



CALENDAR I

Biblical and Historical Perspective



“... there should be time no longer.” Rev. 10:6.

- The term calendar comes from Latin *'calendarium'* which means interesting register or inventory book which derives from *'calendae'*, the first day of the Roman month, in which the market days were festivities and other special occasions were announced.

- Calendar

- Days
- Weeks
- Months
- Year

- Months

- Lunar
- Solar
- Luni-solar



THE HEBREW CALENDAR

- **Hebrew calendar**

- Day = Sunset to sunset
- Week = Group of 7 days
- Month = Begins with the new moon
- Religious year = Sowing time and harvest

- The primitive Hebrew calendar was wonderfully adapted to the needs of a people whose socio-economical structure was based on agriculture, since the beginning of the day was at sunset, the weeks were counted as a group of seven days, the month began with the new moon, and the year was regulated by the harvest.



Day from evening to evening

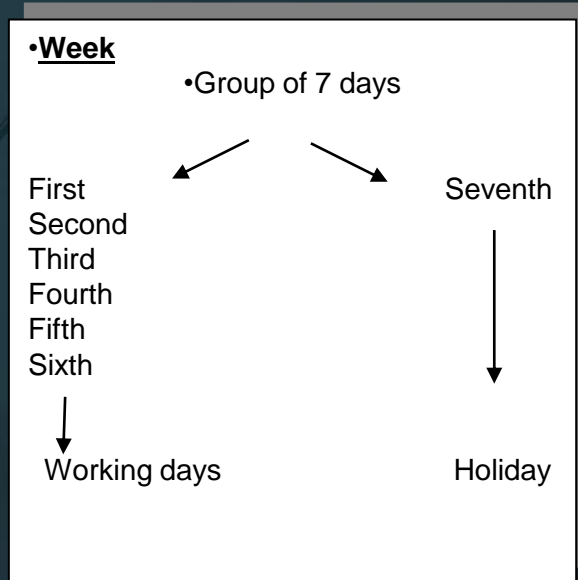
- *"... And the evening and the morning were the first day."*
Gen. 1:5
- *"... from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath."*
Lev. 23: 32
- *"... and shall be clean at even."*
Num. 19: 19

▪ Day

▪ Numbered days:
First, second, etc.

▪ Regulated days:
From evening to evening
or from sunset to sunset

Week marked by the Sabbath



- " Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made." Gen. 2:1-3




Shortly before the Exodus, the Lord told Moses, " This month [shall be] unto you the beginning of months: it [shall be] the first month of the year to you. " Ex. 12: 2. Thus, the beginning of the Hebrew year was established according to a month related to the first religious festivity established for the people of Israel, Passover.

In the fourteenth day of this month, at even, ye shall keep it in his appointed season..., ye shall ye keep it. " Num. 9:3.

Month ruled by the moon

- The two Hebrew words translated by "month" are: (1) yeraj, a term related to yaréaj, "moon", and (2) jódes, literally "the new".
- The month the Israelites left Egypt was established as the first month of the year. It was called Abib, "month of the ears" of grain. It was the month the harvest started in Palestine. Later on, it was called Nisan, a name kept until today.

<u>HEBREW MONTH</u>	<u>ACTUAL MONTH</u>	<u>FESTIVITY</u>	<u>AGRICULTURAL PERIODS</u>
Nisan	Mach – April	New moon Beginning religious year Passover and unleavened bread First fruits	Latter rains Harvest of barley Beginning of dry season
Zif	April – May	New moon Passover for those absent at the first one	Harvest of wheat on the valleys
Sivan	May – June	New moon Pentecost	Hot season General wheat harvest
Tammuz	June – July	New moon	Wheat harvest on the mountains First grapes
Ab	July – August	New moon	Olives in the valleys
Elul	August – September	New moon	Dates, figs and grapes harvest
Tishri	September – October	New moon Beginning of civil year Trumpets Atonement Tabernacles	End of harvest Early rains Beginning of preparation of soil
Bul	October – November	New moon	Sowing of wheat and barley
Chisleu	November – December	New moon	Winter rains
Tebeth	December- January	New moon	
Shebat	January – February	New moon	
Adar	February - March	New moon	Oranges harvest



” And Solomon had twelve officers over all Israel, which provided victuals for the king and his household: each man his month in a year made provision.” 1 Kings 4:7

FIRST

LAST

” This month [shall be] unto you the beginning of months: it [shall be] the first month of the year to you. ” Ex. 12: 2.

” And thou shalt observe the feast of weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the feast of ingathering at the year's end.” Ex. 34: 22



THE WESTERN CALENDAR

Julian calendar

- When the Roman civil war came to an end (49-45 B.C.), Cesar decided to substitute the different calendars used all along the Roman territory, and to make a unique official calendar. Therefore, on 1 January of the year 45 B.C. a year of 365 days with an additional day every four years was adopted.

LUNAR YEAR

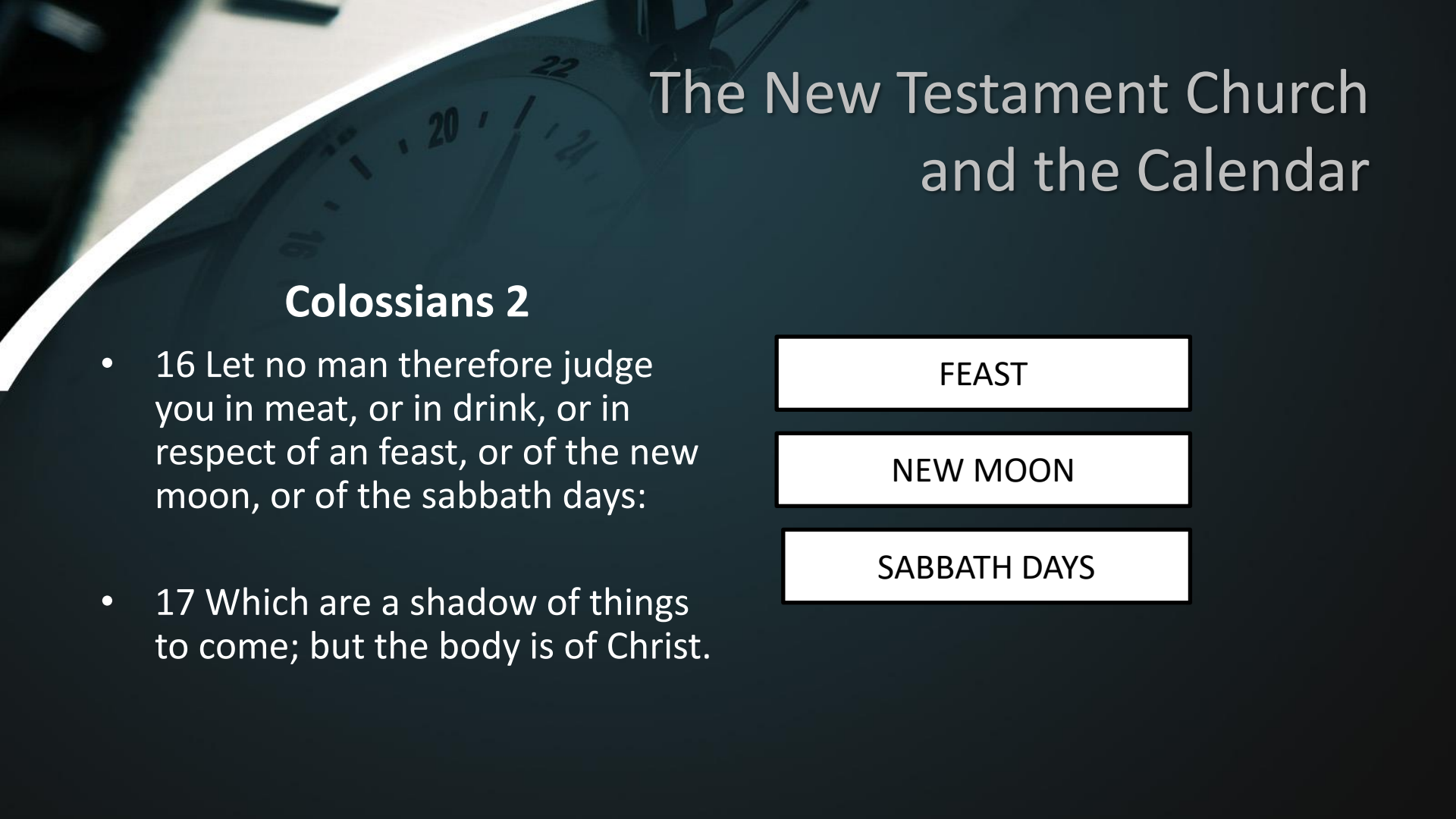
354 days

SOLAR YEAR

365 days $\frac{1}{4}$ days

Gregorian calendar

- It is also called new style calendar and it is a system of solar computation which is used nowadays. It was proclaimed in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII as a reformation of the Julian calendar. When the Julian calendar was put aside, the solar year had 365 $\frac{1}{4}$ days; the insertion of another day every four years was with the purpose of keeping the correspondence between the calendar and the seasons.



The New Testament Church and the Calendar

Colossians 2

- 16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an feast, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:
- 17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

FEAST

NEW MOON

SABBATH DAYS



FEAST

NEW MOON

SABBATH DAYS

Ex. 23:14 “Three times a year you are to celebrate a festival for me. 15 You are to observe the Festival of Unleavened Bread. ...16 You are to observe the Festival of Harvest, celebrating the first fruits of your work in planting the field, and the Festival of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather the fruit of your work from the field. 17 Three times a year all your males shall appear in the presence of the Lord GOD.”

Numbers 10:10 “Also in the day of your gladness and in your appointed feasts, and on the first days of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; and they shall be as a reminder of you before your God. I am the Lord your God.”

“Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation” (Leviticus 23:24). (verses 27, 32).

“These are the feasts of the Lord, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, everything upon his day: beside the Sabbaths of the Lord” (verses 37, 38).



CONCLUSION

Hebrew Calendar

- Both the calendar and the Hebrew religious festivities are based on the agricultural society of the Middle East.
- The Hebrew calendar was structured based on the religious festivities, which were a shadow of the coming future, centered on Christ.
- The Hebrew calendar and its respective festivities were applied to an specific area: a country in the Middle East, with concrete climatic characteristics, and complementary political and religious guidelines.

Present Calendar

- The church of God is not any longer limited to one nation, located in one continent, and with unique climatic characteristics, but is spread over the whole earth, from the north to the south hemisphere and it covers completely different climatic zones.
- In its religious structure, the church of God is not composed by festivities in shadow, since these have become a reality in Christ.
- The church of God of the present time does not establish a temporal computation, according to the annual or monthly calendar, because its authority is merely religious and not political or civil.