into flour? What if someone attempted to use “Goat Grass;” anemic barley which grows on stone strewn soils and hillsides? What if there was no barley period?

This Abib, or physiologically mature barley which is able to reproduce itself and be ground into flour, is so important to the symbolism of Gods/Elohim Plan of Salvation that Israel could not eat of any of that harvest in any way, shape or form as verse 14 told us, until the sheaf was waved on the day after the weekly Sabbath which fell during the 7 days of Unleavened Bread. By the way, the day after the Sabbath is the first day of the week, which we call Sunday. It will always fall during the seven days of Unleavened Bread. It will never fall outside of them, as God/Elohim insured, by making it happen on Sunday, the day after the Sabbath. Would God/Elohim leave such an important event to chance? Not on our lives or for that matter on Jesus Christ’s/Messiah’s either. The NT or Second Covenant scriptures clearly tell us that is the same sequence of His death, resurrection, and acceptance to the Father. He died on a Wednesday afternoon, was in the grave for 3 days and 3 nights (which was the only sign given to an adulterous and evil generation who required a sign as to His being the Messiah) and was then accepted by God/Elohim the Father on our behalf, on the Sunday which fell during the Days of Unleavened Bread. He was symbolic of the first mature barley which could

reproduce itself. That is why the first month of the year in which these great events take place was called the month of Abib and not the day (first) of Abib. God/Elohim has given us an absolutely clear way to determine it and thus guarantees that Abib falls exactly as He intended it to.

At the end of the 12th month, and before the new crescent was to be seen, the Levites would have gone out in their district fields, all over the country, to inspect the maturity of the barley crop. They would convey their observations prior to the end of the month to the priests in Jerusalem. If the heads had semi hard grain in them at that time it was a no brainer, as the saying goes. If not, they would use their experience in such things to determine if it would be in a state of aviv/abib prior to the wave sheaf day. If this was the case, the high priest would proclaim the imminent new moon as the first month of the year, the month of Abib. If the barley stalks were not in a state of abib at the end of the 12th month, the high priest would know a thirteenth lunar month would have to be added to allow the grain to mature so that the grain could be used according to the law of the statute of God/Elohim by bringing the lunar year into sync with the agricultural harvests in the Land.

So, there would be no mistake as to when the barley could be acceptable God/Elohim clearly defines minimum standards for this determination. If the growing barley did not meet these criteria, it could not be used as the wave sheaf. We find this qualifying statement in Lev. 2:14. Here we will see the minimal acceptable state of the grain which can be used for a Firstfruit offering.

“If you offer a grain offering of your Firstfruits to the Lord/Yehovah, you shall offer for the grain offering of your Firstfruits green heads of grain roasted on the fire, grain beaten from full heads.”

“Green heads” here, is the Hebrew word Abib. Only grain which was able to yield kernels could be used to be ground into flour. Not only that, the kernels had to be beaten from the full heads. The symbolism of Christ/Messiah being our beaten Firstfruit, our Wave Sheaf of acceptance to God/Elohim the Father, is beyond denial to any who are called of the Father. Remember the lamb was not to have any blemish on it.

Christ/Messiah incorporated both the blood of the lamb sacrifice and the beaten grain offering for us to be acceptable to the Father. Please do not ever lose sight of this. **Shed blood for forgiveness and Severe beating for acceptance. He did it all in one. He is our Passover Lamb and our Wave Sheaf.**

Notice the grain could be roasted to dry it out to speed the process up of having grindable kernels. This applies to all Firstfruit offerings of grain. There is no exception. The barley harvest continued throughout the various altitudes of Israel until Pentecost at which time the wheat harvest would commence.

Let’s study this a little more closely.

Lev 2:14. from the J.P.Green Interlinear Bible:

“And if you bring near a food offering of firstfruits to Jehovah, fresh ears roasted with fire, kernels from a garden, you shall bring near your firstfruits for a food offering.”

Now the NKJ:

“If you offer a grain offering of your firstfruits to the Lord/Yehovah, you shall offer for the grain offering of your firstfruits green heads (abib) of grain, roasted on the fire, grain beaten from full heads.”

Here brethren we are instructed as to what is the minimum stage of maturity to be an acceptable firstfruits grain offering. We are taught here the grain must be Abib. As well, we are instructed that the Abib heads of grain will have kernels that can be husked (geres). That means the kernel must have substance to it, in fact; enough substance so that it can be dried by roasting it in fire to make it hard enough to grind into flour. That is why the NKJ translation says, “grain beaten from full heads” and the J.P.Green says, “of kernels” for they are expressing the same thing in the use of the Hebrew “geres.” It is #1643 and Strong’s says of it, “from an unused root meaning to husk; a kernel (collection), i.e.; grain: beaten corn (old English for grain etc).”

The BDB says of it:

“a crushing, but only concretely of that which is crushed, groats, ...”

These abib heads of grain need to be able to be crushed or ground to produce flour. In order to do this they need to be hard kernels. God/Elohim says it is acceptable to help that hardening process by roasting the heads in fire to reach the necessary degree of dryness to be crushable. We will see later that there is a very specific time in the growth of the barley, where it is physiologically mature, but, still contains too much moisture to allow it to be ground into fine flour. This minimal standard is called, “the threshold of Abib.” Prior to this state of maturity, we cannot proclaim the barley to be abib/aviv.

At the end of the twelfth month; a decision was made by witnessing a clearly observable and visible sign, as to whether the first of the year started or whether an extra month was to be added.

We read about that earlier in Deut. 16. Let’s read verses 8-10 to see this sequence of events that start during the days of Unleavened Bread.

“Six days you shall eat unleavened (bread), and on the seventh day there shall be a sacred assembly to the Lord/Yehovah your God/Elohim. You shall do no work on it. You shall count seven weeks for yourself; begin to count the seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the grain. Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the Lord/Yehovah your God/Elohim with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the Lord/Yehovah your God/Elohim blesses you.”

This harvest started with the acceptance of the wave sheaf offering on the Sunday during the days of Unleavened Bread. It continued for seven weeks or 49 days until seven Sabbaths had been completed and thus the next day is the Feast of Firstfruits (of wheat) or as we commonly call it, Pentecost (50; in actuality, a Jubilee) or as it is more accurately called the Feast of Weeks. At the end of the 12th lunar month the barley was to be examined to see if it would be abib/aviv by the middle of the next month. This is a simple process. We have conducted this function for the past 16 years in the land of Israel.

Barley can have a head on it but not be in a state of abib/aviv. There are several stages it goes through as the heads develop. It is the head which holds the grain. These heads have many kernels in them.

At first, the kernel contains a fuzzy substance not unlike cotton to look at. It then develops into a stage which has a more solid substance, but is mostly water. If you squeeze the shell a white substance will come out of the thin end of the shell.

Both of these stages; are unacceptable to use in declaring the start of the year. Neither one of them meets the minimum requirement of a firstfruit offering of grain as found in Lev. 2:14. If you were to roast them 15 days later which would be the middle of the first month they would not be sufficiently mature enough to be capable of being ground into flour. (There is one exception; if you use anemic Goat Grass found in the central Jordon Valley. It has a very short life span for it grows in rocky soils which are not agricultural soils but used to feed the sheep and goat herds which migrate from the low areas up in a northerly direction during the year. These die rapidly for lack of moisture and sufficient nutrients in the soil, which is a very basic agricultural principle. Many have never known such things or have lost sight of them.)

The next stage is the dough stage. It is during this stage that the barley is at its minimum condition of acceptance. It is called semi-hard dough.

This is the minimal acceptable stage of maturity at the end of the 12th month that the new year can be declared. During this stage of development, the seed of grain inside the shell is completely formed as to its length and is filling out with starches. When out of the shell it appears to have a wax coating. It is during this part of its growth that it becomes physiologically mature. It is stage 8 sub-stages 5 through 9 as found in Zadoks Two Digit Code System for the growth stages of barley.

This is what is searched for at the end of the 12th lunar month in Israel. The grain in this stage is the grain which will be harvestable by the middle of the month for use as the wave sheaf before God/Elohim. The 15th of the first month is the earliest day that the wave sheaf can take place on. It can extend up to the 21st day if it happens to fall on a Sunday on the last day of UB. It is always a welcomed event to actually find the barley

kernels in a “nail hardened” state at the end of the 12 Lunar month, but that is not always the case, thus a need for this knowledge we are speaking about.

Table 1. Condensed summary of the Zadoks two-digit code system for growth staging in barley.

<u>Zadoks Code</u>			<u>Zadoks Code</u>		
Principal Stage	Secondary Stage	Description	Principal Stage	Secondary Stage	Description
0		Germination		7	Flag leaf sheath opening
	0	Dry kernel		9	First awns visible
	1	Start of imbibition (water absorption)	5		Head emergence
	5	Radicle emerged		1	First spikelet of head just visible
	7	Coleoptile emerged		3	One-fourth of head emerged
	9	Leaf just at coleoptile tip		5	One-half of head emerged
1		Seedling development		7	Three-fourths of head emerged
	0	First Leaf through coleoptile		9	Head emergence complete
	1	First leaf at least 50% emerged	6		Flowering (not readily visible in barley)
	2	Second leaf at least 50% emerged		1	Beginning of flowering
	3	Third leaf at 50% emerged		5	Half of florets have flowered
	4	Fourth leaf at least 50% emerged		9	Flowering complete
	5	Fifth leaf at least 50% emerged	7		Milk development in kernel
2		Tillering		1	Kernel watery ripe
	0	Main shoot only		3	Early milk
	1	Main shoot plus 1 tiller visible		5	Medium milk
	2	Main shoot plus 2 tillers		7	Late milk
	3	Main shoot plus 3 tillers	8		Dough development in kernel
	4	Main shoot plus 4 tillers		3	Early dough
	5	Main shoot plus 5 tillers		5	Soft dough (approx. 20 days to aviv)
3		Stem elongation		7	Hard dough, head losing green color
	1	First node detectable		9	Approx. physiological maturity
	2	Second node detectable	9		Ripening
	3	Third node detectable		1	Kernel hard (difficult to divide)

		<i>Kernel cannot be dented by nail</i>
7	<i>Flag leaf just visible</i>	
9	<i>Flag leaf collar just visible</i>	
4	Boot	
1	<i>Flag leaf sheath extending</i>	
3	<i>Boot just beginning to swell</i>	
5	<i>Boot swollen</i>	

That brethren is the simple and clear instruction from God/Elohim, from the pages of the Bible; all of it, not just one covenant scriptures and certainly not just five books of the first as to how we keep Their “appointed times” on Their day. Many scoffers abound these days as to the promise of His coming as Peter tells us. He says this would be the norm in the last days. They flock to their teachers of “Jewish Fables” and the deceits of modern Christianity.”

Israel was not to leave the Promised Land to pursue anything. Once outside the Land regardless of the reason, they would lose the tools of God/Elohim they needed to be able to determine the “appointed times.”

Scripture can’t be any clearer as to the location of all of this; the Land of Israel. Today the paganized world calls it Palestine to thumb their nose at God/Elohim.

Israel; the ten northern tribes, were taken into captivity by Assyria as a punishment from God/Elohim. They were dispersed to the northeast of Israel and then migrated across Europe and then to North America, Australia, New Zealand, and many other places. They lost their identity, but in the Kingdom, those who remain after the tribulation will be brought back by Christ/Messiah to the Promised Land and learn all about what they had lost due to their adulterous behavior towards God/Elohim. This was not the case for “Treacherous” Judah (which includes the tribe of Benjamin as well). She too practiced the same filthy behavior of Israel, but was never divorced by Yehovah. You can read about all of this in Jeremiah 3:1-11. However, she was taken captive by Babylon many years later as a punishment for the same lude acts, but a remnant was returned to the Promised Land many years later. The captives could be “fairly” accurate in their observances of the new moons from the land of Babylon, but the loss of the ability to observe the barley growing in Israel was another story. But being as treacherous as she was, those who did not return incorporated the Babylonian method for the start of the year using the “magic” unseen “seasonal” moments of the sun called equinoxes and solstices and don’t forget the 19-year cycle. In time, they corrupted their wannabee brothers in the Promised Land to their pagan methods. What we see today in their calendar doctrines is nothing short of “**treachery**” once again.

Over time those who became known as the Pharisees and Scribes accepted this form of intercalation into their traditions. These folks had this as one of their traditions at the time of Christ/Messiah but did not have control of the Temple or any authority to enforce it. They could not openly declare their methodology until after 70 A.D. when the Temple was destroyed. It was shortly after this that the Rabbi’s started integrating their closed-door proclamation of the calendar; for the priests, had been scattered with the destruction of the Temple in the ensuing chaos. It was during those subsequent times that the Rabbi’s started adding all kinds of bizarre things to their calendar.

It is also important to note that at the time of Christ/Messiah there were 3 calendars in play in Judea. The first was that of the Romans. It is often referred to as the Julian calendar and it has gone under a transformation to what we call the Gregorian Calendar today.

The second was that used by the priests. It was the one Israel had used from the beginning as to new moons and abib/aviv. It is the same one I have addressed in this study. All observation!

The third was the civil calendar. This was the one promoted by the Pharisees, Scribes, and Royalty of the region. All civil functions were set by it. It was used to record birth dates, deaths, ordinations of royalty, etc. This calendar started in the seventh month of the year, *Tishri*. In time those who became the leaders of Rabbinical Judaism would promote this calendar as the more appropriate calendar, subordinating the one true Calendar of God/Elohim to it. They have also done the same with their Mishnaic traditions, subordinating the Word of God/Elohim to them. The patterns and facts are very clear.

The Bible instructs us that it was a curse to Israel and Judah, to be taken from the Promised Land. Israel was tied to the land for everything and most importantly for their relationship to God/Elohim. Jerusalem is the focal point of God/Elohim on this earth; not Rome. It was here that we found Abraham giving tithes to God/Elohim. It was here we saw the Temple built and destroyed twice. It was here that we saw Christ/Messiah teach the many. It was also from here that the new moons and the month of Abib were proclaimed. It was here that the pilgrimage festivals took place. It was that way when Christ/Messiah walked the earth as a man, the begotten son of the Father. The Bible also tells us it will be that way in the future. I encourage everyone to read Ezekiel 44- 46. They talk of the time when Christ/Messiah will dwell in Jerusalem after His return. They tell us Gods/Elohim laws and statutes are kept faithfully by the inhabitants of the land. We see that burnt offerings will once again be conducted, along with the observation of the new moons. Ezekiel 46:1 tells us where this will be done.

“Thus, says the Lord/Adonay God/Yehovih: The gateway of the inner court that faces toward the east shall be shut the six working days; but on the Sabbath, it shall be opened, and on the day of the New Moon it shall be opened.”

Many prophecies speak of the same thing. But why the east gate? Because they will look up over the Temple and into the western sky and they will observe the new crescent as it appears over the city.

No brethren, Christ/Messiah has not changed. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

In summing up the tools we have been given to determine the “appointed times” of God/Elohim, we see we are to use the light of the sun for determining a day. We are to use the sunset to start a 24-hour day. We are to use the first light; or rebuilding light, of the moon to determine a month starting, and the count to Their “appointed times” or Festivals. We are to use the lunar cycle, not the solar, in all aspects dealing with the “appointed times,” except for the start and duration of a day. We have also seen that the first month of the year is in the spring or March/April time period of the Northern hemisphere, at the time of the Abib, the month when the barley is ready to be used as the wave sheaf offering during the first month of the year. So how do we, and others use these tools to determine the “appointed times of meeting” with our God/Elohim?

First of all, we use the region of Jerusalem as the calendar dateline, not some creation of men running zig zag through the Pacific Ocean.

When the new moon is first visible to the naked eye in the region of Jerusalem on the 29th day, we start the first of the month. If not visible that night after sunset, it automatically starts at the end of the 30th day.

When the barley, which grows wild all over the 3 main agricultural regions, is in a state of abib/aviv, we declare the start of the new year at the upcoming crescent. If it happens at the end of the 12th month then it is a regular/normal 12 lunar month year. If an extra month needs to be added, then it is a leap year.

Many ask how do you know when the new moon is visible there and when the barley is in a state of abib, for you live in western New York. That's a good question and I will answer it shortly, but first listen to what Daniel has to tell us about our time. Dan. 12:4:

"But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

There is no doubt that many run to and fro. There are very few barriers to travel today. We can travel anywhere on earth in just a few days. The skies and roadways are absolutely full of people running to and fro. As for knowledge increasing, just look at the last one hundred years. The technological advancements are actually staggering in such a short period of time. Just look at the advent of the internet any human being who has access to a computer and who is on-line has the sum total of human knowledge and experience at his fingertips. There are no more barriers to knowledge increasing.

With that in mind read what God/Elohim tells Daniel farther on down in the twelfth chapter. Verses 9-10: "And he said, Go Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise (called of the Father) shall understand."

No, we do not live in Jerusalem, but we have my Bible, our eyes, and the technology of man available to us, to assist us in worshiping God/Elohim, as They declare it should be done. Above all that, we have Their holy spirit dwelling in us which leads us to discern right from wrong.

I was a carpenter by trade. At least I was for many years until I entered the owner management end of the business. I used to wear my tool belt whenever I worked. In that belt I had a hammer, a square, a tape measure, a utility knife, a chalk line, a pencil, nails, and other various things I needed for completing a task. I didn't attempt to measure something with my hammer or attempt to pound a nail with my tape measure. I was taught to use each tool for the purpose it was designed to be used for. When used properly you could complete a project in a timely fashion and have a quality product.

That is what we are to do with the tools we have at our disposal today, to grow in favor, acceptance and knowledge, and help build up the body of Christ/Messiah.

Some of the tools we use to determine when a new moon will be visible, are several algorithms of which one can be downloaded from this site. Abibofgod.com. It is very accurate. Bruce Armstrong put it together many years ago. It will tell you which nights the crescent can appear in Jerusalem.

Another tool we use is the people who put together the websites for reporting new moons in Israel. One is the Israeli New Moon Society. They have observers stationed throughout most regions of Israel and they watch for the new moon crescent each month. There are other sites which report on observations from Israel as well.

We also travel to Israel to inspect the state of maturity of the barley at the end of the 12th lunar month.

There are others who also report sightings and conduct barley inspections but all do not use, nor share, the same criteria and Biblical understanding as we do.

We have been asked what happens when it is cloudy on the night the new moon is to appear?

If it will not be visible in Israel but visible here where we live; we do not keep that as the first day of the month. There are times when you can see the new moon on this continent before you can in Jerusalem. We remind, as well as caution everyone, that Jerusalem is Gods/Elohim calendar focus. It always has been and always will be.

Deuteronomy 11:11-12;

"But the land which you cross over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water from the rain of heaven. And for which the Lord/Yehovah your God/Elohim cares; **the eyes of the Lord/Yehovah your God/Elohim are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year.**"

Isaiah 2:3;

“Many people will come and say, come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord/Yehovah, to the house of the God/Elohim of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the law and the word of the Lord/Yehovah from Jerusalem.

Zechariah 3:2;

“And the Lord/Yehovah said to Satan, the Lord/Yehovah rebuke you, Satan! The Lord/Yehovah who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?”

Zechariah 8:3;

“Thus, says the Lord/Yehovah: I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, the Mountain of the Lord/Yehovah of Hosts, The Holy Mountain.”

It is important to take the time to observe the New Moons each month. In doing so it becomes a habit and one can then understand the pattern which is set in place. The New Moon is not a holy day as some teach. You find this nowhere in the Bible. It was a day in which special offerings were given and we see David and Saul would have a special meal. The only time that the New Moon falls on a holy day is the first of *Tishri* or the Feast of Trumpets.

We need to get in sync with the method God/Elohim requires of us to determine Their “appointed times.” It is a very simple process. We are not to rely on, or incorporate the errors of the sects of Judaism’s apostate calendar’s, or for that matter, Roman Christianity’s into our calendar doctrine or much else for that matter. Jesus Christ/Messiah is the same yesterday (First Covenant), today (Second Covenant), and forever (the Kingdom), and no, He has not left nor forsaken us. He has given us gifts individually, to help us edify the body in love. And yes, we are to love (have outgoing concern) for one another.

John 13:34-35 states:

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

This is not the fuzzy, feely, touchy love of the worlds satanically influenced religions. It is the hard work described by Christ/Messiah, Himself. Yes, we are all brethren, all members of one body, with one Head, and that is Christ/Messiah if we are called of the Father and baptized into it. (I Cor 12:12-13) We take direction from Him, not from another part of the body. We’re all to do our part to make the body whole and healthy as we are placed in it. If your teacher tells you there is no direct reference to Gods/Elohim Calendar in the Bible, he is wrong. I have tried to present the Word of God/Elohim to you as simply and concisely as I can. We learn by following the truth, the patterns Christ/Messiah has left in His Bible. Yes; here a little, there a little, and line upon line, precept upon precept, for Christ/Messiah is the same yesterday, today, and forever. As we stated earlier, I think it is necessary to clear up some gross errors that teachers of the calendar put forth as truth today.

I personally got so tired of hearing about the “Sacred Calendar” and how the “Jews” have preserved it, that I decided to go to them and see what they had to say on the subject; for what I was being taught at the time was not what the Bible said. The Encyclopedia Judaica is an 18-volume set of books which is crammed with as much Jewish history as pride and research about one’s own people and ways would allow. Rather than listen to deceived men try to rationalize and justify their following Rabbinical Judaism and not the instructions in the Bible, I purchased these books to read and understand what they proudly had to say. Either my former teachers were just blatantly deceived or they were lying, for the Jews contradict the majority of what my past teachers taught about the calendar they use.

In Volume 5 pages 43-53 a very thorough account is given of what the history books tell us about what was taught by the Jews and when. Following are excerpts and my comments added.

“The present Jewish calendar is lunisolar; the months being reckoned according to the moon and the years according to the sun. A month is the period of time between one conjunction of the moon with the sun and the next. The conjunction of the moon with the sun is the point in time at which the moon is directly between the earth and sun but not on the same plane and is thus invisible. (No light from either in that method. No visibility, no visible sign.) This is known as the molad (‘birth’ . . .) The mean synodic month (or lunation) is 29 days, 12 hours, 44 minutes, and 3 1/3 seconds (739 parts (*halakim*); in the Jewish system, the hour is divided into 1,080 parts each of which is 3 1/3 seconds). The solar year is 365 days, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds, which means that a solar year exceeds a lunar one (12 months) by about 11 days. The cycles of 12 lunar months must therefore be adjusted to the solar year, because although the Jewish festivals (not those of the Lord/Yehovah) are fixed according to dates in months, they must also be in specific (agricultural) seasons of the year which depend on the tropical solar year. Without any adjustments, the festivals would “wander” through the seasons and the “spring” festival (Passover), for example, would be celebrated eventually in winter, and later in summer. The required adjustment is realized by the addition of an extra month (Adar II) in each of seven out of the 19 years that constitute the small (or lunar) cycle of the moon (*mahazor katan*.or *mahazor ha-levanah*). In 19 years, the solar cycle exceeds the lunar by about 209 days, which are approximately 7 months. (Now listen to this.) In temple times (that includes the time of Christ/Messiah and the early years of the Church) this intercalation was decided upon in the individual years according to agricultural conditions (Tosef., Sanh. 2:2; Sanh.11b); [Just as God commands] later, however, it was fixed to be in the years 3, 6, 8, 11, 14, 17 and 19 of the cycle. . .”

Now I hope that comes across loud and clear. Many organizations and individual teachers today teach a big lie in this regard to justify their authority. They tell us that the 19-year cycle and method of intercalation of months has always been used and preserved by the Jews and that is why they call it the “Sacred Calendar.” Well, there is nothing “**sacred**” about the Rabbinical Calendar, and in fact, the Jews call my former teachers, liars. Not only was their calendar not used since the beginning, and not during the time of Christ/Messiah, but not even until centuries later did it become the predominant calendar to Jews. Listen to where it started.

Volume 8 page 486:

“Because of the serious condition of the communities of Erez Israel and the deterioration of the Galilean center, Hillel II agreed in principle to limit the authority of the Nasi and his functions in connection with the proclamation of the New Moon, the fixing of the festivals, and the intercalation of the year. He there upon published *sod ha-ibbur*, (‘the secret of intercalation’) and *kevi=uta de-yarha* (‘the fixing of the new month’). According to tradition mentioned by *hai gaon* and quoted in the *sefer ha-ibbur* of Abraham *bar hiyya* (ed. by H.Filipowski (1851), 97) this took place in 358 C.E. (A.D.) Important too is the testimony of Nahmanides in the *sefer ha-zakkut* (Git., Ch. 4, Leghorn (1745), 439); from the time of Hillel. . . in the year 670 of the *seleucid* era, 4118 A.M. [358 C.E.] (A.D.), the Sanhedrin in Erez Israel ceased and it ceased to have experts (elites), and it was he who regulated the order of intercalation, reckoned the years, and fixed the months for generations to come. (No observation there, and certainly no proclaiming from year to year.) Some regarded the year 344 as that in which the new calendar was introduced, and it is possible that it was not immediately publicized to the same degree in all localities. (Mayler). The opinion has been expressed that Hillel II was not the original creator of the fixed calendar but that it was the result of centuries of development which aimed at achieving a perfect system of fixing the calendar.”

Are we getting the picture about the “sacred calendar”? Many still teach its authenticity and authority, as that of God/Elohim. There is nothing **sacred** about the Rabbinical Calendar. It is an instrument used to change times and seasons and God/Elohim condemns that. But the Rabbis didn’t stop here. Let’s look at how else they tampered with the instructions God/Elohim gave us so that their traditions took priority over what day God’s/Elohim “appointed times” fell on.

It is truly unfortunate that many, if not most of those called of the Father, are ignorant of these things. This is the result of “hiring” someone else with Gods/Elohim tithe money to do our “proving all things” for us. By the way, we do not accept money for our freely received understandings from God/Elohim and the functions we undertake based on them for we have been blessed so we are able to provide for such things from our own livelihood. Let’s all wake up and do our part as we are placed in the body. We all have something to offer to ourselves and to others.

I personally was cut to the heart years ago, when I began to understand what I had done as to the errors I had undertaken, when I read the following scriptures and understood their relevance.

Heb. 5:12-14:

“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need to be taught again the first principles of the scriptures of God/Elohim; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

We cannot be lazy and pay another to do what we are expected to do ourselves in our one on one relationship with Christ/Messiah.

Let’s continue in Volume 5 page 44 now to see the commandments of God/Elohim rejected for the traditions of elders.

“Fixing Rosh Ha-Shanah (New Year’s Day). (They don’t even call it by its Biblical name of; Feasts of Trumpets) The year begins on *Tishri* 1 (that is the 7th month which is contrary to God’s/Elohim command), which is rarely the day of the molad (They don’t even keep it by their own calculations, and see why), **as there are four obstacles or considerations**, (imagine that! Certainly, not from God/Elohim) called *dehiyyot*, in fixing the first day of the month (rosh hodesh). Each *dehiyyah* differs Rosh Ha-Shanah by a day, and combined *dehiyyot* may cause a postponement of two days: 1) mainly in order to prevent the day of Atonement (*Tishri* 10) from falling on Friday or Sunday, (that is because they didn’t want to have the fast day side by side with the Sabbath because in either case they could not prepare food. This was considered a hardship imposed on them by following the “time” God/Elohim declared as His “appointed times” so they change the method of determination so that this hardship does not affect them) and Hoshana Rabba (the seventh day of Sukkot; *Tishri* 21) from falling on Saturday (that is the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles and they had and have a tradition, Hoshana Raba, of dismantling their booths on that day. If it fell on the Sabbath they would not be able to do so and thus not able to keep their tradition, so they rigged the calendar to allow themselves to do so, and by the way, they still do), but in part also serving an astronomical purpose (of which none is of God/Elohim). Rosh HaShanah never falls on Sunday, Wednesday, or Friday. . . (Because of their traditions, they reject the commandments of God/Elohim and keep their own feast days.) 2) Entirely for an astronomical reason, if the molad is at noon or later, Rosh HaShanah is delayed by one day or, if this would cause it to fall as above, two days. These two *dehiyyot*, owing to the mentioned limits on the number of days in the year, entail another two. 3) The third *dehiyyah* is as follows: If the molad in an ‘ordinary’ (not leap) year falls at the third day (Tuesday), at 9 hours, 204 *halakim*, that is, 3:11 a.m. and 20 seconds -- Rosh Ha-Shanah is put off two days. A postponement to Wednesday is not permitted (as in 1), so that it is deferred to Thursday. The object is as follows: if the molad of *tishri* occurs at that hour, the outcome would be a year which is one day too long.”

I think that's enough. The explanation of these postponements goes on to include the fourth *dehiyyah* and it gets even more bizarre or may I say Pharisaical. I took the time to quote these rules of postponement so you could hear from the Rabbi's themselves what they are all about. They have absolutely no authority in the Bible, but they do in the Mishnaic and Talmudic teachings. Neither these postponements, or a 19-year cycle were in use at the time of Christ/Messiah walking the earth. The "Jews" or those who teach Rabbinical Judaism tell us that themselves; yet many teachers of the organizations of men including most of the COG's proclaim otherwise. To follow the Rabbinical Calendar, when you know of its errors, is to sin against God/Elohim; for we are breaking Their command to keep Their "appointed times" **on and in** Their specific day/24-hour time period from sunset to sunset, and substituting them for traditions of the elders or some other ridiculous approach.

Let's look at one more thing from the Encyclopedia Judaica as it sums up some calendar thoughts, in Volume 5 page 50.

"Development of the present order of intercalation. There is, on the other hand, unimpeachable evidence from the works of writers with expert knowledge of the calendar that the present *ordo intercalationis* and epochal *molad* were not yet intrinsic parts of the calendar of Hillel II (once again not during Christ's/Messiah's time), these being seen still side by side with other styles of the *ordo intercalationis* and the *molad* as late as the 11th century. Also, the four *dehiyyot* developed gradually. The *dehiyyah* as has been shown, grew out of the *dehiyyah*. (One good error deserves another in trying to fix the first one.) The general acceptance of the *dehiyyah* in the sense of 18 h., instead of 18 h. 642 p., as advocated by *Saadia Gaon's antagonist *Aaron B. Meir in their controversy, is not earlier than the tenth century. These are likely to have affected the remaining two *dehiyyot* . . . By the tenth century the Jewish calendar was exactly the same as today. A slight variation still prevails, between Israel and the Diaspora, in respect of the 'secondary' days of the festivals which lead in some years to fairly substantial differences in respect of the lectionary."

May I ask: is it any wonder why Christ/Messiah said to them in Mark 7: 6-9:

". . . Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: `This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God/Elohim, you hold the tradition of men. He said to them, all too well you reject the commandment of God/Elohim, that you may keep your tradition."

No, we do not follow the clear errors of Rabbinical Judaism. If you are doing so, repent of it! Many today, who are starting to understand these things are being snatched up by the author of confusion and diverted to the teachings of men once again.

The Bible is our handbook to Salvation. It is the faith once delivered. Everything we need, to be successful, is in there. We just need to learn how to use it. No one else can do it for us.

There are many running around today declaring a lunar/solar calendar. They follow the Rabbis in declaring the conjunction as the new moon. The time of total darkness of the lesser great light. We call that the NO MOON. No light shining on the earth with that method for us to see with our own eyes. Because they cannot see the conjunction, it needs to be calculated as the Rabbis do. That is not the pattern God/Elohim set in place at the beginning of creation.

Many today also stumble when they try to tie it into the sun for more than determining a day. They tell us we must set the month of Abib by the spring equinox which takes place 2,000 miles south of the Promised Land, instead of by the method of observing the barley heads that God/Elohim commands and in the place on earth in which He focuses from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year. We ask you, where in the Bible

is there one instance, one allusion of that happening? There are none, not one! Psalm 104:19 can't be any clearer.

God/Elohim does not want us using the equinox to determine the first month of the year. Many of these teachers invoke the Hebrew word *tekufah*. It means turning or circuit, as in a revolution or a lapse of time, with the focus on the end.

Strong's say of it:

"#8622: *tequphah*; from #5362; a revolution, i.e. (Of the sun) course, (of time) lapse: circuit, come about, end."

Its root word #5362 is *naqaph* and Strong's says of it: "a prime root; to strike with more or less violence (beat, fell, corrode); by implication (of attack) to knock together, i.e. surround or circulate: compass (about, -ing), cut down, destroy, go around (about), in close, round."

So, we can see the word *tequphah* means; turning, as in surrounding, as in a revolution or round about in one application. In another, it is used as a lapse of time with emphasis on the end of it. That is exactly the way it is used in Ex. 34:22, that is the latter use, as an end of a lapse of time.

"and you shall observe the feast of weeks of the Firstfruits of the wheat harvest, and the feast of Ingathering at the year's end (*tequphah*)." The feast of Ingathering is conducted during the 7th month of the year.

The Interlinear Bible translates it:

". . . also, the feast of ingathering at the turn of the year."

The "*tequphah* of the year." So, what does this mean? Does this mean that there is a scriptural basis for using the equinox to determine the first month or for that matter any others?

Not a chance brethren. That goes against the entire pattern we have just read from the clearly defined word of God/Elohim. **When looking at the *tequphah* of anything we must look at what the context is, as well as, the word or words it is used in association with to determine in which sense *tequphah* applies.** That won't be hard for anyone to do, for it is only used a handful of times in the Bible.

Here in Ex. 34:22, it is used in context with the **harvest feast** and more specifically with the year, "turn of the year" or "end of the year." One translator chooses to use "turn" and the other "end." Are both, right? No, they are not! One is specific to turning or revolution; and the other is specific to a lapse of time, or the end of a lapse of time. The Bible will clearly tell us which one.

We studied the Hebrew word used here for "year" earlier in Gen. 1:14. We saw that the scriptures of God/Elohim say the moon (Psalms 104:19), and thus the lunar year, are to be used to determine the "appointed times" or *moed*. The Bible could not be any clearer as to this point and pattern. That is what we use to determine the start of God's/Elohim year; and for that matter, the end of it as well. It is the lunar cycle, the lunar year.

We emphasized the point that we are to let the Word of God/Elohim interpret itself, and not the word of man. Remember what Isaiah told us and warned us about in Isa. 28:10-11.

"For precept, must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little. For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people."

Yes, God/Elohim teaches us by using patterns, trails left by Christ/Messiah throughout the Bible to follow.

So, what year are we talking about here in Ex. 34:22?

We see that Gods/Elohim Calendar year starts in the (spring), March/April time frame and the light of the moon was used to determine the festivals of God/Elohim, both their month and specific day. We also saw that these months and days are tied to several periods of agricultural harvests. This brethren, is where many stumble after Rabbinical Judaism again. The Rabbis' calendar is all mathematically based, with their traditions thrown in for good measure of error.

In order to give themselves an appearance of being biblical, they use the word *tequphah* now, as their word for “season.” This is in spite of the fact it wasn’t used that way in the O.T. scriptures. Let it be known that they did not start using it as such until after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 A.D. It suited their purpose in having dominion over their fellow Jews in calendar functions. We read earlier from their own history books that during Temple times, observation of both the new crescent and the barley were the two chief factors used in determining the start of the new year and thus months by the priests.

We also covered how the Rabbinical Calendar starts its new year in the fall at the start of the seventh month. This was done to tie together the festival calendar with their civil calendar which started at that time. They turned to Ex. 34:22 to support that erroneous doctrine of men. At the end of their year, in the month which houses the Feast of Ingathering (Tabernacles), they declare Tishri as the new year as being biblically sound, in spite of all the other scriptures to the contrary.

So, what year is God/Elohim talking about here in Ex. 34:22?

The simple explanation is found in Ex. 23:14-17; as well as many other places, which make it very clear. Let’s read it from the Interlinear:

“Three times in the year you shall make a feast to Me. You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, as I have commanded you, at the set times of the month of Abib. (That is both the end and the beginning of God’s/Elohim year in the time period of March/April.) For in it you came out of Egypt (sin), and they shall not appear before Me empty, also the Feast of Harvest, the Firstfruits of your labor, of what you sow in the field. Also, the Feast of Ingathering, at the end of the year, at your gathering your work from the field. Three times in the year every one of your males shall appear before the Lord Jehovah.”

Ex. 12:1-2 tells us the year starts and thus ends at Abib. God’s/Elohim year does not last seven months only until Tishri; but for twelve or thirteen lunar months. So, to say this is talking about the year God/Elohim uses for Their calendar would be absurd. So, what “end of the year” are we talking about here?

It is obvious it is talking about the end of the “harvest year.” The whole subject addressed here **surrounds** (*tequphah*’s) that; the three harvests: the early, middle and late. That is very clear and it fits into the pattern of the scriptures perfectly. This here is not talking about the lunar year or the solar year. To try and impose either of those to these scriptures as justification for following the equinox doctrine as the method for determining the setting of Abib or any other month is pure gibberish at best. However, it is that very thing that is used in part by the false religions of the world in determining their “appointed times” in a given year. The “years end” or “years *tequphah*” is clearly talking about the end of the period of time of the harvest. That is, the major harvests. It is nothing more and nothing less. There is no “secret knowledge” about these things as Gods/Elohim word clearly instructs us. Rabbinical Judaism chose this word to describe their four seasons, and tied it into their erroneous Calendar. The Encyclopedia Judaica has a lot to say about it. It tells us without any doubt that they, the Rabbis, tied it to the moon seen at the vernal equinoctial point, the summer solstitial point, the autumnal equinoctial point, and the winter solstitial point. Now when did they do this? Volume 5; 46-47 under the heading of *tequphah*:

“The mean length of the seasons, each exactly one quarter of the year, was reckoned by Mar Samuel (c. **165-254**, head of the academy at Nehardea in Babylon).”

When was this done? 165 through 254 A.D. That is a century or more after the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D.

This section goes on to describe all the mathematical means and human rationalization they used in such endeavors. But once again, they created other problems of confusion in doing such things. Listen to the next quote from page 47 under *tequphah*:

“If the average length of the solar year in the **present** Jewish calendar exceeds this by approx. 6 2/3 minutes, the discrepancy was left out of account as it was assumed that the cumulative effect would remain negligible over a long period at the end of which **the present system was expected to be replaced again by a system based on true values more akin to the earlier Jewish calendar in which new moons (days of phasis) and intercalations were proclaimed on the basis of both observation and calculation!**”

What a mess Rabbinical Judaism has made of the word of God/Elohim We do not use the invisible conjunction of the moon to start the new month. We as well, do not use the invisible equinox to start the new year. Neither of these are visible signs. However, there is one fellow who teaches that he can see the conjunction and the equinox with his naked eye when looking up into the sky. We all have to make choices brethren! To teach and believe that we are to use an astrological moment in time, which is also not visible with the naked eye in determining the new year, is as pagan and unscriptural as one can get. That is exactly what the Church at Rome does. That is what the Babylonians have done, and that is what some of the deceived teachers are doing. They actually claim it is from the bible. They use the art of astrology with its equinoxes, solstices, and 19-year time cycles to lead astray the called of the Father.

They tell us about the four seasons and how they are used in scripture to teach us to follow them in our keeping the appointed times of God/Elohim. These purveyors of the equinox/solstice theory error, are tied up in their own intellectual vanity.

Do you know there is not even a Hebrew word for “spring” in the Bible? The four divisions of the Gregorian calendar year are a foreign concept, superimposed on Israel by Europeans. Ancient Israel had only two seasons; winter and summer. Gen. 8:22 tells us after the flood:

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.”

Look at the contrasts here. Winter and summer are equated to cold and hot, and seedtime and harvest. God/Elohim also inserts day and night into the scripture. One is assigned to each. There is always an overlap of winter and summer at both ends. They do not instantly stop and start at an astrological moment in the sky. They are just like night and day. When the sun sets, its light can still be seen mixing with the darkness for a long overlap of time. The same takes place at sunrise. There is always an overlap.

Winter is the time of heavy rain in Israel. It is the time of cold and time for planting barley. Summer is the dry time in Israel, as well as the warm time, and the time of the grain harvests. **When Gen. 8:22 was given in the Torah, the concept of spring as occurring after the equinox was as unknown and irrelevant as the equinox itself.** God/Elohim has given us agricultural criteria which are affected by meteorological events, not by astrological occurrences to use with the light of the moon to determine the “appointed times.” There is no spring and autumn equinoxes in the instructions of God/Elohim as to anything Calendrical.

We do not follow the Babylonian art of astrology. We use the clearly visible signs God/Elohim has given us and has shown us how to use.

We do not ascribe to the teaching that we must use the first new moon after the spring equinox to start the new year.

The deceived teachers and followers of this error stress that if we don't, we will be keeping the festivals of the first month in the wrong season for it is still winter and not spring. They also teach that we will be keeping the festival of the 7th month “Tabernacles” in the summer and not in the fall. They fall flat on their faces in many years when the crops are already harvested when they keep their own appointed times.

We are so happy that God/Elohim does not play these mystical games with us. There are two seasons in Israel and they do overlap just as night and day do at their start and finish. The pattern is perfect, the answer is true!

Yes, the barley is influenced in its maturing and growth by meteorological things not an astrological moment in time.

We do not use the invisible things of astrology to determine the very special times of God/Elohim.

These teachers of astrology tell us it is okay to let the ripened barley sit in the field for many weeks until the first new moon after the vernal equinox; and then wait until the middle of that new month at the earliest to start the harvest. That means much of the harvestable grain would sit in the field, in all the elements for up to 6 weeks. This is absolutely absurd and shows us to what length they will go to try and push their deceptive, deluded teachings. Most of that barley would go to seed for it seeds itself, or it would be blown down, or develop mold, or be eaten by birds and animals, etc. Lev. 23 clearly tells us the harvest could not start until the day of the wave sheaf. That always coincides with the first barley being ripe to a harvestable maturity.

God/Elohim has made it so.

Deut. 16 tells us the harvest could take up to seven weeks, but also something else; “. . . from the time we put the sickle to the grain.”

These are not suggestions but commands and facts.

Exod. 22:29 tells us;

“You shall not delay to *offer* the first of your ripe produce and your juices. The firstborn of your sons you shall give to Me.”

This same law and teaching is taught in the New Testament scriptures as well. Mark 4:29:

“But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

No, we do not put off the harvest and thus the offering of the wave sheaf of the **first of the firstfruits** of the barley to follow Babylonian astrology, and we do not start the first month unless a real harvest is ready to start in 15 days. The Word of God/Elohim is very, very, clear as to how we are to determine Their appointed times of meeting. We use the light which shines on the earth from the sun and the moon for determining days, and months, and years, and also the maturity level of the barley which is the state of abib/aviv for the start of the new year.

During Temple times, which ended in 70 A.D., the priests had used the method instituted at creation for setting the new year, the Month of Abib and the “appointed times of meeting” or *moed*. After the destruction of the last Temple; Rabbinical Judaism’s influence grew. They instituted a method which used both observation and calculation until the time of Hillel II. From that time until the 11th century they used and experimented, and introduced, a pure calculated calendar with implementations of their traditions which caused *dehiyyah* or postponements. That calendar was fixed for the final time in c. 1176-78 and is the same one used today by Rabbinical Judaism and many of the “Churches of God.”

Yes, they have changed times and seasons. Not only does the Rabbinical Calendar miss the right day often, it also in some years misses the right month. It is truly unfortunate that we once followed that error of men.

But it is even more heart wrenching that most still do today. All the present calendar teachings of Rabbinical Judaism are confusing and misleading, and not found in the Word of God/Elohim.

These are times of confusion for the body of Christ/Messiah. The end of the age is upon us and we are to be preparing ourselves to be acceptable as a wife/eternal helpmate, to our Husband.

We are to be growing in His favor, acceptance and knowledge. That means; in the gifts He has given us and the knowledge how to use them. We are to yoke ourselves to Him. He is returning to choose His bride, the few from amongst the many. That is not a put down by God/Elohim, for They tell us in Prov. 31:29:

“Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all.”

Our Father called us for an awesome purpose. To be an eternal helpmate for His Son in His, the Patriarchs household. That will take a lot of work as we can read in Proverbs 31:10-31. That is the resume of Christ's/Messiah's wife.

We hope we have helped some who are searching for light and truth in an ever-increasing dark age. We do not deceive ourselves in thinking many will readily accept the truth of God/Elohim, but neither did our Brother when He said, "Many are called, but few are chosen." Love one another and use the gifts you have received to build up the body and not dumb it down.

Our peace we give to you.

Brian and Linda