

## God's Calendar



*And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. 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. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, 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. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.*  
Genesis 1:14-19

God created the heavenly bodies and established their precise movements to mark out our earthly time elements—days, months, and years. He also gave them for “signs” and “seasons.”

In Strong's Hebrew Dictionary we find this definition for “signs.”

**H226** אֹת *'ôth oth*

Probably from H225 (in the sense of *appearing*); **a signal** (literally or figuratively), as a *flag, beacon, monument, omen, prodigy, evidence*, etc.: - mark, miracle, (en-) sign, token.

God planned to use the sun, moon, and stars for signs of important events. What event will they give sign of? Matthew 24:29, 30; Mark 13:24-26; Luke 21:25-27

Here is Strong's definition for “seasons.”

**H4150** מוֹעֵד *mô'êd mô'êd mô'âdâh mo-ade', mo-ade', mo-aw-daw'*

From H3259; properly **an appointment, that is, a fixed time or season; specifically a festival**; conventionally a *year*; by implication, an *assembly* (as convened for a definite purpose); technically the *congregation*; by extension, the *place of meeting*; also a *signal* (as appointed beforehand): - appointed (sign, time), (place of, solemn) assembly, congregation, (set, solemn) feast, (appointed, due) season, solemn (-ity), synagogue, (set) time (appointed).

At the time of creation, before sin and all the problems that resulted from it, there were no yearly seasons as we know them now—spring, summer, fall, winter. The “seasons” God spoke about here are His appointed times, His Festivals. Here is a verse that uses that word (H4150) in reference to God's appointed times. The chapter that follows speaks of the weekly Sabbath and the annual Festivals.

*Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the **feasts** of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are my **feasts**.* Leviticus 23:2

## The Day

How does the Bible describe the days of creation?

Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31 . . . *And the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ were the ( ) day.*

In God's method of marking time, the day begins in the evening, at sunset, rather than at midnight like we currently mark days.

In Strong's Hebrew Dictionary we find this entry for “day.”

**H3117** יוֹם yôm yome

From an unused root meaning to *be hot*; a *day* (as the *warm* hours), . . . from one sunset to the next . . .

This Hebrew word for “day” comes from the same root word as the word for “west,” which is

**H3220** יָם yâm yawm

From an unused root meaning to *roar*; a *sea* (as breaking in *noisy* surf) or large body of water; . . . locally, the *west*, . . .

In the land of Israel, the Mediterranean Sea is to the west, which is where the sun sets at the end of the day and a new day begins. There are several passages that indicate this.

When were the people to observe the Day of Atonement, which was considered a Sabbath of rest?

Leviticus 23:32

When did Nehemiah close the gates of Jerusalem to keep foreign merchants from trying to sell their wares on the Sabbath?

Nehemiah 13:19

One Sabbath, when Jesus was in Capernaum, He attended the local synagogue and healed a demon-possessed man. Afterward, He went to visit at Peter's home. Peter's mother-in-law was sick and He healed her, also. The news of these miracles spread through the community and others came to be healed. When did they come?

Matthew 8:16; Mark 1:32; Luke 4:40

They waited until the Sabbath ended at sunset.

## The Week

How did the seven-day weekly cycle begin?

Genesis 1:3 - 2:3

What did God command at Mount Sinai about the seventh day?

Exodus 20:8-10

Why did God tell them to keep that day holy?

Exodus 20:11

What does God want us to call His holy day?  
Isaiah 58:13

What promise was given if God's people obey this command?  
Isaiah 58:14

Which day is the Sabbath of the Lord?  
Exodus 35:2, Leviticus 23:3

Which day is the Lord's day?  
Matthew 12:8; Mark 2: 23,27, 28

The Sabbath Jesus was talking about was the seventh-day Sabbath that He established at Creation, the same Sabbath that the Jews had been keeping for many generations.

The apostles and the early church kept the Sabbath. Where was Paul on the Sabbath?  
Act 13:14, 42; 18:4

The synagogues were the Jewish places of worship where they gathered on the seventh-day Sabbath. It was the usual practice of Paul and the Gentile converts to join them in worship.

### **Some quotes to ponder:**

“There was and is a command to keep holy the Sabbath day, but that Sabbath day was not Sunday. It will however be readily said, and with some show of triumph, that the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh to the first day of the week, with all its duties, privileges and sanctions. Earnestly desiring information on this subject, which I have studied for many years, I ask, where can the record of such a transaction be found: Not in the New Testament – absolutely not. There is no scriptural evidence of the change of the Sabbath institution from the seventh to the first day of the week.” [Dr. E. T. Hiscox, author of the Baptist Manual]

"There was never any formal or authoritative change from the Jewish seventh-day Sabbath to the Christian first-day observance." [William Owen Carver, *The Lord's Day in Our Day*, p. 49]

"There is nothing in Scripture that requires us to keep Sunday rather than Saturday as a holy day."  
[Harold Lindsell (editor), *Christianity Today*, Nov. 5, 1976]

“It is well to remind the Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, and all other Christians, that the Bible does not support them anywhere in their observance of Sunday. Sunday is an institution of the Roman Catholic Church, and those who observe the day observe a commandment of the Catholic Church.” [Priest Brady, in an address reported in the Elizabeth, NJ ‘News’ on March 18, 1903]

Which day will be kept as a worship day in the New Earth?  
Isaiah 66:22, 23

## **The Month**

According to God's calendar, the month starts on the day after the New Moon. His people acknowledged that day in various ways. What were some unique things that God's people did on the day of the New Moon that are mentioned in the following verses?

Numbers 28:11-15

1 Samuel 20:5, 24-25

Ezekiel 46:1

Amos 8:4-6

What will be special about the New Moon when God's people are settled in the New Earth?  
Isaiah 66:23

## **The Year**

In God's calendar, the first month of the year, which the Hebrews called Abib, began as their first grain crop of barley was beginning to ripen. This was in the Spring after vernal equinox which is March 20 or 21 according to our modern calendars. Their yearly cycle was intrinsically connected to the annual Holy Festivals which came on specific days of certain months. The first Feast—Passover and Unleavened Bread—was in the middle of that first month and God told them emphatically to keep it as a time to remember what He had done for them in delivering them from death and slavery. He scheduled each of the other Feasts at specific times during the year, partly as a time to remember the past and partly as a prophecy of the future.

It is well for us to keep in mind that the time of Jesus' crucifixion had been prophesied for nearly fifteen hundred years by the people's observance of Passover. The Passover lamb was killed in the afternoon of the fourteenth day of the first month and that is the exact time when Jesus died on the Cross. He was resurrected on the sixteenth day of the first month as the Firstfruits of those who died, which was the same time as the Wave Sheaf was presented to God. The wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit came fifty days later and three thousand were converted and became part of God's great harvest in fulfillment of the symbolism of the two loaves of bread that were brought to God in the Feast of Weeks. We will elaborate more on these Feasts and their meaning in the coming lessons. All of these Festivals were times of rejoicing in celebration of some of the significant acts of God on behalf of His people.