

Scripture Standard

Volume 78-3
September 2011

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CLARIFYING HEBREW DATING - 1

I asked a rabbi a question about the Hebrew calendar. He advised me: "nothing is simple with the Jews." True - the Hebrew calendar is complex. For example the chart below illustrates how Hebrew months and Sabbatical years are counted from the 1st. day of the month Abib,¹ (also called Nisan).

But Jubilee years were from the start of the 10th. day (not the 1st. day) of the 7th. month to the start of the 10th. day, of the 7th. month of the following year.² Bear in mind that Hebrew days are from evening to evening,³ not midnight to midnight. But how could the Jubilee year be the 50th. year² when there were only 49 years from Jubilee to Jubilee?

¹Exodus 12:2 ²Leviticus 25:9-10 ³Genesis 1:5,8,13,19,22,31.

NOTE: We have sent a tube of charts on Hebrew dating

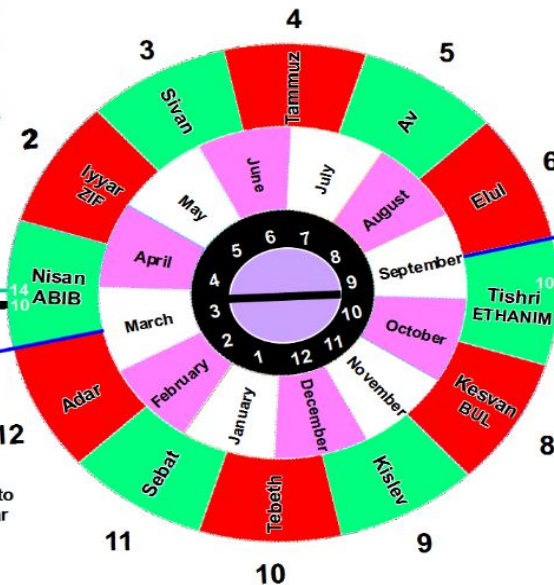
THE HEBREW - CALENDAR -

The Passover lamb was selected on the 10th. day of ABIB. The 14th was the LORD's Passover
Exodus 12:3,6,11



ABIB, also called Nisan, was the first month of the year
Exodus 12:2, 13:4

Every 7th year was to be a Sabbatical year
Leviticus 25:2-4,
Joshua 4:19
(in Abib, see 5:10).



The 1st. day of Tishri was the Feast of Trumpets
Leviticus 23:24

The 10th. day of Tishri was The Day of Atonement
Leviticus 23:27

Jubilees began on the 10th. day of Tishri each 49th Sabbatical year and were to be regarded as a 50th year
Leviticus 25:8-11

God's Other Book.

Derek L. Daniell - Tunbridge Wells

The people of Israel had sinned against God while Moses had been with Him for forty days on Mount Sinai. Aaron had listened to the people and made a golden calf that they were now worshipping with sacrifices. They were saying, "*These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.*" The Lord was so angry that he told Moses "*I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you*" (Exodus 32:1-10). Moses implored the Lord to relent and remember His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to give them the land He had promised (vs.11-14). Returning to the people Moses burnt the calf with fire and ground it into powder and scattered it on the water and made the people of Israel drink it (vs.15-20). Moses sent the Levites among the people and about 3000 were slain with the sword (v.29).

The next day Moses returned to the Lord to make atonement for the people. "*But now, if you will forgive their sin, but if not, please blot me out of **your book that you have written**. But the Lord said to Moses, 'Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of **my book**.'*"

God reassured Moses that he would lead the people to the promised land, but that he would visit the sins of the people with a plague (vs.30-35).

This is the first mention of **God's other book** However, in Psalm 69:28 David makes mention of those who had sinned against God, "*May they be blotted out of **the book of life**, and not be listed with the righteous*". *The Old Testament ends with a reference to a **book of remembrance** written of those who feared the Lord and honoured His name*" (Malachi 3:16-18).

Coming to the New Testament we read of the disciples of Jesus who were rejoicing at their successful mission for Him, but were told, *“do not rejoice in this ... but rejoice that your names are **written in heaven**”* (Luke 10:20). In Philippians 4:3 Paul makes mention of *“Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in **the book of life**.”* At the close of the New Testament there are further references to **God’s other book** in Revelation 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12,15; 21:27. Those who conquer in their faith will have their name in the book of life. Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life will enter into the heavenly home. In 2 Timothy 4:7-8 Paul wrote, *“**I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who love His appearing.**”* Jesus said, *“**be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life**”* (Revelation 2:10).

When **God’s other book, the book of life** is opened will your name be there?

“Thaddeus”

Jonathan Ashurst, Byron, GA.

By the time this is published, in my family, there will be rejoicing over the birth of a new child. My sister Monique will have had a baby boy, whom she and her husband John have decided to name Thaddeus.

In the New Testament, there was a follower of Jesus

named Thaddeus. Not much is said about him, but we do know that he followed Jesus faithfully as one of the twelve apostles. This apostle is referred to by several names, including Thaddeus, Lebbaeus, Jude, and Judas (not Iscariot). He is usually mentioned as a part of a list along with the other apostles:

Matthew 10:3 “...*Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus*”

Mark 3:18 “...*Thaddaeus*”

Luke 6:16 “...*Judas the son of James*”

John 14:22 “...*Judas (not Iscariot)*”

Acts 1:13 “...*Judas the son of James*”

The gospel of John does not list the apostles, but it does mention something Thaddaeus said. Jesus was speaking to the apostles in the upper room, a few hours before He was to be crucified. In the gospel of John chapter 14, verses 19-21, Jesus said:

“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. He who has my commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

At this point, Thaddeus, to whom John refers as “Judas (not Iscariot),” asks Jesus an important question:

“Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, 'Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?’”

I'm sure many of us have wondered the same question. After his resurrection from the dead, why didn't Jesus go

show himself to the world? Why did he only reveal himself to the apostles and disciples? He could have appeared to the unbelieving Roman authorities, or to the jealous Pharisees, or to the secular Sadducees. Why did he show himself only to those who believed in him?

Jesus answers the question in verses 23-24:

“Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.'”

God comes to those who love him. He does not force himself on anyone. He wants us to choose to love him. But if we refuse, then his word will judge us at the last day (John 12:48).

Jesus continues in John 14 verses 25-26:

“These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come to the apostles, instruct them, and remind them of what Jesus had taught them. After his resurrection, Jesus sent out his apostles, including Thaddeus, with the following commission (Matthew 28:18-20):

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the

nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

As he explained to Thaddaeus, Jesus chooses to reveal himself to those who love him and keep his word (John 14:23). He sends the Holy Spirit to those who commit their lives to him (Acts 2:38). In this way, he manifests himself to his followers, but not to the world.

Are you a faithful follower of Christ, as Thaddeus was?

Note:

Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version

If Jesus Was Black.

V.Sujatha, Stretford

Once somebody asked me *“How would you feel if you came to know Jesus was black?”* I said, It wouldn’t matter to me if he was black or white. I would still love him the way I do now. Does it really matter what colour he is? It did not matter to him. He died for you and me without thinking whether we are black or white. He died for all sinners (Romans 5:6-8) and all have sinned (Romans 3:23).

Whatever God gives is good. If He gives you white skin - it is good and if He gives you black skin - it is good. It is we, who have created difference amongst ourselves. Racism all over the world, treating our fellow brother wrongly just because his colour doesn’t match ours. We should be kind to one another as Christ is to us (Ephesians 4:32).

What if it was the other way round? Black people dominating the white, treating them as if they are nothing. How would we feel? Christ said *“Just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise”* (Luke 6:31).

What if Christ was black? Would it change the fact that he died for everyone? Would it change that he died for you? Would you not love him just as much as you love him now? We see what we want to see. If we see a black man as servant, we will treat him as a servant. If we see Christ in him, we will treat him as we would Christ (Matthew 25:40,45). We don't have to treat a black man as God but see him as a fellow human being, so that we can treat him like one. It is written *“you should love your neighbour as yourself”* (Luke 10:27), whether your neighbour is black or white.

A SUMMARY OF THE "TAKE HEED" SERIES

James Neil, Skelmersdale

There are still more examples where the scriptures record the advice, command, and exhortation for us to *“Take Heed”* which we have not dealt with individually. However I believe that we have seen the gist of these within the passages that we have looked at.

Of course we should never take any part of scripture out of the context in which it was given to try and prove a point or a personal opinion and if any kind of “over-all” lesson is to be learned when we look at the instances where we are told to “Take Heed” I believe it is that we should put the word of God before the word of man, that is any man, even ourselves - not just as well but most of all. Why?

Because what we believe is the word of God we will teach and preach to others. Why? Because it is not just the passages which begin with the words *“Take Heed”* that show to us the importance of listening to God, and listening in the sense that we take in his word, build on it, and realise that it is on his word, on his promises, that our salvation and the salvation of those who we undertake to teach depends but the whole of scripture

It is only when we approach God's word with a willingness to *“Take Heed”* that we really receive its blessings fully, it is only when we realise that it is the only way we can please God that we will understand the paths in which God requires us to walk.

“Take Heed” means far more than simply listen. 1st Peter chapter 4 verse 11 says:-

“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God”

Contained also within the passages we have looked at over the past months is the advice to watch where we are putting our own feet before we try and tell anyone else where they should put theirs.

We have a saying that *“Actions speak louder than words”* and I always try to remember the words I first heard from a great-uncle who wrote in an autograph book I had as a child:

*“IF EVERY CHURCH MEMBER WERE JUST LIKE ME.....
WHAT KIND OF A CHURCH WOULD OUR CHURCH BE?”*

Perhaps these words sum up better than any words of my own, why I believe it to be so important that we *“Take heed unto ourselves”* the *“Wonderful words of life”* given to us by God.

Three Keys to Making our Lives a Living Sacrifice on a Daily Basis

Henry Kong, Pasir Panjang

We Live in a Complex World. If we are not focussed, it is so easy to be distracted, occupied and stressed by many unimportant things.

Are you distracted? The Bible tells us in 1 Kings 20:39-40 how a soldier was busy here and there. As a result, the prisoner, that he was entrusted to watch over, escaped. Now, he has to pay the full penalty of his carelessness.

Are you too busy? There are many things that demand our time and attention. In Luke 10:40-42, Jesus compares the busyness of Martha with the focussed priority of her sister, Mary.

Are you burdened? It is so easy in modern day Singapore to be stressed out by our studies, careers and commitments in the home. Hebrews 12:1 urges us to lay aside every weight and sin that so easily ensnares us.

It is high time to adjust our priorities! Top on this list is to live our lives as a living sacrifice to God on a daily basis. Here are 3 keys that will give us a head start:

- **1. To Live is Christ**

Paul's testimony in Philippians 1:21 is that the reason for his existence is Christ. Like Paul, Jesus Christ must be key in our lives. In everything we do, we must ask what would Jesus do if He was in our place? Each morning we need to ask what would Jesus have us do? Let Jesus be the deciding factor in all we do – not politics, our opinions or preferences. We must be willing to deny ourselves so

that His will will be accomplished in our lives each day.

- **2. People Matter.**

In Matthew 25:40, the Bible reveals "*... the King will answer them, 'I assure you: Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.'*"

Everyone counts because each one is created in the image of God. The good that we do for one another, is regarded by Jesus as favour done to Him personally.

Jesus said in John 13:34, "*As I have loved you, so you must love one another*". In everything we do, we are called to value people, not count numbers and measure the success of our projects. We are to treat one another with respect - as friends, the way we want to be treated. People are not a bother, but priority for the Christian.

- **3. Heaven is our Goal**

Hebrews 11:16 tells us that the men of God in the past "*... now desire a better place - a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.*" I find this very encouraging and reassuring because I want heaven to be my home too.

Above all, souls are what we treasure and are worth giving our lives for. Mark 8:36, 37 tells us, "*... what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*" The answer clearly is that we have no profit when we lose our soul.

God desires faithfulness and fruitfulness from each one of us. He does not demand success. Everyone should do what he can. God will be pleased when we put Him first.

- **Conclusion**

To present our lives as a living sacrifice to God each day, we must put Christ first and walk each day ever closer with Him. People are our priority; they matter – Meetings, events, Bible studies are created for people; not people for them. Then look forward to heaven! Live with Eternity in Mind – while our physical body perishes the inward man is renewed.

Lost Forever.

Ian S Davidson, Motherwell

I live near Glasgow, Scotland's largest city, which dates to 543 A.D. It used to be classified as the second city of the British Empire. Glasgow has had a long and fascinating history and, like Edinburgh, is well worth a visit. I love reading books on Glasgow, but one of the saddest is that entitled: "Lost Glasgow." The book features drawings and photographs of buildings demolished, which played a central part in the city's story at one time or another.

One of the worst "acts of vandalism" was to demolish, in the late nineteenth century, the Old College on the High Street, Glasgow's oldest street. The Old College preceded the new University building now sited on Gilmorehill. Glasgow University dates to 1451. Every time I walk up the High Street I always look over to where the Old College was and think how great it would be if all the buildings were still standing. The Clock Tower was very impressive, as was Blackfriars Church. As I think about the famous College, I also always think about Thomas and Alexander Campbell. Both studied here for a time – Thomas in the eighteenth century and Alexander from 1808 to 1809.

We cannot bring the famous demolished buildings back. Sadly, they are lost forever. All we have left are the drawings, the photographs and the odd bits and pieces that were saved and are now scattered abroad.

THE JEWISH TEMPLE

The Jews thought the world of their temples. They regarded each one as the “*House of God*.” Jesus looked upon the last one, Herod’s temple, as such too (Luke 19:46; John 2:16). The temple represented the heart of Jewish religious life. The building was magnificent and a joy to behold. It was THE building in Jerusalem. By the time of Jesus’ ministry, the temple had taken forty-six years to construct (John 2:20). I believe they were still adding the finishing touches to it by the beginning of the 60’s A.D.

In A.D. 70, the temple was destroyed by the Romans. Jesus had prophesied of this event (Matthew 24:1-2; Mark 13:1-2; Luke 21:5-6). What did the surviving Jews think of Jesus and His words after the siege instigated by the Roman army? Flavius Josephus, the Jewish historian, was present at the destruction of Jerusalem and his account of it is heart-rending. He tells us that 97,000 were taken prisoner and 1,100,000 perished. The destroyed temple was never rebuilt. All we are left with are descriptions of it, models, some stones, including the famous Western Wall, which was not part of the main building itself. Since the destruction of the temple, Judaism has never been the same. The great edifice is gone and lost forever. On the Temple Mount now stands the Dome of the Rock (Qubbat as-Sakhrah) and, nearby, the al-Aqsa Mosque. I hate to think what would happen if the Israeli authorities decided one day to demolish these famous Moslem edifices.

THE SPIRITUAL TEMPLE

God no longer has a material temple, but a spiritual one. The people of God now constitute His temple on earth. So God's temple today does not consist of dead stones, but living stones. Peter has written: *"You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ"* (1 Peter 2: 5, N.I.V.). In Hebrews we read: *"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess His name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased"* (13:15-16, N.I.V.).

Many have attempted to destroy God's spiritual temple. For example, before Constantine, there were ten major persecutions against the people of God by the Roman authorities. But we are still here! The torch has been passed from faithful generation to faithful generation. A remnant of true believers has never gone away or been overcome. Jesus said: *"And I say also unto you, that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hades shall not prevail against it"* (Matthew 16:18).

God has always known those who are His and has never lost them in the crowd. The *"lost"* are actually those outside of Christ who are in danger of being lost forever in hell. To lose a famous building forever is sad; but (through their own making) to lose souls forever is tragic. Lives following Satan are doomed; but lives following Jesus faithfully are heaven-bound. There, they will rejoice forever and forever.

Amen.

Cainan the son of Sala.

The 'Cainan' in Luke 3:36 is not listed in Genesis.

This apparent Bible anomaly has been raised in response to the December editorial "Is Faith Reasonable?"

There are two Cainan's listed in Luke's genealogy (Luke 3:36 & 37). It is suggested that the one in verse 36 might be a serious mistake because it is not listed in Genesis 10:24 or 11;12,13. Even so it is in the Koine text preserved by the Greek church and all known ancient N.T. manuscripts.

So is there an explanation why it is not in the Genesis listings? There are three factors to be born in mind:

- 1) Terms like "begot" etc. do not always refer to the immediate offspring or parent. (e.g. Matthew 1:1,8 and in Hebrews 7:9-10 where Abraham is called Levi's father).
- 2) Lists serve a purpose and so irrelevant names might be omitted (c.p. Ezra 7:1-5, 1.Chronicles 6:3-15).
- 3) Rights of succession might skip generations.
For example, Jacob's son Joseph was not made the head of a tribe. His sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, were adopted by their grandfather and became the patriarchal heads of two of Israel's tribes. (Genesis 48:5,6)

In Genesis chapter 11 the subject is chronology.

Each patriarch's age is stated at the birth of the next in succession. This makes it possible to add together the years between births and establish an accurate time-line.

On the other hand Doctor Luke is concerned with Jesus' physical, blood lineage. So he lists Jesus' male progenitors. That is why he begins by making it clear that Jesus was not Joseph's physical son, and that Jesus' nearest male blood ancestor was Mary's father, Heli.

*"Also Jesus himself was just turning thirty years of age, being (*even though he was supposed to be the son of Joseph) ** of **the Heli**" (Luke 3:23 direct translation).*

*[Greek $\omega\varsigma$ - adverb of comparison - comparing what he was thought to be with what he really was. The comparison is: Jesus having no physical father Mary's father Heli was Jesus' nearest male ancestor.]

**[Here there is no word for "son" in the Greek text]

So from Luke we learn that Sala was the blood offspring of Cainan and Cainan was Arphaxad's blood offspring.

In Genesis 11:12 we learn that Arphaxad was 35 years old when Salah was born. Though unusual, being a grandfather at 35 is not impossible. This might have something to do with why Cainan's name is omitted. However, its omission does not detract from the listings purpose and its usefulness for establishing a chronological time-line.

Cainan's omission from Genesis 10:24 could be because successor-ship in Peleg's lineage skipped him.

CONCLUSION: As there are feasible explanations then there is no reason for claiming that there is a discrepancy.

[Anyone interested in investigating this further can find more suggested explanations on page 34 of Dr. Floyd Nolen Jones book: "The Chronology of the Old Testament" ISBN 10: 0-89051-416X.]

QUESTION BOX

A question has been submitted asking if we should eat black puddings. Brother Frank Worgan addresses the matter in detail in the accompanying special issue. Do read it. There is more to this question than 'Black Puddings.'

NEWS and INFORMATION

STRETFORD, MANCHESTER

Saturday Gospel Meetings

7.00 pm The Green Hut

538 Kings Road, M32 8JT

September 17 John Morgan

October 22 Ian Davidson

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Map:

www.eusebos.eu/d4web4s/longford.htm

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Saturdays

6.00 pm Refreshments

7.00 pm Message

November 12

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BIBLE QUESTION BOX

Please send your questions to:

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HELP

Someone has submitted an excellent article headed:

“LIVING FAITH”

but has not appended a name or address to it.

If it is you please let the editor have your details.

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HEBREW DATING CHARTS

It is our intention to provide details of how sets of the 3 Hebrew dating charts can be obtained from the printer in the December issue of the Scripture Standard.

THE SCRIPTURE STANDARD

FOUR ISSUES PER YEAR (SUBJECT TO REVISION)

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION - UNITED KINGDOM £3.50

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The *Scripture Standard* is printed for the publishers by www.a2g-group.co.uk