

# MAKING THE CALENDAR DECISION

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Intro – What we are going to cover and what we are not going to cover

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Part 1 – What is the Issue and why is there an issue?

**Point 1** – Yahweh set appointed times to meet with His children. They are scheduled at specific times and they are a sign of the relationship between Him and His people. Yahweh takes these appointments very seriously.

- Lev 23 – The listing of the appointed times and there scheduled “dates”
    - Lev 23:1-2 These are Yahweh’s appointed times to be kept by Israel
      - Shabbat
      - Passover, Unleavened Bread, Wave Sheaf, Shavuot
      - Trumpets, Atonement, Shemini Atzeret
  - Exo 31:12-17 Shabbat is a sign between Yahweh and the Children of Israel – pointing back to creation
  - Isa 66:22-23 From new moon to new moon and Shabbat to Shabbat all flesh will come...
  - Zech 14:16-19 Punishment/plagues in the future for those not keeping Sukkot
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**Point 2** – When do we keep them? Which calendar do we use?

- The Gregorian?                      The Hillel II?                      The Lunar/Solar?                      The Enochian?
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**Point 3** – How does the calendar work?

- There are 2 main calendars
  - The calendar for months and appointed times
    - Exodus 12:1-2 This month is the beginning of **months** for you...
  - The calendar for years, shmittah and yovel
    - Lev 25:1-11 The calendar for years
- Other factors
  - Signs in the heavens
    - Gen 1:14 The lights in the heavens have something to do with the calendar
      - Job 38:32 Do you bring out the constellations in its season?
    - The timing and declaring of the “new moon”
      - Crescent, conjunction?
      - Local vs. Jerusalem sighting
  - Seasons, aviv, equinox
    - Deut 16:1 Guard/observe the month of Aviv (Spring)
      - Would you go to a person who is native to a language and tell them they don’t know their language?
      - Exo 9:29-32 The plague of hail - Barley “aviv/ear” Flax “givol/bloom or bud”
      - Exo 10:12 The plague of locusts – they ate all that hail had left
    - Deut 16:13 Sukkot after ingathering, threshing, and wine pressing



- Deut 17:8-13 Yahweh's instruction regarding how the tough decisions are to be made
  - Hillel II calendar instituted by Hillel the Nasi of the Sanhedrin in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century to be used by those in the diaspora. This is the calendar still in use today by the Jewish community.

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## Part 2 – The Decision

MTOI has chosen to use the Hillel II calendar for our scheduling of the observances of the appointed times.

- An important disclaimer must be made. We did not make this decision because we believe that we have come up with the “correct” calendar. Rather we believe that this is the right decision when considering all the factors

This decision has us celebrating in UNITY with:

1. Judah – they use Hillel II. – (The worldwide Jewish community) Hillel II 359 Nasi of the Sanhedrin
2. Messianic Judah - They all use Hillel II – (MJAA and UMJC etc.)
3. Most of Messianic Israel uses Hillel II
4. Most of the world both Christian and non-believing, are familiar with “Feast” keepers using Hillel II

This decision also makes spiritual sense in that it will provide a more stable and shalom filled environment in which we can all to learn to walk out the Torah and celebrate the Moadim (Feasts). Without this major distraction it is our hope that people will shift their focus to the weightier subjects of Torah observance, the fruit of the spirit and belief in Yeshua.

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## Part 3 – Why all the struggle and strife?

- Many are not even aware that there is an issue and are surprised to discover it causing so much strife
- Many have invested a tremendous amount of time studying this out with the desire to be right
- Some are struggling with Gnosticism
- Some are addicted to new doctrinal understanding “crack”
- Some are overly susceptible to the influences of others
- Some feel they need to influence others / set them “straight”
- Many have become “emotionally invested” in the issue and that is when the bad fruit starts to manifest
- Each side thinks the other sides are unstudied “idiots”

All claim to be led by the Ruach? Is the Ruach HaKodesh divided or confused? The Ruach HaKodesh could not be telling so many people so many different things. This begs the question “Has the Ruach been saying anything at this time that we have interpreted correctly?”

The fruit is evident when a strong endorsement of a particular view of the calendar is made:

- Division
- Strife
- Polarization



All of this is coming from those who call themselves mature-in-the-faith. If we are mature we should have recognized by now that we are all subject to the same logical, emotional, and spiritual weaknesses as anyone else even when our motivation is the pursuit of truth.

Where is the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)?

- Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustworthiness, gentleness, self-control

I believe that Yahweh is fully in control and has allowed this for a reason. I believe that He is looking to see how we handle this and if we will use wisdom in making the decision.

So, what about UNITY? Should we not be striving for UNITY? Can this be done without compromising the TRUTH?

As to where we go from here, there may be wisdom in having some of Sha'ul's words as a guide:

**Col 2:16-17** When it comes to Torah observance, let know one judge you except those with the authority to do in the Body of Messiah

**Eph 4:1-6** I call upon you therefore,... to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called, with all humility and meekness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, being eager to guard the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace – one body and one Spirit, as you also were called in one expectation of your calling, one Master, one belief, one immersion, one Elohim and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

**Rom 14:19** So then, let us pursue the matters of peace and the matters for building up one another.

