

The Double Deception of 2016 C.E.

The Failure of Many to Observe the Hebrew Year and the Hebrew Month

Does all this Calendar Stuff Really Matter?

Time keeps ticking away and with every day that passes, mankind comes another day closer to the day of judgment, the resurrection of the righteous, and the reward of immortality in the **Age of Life** to all who believe and obey יהושע Messiah. Some may ask: Does all this calendar stuff really matter? יהושע has prophesied that He will come like a thief in the night as He did in Noah's day, and that on judgment day, He will not recognize those who do not do what He says to do.

Matthew 7:21-27 ²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘**I never knew you; Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!**’ ²⁴ Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, **and does not do them**, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

So the answer is: Yes, in the end all this calendar stuff really matters. Because you can be sure you **know** יהושע if you **keep His commandments**, and you can be sure you **do not know** יהושע if you **do not do them**.

1 John 2:3-6 ³ Now by **this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.** ⁴ He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of Elohim is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. ⁶ **He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.**

And part of **walking the way** יהושע walked involves **observing the calendar** יהושע observed.

The First Deception – The Failure to Observe the Hebrew Year

Many people in 2016 C.E. were persuaded to start the Hebrew Year **1 month late**. Even though there was abundant evidence that the barley was Aviv or very near to Aviv at the end of **Month 12**, many people were persuaded to intercalate a **Month 13**. The result of this is that all of the spring **Appointed Times**, excepting the weekly **Sabbath**, were not observed by these people this year.

Many still do not acknowledge either the **rule of the equinox**, which derives from **Exodus 13:10**, or even the photographic evidence of Aviv barley in **Israel** in **Month 1** on the **Creation Calendar**. However, if a person does not observe the **Appointed Times** the way יהושע did, **are they truly walking the way He walked?**



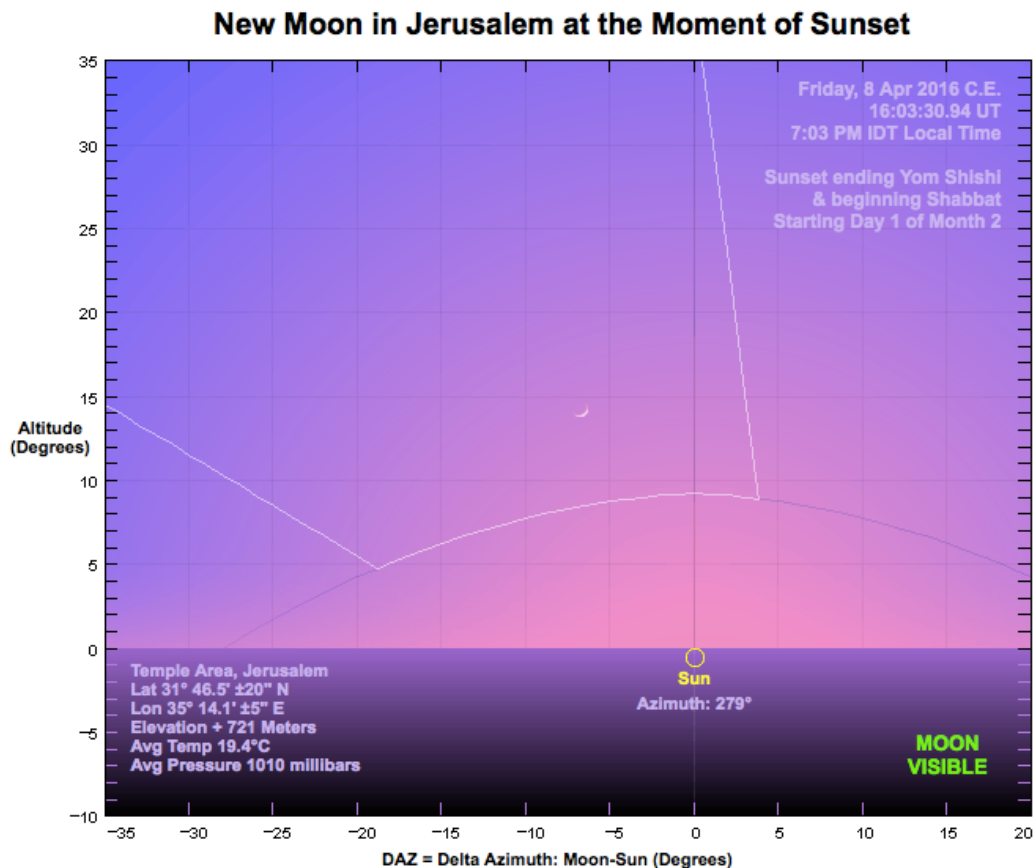
Considering that the end of the **Age of the Messiah** is going to come like a thief in the night, a true follower of יהושע Messiah may want to start **thinking about time** like יהושע **thinks about time**.

The Second Deception – The Failure to Observe the Hebrew Month

The second deception was that after declaring the Hebrew Year **1 month late**, many were persuaded to start the Hebrew Month **1 day late**. The result of this is that the **Passover** was not observed on the correct day of the month and all of the **Appointed Times** in this month were observed **1 day late** – acknowledging of course that this was **not even the correct month to observe the spring Appointed Times in the first place**.

On the evening of **Friday, April 8, 2016 C.E.** there were cloudy conditions in **Israel**. Had there not been clouds **it is certain that the moon would have been sighted**. For at the moment of sunset at **7:03 p.m.** the moon had a topocentric altitude of **14.301°** and its illuminated fraction was **2.299%**. The lag time between sunset and moonset was **74.89 minutes** and the moon set at **8:18 p.m.** allowing plenty of time to observe the crescent moon with the naked eye as shown in the illustration below.

<www.torahcalendar.com/MOON.asp?JDN=2457487&TDAY=1>



Now usually those at the end of the **Age of the Messiah** who are attempting to declare the **New Moons** for **Israel** have consulted astronomical data in order to ensure that they would not make any mathematical mistakes. For instance, if the astronomical data predicts that it will be a close call on whether the **New Moon** will be visible or not on a certain night in **Israel**, and if it looks like the next **New Moon** will not be visible for another **30 days**, then people have from time to time defied the mathematics displayed on this website and have called a **New Moon 1 day late**, knowing it would all balance out at the end of the month.

Those who decided to postpone starting the month until **Saturday, April 9, 2016 C.E.** missed the mark, and they did it when the next **New Moon** was potentially visible **28 days** later on **Saturday, May 7, 2016 C.E.**

The **New Moon** Was Sighted in Jerusalem on May 7, 2016

The fact the **New Moon** was sighted by **Liz Block, James Block, and Todd Bennett** on **Saturday, May 7, 2016 C.E.** in Jerusalem, **Israel** proves that those who said to begin the month on **Saturday, April 9, 2016 C.E.** in fact declared a **28 day month** and have caused others to **stumble in keeping the covenant with יהוה**.



New Moon Spotted May 7, 2016 in Jerusalem, Israel – Photo Credit: Todd D. Bennett

The crucial thing to understand here is that it is **impossible** to have a **28 day month** in Elohim's universe because the moon is a faithful witness.

Psalm 89:34-37 ³⁴ *I will not violate My covenant, nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.* ³⁵ *Once I have sworn by My set-apartness, I will not lie to David.* ³⁶ *His seed shall endure throughout the ages [Present Age, Age of Instruction, Age of the Messiah, Age of Life, World*

to Come], and his throne as the sun before Me. ³⁷ It shall be established throughout the ages [Age of Life, The World to Come] like the moon, even like the faithful witness in the sky. Selah.

יהוה did **not** create the moon to operate on a completely random cycle but on a mathematically predictable cycle. The earth also rotates on its axis on a mathematically predictable cycle every day, and the earth rotates around the sun on a mathematically predictable cycle about every **365.242181 mean solar days**, though the length of the solar day is constantly changing.

There is a **little variation** in the moon cycle due to the elliptical nature of the orbit it operates on. The actual time between lunations in a synodic month ranges from approximately **29.18 days** to about **29.93 days**. What this means is that at this time in history if sighting conditions are ideal and one has a clear view of the sky **the first visible crescent moon will always be visible after either 29 or 30 days**.

In antiquity the two questions which faced the Nasi (President) of the Sanhedrin every month were: **1) Are we going to complete a 29 or a 30 day month? 2) Does the new month begin tonight or tomorrow night?** It was the chief responsibility of the Nasi to determine this issue by examining eye witnesses of the **New Moon** in the intercalation court at the end of the month. In the land of **Judah** at the end of every month the court looked to examine the testimony of any two reputable male witnesses of the first visible crescent **New Moon**. W. M. Feldman, in his book *Rabbinical Mathematics and Astronomy* written in 1931, said that these witnesses were asked 5 questions regarding the position of the moon in relation to the sun:

- 1) Did the moon set before the sun set?
- 2) Was the moon North or South of the sun?
- 3) What was the altitude and azimuth of the moon?
- 4) In what direction did the horns of the crescent point?
- 5) What was the width of the crescent?

The court attempted to verify whether the testimony was accurate or not. For instance if a witness stated that he saw the moon disappear below the horizon before he saw the sun set, then in the eyes of the court his testimony would be worthless. If these questions were asked to those who witnessed **New Moon 3** on **Saturday, May 7, 2016 C.E.**, the answers would be:

- 1) No. The sun set before the moon.
- 2) The moon was left or South of the sun.
- 3) It was about 4-5° above the horizon and about 20° left or South of the sun.
- 4) The horns of the crescent pointed up and to the left or South.
- 5) The width of the crescent was very narrow I could barely see it.

King **David** looked to sight the first visible crescent of the **New Moon** in his time. The Scriptures record one instance when he once went out after **29 days** when the skies were **perfectly clear** but **did not** witness the **New Moon**. This is the only way he could say with **certainty** – “**Indeed tomorrow is the New Moon.**”

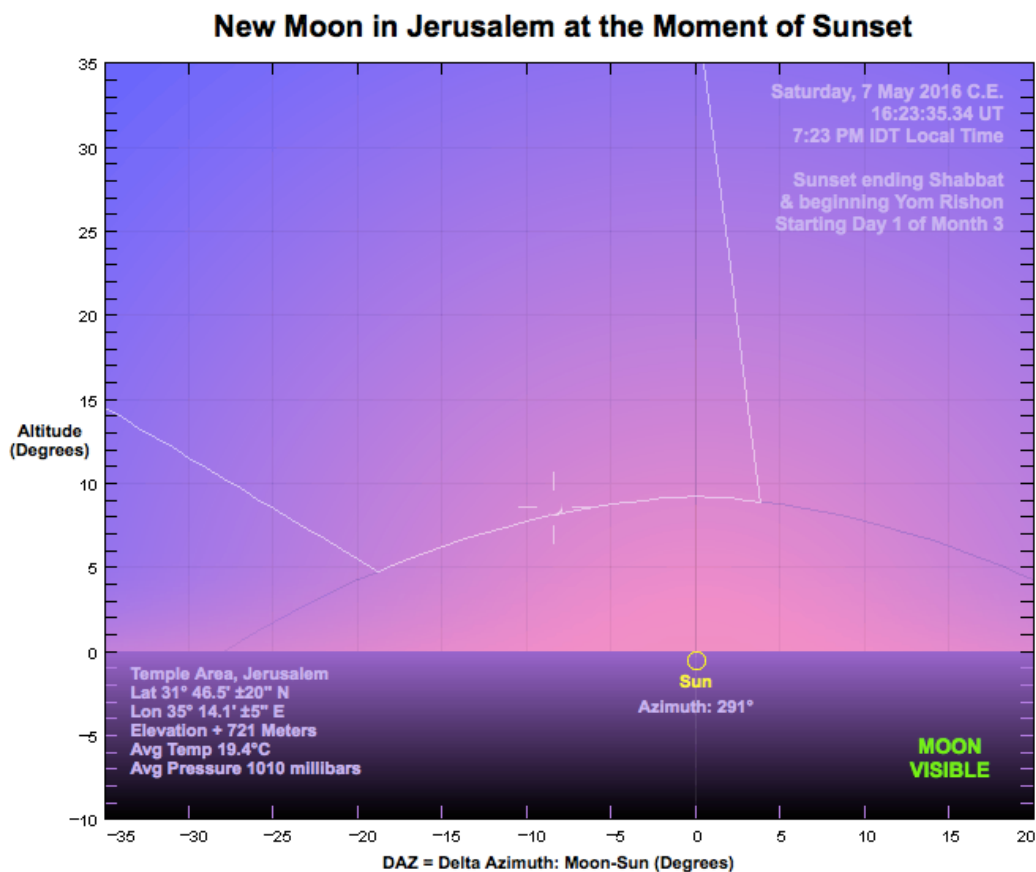
1 Samuel 20:5 And **David** said to Jonathan, “**Indeed tomorrow is the New Moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king to eat. But let me go, that I may hide in the field until the third day at evening.**”



With the knowledge and the technology available today it is possible to calculate with **total accuracy** when the **New Moon** will be potentially visible **most of the time**. The only time a mathematically calculated **New Moon** is questionable is when it is a “**close call**” when the **New Moon** is low on the horizon at the moment of sunset and it becomes questionable whether the sky will darken enough for the moon to become visible before it sets on the horizon. A clear and unobstructed view of the horizon is beneficial for sighting **close calls** as it allows for a person to watch the moon right up until the time it sets.

When a **New Moon** is calculated to be a **close call** the **Creation Calendar** indicates it by the **white cross hairs** around the **first visible crescent**. However, under ideal sighting conditions **it was calculated that the moon would be visible** as indicated by the **MOON VISIBLE** icon at the bottom right corner of the screen.

<www.torahcalendar.com/MOON.asp?JDN=2457516&TDAY=1>



As ideal sighting conditions presented themselves in Jerusalem, **Israel** on **May 7, 2016** it was possible to see the **New Moon** with the naked eye just as the **Creation Calendar** calculated. This **New Moon** had an illuminated fraction of **1.334%** and the lag time between sunset and moonset was **47.44 minutes**. Even though the sun set at **7:23 p.m.** and the moon set at **8:11 p.m.**, there was still enough time to observe the crescent moon with the naked eye as shown in the illustration above. This New Moon sighting helps to confirm that the **Creation Calendar** can calculate **close calls** with a **high degree of accuracy**.



The **Creation Calendar** correctly predicted the **Hebrew Year** in **2016 C.E.** using the ancient **rule of the equinox**. It also correctly calculated a **close call** when the **Hebrew Month** would begin and that the first crescent would be visible in Jerusalem on **Saturday, May 7, 2016 C.E.**

There are those in rabbinic Judasim who are well aware that the Hillel II Calendar from **359 C.E.** is deficient in many ways. Some are looking for a Sanhedrin to be established within rabbinic Judaism which would have the **authority** to declare the **New Moons** from Jerusalem. However, any Sanhedrin formed in rabbinic Judaism would **deny that יהושע Messiah has come in the flesh** and that He is the **image of the invisible Elohim** and so **they would not have any authority**. This is evident when one studies **The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree**.

Luke 13:6-9 ⁶ *He also spoke this parable: "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷ Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, 'Look, for **three years** I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?' ⁸ But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone **this year also**, until I dig around it and fertilize it. ⁹ And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, **after that you can cut it down.**"*

יהושע gave the Sanhedrin **4 years** to acknowledge Him as the Messiah of **Israel** during the first **4 years** of His ministry. When they did not acknowledge Him יהושע removed their authority. The way in which He would remove their authority over the next four centuries was illustrated by a miracle that יהושע performed when He **curled the fig tree**.

Mark 11:12-14 ¹² *Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. ¹³ And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, **for it was not the season for figs.** ¹⁴ In response יהושע said to it, "**Let no one eat fruit from you ever again.**" And His disciples heard it.*

Mark 11:20-24 ²⁰ *Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. ²¹ And Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! **The fig tree which You cursed has withered away.**" ²² So יהושע answered and said to them, "Have faith in Elohim. ²³ For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. ²⁴ Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."*

As it was **not the season for figs** one could hardly blame the fig tree for not producing figs. So why did יהושע curse the fig tree and what did its withering represent? Ernest L. Martin explains in his book *Secrets of Golgotha* that the place where the Sanhedrin met to exercise their authority on matters was at **Bethpage** – a town whose name means "**The House of Unripe Figs.**" When after **4 years** the Sanhedrin did not acknowledge יהושע as Messiah, He cursed the fig tree as this **symbolized that their authority would quickly wither away**.

The Sanhedrin met at Bethpage to issue death sentences to rebellious leaders according to **Sotah 45A** and **Sanhedrin 14B** and this is where they likely sentenced יהושע to death. However, by **70 C.E.** the Second Temple was destroyed, the Levitical priesthood came to an end, and the Sanhedrin were forced to leave Jerusalem. The last Nasi (President) of the Sanhedrin was Hillel II. When in **359 C.E.** he created a mathematically fixed calendar **unconcerned with sighting the New Moon**, he effectively **put himself and the Sanhedrin out of business – forever**. This is the true story of how the authority of the Sanhedrin **quickly withered away**.



When יהושע Messiah stripped the Sanhedrin of their authority **He gave this authority to His disciples.**

Matthew 16:13-20 ¹³ When יהושע came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” ¹⁴ So they said, “Some say John the Immerser, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living Elohim.” ¹⁷ יהושע answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock [of your confession that you believe I am the Messiah] I will build My assembly, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and **whatever you [the disciples of יהושע] bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.**” ²⁰ Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was יהושע the Messiah.

Matthew 18:18-20 ¹⁸ “Assuredly, I say to you [the disciples of יהושע], **whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.**” ¹⁹ “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

This phrase **binding and losing** is a phrase which means to **forbid by an indisputable authority** and to **permit by an indisputable authority**. יהושע Messiah said that **He was the indisputable authority and that all authority had been given to Him in heaven and on earth.**

Matthew 28:18-20 ¹⁸ And יהושע came and spoke to them, saying, “**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**” ¹⁹ Go therefore and instruct all the nations, immersing them in the name of the Father even of the Son even of the Set Apart Spirit, ²⁰ **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 [of the Messiah]*.**” So be it.

In the last words of Matthew’s account a directive was given by יהושע Messiah to **His disciples** to go out into the nations immersing and instructing them to **observe all things that He commanded**. Paul followed this directive as he **reproved and exhorted with all authority** and he directed Titus to do the same.

Titus 2:11-15 ¹¹ For the grace of Elohim that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² instructing us to renounce wickedness and worldly lusts, and to **live sensibly, righteously, and reverently in the *Present Age*,** ¹³ looking for our blessed hope and majestic appearing of our great Elohim and Saviour יהושע Messiah, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us **to redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people of His own who are zealous for good works.** ¹⁵ **Declare these things, exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one despise you.**

According to יהושע Messiah, the authority to decide the **New Moon** and all other matters pertaining to keeping the faith was given to His disciples – those who keep the commandments of Elohim and have the faith of יהושע.

Revelation 14:12 Here is the patience of the set apart ones; here are those who keep the commandments of Elohim and the faith of יהושע.



It is a **certain fact** that many were persuaded to start the Hebrew Month **1 day late** on **Saturday, April 9, 2016 C.E.** For **the heavens have testified on behalf of יהוה Elohim on this issue this month.** It appears that יהושע Messiah is patiently trying to get our attention, and what He seems to be saying is: **It is time to increase your discernment.** There is no condemnation for all those who follow יהושע Messiah. However, it is the **heavens which declare the esteem of Elohim** and it is wisdom to pay attention to them.

Psalm 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of El; And the firmament shows His handiwork.*

Psalm 50:5-6 ⁵ *Gather My saints together to Me, Those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.* ⁶ **Let the heavens declare His righteousness, for Elohim Himself is Judge.**

Psalm 97:5-6 ⁷ *The mountains melt like wax at the presence of יהוה, at the presence of the Master of the whole earth.* ⁶ **The heavens declare His righteousness, and all the peoples see His majesty.**

The Calendar Restoration Project is a faithful restoration of the calendar that has been used since creation and which was used to produce all of the dates which appear in Scripture. One of the purposes of this effort has been the restoration of the Scriptural reckoning of **hours, days, months** and **years** based on the positioning of the earth, moon and sun as was done in ancient times.

We believe these **four components** of the **Creation Calendar** have been faithfully restored. The Hebrew Year is determined by the **rule of the equinox** which always places Day 15 / Month 1 on or after the Hebrew Day of the **spring equinox**. Even though it is not articulated in Scripture, the rule of the equinox is a spiritual law of the universe which was known and practiced in antiquity.

The calibration and validation of the Scriptural **Jubilee Cycle** and **Shemmitah Cycle** is **the fifth and last component** of the Calendar Restoration Project. It is hoped that at some future date, validating research will become available to the people of Elohim who have the faith of יהושע Messiah which will fully disclose all of the Scriptural, historical and astronomical evidence for the **Creation Calendar**.

