

STATEMENT OF FAITH ABOUT THE BIBLICAL CALENDAR

The Biblical calendar is based on three astronomical phenomena:

- the rotation of the Earth about its axis (a day);
- the revolution of the moon about the Earth (a month);
- and the revolution of the Earth about the sun (a year).

These three phenomena are independent of each other, so there is no direct correlation between them. On average, the moon revolves around the Earth in about $29\frac{1}{2}$ days. The Earth revolves around the sun in about $365\frac{1}{4}$ days, that is, about 12.4 lunar months.

The Biblical calendar, however, coordinates all three of these astronomical phenomena. Months are either 29 or 30 days, corresponding to the $29\frac{1}{2}$ - day lunar cycle. Years are either 12 or 13 months, corresponding to the 12.4 month solar cycle.

In **Genesis 1:14** God declared that these astronomical bodies which cannot be controlled or manipulated by man were the authority in declaring when the Moeds or festivals were to be held.

Think of them in today's terms as the default position when there is no human authority. God gave authority to Israel to take part in determining these Feasts while there was a Jewish court to do it.

In the fourth century, Hillel II established a fixed calendar based on **mathematical and astronomical calculations**. This calendar, still in use, standardized the length of months and the addition of months over the course of a 19 year cycle, so that the lunar calendar realigns with the solar years.

Adar I is added in the 3rd, 6th, 8th, 11th, 14th, 17th and 19th years of the cycle.

Adar I is an added month in the Biblical leap year.

The Biblical leap year, which occurs seven times in a 19-year cycle, has 13 months so that the lunar-based Jewish year (which is 354.37 days) should remain aligned with the solar year (365.25 days) and seasons.

It is important to keep the calendars aligned in order for the festivals to retain their positions relative to the seasons as prescribed by the Torah. The added month is called Adar I, and is inserted before the month of Adar (termed Adar II in leap years).

Hillel II, held the office of Nasi of the ancient Jewish Sanhedrin between 320 and 385 CE.

Therefore he had the authority to go back to the default position when the Sanhedrin was threatened with extinction if they continued to sight the new moon.

Kanaan Ministries adheres to this calendar because no individual has the authority to determine the calendar based on their own personal sighting or their own personal barley crop to determine the beginning of the new year.

You can't have a dozen different people, especially who have no authority, or are not even Jewish; all saying you have to follow their sighting of the new moon or their barley crop to determine the Biblical Calendar.

We follow the teachings of Paul, namely:

Rom. 10:19 “But, I say, isn't it rather that Isra'el didn't understand?”

**“I will provoke you to jealousy over a non-nation,
over a nation void of understanding I will make you angry.”^r**

Rom. 11:11 “In that case, I say, isn't it that they have stumbled with the result that they have permanently fallen away?” Heaven forbid! Quite the contrary, it is by means of their stumbling that the deliverance has come to the Gentiles, in order to **provoke them to jealousy.**^a

Rom. 11:14 in the hope that somehow I may **provoke** some of my own people **to jealousy** and save some of them!

and believe that by keeping the calendar in line with Jerusalem. we do so with the understanding that we are NOT following man's traditions but are required to ‘hear and do’ as the Holy Spirit leads and bring spiritual application to these important dates.

SHALOM!