

Why the Hebrew Calendar Is Calculated from the Day of Trumpets

The Hebrew Calendar is a lunar–solar calendar. The months are determined by new moons. The circuit of the moon around the earth from one new moon to the next new moon averages 29.53 days. Biblical months are either 29 or 30 days.

The purpose of the Biblical calendar is to reveal the dates of God’s seven annual holy days. “These are the **appointed times of the LORD**, even holy convocations [4744, *a calling together, an assembly commanded by summons*] which you shall proclaim **at their set times**” (Leviticus 23:4). It is vital that we meet with God **at the time that He has set**. “Can two walk together, except they be agreed [3259, *meet by appointment*]?” (Amos 3:3).

One of the arguments against the Hebrew Calendar is that it is calculated from the first day of the seventh month instead of the visible new moon of the first month. “And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron **in the land of Egypt**, saying, This month shall be to you the beginning of months: it shall be **the first month of the year** to you” (Exodus 12:1, 2).

The determination of when the first month would begin was made by the Creator God. We are going to show why the Hebrew Calendar is calculated from the first day of the seventh month.

The First Month of the Year

The first month is called “Abib” (Exodus 13:4). The month Abib is in the spring of the year (March/April). In the first month of the year God brought His people “...**out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage**; for by strength of hand the Lord brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten. This day you are going out in the month Abib” (Exodus 13:4).

Egypt symbolizes sin, and “...the wages of sin is death...” (Romans 6:23). **The first month of the year represents sin and death**. There are two ways of life. The way of this world that leads to death, or obedience to God, which leads to eternal life. “Know you not, that to whom you yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants you are to whom you obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience to righteousness” (v. 16).

The first month of the year in God’s plan pictures coming **out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage to sin and death**, through blood and water.

The children of Israel were commanded to put the blood of the Passover sacrifice around the doors of their dwellings (Exodus 12:7). “For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt...and when I see the blood I will pass over you...” (vv. 12, 13).

The children of Israel were led to the Red Sea, and God parted the waters and they crossed the sea (Exodus 14:21-27). “Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians: and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore” (v. 30). This was a type of baptism (1 Corinthians 10:1, 2).

The sea symbolizes the people of this world who are in Egypt, i.e. Babylon. Babylon is the world’s false religious and political systems. This system is referred to as a “...great whore that sits upon many waters: with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication...the waters...where the whore sits, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues” (Revelation 17:1, 2, 15).

Coming up out of the waters of baptism symbolizes coming out of the way of this world, i.e. Egypt and Babylon. The dead Egyptians symbolize the people of this world who are dead in their sins and are left behind. **The first month of the year represents sin and death, Egypt, Babylon, which is the way of this world.** That is what we are to come out of. “...Come out of [*Babylon*], My people, that you be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues” (Revelation 18:4).

The Day of Trumpets and Entering into the Sabbath Rest

The first six months of the Hebrew Calendar, like the first six days of the week, represent the six thousand years of man. During this six thousand years God has been calling a people out of Egypt, and drawing them to His Sabbath rest.

“There remains therefore a rest [4520, *a keeping of a Sabbath*] to the people of God. For he that is entered into His rest [2663, *place of abode, dwelling, habitation*], he also has ceased from his own works, as God did from His. Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest...” (Hebrews 4:9-11). On what day did God rest from His work? “...And God did rest the **seventh day** from all His works” (v. 4).

The Day of Trumpets is on the first day of the seventh month. “In the **seventh month**, on the **first day** of the month, shall you have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation [4744, *a calling together, an assembly*]” (Leviticus 23:24).

The Day of Trumpets pictures the first resurrection. “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the **last trump**: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality...then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory” (1 Corinthians 15:52-54).

After they are resurrected, where do the saints go? “And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on Mount Zion, and with Him **a hundred forty and four thousand**, having His Father’s name

written in their foreheads....And they sung as it were a new song **before the throne**...These were redeemed from among men, being **the first fruits to God and to the Lamb**” (Revelation 14:1, 3, 4). On the Day of Trumpets, those who will be in the first resurrection will stand before the throne of God in “...the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem...” (Hebrews 12:22).

God’s dwelling place is in heaven, and that is where His appointed times came from. “Every good gift and every perfect gift **is from above**, and comes down from the Father of **lights** [5457, *radiance, blaze of light*], with Whom there is no variableness [3883, *shifting, mutation, change*], neither shadow of turning [5157, *turning around, change*]” (James 1:17).

God’s appointed times did not originate on the earth, which is what the first month represents. The Day of Trumpets represents the heavenly Jerusalem, which is where God’s appointed times originated. The Day of Trumpets and the heavenly Jerusalem are synonymous. That is why the Hebrew Calendar is calculated from the first day of the seventh month.

Conclusion: All of the various calendars which are calculated by the sighting of the new moons are done from the earth. In other words, they are done in Babylon (confusion), and they have created confusion as to the timing of God’s holy days. We are to examine the fruits of something to see whether it is good or bad. The fruit of the sighted calendars is confusion.

God knew from the foundation of the world that His people would become scattered over the face of all the earth; therefore, there would have to be a common calendar for the people to use to determine the set times. God did not leave it up to man to determine the days on which to worship Him. God did not leave His people in the dark, but provided them with a calendar from above. The Hebrew Calendar is there for anyone who wants to use it.