

Announcement Letter March 2022

Dear Brethren:

What a pleasure it is to greet you through this monthly mailing, and to reaffirm our love and our prayers for each one of you as you continue your personal treks toward the Kingdom of God. Your servants here in the home office of Eugene, Oregon, are devoted to your spiritual support and encouragement, and it is our very sincere pleasure to do all that we can to aid you in your very personal goal of putting on more of the mind of Jesus Christ, our soon-coming King and Savior.

Spiritual Principle: Why a Thirteenth Month in God's Calendar?

March 4 marked the beginning of another new month in God's calendar, Adar II, which began the evening of March 3. Adar is the twelfth month of the year, and most often, the new year begins after Adar ends. But this year, there is a second Adar—Adar II—meaning that the new year is still one month away. The fact that this unique thirteenth month comes into play only once every few years presents a good opportunity to reflect upon the unique nature of the operation of the calendar that God instituted for marking the beginning of months and years.

While the Roman calendar uses an additional day in February once every four years (leap year) to keep the calendar in sync with the cycle of the earth's actual revolutions around the sun, the method that God established to do this is very different. The Hebrew calendar—which is luni-solar—takes into consideration *the months* as well as *the year* (the moon and the sun) in determining the annual cycle. Most unique of all, the calendar that God inspired the Jews to adopt (to perpetuate their God-given obligation to proclaim the new moons) is designed with the Holy Days specifically in mind. Other worldly cultures insert their holidays within existing static calendars, but God assembled a calendar specifically for the purpose of *proclaiming authorized days for holy convocations in appointed seasons*. The seasons belong to—are the property of—the Holy Days. "These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, *which ye shall proclaim in their seasons*" (Leviticus 23:4) [emphasis mine]. The earth revolving around the sun and the moon revolving around the earth *both exist for the purpose of assigning annual Sabbaths*. Therefore, the one-and-only inspired calendar supports the very proclamation of God's Holy Days.

So why do we have the periodic inclusion of a thirteenth month—Adar II—in the Hebrew calendar? As stated above, in most years, the twelfth month, Adar, is the last month of the year, followed by the first month of the new year, Nisan. But this year (as in seven years out of every nineteen years in a time cycle), Nisan did not begin on the new moon of March 4. The reason has to do with keeping the Spring Holy Days in their proper season. Passover can never fall in the winter, and Pentecost can never fall in the summer. (This is one thing that most calendar dissidents always fail to recognize.) Both Passover and Pentecost *must fall within the spring season* in order to fulfill the picture of God's glorious plan of salvation. If only twelve months (of either twenty-nine or thirty day lengths) were used each year—or a total of 354 days—this would wind up causing the *calendar year* to be eleven and one-quarter days short of the actual length of the *solar year*, which is 365.25 days. Over time, using only years of 354 days in length would cause the start of each new year to begin *earlier and earlier* with each passing year. In short order, Passover would wind up *backing into the winter*. That can never be. So God gave authority to His people—the Jews—to insert periodically an additional month, Adar II, to keep the first month of the new year in the proper place so that Passover will always fall in the spring. That is the case this year. If a thirteenth month were not inserted now, Nisan 1 would be March 4, making Passover day fall on March 17, four days before the beginning of spring (March 21).

But how do we know when to add that thirteenth month? It cannot be inserted arbitrarily. If it is added in the wrong year, it would cause Nisan to begin too late, forcing Pentecost into the summer season, and that also can never be. Therefore, the genius of the calendar that God inspired the Jews to develop makes sure that God's sacred Holy Days are always proclaimed not only in the correct months, but also in the correct seasons of each year.

As you will remember, in 2021 the Passover and Feast of Tabernacles were very early. That is because they had been sliding back each year since 2019 (the last time an Adar II was inserted to push the year forward again). Now that Adar II has been inserted in 2022, you will also note that the Passover and Feast of Tabernacles will be very late, in terms of the Roman calendar. Then gradually the Holy Days in following years will slide backward again until the next intercalary year (a year with thirteen months).

So when we take note of this particular new moon, Adar II, it is beneficial to reflect upon the beauty of God's system for ordering the calendar for the proclamation of His priceless High Days. The authority of that system is by decree of God, as He has delegated to specific human instruments the power to bind and to loose in accordance with prescribed standards. Accepting any calendar requires an act of faith. No one claiming to offer any alternative calendar can support it with any more evidence than we have for the Hebrew calendar, no matter what they say. In any case, we are each required to conclude in faith

what we will believe is true. Those accepting *the revealed faith* can go forward in absolute confidence.

New Moon

The new moon, Nisan (first month), begins Friday evening, April 1. The new moon day is Sabbath, April 2.

Holy Days

- Passover Thursday, April 14
- Night to Be Much Observed Friday, April 15
- First Holy Day—Days of Unleavened Bread Sabbath, April 16
- Second Holy Day—Days of Unleavened Bread Friday, April 22

Trip Schedule

Mr. Jon Brisby

- April 9 Fairfield, Ohio
- April 14, 15, 16 Maryville, Tennessee
- April 22, 23 Stephenville, Texas

Monthly Letter

The *Monthly Letter* for March will be an archived letter from Mr. David Brandenburg, written in April of 2014.

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-RGB 2022	03-03-22	03-26-22	Pre-Passover Exam: Are You One With God?
WSE-RC 54-10	03-03-22	04-02-22	What Is the Purpose of Authority? #10
WSE-JWB 225-52	03-03-22	04-09-22	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #52
Holy Day Mailing	03-04-22	—	Passover/NTBMO/UB
WSE-JWB 266	03-24-22	04-23-22	The Greatest Sinner
RCC-CL2-6	03-24-22	04-30-22	Principles of Christian Living: Love #1
WSE-JWB 225-53	03-24-22	05-07-22	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #5
RCC-CL2-7	04-14-22	05-14-22	Principles of Christian Living: Love #2

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby