

Greetings all!



Chodesh **1** is here!

What an extraordinary time of the year it is! For many the beginning of the sacred calendar year launches a whole stream of emotional and historical reminiscence of events which reminds us of our spiritual heritage - both a *revival and reunion* of our ancient roots in a time past when God walked with man. Chief of all these days is the Holy appointed times set by the Creator of all mankind.

The single most important event in the beginning of the year which God gave His people is the memorial of the Passover. This day is 14 days into the month Abib. It is important to establish this exact date from 1 Abib because all the Spring Holy Day Festivals

are dependent upon it by reason of their concurrent dates. For a journey back in time to find out about this topic please see the article titled: "[Calendar Studies - Passover](#)". This article is a wholly chronological account of the sequence of events and dates according to the scriptures of the authorized KJV Bible. Indeed it is a time to lift up our voices [Isa 58:1]!


Num 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.

Psa 81:3 *Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day.*

Trumpet **Strong's #H7782**

ùÑôø / ùÑâôø shophar

Total KJV Occurrences: 72

There is a link for a **free download** is at the end of this months chodesh report which contains the sound of the **shofar** which was used to sound in the new month. This requires an mp3 media player of which I might recommend these free downloads: [Realplayer](#), [MusicMatchbox](#), [Microsoft Windows Media Player](#) or [Winamp](#). The latter is the smallest and easiest to install. You must also have a sound card and speakers to use this application on your PC's of course. No other special or large amounts of hardware or memory are required - with perhaps the exception of Windows Media Player requirements. Try  lately?

There's much that could be said about this time of the year, the refreshing of the soils, the buds on the trees and flowers of the fields, the smell of herbs and spring rains, the return of the song birds, but there's also this information, **the data!**

The data:

On April 3 about 6:30 PM Jerusalem, Israel should see a 1 day 18 hour chodesh [new moon] with a 3% illumination. Around the globe that same day the chodesh should appear at about 6:30 PM - Western USA time. The chodesh will still display about a 3% illumination by the time it gets to the Western States.

This chodesh 1 begins Biblical calendar month "one", or the month **Abib**. Why is it month 1 and not 12 or 2?

For answers to this question and more please see a helpful bible study titled [Calendar Studies - Abib](#). A complete booklet with answers to all your biblical calendar questions may be found at "[The Sacred Calendar Book](#)", <http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/sbs777/saccal/calbook/index.html>

Data this month is from **Ephemeris** version 2.0 software for the Windows operating systems. This is a free download-able program available to you at: <http://www.dl-c.com/dl.html>

Actual new moon sightings list for the last 2-3 years dates can be seen at the monthly new moon chart at: Calendar Info <http://home.earthlink.net/~dwlacey/faq/calendar/nmcalchart.html>

Names of the Month

The Roman calendar month April

April -- Aphrodite's month

Old English *April(is)*

Latin *Aprilis*

Etruscan *Apru*

Greek *Aphro*, short for ***Aphrodite***.

Aprilis had 30 days, until Numa when it had 29 days, until Julius when it became 30 days long.



[Aphrodite](#) is the Greek goddess of love and beauty. She is identified with the **Roman** goddess **Venus**.

[I have not yet found any publicly presentable pictures of Greek mythological character of Aphrodite. Any recommendations appreciated - statues or classical paintings preferred.]

From the Roman calendar month of Aprilis. Considered a sacred month for the goddess Venus. April also comes from the Latin word *aperire* meaning "to open" referring to a spring season, opening of the flowers and leaves.

April has 30 days.

Apple Blossoms

*Of all the months that fill the year,
Give April's month to me,
For earth and sky are then so filled,
With sweet variety.*

Letitia E. Landon 1802-1838

The Jewish calendar month Abib [Nisan]



"Chodesh Abib," the Month of Abib

Strong's Hebrew 2320 - **chodesh** kho'-desh from 2318; the new moon; by implication, a month:--month(-ly), new moon; and Abib means green ears of grain.


Months		Weather	Crops & activity
Abib/Nisan March/April			Barley harvest begins
1	Abib/Nisan	Exo. 12:2, 13:4, Esther 3:7	Sprouting/Budding

* From **Eastons** Bible dictionary:

Abib

An ear of corn, the month of newly-ripened grain ([Exo 13:4](#); [Exo 23:15](#)); the first of the Jewish ecclesiastical year, and the seventh of the civil year. It began about the time of the vernal equinox, on 21st March. It was called Nisan, after the Captivity ([Neh 2:1](#)). On the fifteenth day of the month, harvest was begun by gathering a sheaf of barley, which was offered unto the Lord on the sixteenth ([Lev 23:4-11](#)). Note from the author: The differences of the traditional Hebrew calendar, the Biblical and the Roman calendars reveal much regarding the histories and customs of their respective authors. We today use the civil Roman calendar for our commerce and governments with almost global acceptance. However, for the Bible student it should be noted that there are several factions among each of the faiths thus the sometimes confusing and differing names of the months, seasons, beginning of years including sometimes even the **Holy Days**.

For further reading see ["The Sacred Calendar Book"](#).

<p>Exo 13:4 This day came ye out in the month Abib.</p>	<p>Deu 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.</p>	<p>Exo 34:18 The feast of unleavened bread shalt thou keep. Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, as I commanded thee, in the time of the month Abib: for in the month Abib thou camest out from Egypt.</p>
<p>Neh 2:1 And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king,</p>	 <p>Shofar</p>	<p>Est 3:7 In the first month, that <i>is</i>, the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of king Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that <i>is</i>, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, <i>to</i> the twelfth <i>month</i>, that <i>is</i>, the month Adar.</p>

Comment from JFB :

Deu 16:1 - THE FEAST OF THE PASSOVER. ([Deu. 16:1-22](#))

Observe the month of Abib--or first-fruits. It comprehended the latter part of our March and the beginning of April. Green ears of the barley, which were then full, were offered as first-fruits, on the second day of the passover.

for in the month of Abib the Lord thy God brought thee out of Egypt by night--This statement is apparently at variance with the prohibition ([Exo 12:22](#)) as well as with the recorded fact that their departure

took place in the morning ([Exo 13:3](#); [Num 33:3](#)). But it is susceptible of easy reconciliation. Pharaoh's permission, the first step of emancipation, was extorted during the night, the preparations for departure commenced, the rendezvous at Rameses made, and the march entered on in the morning. Other Biblical references found in the [Naves](#) study guide:

Abib

Also called NISAN

First month in the Jewish calendar

[Exo 12:2](#);

Passover instituted, and Israelites depart from Egypt in

[Exo 23:15](#); [Deu 16:1](#);

Tabernacle set up in

[Exo 40:2](#); [Exo 40:17](#);

Israelites arrive at the wilderness of Zin in

[Num 20:1](#);

Enter Canaan in

[Jos 4:19](#);

Jordan's overflow in

[1Ch 12:15](#);



The birthstone for the month of **April** is the **diamond**, the color is **clear**, the flower is the **Sweet pea** - meaning *Thinking of You*.

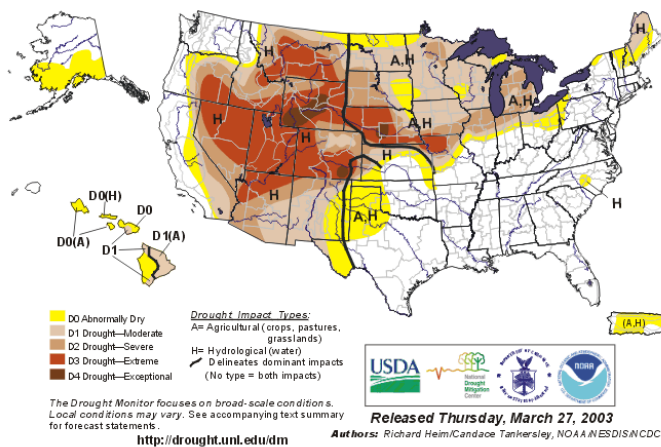


Sweet pea - The sweet-smelling flowers come in a wide range of colors and are the main feature of this climbing plant. The vine grows 6 to 9 feet tall, with dwarf types reaching 8-20 inches. Sweet peas are also suitable for baskets, tubs and spillover plantings, and make excellent cut flowers. They will do best if planted in a different place each year. They do best in cool climates, but will grow in warmer ones.

Drought Information

U.S. Drought Monitor

March 25, 2003
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Here is a graphic of the current drought as given from NOAA and the others whom comprise the Drought Monitor:

This Day in Religious History - April 4

1507 Future German reformer Martin Luther, at age 21, was ordained a priest in the Roman Catholic church.

1541 Spanish ecclesiastic reformer and mystic Ignatius Loyola, 50, was elected the first General of the Jesuit Order, which he had helped establish the previous year.

1687 James II issued a Declaration of Indulgence allowing full liberty of worship in England. The document allowed peaceable meetings of nonconformists and forgave all penalties for ecclesiastical offenses.

1944 German Holocaust victim Anne Frank, 14, wrote in her diary: 'I want to go on living even after my death! And therefore I am grateful to God for giving me this gift...of expressing all that is in me.'

1965 German theologian Jurgen Moltmann revealed in a letter to Karl Barth: 'Polemics always makes one a little one-sided.'

Source: **William D. Blake**. *Almanac of the Christian Church*, Minneapolis: *Bethany House*, 1987.

Additional information supplied by the author. Contact via E-mail: [William D. Blake](mailto:William.D.Blake.pilgrimwb@aol.com).
(pilgrimwb@aol.com)

Holidays April 4

Note: Some Holidays are only applicable on a given "day of the week"

Hungary : Liberation Day (1945)

Senegal : National Day (1960)

Switzerland : Glarius Festival (1388) - - - - - (**Thursday**)

Mass : Student Government Day - - - - - (**Friday**)

Religious Observances April 4

Christian : Feast of St Benedict, the black

Christian : Feast of St Plato & St Tigernach

Christian : Feast of St Agathopus & Theodulus

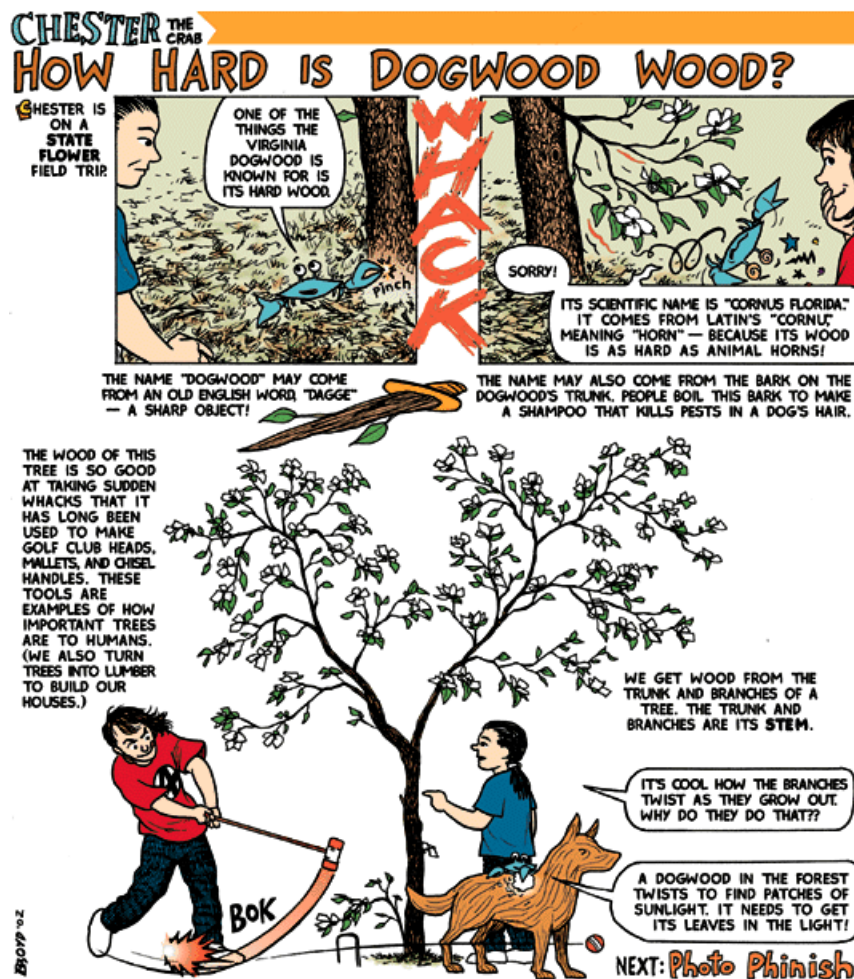
Ang : Commemoration of St Ambrose

RC : Comm of St Isidore, abp of Seville, confessor/doctor (opt)

Tips from the **Old Farmer's Almanac** and various sources of Americana folklore.

Q Question: The dogwood tree is Virginia's State Tree among other things. But, we may ask, how hard is dogwood?

A Answer:



That Explains It!

What makes people sneeze?

Sneezing usually occurs **when the nerve endings of the mucous membrane of the nose are irritated**, due to a swelling of the membrane, for example when we have a cold, or when some foreign body, such as a gnat, invades our nose, or when allergy and pollen season strike.

Surprisingly enough, sneezing can be brought on (or out!) when the optic nerves in our eyes are exposed to bright light!

For whatever reason, the membrane is irritated, sneezing is a reflex act, completely beyond our control, by which the nose trumpets out air in an attempt to eject (and project!) the irritating bodies. Sometimes, however, this is accomplished only through multiple sneezes.

Medical science dispelled ancient beliefs concerning the out-of-control sneeze, and snuffed out superstitions in the process. Primitive people held the belief that a sneeze signified approaching death, and immediately assisted the distressed person by crying out "God help you!" Egyptians, Romans, and Greeks, saw the sneeze as an omen of approaching danger, or, on a more positive



note, as a way of foretelling the future. Lucky ones sneezed to the right, while unlucky ones sneezed to the left. The moral of the story is to know your right from your left, and to sneeze in that direction, regardless of who is next to you!

Biblically speaking, sneezing meant a certain death, until Jacob nosed in and made a deal with God, whereby a prayer per sneeze cheated the grim reaper. Pope Gregory the Great, in response to the sixth century plague in Italy, carved out his place in history as being the one responsible for insisting that prayers, such as "God bless you!," be said in response to the deadly sneeze. He did not, however, order that tissues be kept close at hand to snare the airborne germs spewed forth by the sneeze.

Signs in the lights of the heavens?

For current biblical calendar information please see the articles [Calendar Info](#) and [Calendar of the Saints II](#). Further reading of "[The Sacred Calendar Book](#)" can also be seen at: <http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/sbs777/saccal/calbook/index.html>

What are the harvest times in Israel?

[From SBS "[Calendar Book](#)" question 4.]

Answer

The agricultural year in Israel begins in the autumn (after the harvest festival of Tabernacles) with ploughing and sowing. Harvests in Israel begin in spring in the month of Adar (February/March). The following harvest times in ancient Israel are obtained from the Readers Digest book entitled **Jesus and His Times**, pages 100-101.

Months	Weather	Crops & activity
Tishri (Sep/Oct)	First rains	Ploughing begins
Heshvan (Oct/Nov)		Ploughing / grain planting
Kislev (Nov/Dec)		Grain planting continues
Tebeth (Dec/Jan)	Main rains	
Sebat (Jan/Feb)		
Adar (Feb/Mar)	Spring rains	Almond in bloom / flax harvest
Abib (Mar/Apr)		Barley harvest begins
Zif (Apr/May)		Barley harvest completed
Sivan (May/Jun)	Dry season	Wheat harvest begins
Tamuz (Jun/Jul)		Wheat harvest completed / first figs
Ab (Jul/Aug)	Summer heat	Vintage (grape harvest) begins
Elul (Aug/Sep)		Date harvest / summer figs

From the above, one can see that the harvest season in ancient Israel began in Adar (Feb/March) and continued by stages into autumn. The barley harvest began in March-April: the first sheaf being cut and waived in the middle of Abib, which could be any time between 21st March and the middle of April. It is the same in modern Israel. Concerning the wheat and grape harvests, the **Westminster Dictionary of the Bible** says this:

"In Palestine wheat was sown in November or December, after the rains began. The harvest was in April, May or June in Palestine varying according to the locality and the weather at the time." (page 635)

"The vintage began in the middle of September and continued into October. It was a season of festivity. In the vineyards there were singing and joyful noise, and the treaders in the press kept time by shouting as they trod the grapes." (page 629)

These details concerning harvest times in Israel are vital when determining the start of a year in the sacred calendar and the sacred Festivals in it.

Scriptural Reading [a mini study]

Thoughts for the Spring Holy Days Season

Yahweh's Sign & Seal

According to the dictionary, the words 'sign,' 'seal,' 'signature,' 'mark,' 'inscription,' etc. are synonyms. That is, they are different words with shades of similar meaning. Yahweh's seal, in short, is linked with His sign, His signature and His Name. And so for that matter is your own sign or signature. It is simply an inscription of your own name.

Well may we now ask, "What then is the Almighty's Sign? Is it a visible signature, mark or name that He inscribes on the foreheads of His people?" Obviously not, for this is a symbolic prophecy and, besides, Yahweh's law expressly forbids us making or receiving any marks on our bodies. (**Lev.19:28**) The Most High would hardly, therefore, expect His servants to receive a literal mark or tattoo on their foreheads if His law expressly forbids receiving marks. Oh no, Yahweh's signature or sign is certainly not a literal inscription or mark on the forehead.

Well then, what is it, and what does it stand for? Yes, what is the special sign or seal which is to be placed in the foreheads of the servants of the LORD God of Israel? For a sign to be worthy of the name, must of necessity manifest itself in some way. Indeed if it does not exhibit its presence, even occasionally, it cannot justifiably be called a sign.

And so we ask, "Is Yahweh's sign love or generosity, speaking in tongues or wonder working power?" No, it is none of these, admirable though they may be. These signs and phenomena, in fact, are found in almost every society known to man - pagan and otherwise. They certainly are in no way peculiar to the servants of the God of Israel. Yahweh's signature or sign is very different from all these things, and because of its strangely unique nature we will allow the Scriptures to tell you what it is.

Exodus 31:13: Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a SIGN between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.

Ezekiel 20:12: Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a SIGN between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them.

Ezekiel 20:20: And hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a SIGN between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God.

And there you have it.

The Sabbath days in the Almighty's law are His signature, the special identifying SIGN He places on His

people to signal to the universe that they are His: and that He has set them apart to sanctify them.

What of the Almighty's Seal?

We are also told in **Isaiah 8:16** that the God of Israel seals His people with His Law. **Bind up the testimony, SEAL THE LAW among my disciples.**

In other words, the Almighty seals His people with obedience.

Obedience, incidentally, is doing what the Most High commands, following in His steps, endeavouring to behave like Him. Click here for more about the Almighty's Seal.

Where does Yahweh place his Seal & Signature?

The Scriptures tell us that they are inscribed in the believer's 'forehead' meaning his/her 'mind.'

Hebrews 8:10: For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

Deut. 6:8: And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

Exodus 13:9: And it (the Feast of Unleavened Bread) shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD's law may be in thy mouth.

According to these Scriptures, the Almighty's Seal is His law and His Signature is defined as being the Sabbath days in His law. These are inscribed in the believer's forehead, his mind. Yes, believe it or not, Yahweh's Sabbath days constitute His signature, His sign: and like Himself they cannot be changed or done away with.

YHWH, The Almighty God of Israel, Is With Us.

And finally ... a look into a garden past.



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White dogwood



"You Can Tell A Dogwood by its Bark."



Red dogwood



Dogwood tree, flowers in bloom, snow, Redwood trees,
Sequoia National Park stock photos,
California parks photography

Media Links:

Audio files referred to at intro: [To the Saints Media](#)

Other audio files: [coming soon]

Visit us at [Paltalk](#) on Sabbath days at 10:00 AM for a 30-40 minute discussion. Log on: Groups > Categories > Christianity > To the Saints of the Churches of God.

To contact the author or to comment please email: dwlacey@earthlink.net or visit one of the links listed below.

A friend in Christ,

David W. Lacey

YHWH, The Almighty God of Israel Is With Us!

To the Saints of the Churches of God is at: <http://home.earthlink.net/~dwlacey/>

The Stewarton Bible School web page is at: <http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/sbs777/>

A Voice in the Wilderness web page is at: <http://www.avoicethewilderness.org/>