

Bible Studies

The Calendar

THE present method of dividing time into weeks of seven days is of divine origin, having its beginning in the first week of time. Genesis 1 and 2:1-3. "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it." Exodus 20:11. In order to establish the week, and to give to man a correct example of computing and using time, God himself worked six days in creation, and gave to the days their respective numbers; and rested the seventh day, and named it, "The Sabbath of the Lord thy God." The act of Deity is man's highest example, the command of God his highest law.

The time from Adam to the flood was spanned by the lives of three men. Methuselah lived with Adam 243 years, and with Noah 600 years. Methuselah died in the year of the flood, 1,656 of the world's history. See Genesis 5.

During the forty years' sojourn in the wilderness, God kept the weekly calendar for the people by giving them a certain rate of manna the first five days, and a double portion on the sixth, and none on the seventh day. Thus, by three miracles weekly, for forty years was the weekly calendar kept infallibly correct. From the time of the settlement of the Jews in Palestine men were appointed to give their attention to the calendar, and to publicly proclaim the days of the week, month, and year. This they did with great scrupulousness and accuracy.

When Jesus Christ came into the world he endorsed the Jewish calendar by observing the Sabbath upon the seventh day with them (Luke 4:16, 31), and by calling it the Sabbath, and claiming to be its Lord. Matthew 12:8-12.

The Holy Ghost endorsed that calendar by stating that the holy women rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment, when they observed the day following the crucifixion, which would not have been true if the calendar had not been correct (Luke 23:54-56), and by many times calling this day observed by the Jews, "The Sabbath." Mark 16:1; Acts 13:42, 44; 16:13; 17:3; 18:4. The present calendar hanging in your homes, which places Sunday as the first day of the week, and Saturday as the seventh (the Sabbath), is in harmony with the entire record from the first week of time, and the correctness of this calendar is based upon the eclipse dates reaching seven hundred years before Christ, to an eclipse recorded by the Egyptian astronomer, Ptolemy.

The Julian calendar was introduced by Julius Caesar, BC 46, after his visit to Egypt, and his studies with the Egyptian astronomers. By the Julian calendar 365 days were computed to each year, and every fourth year 366. This was found so nearly correct that it was generally adopted for almost sixteen centuries, until AD 1582, when Pope Gregory XIII, in order to restore the commencement of the year to the same place it occupied at the Council of Nice, directed that the 5th of October, 1582, be reckoned the 5th of October. This, at the same time, restored and established the date of the vernal equinox to March 21. Gregory further directed that the year thenceforward should consist of 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds; that every fourth year be reckoned a leap year, excepting every hundredth year, which should not be so reckoned, except again every four hundredth year. By this calendar the difference between the civil and the natural year will not amount to a day in 3,333 years. Hence the impossibility of losing time. This calendar has been generally adopted throughout the world. The change from the Julian "old style" to the Gregorian "new style" affected only the yearly cycle. It in no way affected the week. Monday noon, October 5, was called Monday noon, October 15; it remained still the same day of the week. Those nations who for centuries refused to adopt the new style were in perfect harmony in their week count with those who did adopt it, their names and numbers of the days of the week exactly corresponding with ours. The seventh day of the present calendar is the Sabbath.

The Two Israels

ISRAEL is the name chosen by God for his entire family which He has adopted from the earth through faith in Christ. Galatians 6:16; Ephesians 1:4, 5. They are called the Commonwealth of Israel (Ephesians 2:12, 19); The household of God. A chosen generation. A holy nation. An holy temple (1 Peter 2:9) built for an habitation. God through the Spirit. Ephesians 2:20, 21. Christ is the chief corner stone of the building. The apostles and prophets are foundation stones, and each believer in Christ becomes a living stone in the building. 1 Peter 2:5.

The family of Jacob, to whom God first gave the name of Israel (Genesis 32:28), were separated

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from all the families of earth to be a type of the greater Israel to be the depositaries of truth for all other nations (Romans 3:1), and a channel of blessing to all others (Genesis 12:2); to be a missionary people. But they failed to carry out the great purpose of God, and only a remnant of the descendants of the earthly Israel will, therefore, be saved. Romans 9:27. A remnant from each generation will be grafted in again through faith in Christ, and be numbered with the true Israel, which is made up from all peoples, nations, and languages. Revelation 5:9,10.

Much of the experience of the typical Israel is repeated by the true, as will be seen in the following comparisons and contrasts. Christ is the seed to whom all the promises were made (Galatians 3:16), and through him all the promises may be obtained. Galatians 3:29. To him, at his Second Advent, shall the gathering of all the people of Israel be. Genesis 49:10. The word Israel occurs in the Bible 2,539 times. The word Jew occurs thirty two times only. See Strong's Exhaustive Concordance.

Israel in the Flesh.

Jacob was the head of the typical family. Genesis 32:28.

Jacob's twelve sons became the heads of the twelve tribes. Genesis 49:28.

Were born after the flesh. Galatians 4:23.

Are in bondage to sin. Galatians 4:30.

The earthly Jerusalem in Palestine is called their mother city. Galatians 4:25.

Were heirs of Canaan in Palestine. Numbers 34:2.

Were separated from the world. Deuteronomy 7:1-6.

They had an earthly typical sanctuary made by man. Hebrews 9:1.

Their service was typical. Hebrews 8:5; 9:23, 24.

Had a typical high priest. Hebrews 9:9.

Circumcised in the flesh only. Romans 2:28.

Were Jews outwardly. Romans 2:28; 2:17.

Say they are Jews, and are not. Revelation 3:9.

Are not the children of God, on account of descent from Abraham. Romans 9:8; Galatians 3:29.

Were cast off by God. Psalm 74:1. But may be grafted in again. Romans 11:15, 17, 23, 24.

Beloved for their father's sake. Romans 11:28.

A remnant only shall be saved. Romans 9:27.

Fleshly Israelites persecute others, Galatians 4:29.

Christ promised to them. Genesis 49:10; Daniel 9:27; Isaiah 6:7.

Christ came from them. Romans 9:3-5; Hebrews 7:14.

Christ was rejected by them. Isaiah 53:3; Acts 3:12-15.

Blindness in part happened to them. Romans 11:25.

Those not blinded by their unbelief in the apostles' days accepted Christ. The same is true of every generation since.

Blindness similarly overtakes the Gentiles who reject Christ. Ephesians 4:17-18.

They rejected God as their King, and chose a man in order to be like other nations. 1 Samuel 8:7.

Scattered among the nations because of sin, Deuteronomy 28:58-67; Jeremiah 9:12-16, Deuteronomy 4:27; Ezra 9:7.

Were gathered back to their own land, Ezra 9:9; 7:13.

THE FIRST GATHERING-All Israel were restored at this time in fulfillment Of the promises. All the Old Testament prophets, who prophesied of the return of the literal Israel prophesied before Christ BC 486. The return of Israel from captivity was 457 BC. The kings of the Gentiles helped them with money. Ezra 7, One generation of Israel was gathered at this time, All Israel living dwelt again in their cities. Nehemiah 7:73.

Fleshly Israelites still plan for the restoration of Palestine and the building up of a city again by man.

The Spiritual Israel.

Christ is the King and Head of the true. Luke 1:32, 33; John 1:49; Acts 2:36.

The twelve apostles are to become the heads of the twelve tribes. Matthew 19:28.

Are born of the Spirit. Galatians 4:29, John 1:13; 3:5, 6.

Are free born. Galatians 4: 31; Romans 8:2.

The heavenly city, Jerusalem which is above, is tile mother of all true Israelites. Galatians 4:26; John 3:3.

Are heirs of the whole world. Romans 4:13, Galatians 3:8, 9, 16, 29.

Were separated from the world. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Romans 12:2. 1 Peter 4:1.

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Have the true heavenly sanctuary made by God. Hebrews 8:2.
This service actual, real. Hebrews 10:14.
Christ is the true High Priest. Hebrews 8:1.
Circumcised in heart. Romans 2:29.
Jews inwardly. Romans 2:29.
Are Israelites indeed. John 1:50.
Are the children of God through Christ. Romans 9:8; Galatians 3:29.
Have never been cast off. Romans 11:1.
Beloved for Christ's sake. John 16:27.
All the true Israel shall be saved. Romans 11:26.
True Israelites suffer persecution. 2 Timothy 3:12, Galatians 4:29.
Expected by them. Luke 2:25, 26, 38, margin; Luke 24:21.
Is accepted by them. John 1:12; 6:67-69.
The true were never blinded, Proverbs 4; 18; 1 Thessalonians 5:5.
Israelites indeed accept Christ as their King, John 1:49.
Were scattered among the nations to preach the gospel to the ends of the earth. Matthew 28:19; Acts 8:4.
Will be gathered to their own land. Ezekiel 37:12-14.
THE SECOND AND LAST GATHERING -Isaiah 11:11, 12; Jeremiah 23:3-8.
The angels will assist at this gathering. Matthew 24:31; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; Isaiah 27:12, 13.
All Israel are gathered through the resurrection of all Israel from the foundation of the world. The gathering of the remnants of all generations. The new earth is their inheritance Matthew 5:5; Psalm 37:3, 9, 11; Deuteronomy 32:8, 9. Isaiah 11:9 and chapter 35. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Isaiah 35:10; 65:17-25; 66:22, 23; Revelation 21.
True Israelites, like their father Abraham, look for a city whose builder and maker is God, which comes down from God out of heaven (Revelation 3:11, 12), and for a heavenly country. Hebrews 11:10,16. This is the city of the true Israel. Note the names of the twelve tribes on its gates. All who enter it-the nations of them which are saved (verse 24)-belong to some one of these tribes.

Then there will be one fold, one Shepherd, one Israel. John 10:16; 11:50-52.

ONE KING OVER ALL THE EARTH

Zechariah 14:9.