

of Christ was the beginning of what would later come that would stamp the approved mission. Jesus would come to save His people from the depths of despair when He died on the cross. While the past had been filled with an infinite number of sacrifices, no justification, and secondary hope, it was the cross of Christ that was once accomplished (Hebrews 9:28a), brought justification (Romans 5:9), and brought a better hope (cf. Hebrews 7:19). Thirty-three years after Jesus' birth, God had the death and resurrection of Jesus circled, knowing that He would save men in the past (Romans 3:25) and future (Acts 2:38-39).

One of God's most important dates was the coming of His Son.

**The Day the Church Began (Acts 2).** Peter hinted at the kingdom's doors opening wide in the future (Matthew 16:18-19). This circle was always on God's calendar (Ephesians 3:11). Daniel (Daniel 2, 7), Isaiah (Isaiah 2:2-3), and Joel (Joel 2:28-29) prophesied about it; John preached its closeness (Matthew 3:2); and Jesus prepared men for it (Matthew 5:19-20). The day the church began was circled because it was the date when men could enter into His new Kingdom. The time of year was Pentecost which happened 50 days after the Passover. The year was 29 A.D., the month was May or June, the day was Sunday, and the time about 9 a.m. This setting (Acts 2:1-13) was a perfect way for God's circled date to be brought to its full fruition because:

*Of the audience.* Some Jews here had killed the Messiah, probably by shouting for His crucifixion. It was in Acts 2 that God's people were offered justification for the first time. Their practices of animal sacrifices, observing feast days, and following the Law of Moses were over.

*Jesus' life, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension could be preached for the first time.* Jesus died just 50 days earlier, so Acts 2 opened the door for the Gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-4) to be preached for the very first time. No man had preached all five aspects yet; Peter was the first one. Peter was able to fulfill the promise made by Jesus in Matthew 16:18-19. This was the first time the whole of the Gospel was preached, so

of course this date was special to God.

*Christ's dying prayer was answered*[2] (Acts 2:36-38, 41, 47). Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). After many had advocated for His death, scourged Him, and crucified Him, Jesus besought the Father's forgiveness on His enemies. Beautifully, God did forgive them, not at the cross or the grave, but in the city of Jerusalem. After Peter's five-point sermon, His invitation was quite clear. 3,000 souls came forward on this day and every single baptized soul was added to the church's roll. Truly, Jesus prayer was answered!

This red-circled day on God's calendar was one of the "good ole' days." God was eager to establish His church, so that men could reside apart from sin.

**The Day God Gathers His Children (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17).** One of the special dates on God's calendar is a day that has not yet happened. The day Jesus returns is of specialness to God, for it is the day when heaven's population increases (cf. Revelation 5:9; 7:9). Of course, only God knows when this day will be (Matthew 24:36) for God never intended for anyone else to know when this would be. This day should be on our calendar too. Some circle this day on their calendar (1 Thessalonians 5:1-4), while others do not. This day is special because while we do not know its specific arrival, we can be prepared. While there will be no signs of its coming, we are to expectantly awaiting[3] His arrival (Titus 2:13). We have an appointment with our maker, so we want to make sure we are prepared.

Looking back at God's calendar will help us plan ours. What dates do you have circled on your calendar?

#### Endnotes

- [1]Allen Webster Bible marking, personal Bible page 106.
- [2]James D. Bales, The Hub of the Bible Acts Two Analyzed, 1957, p. 209.
- [3]Vincent Word Studies, Titus 2:13, eSWORD Module.

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C I R C L E D  
G O D ' S  
C A L E N D A R



Noah Olson

The Jewish Calendar has either 353, 354, or 355 days in the year with an extra 30 days for a leap year.

Important dates on our calendar include January 1st, July 4th, December 25th, and December 31st.

Calendars are tools by which we can organize, plan, and number our days. The yearly calendars we have on our phones or walls often are filled with what we call red circle dates. What about on God's calendar? Have we ever thought about the red circles He has marked? To God, there have been some important dates on His calendar; let us examine some of them:

**The Days that God Called "Good" (Genesis 1).** God calls His creation "good" six times in Genesis 1 and "very good" one time. Many debates continue as to WHEN God actually created the world, but the common consensus is 4004 B.C. God put a red circle on this date, planning to create the world and everything therein. This date is important to God because God's eternal plan was already underway (cf. 1 Peter 1:19-20). In Genesis 1, God intended to become a builder, author, and landscaper. These days show:

*The power of God.* Before this time, God's power had not been yet shown or recorded, but here, God's power is seen explicitly. He has power over every aspect of existence: Space, time, and matter. No dirt, so sun, and no human existed before God SAID!

*New beginnings.* God's first recorded word spoken was one of yielding: "LET." God did not have to open up the doors to life, but He did. The six days of creation show a beginning of light (1:3-5), separation (1:6-8), vegetation (1:9-13), seasons (1:14-19), sea and air creatures (1:20-23), land creatures (1:24-25), and mankind (1:26-30). "New beginnings" was the name on God's proverbial calendar for everything God created had not existed before.

*God would be loved.* Everything that God had made was "very good," but a specific part of His creation outmatched all others. It was mankind who was made after God's image/likeness, denoting an eternal spirit. They would give God the worship He deserved.

This day was important on God's calendar for it was the beginning point for all of God's other red-circled dates.

### **The Day God Ushered in a New Law (Exodus 20-23).**

For about 2500+ years, there had been no written law for which God's people to adhere. God had already made a covenant with man (Genesis 17:9-14), but this one was written down (Exodus 24:4). Israel was a new and big nation. God's next red-circled date was the arrival at Mount Sinai, where Moses would receive the Law. The date is about 1446 B.C. This was the time when God would establish a covenant with the people. This was the beginning point that would allow God's people to live holy lives and be acceptable unto Him. This red-circled date on God's calendar showed:

*That the Law was good.* The bringing in of the Law of Moses was in God's eternal plan. While some attempt to assume the Law had faults and was imperfect, it actually was the opposite of that, for it did exactly what God intended it to do (Romans 7:7-12; Hebrews 8:7-8). All of the commandments found in the Law were for the BENEFIT of Israel. If they could keep the two most important ones (Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18), they would try their hardest to keep the rest. The Law showed the people then how they could live the best life, for it provided a standard for judgement and behavior[1] (Romans 7:7; Galatians 3:19).

*That the Jews had no excuse to follow God.* It was the Israel (Jews) to whom was given the Law of God (Romans 3:2), yet many of them rejected it. They held a greater responsibility having the Law given directly to them! Exodus 20-23 is God's freely giving them the test key to the ultimate test, yet many rejected it. They could have chosen to heed to the Law's prophecies about Jesus, but they were destroyed in A.D. 70 instead. God's intended them to keep the Law, but they refused to do so.

*Preparation for Jesus* (Galatians 3:24-25).

This next date began the process by which Jesus would come, for Jesus was made a Jew and one born under the Law (Galatians 4:4). The Law taught of

Jesus' coming (300+ prophecies about Him are mentioned) and it provided men the foundation for accepting the new system to come (Jeremiah 31:31-34). Jesus fulfilled the Law (Matthew 5:17) because He was the goal of it (Romans 10:4).

The bringing in of the Law of Moses was on God's proverbial calendar because it ushered in a new age and many more requirements. This Law of course would not last long (almost 1500 years), for in time, God had another date circled.

**The Day the Son of God Came(Matthew 1).** God's next red-circled day also had to do with a birth of a child. God had been hinting at His coming for generations (Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14) and now the time was near. While the sky was filled with much joy and singing (Luke 2:13-14), we can only imagine the joy that was in heaven at this time. The date is about 6-4 B.C. and probably during the spring or the fall, in a little town called Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1). This day was special in history because:

*It would start a new chapter.* If we turn one or two pages to the right of Malachi, we arrive at Matthew 1, the beginning of the New Testament and the birth of Jesus (i.e. the birth of Jesus literally begins a "new chapter"). It was the birth of Jesus that would be the starting point of downward end of the Law of Moses. He would be the one to fulfill every jot and tittle (Matthew 5:17-18) and would nail it to the cross (Colossians 2:14). Perhaps this date on God's calendar read: "P.S. The date we change the world."

*It would be the fulfillment of all God had said and done in the past* (Matthew 1:1-17, 22-23). Through Abraham, God would bring forth a seed that would ultimately save the world (Genesis 12:1-3). Man by man, generation by generation, God kept the line going from Abraham to Mary. 42 generations appear in Matthew 1 and the list confirms God's genealogical providence. It was through a "virgin" that God would send forth His Son as Isaiah the prophet foretold (Isaiah 7:14).

*It began the new hope* (Matthew 1:21). The birth