

To the Saints of the Churches of God

Newsletter

hayah chadash chodesh [is a new month]

Issue No. 23

12/25/2003

Index to this months issue:

Introduction & The Data	1
Names of the Month	2
Holidays & Religious Observances	3
Birthstones	3
This Day in Christian History & Old Farmers Almanac	4
Scripture Reading - Feast of Dedication	5
When was Jesus Really Born?	6
Fast Facts	7-8
Comments from Andy8 Rooney, Things I've Learned	
Classified and Announcements	9-10

This text can be about the Web page news links, archeological data and new books of interest.

Space should be designated here for contact info.

Chodesh 10 is here!

English novelist, journalist, sociologist, and historian HG Wells once wrote a book titled "The Time Machine" with its translucent commentary on the capitalist society *which* was an instant bestseller. A notable lesson one may glean from this booklet is expressed through the odyssey of the future, into a Golden Age that has lost its glitter, among a humanity that is searching for its humanness. It reveals to us that while some things change ... mostly things remain the same. In spite of our temporal affluence and technology human nature remains constant. Creatures of curious habit become creatures of victim. By false operant response conditioning and positive reinforcement humanity finds itself comfortably defined by the resulting [conditioned] customs and traditions. This month we'll explore some of these customs and traditions, and their sources.

An interesting article about time was in the magazine Scientific American titled "Real Time" by Gary Stix [Sept.

2002 issue] makes some harsh observations regarding human nature and time. The article brings to attention the advent of things like Federal Express, cell phones and computers [with which we may now multitask with many simultaneously] and how this has effected mankind as a whole. "*Time has, in essence, triumphed over space*", he states. The article is pre-concluded in the comment regarding the introduction of Federal Express and has only gotten faster since.



FedEx example: *At first, FedEx gave its customers an edge. But soon the whole world expected goods to arrive next morning. "When everyone adopted overnight mail, equality was restored," Gleich writes, "and only the universally faster pace remained."*

So here we are reeling into another winter season at a faster pace than before? Perhaps you recall the words of a kinder time that harbored thoughts to "keep things simple". Here are some hopefully numerous quotes from some famous and some infamous personalities

regarding "time":

"We didn't lose the game; we just ran out of time."

- Vince Lombardi

Phil Rizzuto - "Hey Yogi I think we're lost." - Yogi Berra - "Ya, but we're making great time!"

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana. Time wounds all heels. - Groucho Marx (1895-1977)

"I've had a wonderful time, but this wasn't it." - Groucho Marx (1895-1977)

Well, enough said about that. We can rest easy knowing that the Biblical calendar times are still as sure as the signs in the heavens that God originally placed there for us to use, and at the same regular pace and relevance to our seasons as they were from the beginning regardless of slight variances - it is the Earth that now wobbles after all, not the universe!

Onward to the data.

The data:

On **December 24, 2003** at about 5:30 PM Jerusalem, Israel should see chodesh 10 [new moon 10] with a 2-3% illumination. Around the

Psa 42:4 When I remember these *things*, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday.

globe that same day the new moon should appear at about 5:30 PM - Western USA [MST] time. The new moon will have about a 4% illumination by the time it becomes visible to the Western States. It will be visible just after sunset at most location throughout the USA the evening of **December 24**.

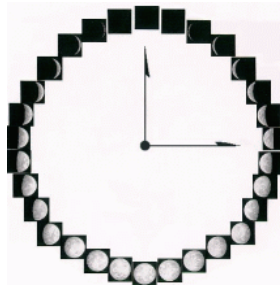
Note the date shown above in the right box of the banner. I've displayed the daytime date as opposed to the preceding days date for the new

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 **10** begins Biblical calendar month "ten". Why is it month **10** and not 9 or 11? 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://users.adelphia.net/~dwlacey/faq/calendar/mcalchart.html> ---

Names of the Month

The Roman calendar month **December -- the tenth month**

Middle English *decembre*
Old French *decembre*
Latin *december* "tenth month"
Latin *decem* "ten" + *-ber* (adj. suffix)

December had 30 days, until Numa when it had 29 days, until Julius when it became 31 days long.

When you look at September, October, November and December, it seems as if the Romans couldn't count! But their year used to start in March. When Julius Caesar reorganised the calendar and made it start in January, he kept the old

Months	Weather	Crops & activity
Tebeth (Dec/Jan)	Main rains	

The civil month 10 was also named in the scriptures as . **Tebeth** ([Est 2:16](#)), a word probably of Persian origin, denoting the cold time of the year; used by the later Jews as denoting the tenth month of the year. Assyrian *tebituv*, "rain."

10	Tebeth	Esther 2:16	Winter/tenth
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names, apart from one month, which he called after himself. The Romans had special names for the first day in the month (the Kalends), the seventh day (the Nones) and the fifteenth (the Ides). The Kalends belonged to [Juno](#). The Ides belonged to [Jupiter](#).

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* "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 *Martius* 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*. "August",

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**:

The Biblical Calendar Month [KJV]

Est 2:16 So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

From [Easton's Illustrated Bible Dictionary](#):

Tebeth

([Est 2:16](#)), a word probably of Persian origin, denoting the cold

THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL (JACOB) Gen 32:28, Gen 49:1-33

Gad	figure	Tebeth (Dec/Jan)	Peridot and gold	Leshem	Sweden	Troop	7 Zilpah	Gen 30:11
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Gen 30:11 And Leah said, A troop cometh; and she called his name Gad. **Gen 49:19** Gad, a troop shall overcome him: but he shall overcome at the last.

KJV Biblical Calendar – Tebeth (Dec/Jan) 2003

time of the year; used by the later Jews as denoting the tenth month of the year. Assyrian tebituv, "rain."

Biblical events referencing the phrase "tenth month":

(Gen 8:5) And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month: in the tenth *month*, on the first *day* of the month, were the tops of the mountains seen.

(2Ki 25:1) And it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth *day* of the month, *that* Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon came, he, and all his host, against Jerusalem, and pitched against it; and they built forts against it round about.

(1Ch 27:13) The tenth *captain* for the tenth month *was* Maharai the Netophathite, of the Zarhites: and in his course *were* twenty and four thousand.

(Ezr 10:16) And the children of the captivity did so. And Ezra the priest, *with* certain chief of the fathers, after the house of their fathers, and all of them by *their* names, were separated, and sat down in the first day of the tenth month to examine the matter.

(Est 2:16) So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which *is* the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

(Jer 39:1) In the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, came Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon and all his army against Jerusalem, and they besieged it.

(Jer 52:4) And it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth *day* of the month, *that* Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon came, he and all his army, against Jerusalem, and pitched against it, and built forts against it round about.

(Eze 24:1) Again in the



ninth year, in the tenth month, in the tenth *day* of the month, the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

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](#).

--- Birthstones

The traditional birthstone for the month of December is the **turquoise**, the color is blue-medium, the flower is the **Narcissus** - meaning **extreme confidence**.

The sun that brief



*December day
Rose cheerless over hills
of gray,
And, darkly circled, gave
a noon
A sadder light than
waning moon.*

**John Greenleaf Whittier
1807-1892**

The Modern Birthstone list contains the official birthstone list from the American National Association of Jewelers, [Jewelers of America](#). These gemstones were officially adopted in 1912. In the US, this is the accepted list.

The Traditional Birthstone list contains older birthstones and is sometimes combined with the modern birthstone list. These

stones reflect societal birthstone traditions, heralding back to the 15th century. (Many jewelers have differing lists of traditional birthstones.)

The Mystical Birthstone list is of Tibetan origin from over a thousand years ago.

The Ayurvedic Birthstone list is from Ayurvedic Indian Medicine - a type of medicine used for over a thousand years.

Stones listed in the "other" column were correlated by Dave Thompson and others participating on the usenet newsgroup rec.crafts.jewelry as alternative birthstones for each month. [The Curious Lore of Precious Stones](#) by George Frederick Kunz has a wonderful list of birthstones from different cultures.

For the Biblical student the only source for true and accurate information regarding birth stones and colors based upon heraldry comes from the [KJV] Bible under the list of the names of the The Tribes of Israel (Jacob) Gen 32:28, Gen 49:1-33 [See above for this months featured tribe].

Holidays December 25

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

England : New Year's Day observed before 1068

Taiwan : Constitution Day (1946)

Religious Observances December 25

Christian [Traditional] : CHRISTMAS comes from the early English phrase CHRISTES MASSE, which means CHRIST'S MASS.

December 25 was the day the Feast of Saturn, birthday of the sun, was celebrated. But Christians celebrated the birthday of the Son--the Light of the World. For many years, Christ's birthday was a religious celebration only, but eventually people began to adopt customs unrelated to the Saviour's birth ... *the Puritans did away with the observance of Christmas by law in 1643. Christmas became a national holiday by an act of Congress in 1870!*

Was President Grant a Democrat? Answer: He aligned himself with the Radical Republicans. Previous President Andrew was of the southern Jacksonian Democrats.

For a walk through the history of Christmas in the United States see: <http://www.cvc.org/christmas/history/>

Roman Catholic : New Years Day (until 12th century)

Ancient Rome : It was a festival day (dies festus). After sacrifice at the temple, there was a public banquet (convivium publicum), which Livy says was introduced in 217 BC.

The Saturnalia did continue to be celebrated as Brumalia (from bruma, winter solstice) down to the Christian era, when, by the middle of the fourth century AD, its rituals had become absorbed in the celebration of Christmas.

Drought Info:

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

This Day in Christian History - December 25

0336 This is the earliest known year that Jesus' nativity was celebrated on December 25th, as mentioned in the

his martyrdom, Bohemian reformer and martyr Jan Huss wrote in a letter: 'Rejoice, that the immortal God is born, so that mortal men may live through eternity.'
1537 German reformer Martin Luther was recorded as saying: 'It is the most ungodly and dangerous business to abandon the certain and revealed will of God in order to search in to the hidden mysteries of God.'

1723 The Dunkards (Baptists from Germany) held their first immersion service in America at Germantown (near Philadelphia), Pennsylvania.

1923 In Washington, D.C., during Calvin Coolidge's first Christmas as president, the first electrically_lit Christmas tree appeared in the

From the Old Farmers Almanac

Question: With the holidays here and pounds gained, how many calories do you have to burn to lose a pound of fat?

AnsWER: It takes about 3,500 calories to gain or lose a pound of



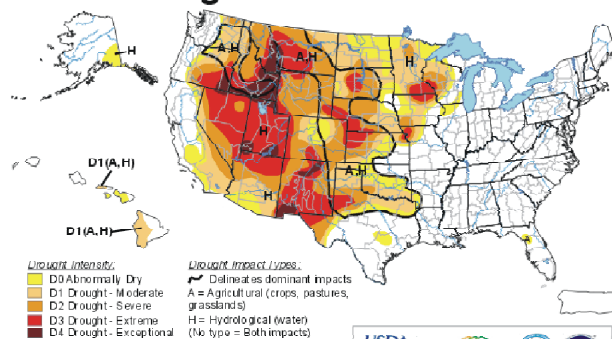
fat. To give you an idea of how much energy it takes to "burn" a calorie, here are a few activities with the number of calories they burn per minute, per pound of body weight: fast ax chopping (or cross-country skiing uphill), 0.135; forking straw bales (or playing basketball), 0.063; window cleaning (or playing croquet), 0.026. So a 150-pound person forking straw bales burns 9.45 calories per minute, which means he or she must fork bales for six hours to lose one pound. (Though not listed, the one exercise guaranteed to prevent calories needing burning is pushing one's chair away from the table!)

That Explains It!

How much sleep do we need?

The amount of sleep an

U.S. Drought Monitor December 16, 2003



The Drought Monitor is for uses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

Philocalian Calendar of A.D. 354. Jesus' birth was commemorated on January 6th in Greek Orthodoxy, although by the 400s most of the Eastern churches had accepted the Roman date. Formerly celebrated from the origins of Saturnalia, then Brumalia (from bruma, winter Solstice) since 217 BC.
1413 Two years before

White House.

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

individual requires varies from person to person, but most adults average eight hours of sleep.

Sleep plays a vital role in our daily regimen, as during this dormant period, it recharges and rejuvenates weary body organs and tissues, and restores the body to an alert state. A person's lifestyle is another variable in the amount of time he needs to achieve this healthy balance, and to feel well rested upon awakening.

The quality of a person's sleep also factors into the sleep equation. When we drift off to sleep, we either fall into a deep, restful sleep, or into a shallow, light sleep. One who normally requires eight hours of sleep, but sleeps shallowly, will most likely awaken feeling tired. In contrast, if the same individual sleeps fewer hours, but lapses into a state of deep sleep, he may well awaken refreshed and invigorated.

A lucky few can bypass shallow sleep altogether, and fall directly into deep sleep on an as needed basis. Alexander the Great's military prowess may have been due, in part, to his ability to take a "cat nap."

Yet one more variable factors into the amount of sleep we require: that of the brain and of the body sleeping simultaneously. Under normal circumstances, the brain's sleep center blocks off the nerves to the brain and to the body to make sleep possible. The brain has no interest in doing anything, and could not even if it did, because the sleep center

has shut down the internal organs, the arms, and the legs. Sometimes, however, the sleep center is unsuccessful in shutting down both the brain and the body at the same time. For example, in times of war, it is not unusual for soldiers suffering from sleep deprivation and from combat fatigue to continue to march, despite the fact that their brains have halted. Thankfully, such a situation is an anomaly, and does not occur with



great frequency.

Scriptural Reading

Study Notes - a mini study

[See special seasonal study at the end of this mini-study.]

THE FEAST OF DEDICATION

From the **JFB Commentary:**
Joh 10:22-23 -
DISCOURSE AT THE
FEAST OF DEDICATION
--FROM THE FURY OF
HIS ENEMIES JESUS
ESCAPES BEYOND
JORDAN, WHERE MANY
BELIEVE ON HIM. (John
10:22-42)

it was . . . the feast of the dedication--celebrated rather more than two months after the feast of tabernacles, during which intermediate period our Lord seems to have remained in the

neighborhood of Jerusalem. It was instituted by Jude Maccabeus, to commemorate the purification of the temple from the profanations to which it had been subjected by Antiochus Epiphanes 165 B.C., and kept for eight days, from the twenty-fifth Chisleu (December), the day on which Judas began the first joyous celebration of it (I Maccabees 4:52, 56, 59; and JOSEPHUS, Antiquities, 7.7.7). **it was winter**--implying some inclemency.

Therefore, it is noted that Christ did stay near Jerusalem and appeared at the Feast of Dedications only to be confronted by the "Jews" of that Temple to which He stated to them **[KJV, John 10:26]** But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. **John 10:27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

To this He was confronted by those Jews,

Joh 10:31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

Jesus was there but did not remain by reason of persecution by the Jews. No doubt, Himself being of the blood of the tribe of Judah - descendant of David, He was taught about the custom of this commemoration. It is my opinion that He was there to acknowledge the commemoration of the *feast of dedication* as He was taught by His mother and father, as was the custom of the people of Judah to teach their children of these matters. However, it is also plain

that the commemoration itself was neither an holy day or a sabbath. The *feast of dedications* seems to be most similar to the custom of Thanksgiving Day created in 1621 by the Pilgrims of the then future Republic of the United States. There are other national feast days of types in other nations upon the Earth also, during which they too give thanks to their gods for blessings and their posterity. I do not say this to make similar the feast of dedications to the latter, but to demonstrate that people too can create a commemoration among themselves - as in the Annual Fire Fighters Memorial meeting in Colorado Springs, CO which commemorates the fallen among them and honors those who perished while in their duty of service, for example.

So, while it is well documented that Christ was at the Temple during the time of the *feast of dedications*, it would still seem only a conjecture on my part or anyone else's to state that this was the **only** purpose that He attended the Temple during that time. The scripture does not say that Christ did in fact observe the *feast of dedication* for the full eight days as did the Maccabees in their re-dedication. No, He went off to beyond the Jordan River and abode for a time ... including during the time of the event itself [**John 10:40**].

So what are the commemorations, memorials and Holy Days mentioned in the Bible? Which days are Christians to keep and

observe? Let's read on for a moment longer.

[The Feast Days of the God of Israel](http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/sbs777/saccal/festbook/intro.html)

Booklet Index, Part 1
Stewarton Bible School
<http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/sbs777/saccal/festbook/intro.html>

Introduction

By far the best way to determine the real interests of a person is to note the festivals that he/she attends. Festivals are generally happy events, when people with similar interests assemble to celebrate something.

At a festival all the age-old barriers of race, colour and class are usually swept aside as people give themselves over to the "spirit of the occasion". And so we have music festivals, sports festivals, film festivals, wine festivals, carnivals, fetes, fairs, religious festivals and Feasts of various kinds. Indeed there is a festival to suit almost every taste and they are all normally well attended.

Festivals are often held to commemorate some important event, and in this connection they may be referred to as memorial festivals. Many religious festivals fall into this category; they are 'memorial festivals' held to commemorate the actions of the various Gods people worship. This study is of the Feast Days of Yahweh the Holy One of Israel, the Creator of the mighty universe, the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; the One who is intensely interested in the welfare of every soul on earth. Yes, **the Almighty has certain memorials. He calls them 'My**

Feasts; for they are the Sacred Memorial Banquets of His greatest acts in the Programme of Salvation; banquets to which all His subjects are invited.

Leviticus 23:1-4 **And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying. "Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, Concerning the the Feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are MY FEASTS! ... These are the Feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons."**

Note the Almighty's words "These are My Feasts" and "These are the Feasts of the LORD." Undoubtedly Yahweh's festivals were initially given to the people of Israel, for it was His plan that through them salvation was to be proclaimed to the world. But **the feasts themselves are the LORD'S, not Israel's or Judah's, but Yahweh's. Remember this vital fact.**

Unlike the popular festivals of Ash Wednesday, Easter, Hallowe'en and Christmas, whose observance is nowhere commanded in the Scriptures, the Feast Days of Yahweh are described in the Bible in considerable detail. They are to be proclaimed to and observed by all true believers in the LORD God of Israel. **Read about these sacred memorials in Leviticus 23, Numbers 28 & 29 and Zechariah 14.**

There you will see overwhelming evidence of their divine origin and

everlasting nature. Stewarton Bible School's [and To the Saints of the Churches of God] aim is to draw the church's attention to these appointed feasts of the Most High; to proclaim them to all the world in accordance with this divine direction:

Leviticus 23:4 **"These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons."**

A holy convocation is a commanded assembly. In other words, you are commanded to attend and join with fellow worshippers of the God of Israel. This publication is part of that proclamation. It outlines the reasons why you should attend the Feasts of the Holy One of Israel.



What do these sacred feasts commemorate? The answer is: They are the spiritual anniversaries of Yahweh's mightiest deeds; each and every one of them being an eternal memorial of some distinct, divine accomplishment in the great Programme of Salvation. If you read this booklet to the end you will see that statement proved over and over again.

Author's Conclusion

It is with exceeding gratitude to know that God has given to His chosen the knowledge of and the ability to keep "His Feasts" at their proper appointed times which He established. Therefor, I proclaim as the scriptures support: "... hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." [Rev 3:11]. Indeed, no one can because your God is a jealous God [2Co 11:2, Eze 36:27]! His Word

clearly tells us in the scriptures about "His Feasts". Any other would be just among so many attempts by the adversary to steel away from the body of Christ - the Church.

For a complete explanation of these special days of "Feasts" that God has proclaimed for His set aside people [Heb 12:1] please see the free booklet **[The Feast Days of the God of Israel](#)**.

 **A special seasonal mini-study** 

When was Jesus really born?

Scriptural Evidence

The story of the Saviour's birth is well known; but for those who do not have Bibles here it is.

Luke 1:5: There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia; and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. 6: And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

7: And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

8: And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course,

9: According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went

into the temple of the Lord.

10: And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.

11: And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

12: And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

13: But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name **John**.

14: And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.

15: For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

16: And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.

17: And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

18: And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.

19: And the angel answering said unto him, I am **Gabriel**, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.

This passage tells us that the angel Gabriel visited Zacharias during

Fast Facts - and other useless information to confound your friends and relatives. Caution: these are conversation stoppers, so use with discretion!

- In Chinese, the words 'crisis' and 'opportunity' are the same.
- The infinity character on the keyboard is called a 'lemniscate.'
- The pound sign is called a 'octothorp.'
- Before jets, jet lag was called boat lag.
- The words racecar and kayak are spelled same both ways.
- The word 'monosyllable' actually has five syllables in it.
- The saying 'once in a blue moon ' refers to the occurrence of two full moons during one calendar month. The last two occurred in January & March 1999. The next one isn't until the end of 2001.
- The letter "I" is used exactly 109 times in Act IV of Shakespeare's Macbeth.
- There are only 12 letters in the Hawaiian alphabet.
- 'Naked' means to be unprotected. 'Nude' means unclothed.
- Upper and lower case letters are named 'upper' and 'lower', because in the times when all original print had to be set in individual letters, the 'upper case' letters were stored in the case on top, and the smaller, 'lower case' letters on bottom.
- Seoul, the South Korean capital, just means "the capital" in the Korean language.
- The name of all the continents end with the same letter that they start with.

the course of Abia. What is meant by "the course of Abia?"

The "**course of Abia**" (**Abijah** in Hebrew) we learn from 1 Chronicles 24:7-10, was the 8th of 24 courses during a 12 month year. Each group of priests (all except the most senior who were on duty more often) officiated in the Temple for **two weeks** every year. **Zacharias'** turn of duty came when the 8th group (**Abijah's**) attended; which was during weeks **15** and **16** after the start of the year.

A year in the sacred calendar begins with the **new moon nearest the spring equinox**.

Consequently the new year starts in March or very early April. For the purpose of this study we will work with the equinox date of 20th March. Fifteen weeks (105 days) after the 20th March bring us to early July. In other words, **in early July** the angel Gabriel told

Zachariah that his aged wife Elisabeth would conceive and bear a son, whose name was to be **John**. **Six months into Elisabeth's pregnancy**, that is in early January, **Gabriel** informed the virgin **Mary** that she also was to conceive and bring forth a son, **the Son of the Highest - the Messiah!** When **Mary** said that this was not possible as she had never had sexual intercourse with a man, **Gabriel** told her that the aged **Elisabeth**, who had been barren for many, many years, was already **six months pregnant** - another apparent impossibility with man, but not with God. **For with God nothing shall be impossible!**

Luke 1:26: And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

27: To a virgin espoused to a man whose name

was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

28: And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

29: And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

30: And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. 31: And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name **JESUS**.

32: He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

34: Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a

- The "You Are Here" arrow on maps is called an ideo locator. The word 'lethologica' describes the state of not being able to remember the word you want. In English, "four" is the only digit that has the same number of letters as its value. Q is the only letter in the alphabet that does not appear in the name of any of the U.S. states.. The word "trivia" comes from the Latin "trivium" which is the place where three roads meet, a public square. People would gather and talk about all sorts of matters, most of which were trivial. Typewriter, is the longest word that can be made using the letters in only one row of the keyboard. "Speak of the Devil" is short for "Speak of the Devil and he shall come". It was believed that if you spoke about the Devil it would attract his attention. That's why when you're talking about someone and they show up people say "Speak of the Devil." The word "checkmate" in chess comes from the Persian phrase "Shah Mat," which means, "The King Is Dead." The sentence "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog." uses every letter in the English language. The only 15-letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter is uncopyrightable. Canada is an Indian word meaning "Big Village." Stewardesses is the longest word typed with only the left hand.

man?

35: *And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the **Son of God.***

36: *And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.*

37: ***For with God nothing shall be impossible.***

From the above passages we learn, amongst other things, three vital facts:

- Elisabeth conceived in early **July**.
- Mary conceived some 6 months after Elisabeth, in early **January**.
- Therefore **Jesus**

was born just over 9 months later; which brings us to an autumn date in **late September/early October.**

From the above scriptural evidence it is certain that Jesus Christ was not born on the 25th December but in the autumn of the year. Now this is an amazing fact because late September/early October coincides with the Week of Tabernacles, the most sacred week in the sacred calendar. (Leviticus 23:23-44) The Week of Tabernacles is a memorial of Israel's 40 years in the wilderness when the nation lived in 'tabernacles' (booths or tents) and when Jehovah took up residence in a 'tabernacle' which was pitched in the centre of the camp. That is the low-level memorial of

Tabernacles. The high-level reality of Tabernacles was when Yeshua the Son of the Highest, the Messiah, GOD INCARNATE, took up residence in a frail human body. In other words, God 'tabernacled' with mankind in the person of His Son - Jesus Christ!

Things I've learned

by Andy Rooney, a man who has the gift of saying so much with so few words. Enjoy.

I've learned.... That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

I've learned.... That when you're in love, it shows. I've learned.... That just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day.

I've learned.... That having a child fall asleep

in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

I've learned.... That being kind is more important than being right.

I've learned.... That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

I've learned.... That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.

I've learned.... That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

I've learned.... That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

I've learned.... That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

I've learned.... That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

I've learned.... That we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.

I've learned.... That money doesn't buy class.

I've learned.... That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

I've learned... That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

I've learned.... That the

Lord didn't do it all in one day. What makes me think I can?

I've learned.... That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

I've learned.... That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.

I've learned.... That love, not time, heals all wounds.

I've learned.... That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.

I've learned.... That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

I've learned.... That there's nothing sweeter than sleeping with your babies and feeling their breath on your cheeks.

I've learned.... That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.

I've learned.... That life is tough, but I'm tougher.

I've learned.... That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.

I've learned.... That when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

I've learned.... That I wish I could have told my Dad that I love him one more time before he

I've learned.... That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.

I've learned.... That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

I've learned.... That I can't choose how I feel, but I can choose what I do about it.

I've learned.... That when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, that you're hooked for life.

I've learned.... That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

I've learned ... That it is best to give advice in only two circumstances; when it is requested and when it is a life threatening situation.

I've learned.... That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.

[Special thanks to Laura, my niece for contributing this].

Announcements

None to report.

Classified Ads

None to report.

Help Want Ads

None to report.

Obituaries

None to report.

~ The End ~

Phi 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

*TTS_COG
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To the Saints of the Churches of God

Newsletter

hayah chadash chodesh [*is a new month*]

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

YHWH, The Almighty God of Israel Is With Us!

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