[G-2] The Jewish Calendar -- Old and New Calendars

{www.TheWordNotes.com}

After all of the work on the "Prophetic Calendar" I realized that the "Prophetic Calendar" does not coincide with any modern-day calendar. I began to be curious as to how the prophetic dates of Daniel would fit with the Modern Jewish calendar. We must first realize that the Modern Jewish calendar is not the same calendar Daniel was familiar with since a number of revisions in the calendar have taken place through the years {Just as changes have been made in the Julian/Gregorian calendar since the days of Jesus}. Daniel could not have foreseen the Modern Jewish calendar, and could not understand how the dates he was given might fit together on a calendar which would be in use about 2500 years in his future. However, the reference to the antichrist's desire to change "times" {calendars} {Dan. 7:25} in the future suggests that the antichrist will realize the importance of a calendar {in particular the Jewish calendar} in use during his lifetime and will deliberately change the calendar to turn attention away from the prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation.   The following gives the setup of the Modern Jewish calendar:

** Jewish Calendar - Modern **
MONTH 1 –{07} Tishri - 30 days {Sept/Oct} .}[Rosh Hashanah, Feast of Trumpets,
          Day of Atonement {Yom Kippur},Feast of Tabernacles]
MONTH 2 – {08} Heshvan - 29 or 30 days {Oct/Nov} [Normally 29, but in excessive years 30 days]
MONTH 3 – {09}Kislev - 30 or 29 days {Nov/Dec} [Normally 30, but in defective years 29 days]
MONTH 4 – {10}Tebeth - 29 days {Dec/Jan}
MONTH 5 – {11}Shebat - 30 days {Jan/Feb}
MONTH 6 – {12} Adar - 29 or 30 days {Feb/Mar} [Normally 29, but 30 on leap years]
MONTH 7 – {13}Adar II (leap year only) - 29 days
MONTH 8 – {01}Nisan - 30 days {Mar/Apr}
MONTH 9 – {02}Iyar - 29 days {Apr/May}
MONTH 10 – {03}Sivan - 30 days {May/June}
MONTH 11 – {04}Tammuz - 29 days {June/July}
MONTH 12 – {05}Ab - 30 days {July/Aug}
MONTH 13 – {06}Ellul - 29 days {Aug/Sept}

** Jewish Calendar - {The Lord's Calendar for the Jews} **
{As set in Exodus 12:2 and Leviticus 25}
MONTH 1 – {01}Nisan {March/April} [Nisan 10 {Palm Sunday}, Passover, Easter]
MONTH 2 – {02}Iyar {April/May}
MONTH 3 – {03}Sivan {May/June} [Pentecost {Feast of Weeks}]
MONTH 4 – {04}Tammuz {June/July}
MONTH 5 – {05}Ab {July/Aug.}
MONTH 6 – {06}Ellul {Aug./Sep.}
MONTH 7 – {07}Tishri {Sep./Oct.}[Rosh Hashanah, Feast of Trumpets,
          Day of Atonement {Yom Kippur},Feast of Tabernacles]
MONTH 8 – {08}Heshvan {Oct/Nov}
MONTH 9 – {09}Kislev {Nov/Dec}
MONTH 10 – {10}Tebeth {Dec/Jan}
MONTH 11 – {11}Shebat {Jan/Feb}
MONTH 12 – {12}Adar {Feb/Mar} {Purim}
MONTH 13 – {13}Adar II {Purim}

We call the bottom calendar the "Old" Jewish calendar. In reality, the "New" or "Modern" Jewish calendar at the top is supposedly the older calendar! The first month of the year supposedly originally began in September/October, but was changed by the Lord's command in Exodus 12:2 to the month of Nisan in March/April {the month of the Passover}. Modern Jews still change their calendar year based on the old calendar {since the new year – Rosh Hashanah begins in Tishri} and have also changed the Passover from the evening of the 14th of Nisan to the evening of the 15th. Many believe, and it is my opinion, that these changes were intended to draw attention away from the crucifixion of Jesus and His fulfillment of prophecy. While at chaplain school, a Jewish rabbi told me that the Jews are the only people who celebrate the new year {Rosh Hashanah} during the **SEVENTH** month rather than the **FIRST** month. I believe there are prophetic reasons why this is true! {Possibly because this is time of the year Armageddon will take place, and possibly the Rapture. I am not 100% sold on the idea that the rapture must be at Rosh Hashanah {Although that is the next holy day to be fulfilled and it is the Feast of Trumpets}, but I do not have enough Biblical evidence to conclude that this is a wrong interpretation.}

Rules for construction of the Modern Jewish calendar: [From: <u>The Comprehensive Hebrew Calendar</u> by Arthur Spier, Feldheim Publishers, Jerusalem/New York, 1981]

{Note: The Jewish day begins at 6:00 p.m., not 12:00 a.m. as on the Gregorian calendar.}

One hour = 1080 Halakim (parts); one Helek (part) = 76 Regaim (moments); one part = 3 1/3 seconds; **1 moment = 5/114 seconds** {See I Cor. 15:52}

Tishri will always begin in September or October.
Nisan will always begin in March or April.
Tishri 1 must occur on the new moon {which must be calculated to the **nearest minute based on Jerusalem time**} with the following exceptions:
Dehioth {Postponements}

a. ** When it {Rosh Hashanah} occurs on a Sunday, Wednesday, or Friday, it is postponed to the following day.
{This prevents Biblical Passover from occurring on a Thursday and Nisan 10 {our Palm Sunday [Ex. 12:2-5]} from occurring on a Sunday. I believe this change was intentionally made by the Sanhedrin after Jesus' lifetime. See note at bottom of article.}
 b. When the new moon occurs at noon or later Tishri is postponed to the next day (and to the
following day if this would cause it to land on Sunday, Wednesday, or Friday.

The Jewish calendar follows the "Golden Cycle" based on the 19 year solar cycle. {The "Golden Cycle" is the number of years it take for the lunar months to re-align with the solar years -- 19 solar years equals approximately 235 lunar months -- 6939.689621913 days} The following years in the cycle are "leap" years: 3, 6, 8, 11, 14, 17, and 19th years. These years have thirteen months. The thirteenth month is call ADAR II on the Jewish calendar. Common years may have 353 days, 354 days, or 355 days. Leap years have 383 days, 384 days, or 385 days. To determine the length of the year, you must calculate when the next Rosh Hoshanah New Moon will occur, determine if Rosh Hoshanah must be postponed due to the above rules, and you must know whether it is a leap year or not. Then based on these rules, the months of Heshvan, Kislev, and Adar are adjusted to fulfill the requirements as follows: Wednesday, or Friday).
c. When it occurs on a Tuesday in a common year <u>204 parts</u> [after <u>3 a.m</u>]., it is postponed to the following day and because the following day is Wednesday it is postponed an additional day.
 d. When it occurs on a common year succeeding a leap year, and <u>589 parts</u> after [<u>9 a.m</u>]. it is postponed to the following day.

Based on the above rules, Rosh Hashanah will actually not fall on the true new moon but will be postponed to the following day more than <u>60%</u> of the time!

Length of regular year:

353 days -- 12 months, alternately having 30 and 29 days, except Kislev has 29 days
instead of 30 days [**<u>defectiv</u>e** common year]
354 days -- 12 months, alternately having 30 and 29 days [**<u>normal</u>** common year]
355 days -- 12 months, alternately having 30 and 29 days, except Heshvan, with 30
days instead of 29 [**<u>excessive</u>** common year]

Length of leap year:

383 days -- 12 months, alternately having 30 and 29 days, except Kislev has 29
days instead of 30 days, with 1 additional month, Adar I will have 30 days
[**<u>defective</u>** leap year]
384 days -- 12 months, alternately having 30 and 29 days, with 1 additional month,
Adar I will have 30 days [**<u>normal</u>** leap year]
385 days -- 12 months, alternately having 30 and 29 days, except Heshvan with
30 days instead of 29 days, and one additional month, Adar I will have 30 days
[**<u>excessive</u>** leap year]

Rosh Hashanah, Tishri 1, 5757, {Sept. 14, 1996} is the beginning of the 19th year in the leap year cycle and is therefore a leap year. To determine whether a year is a leap year, divide the year by 19; the remainder is the year in the cycle. {The year **5757** divided by **19** yields 303 with a remainder of **0** which means it is the 19th year in the cycle.}

The exact New Moon is computed from observatory data which yields 29.530588437 days from New Moon to New Moon. {29 days 12 hr 44 min 2.841 sec} The exact rules for calendar construction are given in Arthur Spier's book: <u>The Comprehensive Hebrew Calendar</u>, Feldheim Publishers, 1981, New York and Jerusalem [ISBN# 0-87306-288-4].

For anyone interested, I have written a computer program [MaraTime.exe] which will calculate the Jewish calendar months using the astronomical star date calendar for any year past, present, or future and will give the reference dates for certain holy days. This information is given for the years 1947 A.D. - 2100 A.D. on my website. See articles below.

The <u>Reference Date</u> given with the calendar dates uses Friday, Iyar 5, 5708 C.E. {May 14, 1948} as reference date - 0 and computes all dates relative to this date. By doing this anyone can quickly determine the number of days between any two Jewish holy days by simple subtraction.

The following three sections: {Originally based on Arthur Spier's book: <u>The Comprehensive Hebrew Calendar</u> have now been re-worked and completely computer generated and verified using my own program Maratime.exe referred to above and double validated with Arthur Spier's book.} See also: [G – 8] <u>The Holy Days</u>.
G - 3 Modern Jewish Calendar 1947 A.D. - 2100 A.D.
G – 4 Reference Day/Holy Days Calendar1947 A.D. - 2100 A.D.
G – 5 Computer Analysis of Holy Days

The Jewish calculations were privately made by a handful of men on the Sanhedrin during the time of the second temple {about 430 B.C to 69 A.D.}. Those calculations were first made public by Hillel II during the fourth century A.D. {around 358 A.D.} due to fears the Jewish calendar information might be lost in the dispersion of the Jews {page 2 -<u>The Comprehensive Hebrew Calendar</u>}. It is the opinion of this author that changes were made by the Sanhedrin following Jesus' death to draw attention away from the fact that Nisan 10, the Passover, the First Fruits Offering, and Pentecost were fulfilled by **Jesus THE Passover sacrifice as the **Lamb without blemish:**

1) Biblical Passover according to Lev. 23:4-6 begins the evening of the 14th day of Nisan; modern Passover {Pesa} is on the 15th of the month.

2) Biblical Pentecost according to Lev. 23:15-16 is counted 50 days from (and including) the First Fruits Offering {Easter}; modern Pentecost {Shavouth} is counted 50 days from modern Passover {Pesa}.

3) Nisan 10 cannot occur on the modern Jewish calendar on a Sunday. The above rule "**a.**" marked by "******" prevents that from occurring. See <u>What Day of the Week Was Jesus Crucified?</u> at www.TheWordNotes.com.

While Jewish scholars would argue that the above are "interpretation" issues rather than actual changes to the modern Jewish calendar, it is my opinion that these changes were <u>intentional</u> changes made by the Sanhedrin after Jesus' death. The Jews' religion requires them to worship on specific days; the Sanhedrin did not want the calendar to be constantly reminding them that **Jesus fulfilled the holy days**! Since the calendar calculations were secretly made by the Sanhedrin all the way up to the 4th century A.D. there is no way I can actually prove this to be true, nor is there any way for anyone to disprove this opinion.

Note: <u>all calculations must be carried out to 12 digits of accuracy</u>. {8 digits to the right of the decimal}; which means a standard 8 digit calculator can't be used. When writing the program: **Maratime.exe** in 1988, it took about a month to write the program (I was a full-time high school teacher and bus driver at the time) and about a month to de-bug various issues. When I ran the program my dates did not match with Arthur Spier's data, even though I had followed all of his calculations to the letter. Finally, the Lord led me to do the calculations by hand. As soon as I completed the first set of calculations, I knew immediately what the problem was: **Computers and all calculators by default <u>round</u> all numbers to eight digits!** I re-wrote parts of the program and told the computer to use **double-digit accuracy** and the problem was resolved! **All dates matched exactly.**] **These calculations were done during the time of the second temple [from around 433 B.C. to 70 A.D.] without the aid of computers or calculators!!!**