

## **True Dates of Easter, Pentecost, Ascension & Christmas (up-dated for 2017)**

If you find the right date of **Passover**, you will find the right date when Christ instituted **Communion**. Then you will find the right date for His **resurrection**, which will give you the right date for **Easter Sunday**, which will give you the right date for **Christ's Ascension** back into Heaven 40 days later (leaving us the "**Great Commission**" of *Matthew 28:18-20*), which will also give us the right date of the **Day of Pentecost** (50 days after Passover — when He started The Church), which will all allow us to come closer to the Truth of the birth of Christ (**Christmas**)! **This year, 2017, Easter Sunday will be celebrated CORRECTLY on Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.** How do we know it is correct this year? Because the Passover week was when Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead...and the **Passover starts at sundown on April 10<sup>th</sup>** this year of 2017.

**Last year (2016), Easter Sunday was celebrated on the WRONG SUNDAY...March 27<sup>th</sup>!** How do we know it was the wrong Sunday? It was celebrated 27 days **before** Passover week...which started on **April 22, 2016** at sundown. The only Sunday during the true week of Passover in 2016 was **April 24<sup>th</sup>** ...and , therefore, was the **true** date of the week Jesus died, was buried, and rose from the dead...and the true Sunday to celebrate Christ's resurrection in 2016!

**So, why is it wrong this year of 2016...as it was wrong back in 2008 (and eight other years since 1959)? First**

## **we must understand the Truth about Easter and the Passover:**

If the Lord Jesus Christ **instituted Communion** (which began a New Covenant under the blood of His sacrifice, that replaced the Old with its animal sacrifices), **died for our sins**, was **buried in a tomb**, and then **conquered death** by rising on the third day (Sunday), **all during the week of Passover**...why was Easter Sunday celebrated last year on **March 27, 2016**, when Passover was not celebrated that same year until **April 22, 2016**?

## **FIRST, WE MUST START WITH ASH WEDNESDAY WHICH THIS YEAR IS CORRECTLY CELEBRATED ON MARCH 1, 2017.**

**WHY WAS IT CELEBRATED INCORRECTLY LAST YEAR ON FEBRUARY 10, 2016?**

**The Easter season officially begins here in America on “Ash Wednesday,” (as declared by the Pope).**

**Ash Wednesday** is declared 46 days before the Pope declares Easter Sunday, and is the first official day of **Lent**. Lent is from the Latin word *Quadragesima* (meaning 40), and since it begins on **Ash Wednesday, it is the 40<sup>th</sup> weekday before Easter**. Since last year the Pope declared Ash Wednesday to be **February 10, 2016**, it **made Easter Sunday March 27, 2016**.

**Why do they call it “Ash” Wednesday?**

In most churches it centers on ashes from burnt palm leaves saved from the previous year's Palm Sunday. A priest blesses the ashes and usually marks a cross on the worshiper's forehead with them. When you see someone with ashes on their forehead, you know they are fasting for the next 40 days until Easter. The 40 days comes from the 40 days of fasting Jesus did in the wilderness, when he was tempted of the Devil. This blessing is based on **Genesis 3:19**: “...*for dust you are and to dust you will return.*” The ashes show that you sought penitence, and have been purified. Then (during the next 40 days of Lent) you were to fast in preparation for Easter Sunday. By the 20<sup>th</sup> century a trend toward penitential works or acts of charity took the place of fasting. Most will now “*fast*” or give up something (smoking, drinking, cussing, etc.) during the next 40 days leading up to Easter Sunday.

**As Christians, should we follow the Pope and the Roman Catholic Church and celebrate Ash Wednesday, by putting ashes on our forehead (face) to show others we are fasting? Is this a Biblical command from God? Jesus gives you the answer in**

***Matthew 6:16-18:***

*“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”*

**The last Sunday of Lent (DAY 40 since Ash Wednesday) is supposed to be Palm Sunday (which will be celebrated on April 9<sup>th</sup> this year of 2017; but was declared by the Pope to be March 20<sup>th</sup> last year of 2016). This is when Jesus came riding into Jerusalem on a donkey to celebrate the Passover (*John 12*). The people welcomed Him as their king, laying down palm branches in His path as he rode into town.**

**Since the Pope declared Palm Sunday to be April 9<sup>th</sup> this year of 2017, Easter Sunday was declared to be the next Sunday...April 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Last year, however, the Pope declared Ash Wednesday to be February 10,2016; and therefore 40 days of Lent brought him to March 20<sup>th</sup> 2016 (Palm Sunday), which made Easter Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup> 2016 --- even though the Passover wasn't until April 22<sup>nd</sup> last year in 2016!**

**AREN'T YOU GLAD ALL THE DATES FOR ASH WEDNESDAY, PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY ARE ALL CORRECT THIS YEAR!**

**So what's the big deal? We may not be Catholics who follow the Pope, but we are Christians who celebrate Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday, not Jews who celebrate the Passover...Right? Let's review:**

**Jesus was a Jew who came into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to celebrate the Passover; and it was **during this week of Passover that Jesus changed the Passover to Communion (He was to become the Passover Lamb that would die****

to save God's people). It was **during the week of Passover** that He was **crucified** for our sins, and **it was the Sunday (Easter Sunday) during those seven days of Passover** that he **rose from the dead** and, according to *Luke 24*, met again with His disciples to re-establish Communion or the Lord's Supper (during the seven days of Passover)! The only **Sunday during the true week or 7 days of Passover last year of 2016 was April 24<sup>th</sup>; and the first Sunday (Palm Sunday) **before the actual Passover in 2016 was April 17<sup>th</sup>.****

**THE REAL PALM SUNDAY IN 2016 SHOULD HAVE BEEN APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup> – BUT, THE POPE CHANGED IT (as he has many times before)! THAT'S "THE BIG DEAL!"**

**In addition to the year 2016, for the past 50 years (1955 -2008), Easter Sunday has always been during the week of Passover with the following 9 exceptions:**

**1959:** Passover week was April 23-30, and Easter Sunday was March 29<sup>th</sup> (should have been April 26<sup>th</sup>) .

**1967:** Passover week was April 25 - May 2<sup>nd</sup> , and Easter Sunday was March 26<sup>th</sup> (should have been April 30<sup>th</sup> )

**1970:** Passover week was April 21-28, and Easter Sunday was March 29<sup>th</sup> (should have been April 26<sup>th</sup>)

**1978:** Passover week was April 22-29, and Easter Sunday was March 26<sup>th</sup> (should have been April 23<sup>rd</sup> )

**1986:** First Sunday during the week of Passover was April 27<sup>th</sup> , yet Easter Sunday was celebrated on March 30<sup>th</sup>

**1989:** First Sunday during the week of Passover was April 23<sup>rd</sup> , yet Easter Sunday was celebrated on March 26<sup>th</sup> .

**1997:** First Sunday during the week of Passover was April 27<sup>th</sup> , yet Easter Sunday was celebrated on March 30<sup>th</sup> .

**2005:** First Sunday during the week of Passover was April 24<sup>th</sup> , yet Easter Sunday was celebrated on March 27<sup>th</sup> .

**2008:** First Sunday during the week (or actual 7 days) of Passover, is April 20<sup>th</sup> , yet Easter was celebrated on March 23<sup>rd</sup> .

## **SO, Why all the confusion? Different calendars!**

We go by the Gregorian Calendar (based on the sun), as interpreted by the Roman Catholic Church through special tables created in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII. **The Jews go by the**

**Hebrew calendar (based on the moon), as GOD gave Moses...THE SAME CALENDAR JESUS CHRIST, HIS APOSTLES, AND FIRST CHURCH**

**WENT BY!** So, if you want to celebrate **Biblical** events — shouldn't you go by a **Biblical** calendar? Then **that would be a Jewish or Hebrew Calendar** (remember Jesus, His Apostles, and the first 3,000 Christians were all **Jews!**)

## **So, how does a Jewish or Hebrew Calendar differ from ours today? WHAT ARE THE TRUE DATES OF THE NEW YEAR AND PASSOVER ACCORDING TO GOD'S CALENDAR?**

The Jews do not use the words “A.D.” and “B.C.” to refer to the years on our calendar. “A.D.” means “*the year of our Lord,*” and the Jews do not believe Jesus is the Lord (the Christ or the Anointed One). Instead, the Jews use the abbreviations **C.E. (Common or Christian Era)** and **B.C.E. (Before the Common Era)**, whenever they refer to our Gregorian Calendar.

**By God's Hebrew calendar, the year 2017 AD begins when the first new moon of the month of the Vernal Equinox becomes visible.** The **Vernal Equinox for the year 2017 is on March 20<sup>th</sup>,** and the **first New Moon** of the LUNAR month of the Vernal Equinox (WHEN SPRING BEGINS) is **MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup>** (visable when the sun goes down — which, when the sun goes down, begins the next day for the Jews, WHICH WOULD BE **MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup>**. **THIS DAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE HEBREW FIRST MONTH (NISSAN), WHICH BEGINS THE NEW YEAR...ACCORDING TO GOD!**

Since the new moon for the Jews is actually on MARCH 28<sup>th</sup> they don't start anything until the sun goes down (when the new moon is visible on April 8<sup>th</sup> which for them will actually be April 9<sup>th</sup> the first day of their FIRST HEBREW CALENDAR MONTH --- NISAN. **THEREFORE, THE FIRST DAY OF THE HEBREW OR JEWISH CALENDAR MONTH IS MARCH 28, 2017.**

## **Furthermore, our year, 2017, is the Jewish year 5,777.**

The year number on the Jewish calendar represents the number of years since creation, calculated by adding up the ages of people in the Bible back to the time of creation. However, this does not necessarily mean that the universe has existed for only 5,777 years as we understand years. Many Jews will readily acknowledge that the first six “*days*” of creation are not necessarily 24-hour days (indeed, a 24-hour day would be meaningless until the creation of the sun on the fourth “*day*”).

**Don't forget II Peter 3:8: “...With the Lord a day is like a thousand years...” If we take this Scripture literally, then the 7 days of Creation, were actually the **7,000** years of Creation. This would mean the universe has existed **12,777** years (instead of 5,777 years). This might also explain why on June**

28, 2012, Science announced that they found two skeletons of “*modern humans*” that dated back 7,000 years ago(almost 2,000 years older than previously taught) — and still yielded DNA.

**The Jewish or Hebrew calendar has 12 main months as do we (Gregorian calendar): The Bible uses numbers (example: “*first month of the year*”) to refer to the 12 months of the Hebrew calendar.** Later, names were given to the months of the Jewish calendar during the time of Ezra, after the return from the Babylonian exile. The names are actually Babylonian month names, brought back to Israel by the returning exiles:

Month **1** - **Nissan or Abib** (30 days), month **2** - **Iyar** (29 days), month **3** - **Sivan** (30 days), month **4** - **Tammuz** (29 days), month **5** - **Av** (30 days), month **6** - **Elul** (29 days), month **7** - **Tishri** (30 days), month **8** - **Cheshvan** (29 or 30 days), month **9** - **Kislev** (29 or 30 days), month **10** - **Tevet** (29 days), month **11** - **Shevat** (30 days), month **12** - **Adar** (29 or 30 days), BUT...sometimes a **13<sup>th</sup>** month - **Adar II** (29 days) - is added to the Jewish lunar year in order to keep in step with our solar or Gregorian calendar (as I will explain).

Because the **Jewish calendar** is primarily lunar, **each month begins on the new moon**, when the first sliver of moon becomes visible after the dark of the moon. In ancient times, the new months used to be determined by observation. When people observed the new moon, they would notify the Sanhedrin. When the Sanhedrin heard testimony from two independent, reliable eyewitnesses that the new moon occurred on a certain date, they would declare the Rosh Chodesh (first of the month) and send out messengers to tell people when the month began.

That’s very important information to know when **you need to know the exact day the month of Nissan began, so you would know the exact day your FIRST MONTH OF YOUR NEW YEAR began, and then when the 14<sup>th</sup> day of that month began — which was the Passover.**

**The problem with strictly lunar calendars is that there are approximately 12.4 lunar months in every solar year, so a 12-month lunar calendar loses about 11 days every year. Therefore, the Jewish calendar is not the same length as our calendar.** This means that when the Hebrew (lunar) calendar is compared with our solar calendar, it is going to come up 11 days short. For example: Easter and the Passover are always supposed to be celebrated in the first month of the Jewish calendar (Nissan or Abib). Nissan or Abib is always to occur in the Spring, yet, according to our solar calendar, it would occur 11 days earlier each year. Eventually this would make the month of Nissan or Abib occur in the Winter, the Fall, The Summer, and then Spring again.

**Therefore, to compensate for this loss, an extra month is occasionally added: Adar II (a 29 or 30 day 13<sup>th</sup> month – as they did back in 2008, 2011, 2014, AND LAST YEAR OF 2016).** However, a 13-month lunar calendar **gains** about 19 days every year. So, if it stays at 12 months, the Jewish calendar will lose 11 days each of our solar years; and if the Jews add a 13<sup>th</sup> month, they will gain about 19 days each of our solar years! **In order to balance the Jewish (lunar) calendar with the Gregorian (solar) calendar**, the Jews decided that the month of Nissan or Abib would occur 11 days earlier for a few years, and then

(when the 13<sup>th</sup> month of Adar II was added) it would jump forward 29 or 30 days, thereby balancing out the drift (11 days back or 19 days up) when compared to our solar or Gregorian calendar.

### **How did they do that?**

Since the 4<sup>th</sup> century, Adar II (or this 13<sup>th</sup> month) has been added in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> (in 2008), 14<sup>th</sup> (in 2011), 17<sup>th</sup> (in 2014), and **19<sup>th</sup> year (2016) of a 19 year cycle**. **The current cycle began October 2, 1997**. This is why the date for Easter shifts every year within our solar or Gregorian calendar. Sometimes the days are different, sometimes even the month is different from year to year.

**The Jews, however, do not change the date of Passover. On their calendar, the Passover always starts on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of their first month of the new year (Nissan or Abib), based on the first new moon of the month of the vernal equinox (which was March 20, 2017). The first NEW MOON after the Vernal Equinox or first day of Spring, in 2017, IS MARCH 27, 2017 AT SUNDOWN --- and for the Jews, the next day begins at sundown --- WHICH WOULD BE TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017... THE FIRST DAY OF THE FIRST MONTH (Nissan) OF GOD'S NEW YEAR as given to Moses and the Hebrews or Jews. If Tuesday, March 28, 2017 is day one of the Hebrew calendar (first month), then keep counting until you come to the 14<sup>th</sup> day of that month --- which will be MONDAY, APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup>. GOD TOLD MOSES THAT IT WOULD BE ON THIS 14<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF THE FIRST MONTH THAT PASSOVER WOULD BEGIN AT SUNDOWN!**

**THAT'S HOW WE FIND THE PASSOVER (WHEN JESUS INSTITUTED COMMUNION FOR ALL CHRISTIANS)...AND THE TRUE EASTER SUNDAY!**

**Why is our calendar different than the Hebrew calendar?**

## **Our calendar is called the Gregorian Calendar**

The Gregorian Calendar is the standard international calendar for civil use. In addition, it regulates the ceremonial cycle of the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches. The current **Gregorian ecclesiastical rules (by the Roman Catholic Church) that determine the date of Easter trace back to 325 AD at the First Council of Nicaea convened by the Roman Emperor Constantine.** At that time the Roman world used the **Julian Calendar** (put in place by Julius Caesar).

The Council (of the **Roman Catholic Church**) decided to keep Easter on Sunday, the same Sunday throughout the world. **To fix the date for Easter**, and to make it determinable indefinitely in advance, the Council constructed **special tables to compute the date.** These tables were **revised** in the following few centuries resulting eventually in the tables constructed by the 6<sup>th</sup> century Abbot of Scythia, **Dionysius Exiguus**, in the year **1582, under Pope Gregory XIII (hence, the name Gregorian Calendar).** Dionysius is the same man responsible for BC and AD (based on the birth of Christ). **However, it was later determined he made a 4 to 6 year error in his calculations (this is why Jesus was born 4-6 BC on today's calendar).**

Universal adoption of this Gregorian calendar occurred slowly. By the 1700's, though, most of western Europe had adopted the Gregorian Calendar. The Eastern Christian churches still determine the Easter dates using the older Julian Calendar method.

**Most people think that Easter Day is the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs next after the vernal equinox. However, this is not exactly true. The full moon involved is not the astronomical Full Moon but an “ecclesiastical” moon, determined from the tables back in 1582 by the Roman Catholic Church under Pope Gregory XIII.** This is why our calendar is referred to as the Gregorian Calendar.

**These *ecclesiastical* rules (written by the Roman Catholic Church) are:**

- Easter falls on the **first Sunday following the first *ecclesiastical* full moon** that occurs on or after the day of the vernal equinox;
- this particular *ecclesiastical* full moon is the **14<sup>th</sup> day of a tabular lunation (new moon)**; and
- the **vernal equinox is fixed as March 21** (it is supposed to be whenever the longitude of the sun is 0 degrees).

This means that Easter Sunday can **never occur before March 22 or later than April 25** (even if Passover does by the correct full moon and vernal equinox). The Gregorian dates (our calendar dates) for the ecclesiastical full moon come from the Gregorian tables written by the Roman Catholic Church under Pope Gregory XIII. **Therefore, the civil date of Easter depends upon which tables are used (Gregorian - Pope Gregory XIII, or Julian - Julius Caesar, or Hebrew - God).**

The western (Roman Catholic and Protestant) Christian churches use these Gregorian tables;



many eastern (Orthodox) Christian churches use the older tables based on the Julian Calendar. **In a congress held in 1923, the eastern churches adopted a modified Gregorian Calendar and decided to set the date of Easter according to the astronomical Full Moon for the meridian of Jerusalem.**

**There are 3 major differences between the ecclesiastical system (Gregorian or solar), and the astronomical system (Jewish or lunar):**

(1) **The times of the ecclesiastical full moons are not necessarily identical to the times of astronomical Full Moons.** The ecclesiastical tables did not account for the full complexity of the lunar motion.

(2) **The VERNAL EQUINOX has a precise astronomical definition determined by the actual motion of the Sun. It is the precise time at which the apparent longitude of the Sun is zero degrees.** This precise time shifts within the civil calendar very slightly from year to year. **In the ecclesiastical system (developed by the Roman Catholic Church) the vernal equinox does not shift; it is fixed at March 21** regardless of the actual motion of the Sun. **This is why in 2008, Easter was on the wrong Sunday. March 20<sup>th</sup> was the real vernal equinox in 2008 --- NOT MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup> (AS FIXED BY THE POPE)!**

(3) The date of Easter is a specific calendar date. Easter starts when the date starts for your local time zone. **The vernal equinox occurs at a specific date and time all over the Earth at once.** Inevitably, then, our date for Easter (Gregorian calendar of the Pope) occasionally differs from the Jewish date of the Passover (Hebrew calendar from God) that depends on the true astronomical Full Moon and vernal equinox.

**Let's summarize:**

For **Christians in America and the entire western hemisphere (that use the Gregorian calendar)**, Easter is calculated as the first Sunday after the paschal (Passover) full moon that occurs on or after the vernal equinox. If the full moon falls on a Sunday, then Easter is the following Sunday. **Easter can occur ONLY between March 22 and April 25.**

**HOWEVER, OUR CALENDAR does not use the actual, or astronomically correct date for the vernal equinox (as do the Jews), but a fixed date (March 21).** And our "*full moon*" does not mean the astronomical full moon (like the Jews use), but the "*ecclesiastical moon*," which is based on tables created by the Roman Catholic Church, under Pope Gregory XIII. This allows the date of Easter to be calculated in advance rather than determined by actual astronomical observances, which are naturally less predictable.

The **Eastern Orthodox Christians** calculate Easter as the first Sunday after the paschal (Passover) full moon (April 20<sup>th</sup>) that occurs on or after the vernal equinox. **If the full moon falls on a Sunday (as it did in 2008), then Easter is automatically the following Sunday.** However, they do not restrict themselves to March 22 through April 25. **In 2008, for instance,**

**they celebrated Easter on Sunday, April 27th.**

Unlike the Western churches, the Eastern churches set the date of Easter according to the actual astronomical full moon, and the actual equinox as observed along the meridian of Jerusalem (the actual site of the Last Supper, Crucifixion, and Resurrection).

## **So, who's right?**

**The Last Supper of Jesus Christ was on the night of the beginning of Passover (Luke 22:7-16).** For the Jews the 14<sup>th</sup> day began after the sun went down on Thursday (the 13<sup>th</sup> day). For us it would still be Thursday night; for the Jews, it was Friday (the 14<sup>th</sup> day). **During that first night of the Passover (14<sup>th</sup> day of Nissan or Abib according to Exodus 12), Jesus changed the Passover into what we call Communion, or The Lord's Supper.** *Matthew 26:26* records what happened: "While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.'

*In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.' Then He took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it."*

**Some time that night on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nissan or Abib,** after he instructed and prayed for His disciples, He sang a hymn, and went to a place called Gethsemane (*Matthew 26:36*). After praying for strength, it is here that **Judas came with men to betray and arrest Jesus (Matthew 26:47).**

**By daybreak (still the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nissan or Abib), the Sanhedrin had come to the decision to put Jesus to death (Mark 15:1).** They then took him to Pilate and Herod to carry out the death sentence (*John 18:28*). Then Pilate had Jesus flogged and handed him over to be crucified (*Matthew 27:26*). *Mark 15:25* says **they crucified Jesus at the third hour (Friday morning at 9:00).** *Matthew 27:45* tells us **Jesus died on the cross around 3:00 Friday afternoon.**

*John 19:31* tells us that the next day was a special Sabbath (Saturday was the Sabbath Day, and this Sabbath fell during the Passover week), and they had to get Jesus' body down from the cross and buried before the Sabbath (Saturday). *John 19:39, Luke 23:53, Matthew 27:60* tell us Joseph and Nicodemus buried Jesus in Joseph's tomb before the sun went down on Friday (the Sabbath began as soon as the sun went down). *Matthew 27:62* tells us the tomb was sealed that night (after the sun went down - now the Sabbath).

*Luke 24* tells us that after the Sabbath (Saturday), on the first day of the week (Sunday), Christ rose from the dead, conquering death, and officially becoming the Christ, the Anointed One, who took away our sins, and gave us the hope of eternal life! Later, that same day (Sunday), He had Communion with two men who then recognized Him, and then He also appeared to the Eleven Apostles who were also meeting together on Sunday to remember Him (ALL DURING THE WEEK OR SEVEN DAYS OF THE PASSOVER, OF WHICH JESUS BECAME THE PASSOVER LAMB, OF WHICH HIS BLOOD WOULD SAVE US!)

**Clearly, the true Easter Sunday was during the week of Passover, which was dated by a Hebrew lunar calendar, made by a true astronomical moon, and a true vernal equinox, as commanded to them by God!**

## **And when did God say Passover began?**

*Exodus 12* says: "The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, 'This month is to be for you

*the first month, the first month of your year (Nissan or Abib). Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of them until the **fourteenth day of the month (Nissan or Abib)**, when all the people of the community of Israel must **slaughter them at twilight (between sunset and dark). Jews began the 14<sup>th</sup> day when the sun went down after the 13<sup>th</sup> day.***

*Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire - head, legs and inner parts. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover.*

*On that same night (14<sup>th</sup> day of Nissan or Abib) I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn - both men and animals - and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.*

*This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord - a lasting ordinance. For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it **from the first day (14<sup>th</sup>) through the seventh day (21<sup>st</sup>) must be cut off from Israel. On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat - that is all you may do.***

*Celebrate the **Feast of Unleavened Bread** (15<sup>th</sup> day of Nissan or Abib), because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. **In the first month (Nissan or Abib) you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day (which began after sundown on the 13<sup>th</sup> day) until the evening of the twenty-first day. For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses.***

**This year, 2017, the Pope was right and matched Easter Sunday with the week of the Passover as given by the Hebrew calendar given to Moses by God – APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup>. But, how can we be sure the Jews always get the right date every year...AND THE POPE WAS WRONG LAST YEAR IN 2016?**

**The vernal (or spring) equinox** (when the longitude of the sun is 0 degrees), **was actually** (according to the U.S. Naval Observatory) **March 20<sup>th</sup>** (a day earlier than the fixed day of the

Roman Catholic Church of March 21<sup>st</sup>).

So, if you take a **2016 calendar** and mark **March 20<sup>th</sup> as the vernal equinox**, the **first full moon to follow the vernal equinox was March 23<sup>rd</sup>**; and, the **first Sunday after this first full moon was March 27<sup>th</sup>**. This is why everyone using the Gregorian Calendar (following the fixed rules of Easter by the Roman Catholic Church) celebrated Easter on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

However, the Jews would also take note of the vernal equinox to find the correct date for their new year. Since each Hebrew month began on a new moon, **the first Hebrew month of their new year (Nissan or Abib) would begin on the first new moon on or after the vernal equinox**. As noted, the vernal equinox was on March 20, 2016. **The first new moon after the 2016 vernal equinox was sundown of April 7<sup>th</sup> on our calendar, which would be April 8<sup>th</sup> on Hebrew calendar. This would make day one of Nisan be our April 9<sup>th</sup>**

God commanded in Exodus 12, that the Hebrews were to celebrate Passover on the 14<sup>th</sup> day (which began at sundown) of this month through the 21<sup>st</sup> day (seven days). So, if you mark April 9<sup>th</sup> on your 2016 calendar as day number 1, and continue to count from that day to day number 14, you will come to April 22, 2016 (which, at sundown, is when the 2016 Jewish Passover began). Now, continue to count seven days of Passover from sundown on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and you will end Passover week on sundown, Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.

**SINCE THE WEEK OF PASSOVER IN 2016, BEGAN AT SUNDOWN ON FRIDAY, APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup> ; AND LASTED THROUGH SUNDOWN ON SUNDAY, APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> — IT ENDED 7 DAYS LATER ON SUNDOWN FRIDAY, APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup> ; WHICH WOULD MAKE THE CORRECT RESURRECTION SUNDAY IN 2016 --- SUNDAY, APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup> ...WHICH SHOULD MAKE THE CORRECT EASTER SUNDAY ON APRIL 24, 2016!**

## **How many times has the Passover begun on a Sunday?**

**1974:** Passover week started on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, and ended on Easter Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>

**1977:** Passover week started on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, and ended on Easter Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>

**1994:** Passover began on Sunday, March 27, and ended on Easter Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**2001:** Passover began on Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, and ended on Easter Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**2005:** Passover began on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, and ended on Easter Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Easter Sunday again was not even close to the Passover. It was celebrated on March 27<sup>th</sup>. The Eastern Orthodox correctly celebrated it on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**2008:** Passover began on Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, and ended on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Easter Sunday again was not even close to the actual Passover. It was celebrated on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Eastern Orthodox correctly celebrated it on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

**2011:** Passover began at sundown on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>; but, according to the Jewish calendar, sundown on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> would begin Monday morning, April 18<sup>th</sup>. So, our calendar showed the Passover as beginning on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>; and Easter was celebrated when it

should — the next Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> .

**God commanded in Exodus 12, that the Hebrews were to celebrate Passover on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nissan** (which, we have determined this year of 2016 begins Friday, at sundown, April 22<sup>nd</sup> — which, for the Jews, will be Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> on our calendar); **and then would last for seven days, until the 21<sup>st</sup> day of Nissan.** **SO, MARK ON OUR 2016 CALENDAR, FRIDAY, APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup> STARTING AT SUNDOWN AS THE PASSOVER.** The next day (Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>) is marked **AS DAY ONE OF THE WEEK OF PASSOVER, OR THE FEAST OF THE UNLEAVENED BREAD.** Day two would be April 24<sup>th</sup> , and finally, **day 7** (end of Passover week) will be on **SUNDOWN, SUNDAY, APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup> .**

**SINCE JESUS DIED, WAS BURIED AND ROSE FROM THE DEAD ON A SUNDAY MORNING, AFTER THE PASSOVER, AND DURING THE WEEK OF UNLEAVENED BREAD -- THE ONLY SUNDAY INCLUDED IN THE 7 DAYS OF PASSOVER WEEK IN 2016 FOR EASTER IS SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup> --- LAST YEAR'S EASTER SUNDAY.**

## **WHY DO THE JEWS HERE IN AMERICA CELEBRATE 8 DAYS OF PASSOVER INSTEAD OF THE BIBLICAL 7 DAYS?**

### **The American Jews give this answer:**

The Torah (1<sup>st</sup> 5 books of the Old Testament that includes *Exodus 12*) itself says that we should have seven days of Passover, so why do the people outside the Land of Israel have eight days of Passover? The answer is because in the olden days we used to figure out the beginning of the Hebrew months by following the birth of the new moon. The Jewish supreme court (Sanhedrin) in Jerusalem would establish day so and so as Rosh Chodesh, the first day of the month, based on testimony from two witnesses who had seen the first sighting of the new moon. Now Jewish months can either be 29 or 30 days, depending on when the new moon of the next month is sighted. So if you were far away from Jerusalem, you would not know what day had been pronounced the first of the month. Consequently, you would not know which day the holidays started, you might be one day off. So what eventually happened was that outside of Israel they would celebrate two days of the festival instead of one, since one of the two days was certainly the right day.

Today, even though we have a set calendar that tells us exactly when the holiday is (with the disbandment of the Sanhedrin we are not able to follow the witness system any more), we still follow the old custom of our ancestors, who kept two days instead of one because of doubt. That's why we have eight days of Passover. But in Israel where they never added an extra day, they don't add it now either. From a kabbalistic standpoint, it has been said that outside the Holy Land we need an extra day of holiness, while in the Holy Land one day is enough.

**So, how can you be sure you'll celebrate the real Lord's Supper, and the real Easter Sunday this year, in 2017?**

According to the Jewish calendar, **Passover (14<sup>th</sup> day of Nissan) will begin at sundown on MONDAY, APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup> this year.** The Feast of Unleavened Bread (week of Passover) begins on TUESDAY, APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup>, and ends at sundown, on MONDAY, APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup> (which is the 21<sup>st</sup> day of Nissan). **Since Jesus instituted Communion on the night of Passover (which will begin at sundown, on MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2017).** I BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO HAVE A SPECIAL COMMUNION SERVICE THIS YEAR!

**The following Sunday (APRIL 16, 2017) will be during the week of Passover, which would make Easter Sunday correct in 2017 IF YOU CONSIDER EASTER AND RESURRECTION SUNDAY THE SAME CELEBRATION!** We celebrate Easter Sunday or the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on the one and only first Day of the week (Sunday) that appears during the true week or 7 days of The Passover (14<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> days of Nissan or Abib).

**Therefore, on APRIL 16, 2017, Easter Sunday will be correctly celebrated by Christians who do not follow the commands of the Roman Catholic Pope.**

Now that we understand **Easter** and the true dates of the **Passover (The Lord's Supper)** and **Christ's resurrection...**

**Let's find the real Day of Pentecost!**

**Why? The Day of Pentecost is when the first CHRISTIAN CHURCH BEGAN ACCORDING TO ACTS 2.** It is the Church's anniversary. Last year (2016) our calendar (following the Pope) was wrong, dating The Day of Pentecost on Sunday, May 15, 2016. According to the official Hebrew calendar (created by God), **Pentecost (also known as Shavuot, Firstfruits, or Feast of Weeks) started in**

2016 when the sun went down, on Saturday, June 11, 2016 — which, for the Jews, began on our calendar's Sunday, June 12, 2016 – the true day of Pentecost last year. **THIS YEAR OF 2017 WE DON'T WANT TO MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE! SO, FIRST WE MUST ANSWER THE QUESTION: What exactly is the Day of Pentecost, and why is it so important to Christians?**

The Day of Pentecost is 50 days after the beginning of Passover (or, traditionally, the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter). Last year in 2016, the Catholics (and most Christians) dated Pentecost from the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after our Gregorian Calendar's Easter Sunday (which they dated March 27, 2016), instead of using the actual beginning of Passover (sundown on Friday, April 22, 2016). As I have already explained, Easter Sunday should have been celebrated last year in 2016 on April 24<sup>th</sup> — AND WE DON'T WANT TO MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE THIS YEAR!

## **SO, LET'S READ THE BIBLE:**

*Leviticus 23:5* says: “The Lord’s Passover begins at twilight on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first month (Nissan or Abib).”

*Verse 6* continues: “On the 15<sup>th</sup> day of that month (Nissan or Abib) the Lord’s Feast of Unleavened Bread begins; for seven days you must eat bread made without yeast.”

Then, *verse 15* adds: “From the day after The Sabbath, the day you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, count off seven full weeks (as in the Feast of Weeks). Count off fifty days (as in The a Day of Pentecost) up to the day after the seventh Sabbath, and then present an offering of new grain to the Lord (or Feast of Weeks, Firstfruits, or Shavuot).”

## **So, let’s count off 50 days from the day after the Sabbath (Saturday) that occurs during the week of Passover:**

This year (2017), the Passover started at sundown on APRIL 10, 2017, and ended on SUNDOWN, APRIL 17, 2017. The Sabbath or 7<sup>th</sup> Day that God made Holy, or **Saturday**, during this week of Passover, begins on Saturday, APRIL 15, 2017.

So, “the day after the Sabbath,” (according to *Leviticus 23:15*) IS SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2017 — THIS WILL BE DAY ONE WHEN COUNTING OFF THE 50 DAYS TO THE

DAY OF PENTECOST.

When we add 50 days starting with APRIL 16, 2017, we come to Sunday, June 4, 2017 — THE REAL DAY OF PENTECOST, which is, according to the Hebrew calendar, when Shavu'ot (Pentecost) will start at sundown, and last through Monday, June 5, 2017.

## Why is all of this so important to Christians?

The Lord's Church began on the Day of Pentecost (or The Feast of Weeks, or Firstfruits, or Shavuot) according to *Acts 2*. This means the day of Pentecost is the true Anniversary, or beginning of the Lord's Church — and this year (2017), the anniversary of the Lord's Church will start at sundown on Sunday, June 4, 2017, and last until sundown on Monday, June 5, 2017.

**This is a date we can know for sure!** Not even the Christmas date (December 25<sup>th</sup>) is known for sure. Yet, if this year, Christmas Day was moved up to another month (which I will test this theory in a few moments), I wonder how many Christians would care then? As important as it is to remember the birth of Jesus; remembering Christ's death, burial and resurrection is even more important! Our entire Christian faith is based on the fact that He sacrificed Himself on the cross for our sins, and conquered death by raising from the dead on the third day (Easter Sunday), so that we may have the gift of eternal life!

## Therefore...

\*If Jesus was born in 4BC (as most believe), and died 33 years later during the Passover week in AD29, and the Day of Pentecost started 50 days after Passover in AD29... then this year, SUNDAY, June 4, 2017, will be the Church's 1,988<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

If Jesus was born two years earlier in 6BC (as some suggest), then this year would be the Church's 1,990<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

So, tell your Church and fellow Christians to remember that three of the biggest dates that mark all of Christianity this year are:



**Passover**, which begins at sundown on **MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2017** (which is the anniversary of when Jesus instituted **Communion, or The Lord's Supper**)

**Easter Sunday**, on **APRIL 16, 2017** (which commemorates the Sunday after Passover **when Jesus rose from the dead** after dying for our sins, promising us a home in Heaven)

**The Day of Pentecost**, on **Sunday, June 4, 2017** (The Church's **1,988<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** if Jesus was born in 4BC — **1,990<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**, if Jesus was born in 6BC).

And now that we have the true dates for Passover, Resurrection Sunday (Easter), and the Day of Pentecost (Church's anniversary)...

## **What about Christmas?**

Since the 4<sup>th</sup> century, the Roman Catholic Church has declared December 25<sup>th</sup> as Christ's birthday. Though most scholars (even Catholic) will admit...

**NO ONE KNOWS THE EXACT DATE!**

With this in mind...

**I'd like to really test your faith in the Bible!**

**Let's read the announcement of Jesus' birth together in *Luke 1:26-56*:**

*"In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.'*

*Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. **You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end.'*

*'How can this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?'*

*The angel answered, '**The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child (John the Baptist) in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month.** For nothing is impossible with God.'*

*'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May it be to me as you have said.' Then the angel left her.*

*At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judah, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the*

*baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!'*

*And Mary said: 'My soul praises the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me' (is she already pregnant?)."*

*(56) "Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home."*

**If Mary indeed was impregnated by the Holy Spirit in the "sixth month" (and most scholars agree from this Scripture, that John the Baptist was just 6 months older than his cousin Jesus); that would mean **Mary was pregnant sometime during the Jewish 6<sup>th</sup> month, called Elul (which would have been between September 4<sup>th</sup>, and October 2<sup>nd</sup>, last year, in 2016).****

**If she carried the child for the traditional nine months, you would calculate it as follows:**

**MARY WAS IMPREGNATED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT sometime during the 6<sup>th</sup> month of Elul, which was between September 4<sup>th</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup> last year of 2016.**

**MARY IS ONE MONTH PREGNANT sometime during the 7<sup>th</sup> month of Tishri, which was between October 3<sup>rd</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> last year of 2016.**

**MARY IS TWO MONTHS PREGNANT sometime during the 8<sup>th</sup> month of Cheshvan, which was between November 2<sup>nd</sup> and November 30<sup>th</sup> last year of 2016.**

**MARY IS THREE MONTHS PREGNANT sometime during the 9<sup>th</sup> month of Kislev, which was between December 1<sup>st</sup> and December 29<sup>th</sup> last year of 2016 .**

**MARY IS FOUR MONTHS PREGNANT sometime during the 10<sup>th</sup> month of Tevet, which was between December 30<sup>th</sup> of 2016, and January 27<sup>TH</sup> of 2017 .**

**MARY IS FIVE MONTHS PREGNANT sometime during the 11<sup>th</sup> month of Shevat (or Sh'vat), which, was between January 28<sup>th</sup> and February 26<sup>th</sup> this year of 2017.**

**MARY IS SIX MONTHS PREGNANT sometime during the 12<sup>th</sup> month of Adar , which is between February 27<sup>th</sup> and March 27<sup>th</sup> this year of 2017.**

MARY IS SEVEN MONTHS PREGNANT sometime during the 1<sup>st</sup> month of Nisan, which is between March 28<sup>th</sup> and April 26<sup>th</sup> this year of 2017.

MARY IS EIGHT MONTHS PREGNANT sometime during the 2<sup>nd</sup> month of Iyyar, which is between April 27<sup>th</sup> and May 25<sup>th</sup> this year of 2017.

**MARY IS NINE MONTHS PREGNANT AND READY TO GIVE BIRTH TO JESUS** sometime during the 3<sup>rd</sup> month of Sivan, which is between May 26<sup>th</sup> and June 24<sup>th</sup> this year of 2017. Day 280 (normal full term), if counted from the first day of the sixth month of Elul (September 4, 2017), is Sivan 16, or our June 10, 2017.

If you were to use the formula for a normal pregnancy at 40 weeks, or 280 days, added to the first day of the “*sixth month*” of Elul (September 4, 2016)...

**Jesus would have been born on June 10, 2017**

**(or SIVAN 16, 5777)!**

**JUNE is a long way from December 25<sup>th</sup>.**

**The last important date of Christ we can know is the Day of His Ascension!** After Christ’s resurrection, according to *Acts 1:3*, He showed Himself to many people over a period of 40 days. At the end of those 40 days, He met with His Apostles for the last time, gave them the command to wait for the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost, and then was taken from them in a cloud to return to Heaven.

**But, how do we know the date of His Ascension?**

**Passover began on sundown, the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan. That day was Monday, beginning at sundown, on April 10<sup>th</sup> this year of 2017.**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan (April 11, 2017), He was crucified, died and buried (day one).

On the 16<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan (April 12, 2017), He was still buried in the tomb (day two),

and on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan (April 13, 2017 — day three), He rose from the dead and appeared to Mary, the women running from the tomb, Peter, the two men on the road to Emmaus, and the Apostles (minus Thomas).

For the next 40 days (April 14<sup>th</sup> to May 23<sup>rd</sup> of 2016) Christ appeared several more times to the Apostles (once to 500 people at the same

time).

**On the last day of His appearing (the 40<sup>th</sup> day, or at sundown on Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>), He then gave His Apostles their last command (*Matthew 28:18-20*), called “The Great Commission” and then “*ascended*” back to Heaven in a cloud (*Acts 1:9*).**

**NOW, YOU HAVE TO RE-THINK EASTER, The PASSOVER...The Day of PENTECOST... HIS ASCENSION... AND CHRISTMAS!**

**...But, don't worry...**

**I'm not interested in moving Christmas from December 25<sup>th</sup> to sometime between May and June** — though I do believe this to be a more accurate time of Christ's birth.

December 25<sup>th</sup> is a world- wide celebration of Christ's Birth, and one of the best advertisements for Jesus Christ the world has. I would, therefore, never be in favor of trying to change it!

And, if people want to continue to celebrate Easter, Passover, Pentecost and Christmas on the wrong month or day; I'm fine with that (for the same reasons as Christmas) — **just as long as they continue to remember the Truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!**