

Search the Scriptures...



Bible Study Guide

Keeping Time by the Biblical Calendar

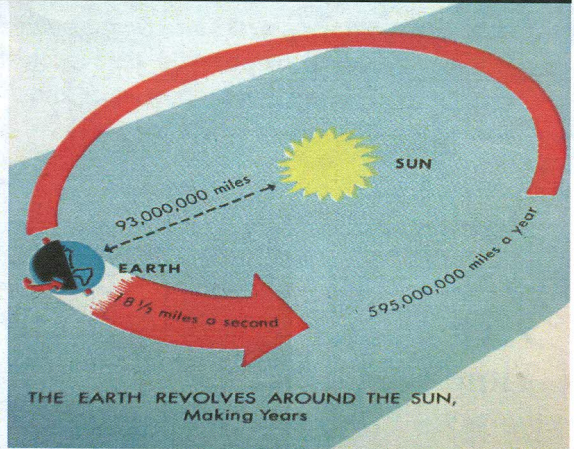
What is the Biblical Calendar?

How Does it Keep Time?

What is an hour, a Day, a Month, a Year?

What are the Sabbaths?

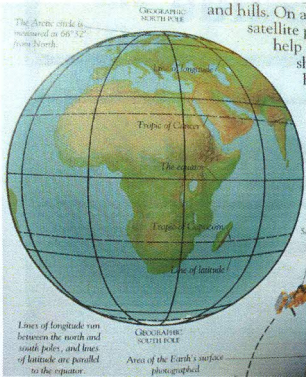
When are God's Holy Days?



“Was Stonehenge...a scientific observatory for watching the sun, moon and stars in their courses?... Astronomers Gerald Hawkins & Fred Hoyle confirm “...key points in the year would have been of obvious practical use in establishing a calendar for regulating the harvests and times of festivals...Stonehenge also seems to include alignments of important lunar risings and settings” (*Reader's Digest*—“*The World's Last Mysteries*.” pp. 83-91 - Gen 1:14).

“If you abide in My word...you shall know the truth,
and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32)

Astronomy, Time & the Biblical Calendar

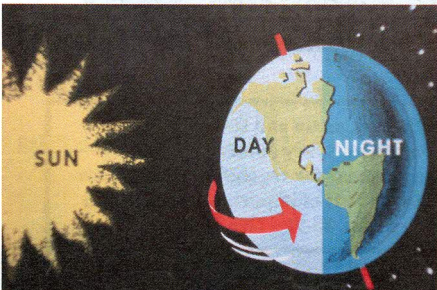
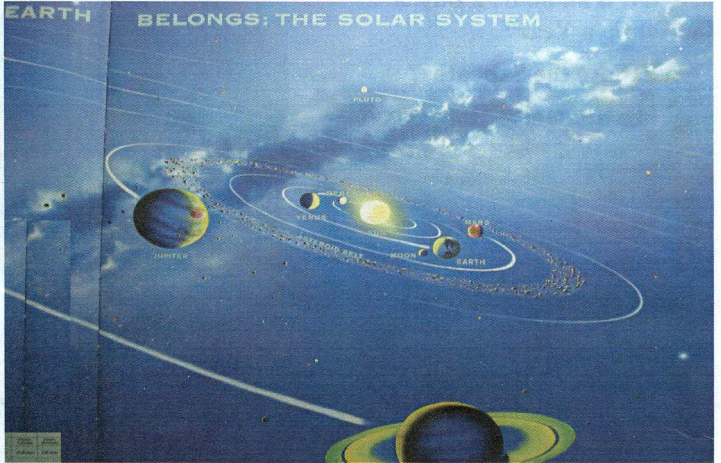


and hills. On a satellite help sh

“In a beginning God created the heavens and the earth... God said, ‘Let lights in the space of the heavens be to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons (“moed,” appointed times), and for days and years...” God “asah” (appointed) two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night; the stars also. God set them in the space of the heavens to give light upon the earth...and God saw that it was good” (Gen 1:1,14-16) - Thus God established a celestial calendar to mark time and govern processes and cycles on the earth.

How do we keep Time by it?

As the earth spins (rotates on its axis), it is also traveling (orbiting) around the sun, and at the same time the moon is orbiting around the earth, while our solar system is traveling through space. We keep track of time hourly, daily, monthly, yearly and over longer periods of time by observing our relative positions on the earth to the positions of the celestial bodies in the sky.



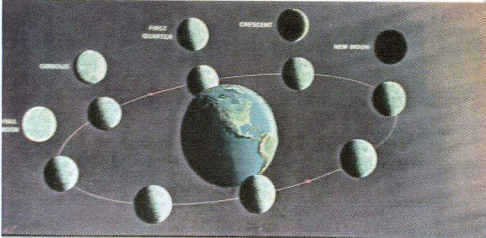
What is an Hour & a Day & a Night on Earth?

The Earth spins (rotates) at over 1000 mph at the equator and in 24 hours makes one complete revolution because the earth is about 24,900 around. The Earth is divided into 360 degrees, so 1 hour (1 TIME ZONE) is the time it takes to go 15 degrees or 1/24 of a revolution.

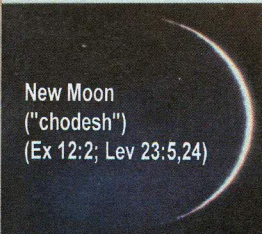
The Biblical Day begins at Sunset— (Gen 1:5; Lev 23:32)

The Biblical Month begins with the appearance of the crescent of the new moon. Before the flood of Noah's time the moon orbited the earth in exactly 30 days and a solar year was exactly 12 months or 360 days, but this was changed by the catastrophe causing the flood (Gen 7:11; 8:3-14). The prophetic month is still 30 days and year 360 days (Rev 11:2-3; 12:6,14; 13:5). Today a lunar month averages about 29 1/2 days and a solar year about 365 1/4 days, so the lunar month alternates from 29 to 30 days and a 13 month must be added to the lunar year in 7 years of every 19 year lunar cycle.

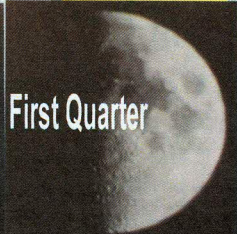
What Is a Month on the Biblical Calendar?



phases of the Moon.



New Moon ("chodesh") (Ex 12:2; Lev 23:5,24)



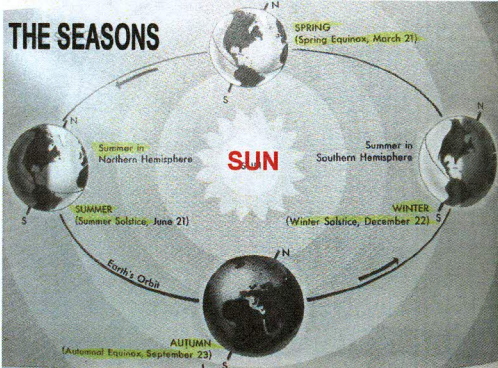
First Quarter

What is an Earth Year?

A Year ("shanah," meaning to repeat, a revolution of time) is the revolution of the Earth around the Sun (Gen 1:14). Biblical years begin in the Spring on the new moon near the Spring equinox. "This month (new moon) shall be your beginning of months, the first month of the year to you" (Ex 12:2).

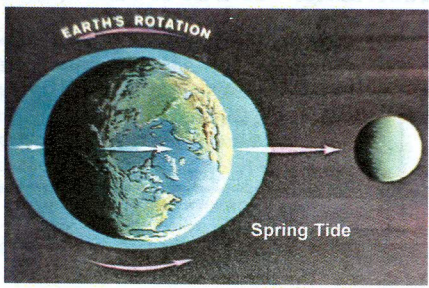


Full Moon (Lev 23:6; Psa 81:3)



The Spring equinox must occur by the evening beginning the 10th day of the month, before the Passover lamb was separated, or another (13th) month is added to keep the lunar year in synch with the solar year (Ex 12:2-6).

SEASONS change thru Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter because the Earth's axis tilts 23.5 degrees causing the Earth's poles to angle more toward or away from the Sun as the Earth orbits the Sun (Gen 8:22; Eccl 3:2). TIDES result from the combined gravitational effects of the Moon and Sun, but follow the Moon as the earth rotates resulting in 2 tides a day on each side of the Earth.



How Did the 7 Day Week & Sabbaths Begin?

The 7 Day week Sabbath cycle is not celestial. It is a historic proof of God and His Word, the Bible. After the celestial calendar was set, God rested on the 7th day from all His work:

“Then God blessed the 7th day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work, which God had created and made” (Gen 2:1-3).

“My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you...that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you” (Ex 31:13).

BIBLICAL SABBATHS:

Weekly Sabbaths (Gen 2:1-3; Ex 16:4-30; 20:8-11; 31:13; Lev 23:1-3; Deut 5:12-15; Mk 2:27-28)

7 Annual Sabbaths (Ex 23:14-16; Lev 23; Deut 16:1-17; Mat 4:4; 5:17-20)

Sabbath and Jubilee years (Ex 23:10-11; Lev 25; 26:34-35; Deut 15:1-18)

1000 years Sabbath in God’s 7000 years Plan (Psa 90:4; Heb 3:7-19; 4:1-11; 2 Pet 3:8; Rev 20:4-6).

When are God’s annual Holy Day Feasts?

“These are the feasts (“moed,” appointments) of the Lord” (Lev 23)

Passover—14th of Nisan (1st month)

April 14, 2014

7 Days Unleavened Bread—15-21st Nisan (full moon thru 3rd quarter)

April 15-21, 2014

Pentecost—(Count 50 days from Sabbath during 7 Days Unleavened Bread)

June 8, 2014

Trumpets—1st Day of Tishri (7th Month - new moon)

Sept. 25, 2014

Atonement—10th Day Tishri

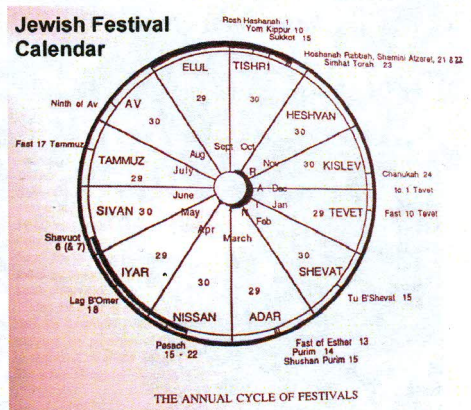
Oct 4, 2014

Tabernacles—15th-21 of Tishri (full moon thru 3rd quarter)

Oct 9-15, 2014

8th Last Great Day—22nd of Tishri

Oct 16, 2014



“God’s Holy Day Plan— The Promise of Hope for All Mankind”

<http://ucg.org/booklets/HD>
