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Instruments of Calculation

In an age where there are many Israelites gathering together striving to keep the feasts of the Heavenly Father, the question comes up: how are we to determine the dates? To answer this question we must understand the instruments given to us by God. **Genesis 1:14** *“And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament [sky] of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:”*

The heavenly Father created lights in the sky that help us establish when it is day, night, the seasons and also years. **Genesis 1:15** *“And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.”* **Verse 16:** *“And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.”* **Verse 17:** *“And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,”* **Verse 18:** *“And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.”* **Verse 19:** *“And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.”* In the fourth day of the creation the Heavenly Father made the two great lights and the stars also.

Those two great lights are the sun and moon. **Psalms 136:7** *“To him that made great lights: for his mercy endureth for ever:”* **Verse 8:** *“The sun to rule by day: for his mercy endureth for ever:”* **Verse 9:** *“The moon and stars to rule by night: for his mercy endureth for ever.”*

To begin learning how to calculate the feast days of the Lord we must first understand that these lights (sun, moon, and stars) were given for us to understand the times (seasons, days, and years) as it stated above in the scripture. Unfortunately our people are foolish and have evil practices with these objects which the most High created for good. **Apocrypha Ecclesiasticus 39:24** *“As his ways are plain unto the holy; so are they stumblingblocks unto the wicked.”* The constellations of the stars have become a stumblingblock to our people that believe in the lies of the astrologer (please read, [horrorscopes](#)). Whereas in the past the most High blessed the children of Israel with understanding of the times by his lights.

1st Chronicles 12:32 *“And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.”* Today many lack this understanding but the most High has blessed men in Israel to know his plain holy ways.

Days

In the beginning before the sun, moon, and stars were created the Heavenly Father had already established when is the beginning and ending of a day. **Genesis 1:5** “*And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.*”

According to the word of the Lord a new day begins when it is evening (dark/night). This he instructed by telling us that the first day began in “*the evening and the morning were the first day*”. Today we are taught by society that a new day begins at midnight (12:00 am/middle of the night) instead of the beginning of the night. Yet our all knowing God prophesied of the attempt to change his ways and the blasphemies committed against him. **Daniel 7:25** “*And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and **THINK to change times and laws:** ...*”

Genesis 1:1 “*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*” **Verse 2:** “*And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep....*” Darkness was upon the face of the deep before light was created therefore he signified to us what starts a new day since it was first. Remember this was before the sun, moon, and stars were created yet he kept a consistent ordinance for us to keep afterwards when they were created. Instead of midnight (12:00 am), the start of a new day is when the sun completely goes down and it is dark night. **Deuteronomy 23:11** “*But it shall be, when evening cometh on, he shall wash himself with water: and when the sun is down, he shall come into the camp again.*” Evening is the same as when the sun is down.

Leviticus 23:27 “*Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.*” **Verse 32:** “*It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, FROM EVEN UNTO EVEN, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.*” The Father has left us a good example of how we are to calculate his days. In this example we are reading of the Day of Atonement which the Father said we have to keep on the *TENTH day of the seventh month*. He specified to us when the *tenth day* begins; in the “*NINTH day of the month AT EVEN.*”

Notice the Heavenly Father also explains that a full day is “*from even unto even*”. We should note also that even is the same as saying evening or when the sun is down. Here is another example, **Leviticus 22:6** “*The soul which hath touched any such shall be unclean until EVEN, and shall not eat of the holy things, unless he wash his flesh with water.*” **Verse 7:** “*And when the SUN IS DOWN, he shall be clean, and shall afterward eat of the holy things; because it is his food.*”

With this understanding that the Heavenly Father has blessed us with, let’s examine the feast of Unleavened Bread which many err by keeping it separate from the feast of

Passover. **Luke 22:1** “*Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover.*” The word of God states clearly that these feasts are the same, why then do our Brothers and Sisters err? This is the scripture they stumble upon. **Leviticus 23:5** “*In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the LORD's passover.*” **Verse 6:** “*And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.*” They become confused when the scriptures states that we must keep the Passover in the *fourteenth day* (14th) **at EVEN** and the feast of Unleavened Bread on *fifteenth DAY* (15th) *of the same month* for seven days. Note it said *fifteenth DAY* not fifteenth day at even therefore it is a huge error to keep Passover and Unleavened Bread on separate days.

If they were to take heed to the scripture which said *from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your Sabbath*, then they would have understood that the *fourteenth day at even* is the beginning of the *fifteenth day*. Similar to the example the Heavenly Father showed us with the day of Atonement (10th day begins at the 9th day at even). To further prove this let's read when the Heavenly Father established the feast of Unleavened Bread and Passover.

Exodus 12:18 “*In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat UNLEAVENED BREAD, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even.*” Here the Father clarifies that the feast of Unleavened Bread begins on the *fourteenth day of the month at even*, which is the same day as the feast of Passover. Also read [Exodus 12:12-20](#); where the Most High says that the feast of Unleavened Bread is the selfsame day as the day of the Passover (when he brought us out of Egypt). Then there is no contradiction with **Leviticus 23:5** instead we are supposed to understand that it is the same thing.

Months

Apocrypha Ecclesiasticus 43:7 “*From the moon is the sign of feasts, a light that decreaseth in her perfection.*” **Verse 8:** “*The month is called after her name, increasing wonderfully in her changing, being an instrument of the armies above, shining in the firmament of heaven;*” Our months are determined by the moon, as it states in the scripture the word month comes from the word moon.

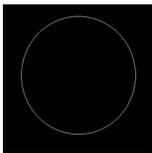
Ecclesiasticus 43 verse 7 explains the moon is a light that “*decreaseth*” in perfection. The perfection is the “Full Moon”, which is a full (perfect) circle of light. After the Full moon the proceeding phases “*decreaseth*” in light continually to the stage called the “New Moon”. **Verse 8** explains the moon increases wonderfully in her changing from this stage [New Moon] into various other phases in rotation. The first phase of moonlight is not the New Moon but the beginning rotation cycle or known to us in the scripture as a “*changing*”. If the word “*month is called after*” the moon then a new month will be when we have a New Moon. The New Moon marks the beginning of a month according to the Bible. This phase according to the scriptures is when it is completely dark, from that point the moon “*increases*” in light to all her wonderful “*changing*”. On the New Moons the Israelites brought an offering to offer unto the Lord.

Numbers 10:10 “Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the **beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the trumpets** over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: I am the LORD your God.” This scripture is showing us that the first day, the *beginnings of our month* is a solemn feast day. In another scripture this day is called the New Moon.

Psalms 81:3 “**Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day.**” **Verse 4:** “For this was a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob.” The time appointed of the new moon, our solemn feast day, is when the moon is fully dark (not visible) as it stated in **Apocrypha Ecclesiasticus 43:7-8**. The Bible speaks of other phases of the Moon such as the Full Moon, which is the complete opposite from the New Moon.

Apocrypha Ecclesiasticus 39:12 “Yet have I more to say, which I have thought upon; for I am filled as the moon at the full.” **Apocrypha Ecclesiasticus 50:6** “He was as the morning star [sun] in the midst of a cloud, and as the moon at the full:” Clearly the word is teaching us that the Full Moon is when it’s completely illuminated. Since it is compared to the sun (a perfect circle of light) that could not be hid even from the clouds.

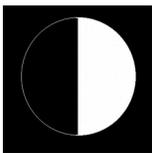
It takes the Moon 30 days to complete its repetitive cycle. Below you could see the moon *increasing wonderfully in her changing* from the New Moon phase to the Full Moon. This increasing cycle is called waxing. Remember the moon is not visible during the New Moon. Hence making it the complete opposite of the Full moon, which is easy to spot in the night sky. After the New Moon a continual increase occurs until a full circle of light is reached, the Full Moon. From the New Moon which is the first day of the Hebrew Month, we could expect the Full Moon to appear between the 14th even to the 15th even of the month. From the night of the Full Moon it takes 15 days to reach the New Moon phase.



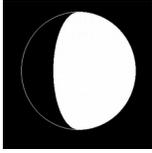
New Moon - The Moon’s unilluminated side is facing the Earth. The Moon is not visible (except during a solar eclipse).



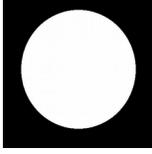
Waxing Crescent - The Moon appears to be partly but less than one-half illuminated by direct sunlight. The fraction of the Moon’s disk that is illuminated *is increasing*.



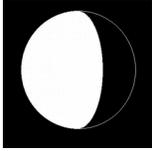
First Quarter - One-half of the Moon appears to be illuminated by direct sunlight. The fraction of the Moon’s disk that is illuminated *is increasing*.



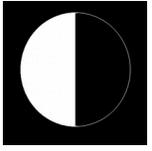
Waxing Gibbous - The Moon appears to be more than one-half but not fully illuminated by direct sunlight. The fraction of the Moon's disk that is illuminated *is increasing*.



Full Moon - The Moon's illuminated side is facing the Earth. The Moon appears to be a perfect circle completely illuminated by direct sunlight.



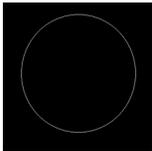
Waning Gibbous - The Moon appears to be more than one-half but not fully illuminated by direct sunlight. The fraction of the Moon's disk that is illuminated *is decreasing*.



Last Quarter - One-half of the Moon appears to be illuminated by direct sunlight. The fraction of the Moon's disk that is illuminated *is decreasing*.



Waning Crescent - The Moon appears to be partly but less than one-half illuminated by direct sunlight. The fraction of the Moon's disk that is illuminated *is decreasing*.



New Moon - Is after the moon's waning phases of decreasing light, when there is none visible. Depicting exactly what was shown above in **Apocrypha Ecclesiasticus 43:7-8**. That from the "perfection" meaning full moon the light decreases until it reaches the "month" (New Moon). After the New Moon light increases into her various changing.

1st Kings 4:7 *"And Solomon had **twelve** officers over all Israel, which provided victuals for the king and his household: each man **his month in a year** made provision."*

This is one of many scriptures that teaches us that our calendar year is of twelve months in their seasons. **Esther 3:7** *"In the first month, that is, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, **to the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar.**"*

Seasons

Genesis 8:22 *"While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."*

There are four seasons that the Heavenly Father has pronounced will exist forever; they are *summer*, *winter*, *seedtime* (spring), and *harvest* (fall). The seasons are really important in knowing how to calculate the feasts of the Lord.

Leviticus 23:4 “*These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.*” The feasts of the Lord must be kept in their seasons according to the appointed time that is written in the law.

Numbers 9:2 “*Let the children of Israel also keep the passover at his appointed season.*” **Verse 3:** “*In the fourteenth day of this month, at even, ye shall keep it in his appointed season: according to all the rites of it, and according to all the ceremonies thereof, shall ye keep it.*” The Passover is a perfect example of how we must be aware of determining the seasons, because the celebration of this holy day must be kept in the season of spring (Abib).

Deuteronomy 16:1 “*Observe the month of Abib, and keep the passover unto the LORD thy God: for in the month of Abib the LORD thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt by night.*” The instruction is clear, we must observe the month of Abib. The name of the month (Abib: *young barley*, **spring**, and *green ears*) indicates how we determine our new year.

To help us measure the seasons remember the Heavenly Father has given us lights.
Psalms 104:19 “*He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down.*”
Apocrypha Ecclesiasticus 43:6 “*He made the moon also to serve in her season for a declaration of times, and a sign of the world.*”

If our calendar was solely based on the moon it would be impossible to keep the set feasts in their seasons. Remember that our calendar year is a twelve month cycle, and our New Year is in the season of spring (March or April). Every 2 or 3 years the new moon that would have been the first of the year in spring moves to the season of winter if a leap month is not added. If a leap month is never added the first new moon would be within all the seasons of the year instead of spring. Therefore we use also the other instruments such as the sun along with the moon and stars to help us keep the feasts in their proper time. The Vernal Equinox (March 20th or 21st) is a tool provided by the sun to mark the first day of the season of spring. In the past it was called the constellation Aries. Josephus an Israelite historian wrote: *In the month of Xanthicus, which is by us called Nisan, and is the beginning of our year, on the fourteenth day of the lunar month, when the sun is in Aries, (for in this month it was that we were delivered from bondage under the Egyptians,) the law ordained that we should every year slay that sacrifice which I before told you we slew when we came out of Egypt, and which was called the Passover; and so we do celebrate this passover in companies, leaving nothing of what we sacrifice till the day following.* (Antiquities: Book: 3 Chapter: 10.5)

In conclusion we should not be ignorant in calculating the days of our Lord. Take a look at the example of David and Jonathan how they had foreknowledge of the solemn feasts. **1st Samuels 20:5** *“And David said unto Jonathan, Behold, to morrow is the new moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king at meat: but let me go, that I may hide myself in the field unto the third day at even.”* We hope this laid a foundation for those faithful Israelites to seek out the days of the Lord in the regions they are located by the instruments of above provided by our Heavenly Father. Remember his ways are plain and holy. **Apocrypha Ecclesiasticus 5:15** *“Be not ignorant of any thing in a great matter or a small.”* Shalam (Peace)!