

Greetings friends!

It's that time again! Biblical calendar month (chodesh) **2** is here!

However long the Winter season may seem to be it is a necessary part of the cycle of seasons being longer in some places than in others. Even so, it is always joyful to see the changing of a season, especially by such a colorful recovery as the month of **Zif** (May) brings. **April** showers bring **May** flowers goes the old song ... so for this months report we will attempt to deliver to you some of the **colors** of the season. Perhaps less colorful is the data used to understand the times, but such is as required for the proper keeping of the times.

So, onward to **the data.**

The data:

On **May 02, 2003** in Jerusalem Israel, at around 6:00 PM there will be a 1 day 2 hour old new moon displaying a 1% illumination. This same day in the Western hemisphere, after sunset at about 7:53 PM [daylight savings time applied], we shall see the new moon but with a 2% illumination. If we were to see only a slight 1% illumination at our time and location as distanced from Israel [our time zone] it would have been impossible for it to have been mature enough for a sighting in Israel earlier the same day. So, this 2% NM will confirm the sighting notices as reported from Israel earlier in the day.

Note the date shown above in the right box of the banner. I've displayed the daytime date as opposed to the preceding days date for the new moon sighting. The first DAY is best represented by naming the daytime date which started [by biblical definition] at sunset the evening before. I'm just trying to be numerically correct as opposed to say, stating the year of "0". There really wasn't any year "0"; the year was either -1 or +1 at all times.

This chodesh **2** begins Biblical calendar month "two". Why is it month 2 and not 1 or 3? 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 also from [Home Planet for Windows](#) and [Ephemeris vs. 2.0](#) software for Windows operating systems. These are free software packages and are available free for download at: <http://www.fourmilab.ch/>

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 of **May**

Named for the goddess Maia, the daughter of Atlas and one of the Pleiades.

May has 31 days.

The Return of May

Hail ! fairy queen, adorned with flowers,

Attended by the smiling hours,

Tis thine to dress rosy bowers

In colours gay;

We love to wanders in thy train,

To meet thee on the fertile plain



To bless thy soft propitious reign,
O lovely May!

Mrs. Hemans 1793-1835

A brief history of the Roman calendar months:

The original Roman year had 10 named months *Martius* "March", *Aprilis* "April", *Maius* "May", *Junius* "June", *Quintilis* "July", *Sextilis* "August", *September* "September", *October* "October", *November* "November", *December* "December", and probably two unnamed months in the dead of winter when not much happened in agriculture. The year began with *Martius* "March". Numa Pompilius, the second king of Rome circa 700 BC, added the two months *Januarius* "January" and *Februarius* "February". He also moved the beginning of the year from *Marius* to *Januarius* and changed the number of days in several months to be odd, a lucky number. After *Februarius* there was occasionally an additional month of

Intercalaris "intercalendar". This is the origin of the leap-year day being in February. In 46 BC, Julius Caesar reformed the Roman calendar (hence the Julian calendar) changing the number of days in many months and removing *Intercalaris*.

The Jewish calendar month

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. The biblical calendar month is similar to the Jewish calendar moon [month] 10:



Months	Weather	Crops & activity
Zif (Apr/May)		Barley harvest completed
The civil month 2 was also named in the scriptures as .		
2	Zif	1 Kings 6:1, 1Ki 6:37 Blossom month

1Ki 6:1 And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.

1Ki 6:37 In the fourth year was the foundation of the house of the LORD laid, in the month Zif:

From Easton's Illustrated Bible Dictionary:

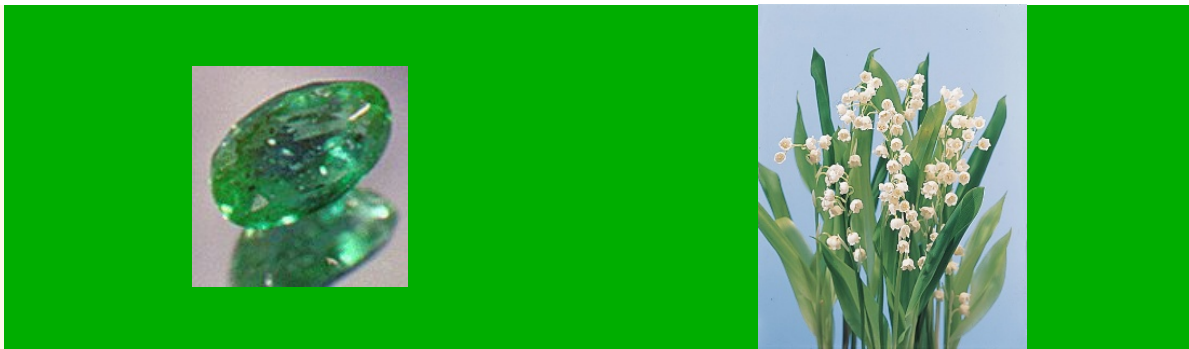
Zif

brightness; splendour; i.e., "the flower month," mentioned only in [1Ki 6:1](#), [1Ki 6:37](#), as the "second month." It was called Iyar by the later Jews.

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](#).

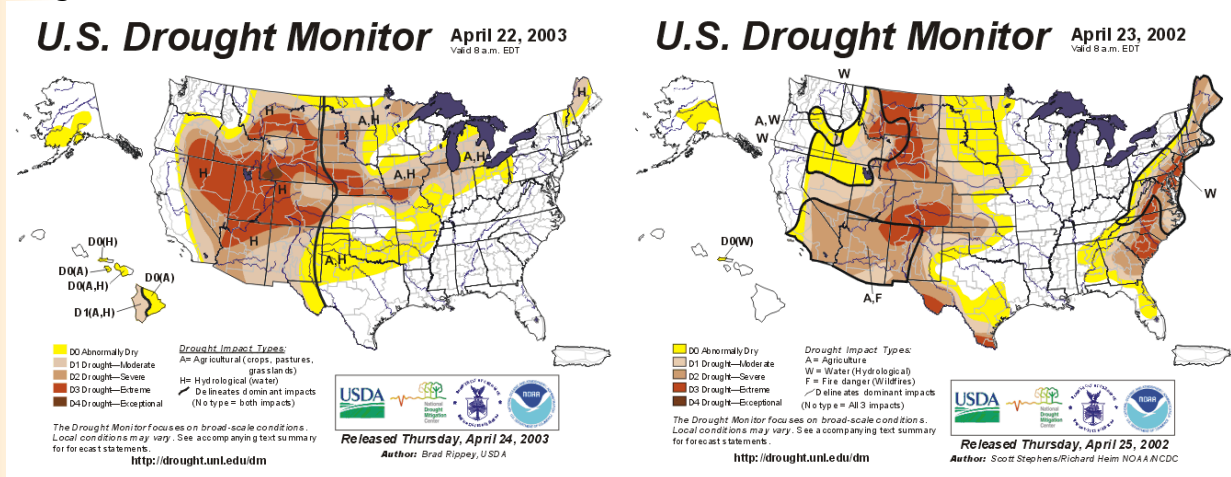
For further reading see ["The Sacred Calendar Book"](#).

The birthstone for the month of **May** is the **emerald**, the color is green, the flower is the Lily of the Valley - meaning **Humbleness** and **Humility**.



Drought Info:

Here is a current graphic of the drought as shown by NOAA and a comparison of the same time last year - **U.S. Drought Monitor**:



Holidays May 3

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

Japan-1947, Poland-1791 : Constitution Day

Lesotho : King's Birthday

Northern Ireland : Bank Holiday

Zambia : Labour Day - - - - - (**Monday**)

New Orleans : McDonogh Day (1850) - - - - - (**Friday**)

Religious Observances May 3

Christian-Poland : Feast of Our Lady of Czestochowa

Roman Catholic : Commemoration of SS Alexander, Eventius & Theodulus, martyrs

Roman Catholic : Commemoration of the Finding of the Cross

Roman Catholic : Feast of SS Philip & James, apostles

Roman Catholic : Commemoration of St Juvenal, bishop/confessor

This Day in Christian History - May 3

1512 The Fifth Lateran Council opened under Pope Julius II. Its twelve sessions lasting through 1517, the council continued under Leo X, following Julius' death in 1513.

1675 A Massachusetts law was enacted requiring church doors to be locked during the worship service. (Too many people were leaving before the long sermons were completed.)

1738 English revivalist George Whitefield, 23, first arrived in America. In all, Whitefield crossed the Atlantic thirteen times, and died in Massachusetts in 1770, during his seventh visit.

1850 Sixteen year old Charles H. Spurgeon made his public profession of faith in Jesus Christ in a Primitive Methodist Chapel, in Colchester, England. Spurgeon began a preaching career the following year which did not end until his death in 1892.

1878 Death of William Whiting, 53, Anglican poet and music instructor. He is known to have written only one hymn during his life, but its popularity has endured: "Eternal Father, Strong to Save."

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. \(pilgrimwb@aol.com\)](mailto:pilgrimwb@aol.com)

From the **Old Farmers Almanac**

Question: I saw the tip on cleaning silver with potato water and was wondering if you had a solution for large brass items.

Answer: A lot of brass pieces have been coated with lacquer or varnish to prevent tarnishing. To clean such pieces, apply a paste of lemon juice and cream of tartar. Leave the mixture on the brass for five minutes, then wash in warm water and dry. (Never scour lacquered or varnished brass.) Clean unlacquered brass in warm water with dishwashing liquid. If the brass is very dirty, boil the piece in a pan of water with one tablespoon of salt and one cup of white vinegar for several hours (this works for copper, too).



That Explains It!

Who invented the zipper? Why do most Zippers have the letters YKK on them?

Whitcomb L. Judson invented the zipper and YKK is the Japanese company that makes them.

Whitcomb L. Judson was a lover of gadgets and machines and the idea for his "clasp locker" came from when a friend had a stiff back from trying to fasten his shoes. Judson's clasp locker was used mostly on mailbags, tobacco pouches and shoes. However, his design, like most first inventions needed to be fine-tuned.

A more practical version came on the scene in 1913 when a Swedish-born engineer, Gideon Sundback revised Judson's idea and made his with metal teeth instead of a hook and eye design. In 1917, Sundback patented his "separable fastener."

The name changed again when the B. F. Goodrich Co. used it in rubber boots, galoshes, and called it the "zipper" because the boots could be fastened with one hand.

The 1940s brought about research in Europe of the coil zipper design. The first design was of interlocking brass coils. However, since they could be permanently bent out of shape, making the zipper stop functioning, it was rather bad for business and wasn't too practical. The new design was improved after the discovery of stronger, more flexible synthetics. Coil zippers eventually hit the market in the early 1960s.

In 1934, Yoshida Kogyo Kabushililaisha was founded. Sixty years later they changed their name to YKK Co. The privately owned firm, headquartered in Japan, now is made up of 80 companies at 206 facilities in 52 countries. Wow! you say? but of course, the demand for zippers is great. YKK makes everything from the dyed fabric around the zipper to the brass used to make the actual device.

Did you know?

In the 1930s a sales campaign ran for children's clothing that used the new zippers. The device was

praised for promoting self-reliance in young children. "Mommy look! One zip and I'm all dressed!"

In 1937 in the Battle of the Fly it was zipper versus button. French fashion designers went wild for the new invention for men's trousers.



Please click on the banner **Bible Versions** for the truth about Bible versions.

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>

Scriptural Reading - Study Notes [a mini study]

1Co 1:22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

1Co 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; A declaration of that which he said: that the preaching of the Gospel is foolish. It is foolish, he says, to those whom God has not endued with new light, that is to say, to all men being considered in themselves: for the Jews require miracles, and the Greeks arguments, which they may comprehend by their intellect and wisdom: and therefore they do not believe the Gospel, and also mock it. Nonetheless, in this foolish preaching there is the great power and wisdom of God, but such that only those who are called perceive: God showing most plainly, that even then when mad men think him most foolish, he is far wiser than they are, and that he surmounts all their might and power, when he uses most vile and abject things, as it has appeared in the fruit of the preaching of the Gospel.

1Co 1:24 But unto them which are called²⁸²², both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

Strong's G2822

κλειτός, kletos, klay-tos'

From the same as G2821; *invited*, that is, *appointed*, or (specifically) a *saint*: - called.

From the [JFB Commentary](#):

1Co 1:24 -

called--(compare [1Co 1:26](#)). The same class as the "us which are (being) saved" ([1Co 1:18](#)); the elect, who have obeyed the call; called effectually ([Rom 8:28](#), [Rom 8:30](#)).

Christ--"Crucified" is not here added, because when the offense of the cross is overcome, "Christ" is

received in all His relations, not only in His cross, but in His life and His future kingdom.

power--so meeting all the reasonable requirements of the Jews who sought "a sign." The cross (the death of a slave), which to the Jews (looking for a temporal Messiah) was a "stumbling-block," is really "the power of God" to the salvation of all who believe.

wisdom of God--so really exhibiting, and in the highest degree (if they would but see it), that which the Greeks sought after--wisdom ([Col 2:3](#)).



April Showers

By: Al Jolson

**Life is not a highway strewn with flowers,
Still it holds a goodly share of bliss,
When the sun gives way to April showers,
Here's the point you should never miss.**

**Though April showers may come your way,
They bring the flowers that bloom in May.
So if it's raining, have no regrets,
Because it isn't raining rain, you know, (It's raining violets,)
And where you see clouds upon the hills,
You soon will see crowds of daffodils,
So keep on looking for a blue bird, And list'ning for his song,
Whenever April showers come along.**

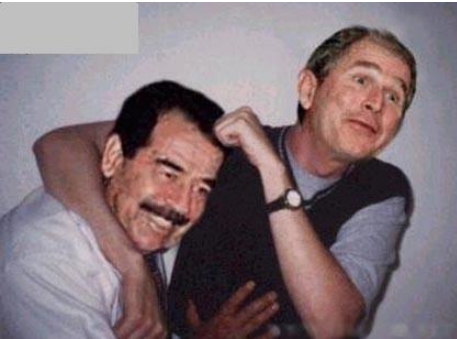
**And where you see clouds upon the hills,
You soon will see crowds of daffodils,
So keep on looking for a blue bird, And list'ning for his song,
Whenever April showers come along.**

[See [Media Links](#) below for *music* to go along with the lyrics.above.]

And finally, some reasonably colorful pictures ...



What happens when hens eat Fruit Loops!



Those **colored chicks** are back -
heh-heh!


To happier times!

Daffodils - flowering meadow in Ohio


Media Links:

Audio files: [To the Saints Media](#)

Other audio files: [April Showers](#)



Visit us at [Paltalk](#) every **Sabbath at 10:00 AM** Mountain time for a Bible Study and topical discussions. [Paltalk](#) chat software: [Groups > Christianity > Sabbath Studies - 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.avoiceinthewilderness.org/>