

The Memorial of Messiah's Birth

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Yahshua the Messiah (Jesus), was born in
October is verified by Holy Scripture.

The Most High, Almighty Yahweh, the Father in Heaven, has established a series of memorials of the most important events in the Bible. There are memorials of the day of Messiah's birth, of the day of his death, and of the day of his return, among other memorials. They were scheduled so that the memorialized events would occur precisely on their memorial days. Messiah was born exactly on the memorial day appointed for his birth; he was impaled (crucified) and died exactly on the memorial day appointed for his death; and he will return exactly on the day appointed to memorialize his return. A historical example of this principle is the amazing outpouring of the Holy Spirit on its appointed memorial —Pentecost! Yahweh's will is that we observe his memorials, as the men at Acts 2:1 were doing; and Yahweh's memorials occur on specific days on the Scriptural calendar.

Scriptural calendar months are designated mostly by numbers; only four of them have names. And in order to perceive how Scriptural and common months are related, it is necessary to consider when the Scriptural year begins.

The first month of the Scriptural year begins in the spring, at the actual sighting of the first (or, occasionally, the second) visible new moon crescent after the spring equinox, generally in April, after seed heads ("ears") have formed on the grain in the fields (Deut 16:1, Exodus 9:31; 12:2) at the latitude of Jerusalem. This latitude (31° 47' N) also lies just north of Waco, Texas. Thus, the Scriptural first month occurs in the spring and is named "Abib," which means "green ears" (of grain).

The chart on page three shows a comparison of Julian months (the months on our common calendars), to the months of the Scriptural calendar. The latter is a lunar calendar, based on the cycles of the moon. And because the lunar year is approximately eleven days shorter than the solar year, an intercalary month must be added to the lunar calendar every two or three years in order to keep calendar dates in agreement with the seasons. This intercalary month is added in late winter, before the month Abib.

The Scriptural first month, Abib, approximates April. In the year of our Savior's birth, 4 B.C., the first day of Abib (as represented on our common calendars) was March 30th. And in the previous year, 5 B.C., the year when Zachariah became unable to speak (Luke 1:11-22), the first day of Abib was April 9th.

The fact that our Savior, Yahshua the Messiah, was born in October is verified by Holy Scripture. For Zachariah, the father of John the Baptist, was a priest of the course of Abijah (Luke 1:5) which is the eighth course (1st Chronicles 24:10). So he would have been serving in the Temple in the latter half of the Scriptural fourth month, which in 5 B.C. covered the period July 22 to August 5.

Julian		Scriptural Calendar Months
April	(approx.)	Abib ("green ears")
May	"	Zo ("life")
June	"	3rd
July	"	4th
August	"	5th
September	"	6th
October	"	Ethanim
November	"	Bool (Bui)
December	"	9th
January	"	10th
February	"	11th
March	"	12th

In the intercalary year, a month called 13th is added after the 12th month, because its visible new crescent appears before the spring equinox. The spring equinox occurs on March 21st. The month Abib begins at the first (or second) visible new crescent moon after March 21st.

For King David had established 24 courses of priests to serve in the Temple throughout the 12 months of the year (1st Chronicles 24:1-19). Each course was to serve one half of a month in sequence, beginning with the first and second courses in Abib, the first month; courses 3 and 4 would serve in the second month; courses 5 and 6 in the third month; and so on. Whenever a thirteenth month would occur, courses 23 and 24 would repeat their service of the twelfth month. And the course of Abijah was the eighth course, so Zachariah served in the Temple during the latter half of the Scriptural fourth month, which ended in early August that year.

Zachariah returned home immediately after his service in the Temple, and his wife Elizabeth conceived. She hid herself for five months; and in the sixth month of her pregnancy, in the Scriptural tenth month (which began on December 31st that year), the angel Gabriel announced to the maiden Mariam (Mary) that she would conceive in her womb and bring forth a son, and that he would be given the throne of King David.

Now there had been prophecies of a coming Messiah, a king who would accede to the throne of David and who would rule in righteousness. Almighty Yahweh had revealed to King David that: "Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever....Your throne shall be established for ever" (2 Samuel 7:16). And "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder....Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end; upon the throne of David shall it be, and upon his kingdom —to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from thenceforth even for ever. The zeal of Yahweh of hosts will perform this" (Isaiah 9:6-7). And "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratha, which are little among the thousands of Judah, out of you shall come forth unto me he who is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting" (Micah 5:2). And the time for this king to appear was approaching.

So Zachariah concluded his work in the Temple and returned to his home, and his wife conceived. She stayed at home, out of sight, for five months^ (approximately August, September, October, November, and December.)

In January, Elizabeth's sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from Yahweh unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mariam....

And the angel said unto her, "Fear not, Mariam, for you have found favor with Elohim. And listen: you shall conceive in your womb, and bring forth a son, and shall call his name Yahshua. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High; and Yahweh Elohim shall give him the throne of his forefather David; and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

Then said Mariam unto the angel, "How shall this be, seeing that I know not a man?" And the angel answered and said unto her, "The holy Spirit shall come upon you, and the Power of the Most High shall overshadow you. Therefore, that holy thing which is begotten and shall be born of you shall be called the Son of Yahweh."

"And listen: your cousin Elizabeth, she also has conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with Elohim nothing is impossible."...And the angel departed from her.

Immediately, "with haste," Mariam went to visit her cousin Elizabeth; and when Elizabeth heard her greeting, she became aware, through the influence of the holy Spirit, that Mariam already had conceived (Luke 1:23-45) —in January!

Now since the human gestation period is approximately nine months, and since Yahshua was conceived in January, his birth certainly took place nine months later, in October. And at the time of Yahshua's birth, there were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. Obviously, this occurred in the warmer season of early autumn, not in the rainy coldness of winter. Also, there was no room for them at the inn (Luke 2: 7-8), indicating that many people were gathered there for the beginning of an autumn feast, the Feast of Tabernacles in the Scriptural seventh month, the month Ethanim.

For according to the Law of Moses, all of the men of Israel were required to assemble together three times each year and appear before Yahweh: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the first month, the month Abib; at the Feast of First fruits of the wheat harvest (Feast of Weeks or Pentecost); and at the Feast of Ingathering (Feast of Tabernacles) in the Scriptural seventh month, at the end of the agricultural year, after the vintage (Exodus 23:14-17). And as the men of Judea and Galilee gathered in their fruits of the field and vineyard, and as they made their new wine, they also made plans and preparations to travel to Jerusalem to attend the Feast of Tabernacles.

In Nazareth in Galilee, Joseph, a carpenter by trade, and Mariam, the virgin to whom the angel Gabriel had spoken, who was espoused to Joseph, made preparations for their journey to the small city of Bethlehem, the city of Joseph's ancestors, which was located about six miles south of Jerusalem. For a decree for a census had been issued by the emperor, and Joseph and Mariam would have to enroll at Bethlehem, a location about 75 to 80 miles south from Nazareth. And Joseph, being a carpenter, had built a small wooden cart for the purpose of transporting Mariam there.

The day came when they would depart in order to arrive at Bethlehem before the beginning of the Feast of Tabernacles. They would travel at a gentle pace, for the Scriptural seventh month had begun, and by now Mariam was well into the ninth month of her pregnancy. She would ride in the small wooden cart most of the time. Joseph helped her to be seated comfortably in the cart. Then he took the rope in his hand and began to lead the animal drawing the cart with its precious cargo on their long journey toward Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

The first day of the Feast of Tabernacles, one of Yahweh's appointed memorial days, falls on the 15th day of Ethanim, the Scriptural seventh month (Leviticus 23: 34-35). It is the memorial of Messiah's birth; and as Joseph and Mariam journeyed southward toward Bethlehem that event was approaching its fulfillment.

And because the 15th day would begin at the sunset of the 14th (for Scriptural calendar days begin and end at sunset), the people would need to arrive at their lodgings by late afternoon on the 14th. After sunset the darkness of night would soon cover the world; the only light would be that of the stars and the full moon. So, late in the afternoon on the 14th, Joseph led the small procession up the long hill and into the center of Bethlehem. But with all those men gathered at Jerusalem and its surrounding towns for the Feast of Tabernacles, the local inns were filled to capacity; so there was no room in the inn at Bethlehem for Joseph and Mariam, his espoused wife, who was great with child.

The holy memorial day would begin at sunset, so they found a nearby stable which would provide shelter and fodder for their draft animal, and they themselves decided to remain there for the night. An hour after sunset the full moon rose over the hills in the east. And as the days were accomplished that she should be delivered, Mariam brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of Yahweh stood by them, and the glory of Yahweh shone round about them, and they were very frightened. And the angel said unto them, "Don't be afraid; for I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the King. And this shall be a sign unto you: You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising Yahweh and saying, "Glory to Elohim in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

And when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the angel has made known unto us." And they came with haste, and found Mariam, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which had been told to them concerning this child. And all that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mariam kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising Yahweh for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it had been told unto them (Luke 2:5-20).

So in October, on the 15th day of the Scriptural seventh month Ethanim, Yahshua the Messiah was born. Long before that event, Yahweh had established this appointed holy memorial as the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles, an annual observance. And in the fullness of time, Yahshua the Messiah was born precisely on that day. Thus, Ethanim 15 is the annual memorial of the genuine day of Messiah's birth.

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