

**Biblical Calendar:
Two Divisions and Two Cycles**

The Flood Chronicle

Key 7

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Genesis 7 and 8

Josephus and the Autumn Season

“Josephus dates the flood season in the autumn. He says: ‘This calamity happened in the six hundredth year of Noah’s government, in the second month, [October-November] called by the Macedonians **Dius**, but by the Hebrews **Marheshvan**; for so did they order their year in Egypt.’....

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Philo Numbers Tishri as the 1st Month

....Philo is another important witness supporting the order of months in Genesis. He himself numbers Tishri [September-October], as the first month [Civil Division]. It is numbered seven in the modern Hebrew calendar....

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Passover Month as the 1st Month

....But Philo recognizes that at the time of the Exodus God commanded Moses that the Passover month should be designated as the first....

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The Paschal Month

....With reference to the paschal month, Philo writes: “This month, being the seventh both in number and order, according to the revolutions of the sun is the first in power; on which account it is also called first in the sacred scriptures.”....

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Josephus, Philo, the Talmud

....These statements of Josephus and Philo are further confirmed by the Talmud, and they appear to be consistent for the following reasons:

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The Flood Began in the Autumn

1. If the flood months began in the autumn, they would then coalesce with the seasons as they have always been in the Near East -- rain in fall and spring, and drought in summer....

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Astronomical Tides and Months

2. According to the numbering of the months the astronomical tides harmonize with the events described. If the order of the months is reversed, the tides do not check....

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The Numbering of the Months

3. The numbering of the months [from Tishri-7th month] is a key to the length of the months when compared with the periods; but by reversing the order of the months, and numbering from Nisan [Abib-1st month], the key thereby becomes useless.....

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Seeding Time

4. If Noah had left the ark in Iyar [April-May] as the second month, he would obviously have had to wait at least seven months before seeding the ground....

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Seeding the Wheat and Sowing Barley

....But coming forth in Hesvan, [October - November] he could immediately prepare for the November seeding of wheat, as is customary in the Near East, and soon after, for the January sowing of barley....

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Seasons Fully Established

....That the seasons were fully established after Noah left the ark is implied in Genesis 8:22

“While the earth remaineth, seeding and harvest, and cold and heat; and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”

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Calendar Opposite of Egypt

....The lunar calendar used by Moses, both in the case of the exodus and in that of the flood, had its new year at the nadir (opposite pole) of the Egyptian economic scheme of counting time....

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The Lunar and the Solar years

....The deluge began in the year 600 of Noah's life (Genesis 7:6), and the year changed to 601 on the first day of the subsequent first month (Genesis 8:13).

This change of year on the 308th day of the flood is indisputable evidence that the calendar was intentionally based upon both the lunar and the solar years.....

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Lunar and Solar Year

....For, by adding the 46 days in Tishri and Hesvan before the rain began, to 308, we get 354 days, which represents the number in a common lunar year; while, by adding to 308 days the 57 days from the change of years to the time Noah left the ark we get 365 days, which correspond to the solar year. ...

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Earliest Historical Records

...Thus we have the earliest historical records for the length of the lunar and solar years, and at the same time the earliest precedent for beginning the Hebrew civil year in the autumn...

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Common Year - Not Leap Year

....If the lunar portion of the flood period had been a leap year, then it would have contained 13 months, and the 13th month would have been introduced as an additional Adar....

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The Ark Rested in Abib

....If Adar, then [Abib] in which the ark rested would necessarily have been numbered the eighth month instead of the seventh....

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Noah Left the Ark the Second Month

....And furthermore, in the event of a lunar leap year, Noah would have left the ark on the 27th day of the first month, instead of the second if he were to carry out the obvious intention of the annalist to mark off the 365 days belonging to the solar year....

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A Lunar Year of 354 Days

....Hence the consistent conclusion that the lunar portion of the flood year was a common lunar year, equaling 354 days, and not 365 days...

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Lunar Calculations: Most Exact

....And with the understanding that Tishri [September-October] is the first month, the lunar year would obviously have to begin with Tishri and end on the last day of Elul [August-September]. This is in harmony with the change of year recorded in the text. Lunar calculations are the most exact of all ancient forms of calendation....

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Precise Solar Year of the Flood

....The solar year is also outlined as heretofore described. A period of exactly 365 days extends from 17 Hesvan [October-November] when the rain began, to 27 Hesvan, when Noah left the ark. These two limiting dates mark out a precise solar year during which the flood prevailed....

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Constant Companions: Solar and Lunar Years

....The difference of 10 days between the two limiting dates is sufficient evidence that Moses actually intended to leave on record the length of the common solar year as a companion constant to the common lunar year....

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Schiaparelli Notes of the 2 Cycles

....Schiaparelli is one of few who has taken note of this coincidence:

‘...we cannot doubt that this writer knew the year of 365 days. In fact, he makes the flood begin in the 600th year of Noah’s life, on the seventeenth day of the second month;....

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601st Year of Noah's Life

...and the definite drying of the earth and the end of the flood he puts in the 601st year of Noah's life, on the twenty-seventh day of the second month.'

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Months of the Hebrew Calendar

....These months are certainly those of the Hebrew calendar, that is to say, lunar periods. The flood would therefore have lasted twelve moons and eleven extra days....

$$[354 + 11 = 365]$$

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Total Duration of the Flood: 365 Days

....It is hard not to recognize here the intention of making the flood last for an exact solar year; for if 354 days be assumed for the duration of 12 months the total of the duration of the flood comes to 365 days.”....

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Biblical Astronomical Constants

....Consequently, the calendar in Genesis is also an acknowledgment of the length of the solar year. It is indeed thrilling to find these astronomical constants in the biblical text....

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Very Ancient Computations

....They represent very ancient computations in calendar science. They would appear to have been introduced early in the page of Holy Writ for the express purpose of pointing to the lunar form of calendar as the one to be used in biblical chronology....

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Autumn New Year

....The Genesis calendar is seemingly an historical document of rare antiquity; for it ties together the patriarchal age and the centuries of Israelite slavery under the pharaohs, when the autumn new year of the sons of Jacob belonged to the same season as the Egyptian Thoth new year....

The Flood Chronicle Record In Chronology

....Obviously, Moses had to choose between these two forms of calendation in order to construct this record in chronology....

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One Week Before the Flood

....Let us summarize its various features of importance:

1. In this Genesis chronicle the dates in themselves are of telling significance. Noah and his family went into the ark a full week before the rain began....

[Genesis 7:4]

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Clear Light of the Full Moon

....It was on the tenth day of the second month, and throughout the week Noah completed his preparations in the piercingly clear light of the **full moon**....

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The Winds and the Tides

....Five months later the ark rested. In the **last quarter** of this seventh month, the winds and tides have ceased their violence and the ark is moving about in a quiet haven of water over Ararat....

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A New Moon and a Horned Moon

....When the patriarch finally leaves the ark, it is close to the end of the second month of the year, and the **moon is new**. Two, possibly three, days go by ere the **horned moon** slowly sets on the western horizon after the sun.... [Genesis 8:14]

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All the Phases of the Moon

....In this series of dates in Genesis, **all** the **phases** of the **moon** are involved.

A calendar based upon the moon reveals astronomical events that would pass wholly unnoticed by the wandering year of Egypt, or the later Julian scheme of measuring time....

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Calendar Calculation

Not Observation

2. Of essential importance are the nature of the Genesis calendar. That this instrument was **calculated**, and not based upon new moon observation seems incontrovertible, and furthermore, there is no direct evidence that any written sources were at the annalist's command....

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When the Moon is not Seen?

....And hereby is lifted the uncertainty which has hitherto challenged the whole problem of the ancient lunar month, namely, what happened to the calendar when the moon is not seen?....

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Calculated New Moons

....Every scripture date is an answer to this question, for all the dates in the Bible respond to calculated new moons, as the synchronism reveal, and is now further supported by the reckoning in Genesis....

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Very Early Record

3. Of great interest to astronomy should be this **very early record** of indisputable solar and lunar constants -
- the mean length of the lunar month and year and the mean length of the solar year.....

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The Original Hebrew Calendar

....The original [Hebrew] calendar in organized Israel was founded upon **both forms of year**. Its months were determined by the course of the **moon**, while the lunar year itself paced along with the **sun's** motion by means of the **harvest festivals**....

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Change of Calendar

....The festal season remained stabilized in Jewry until after the time of Hillel II. In the mediaeval controversy between the various Jewish sects, one Yefet ben'Ali the Karaite challenged the opposing Rabbanites that they had **changed the due seasons** of the calendar....

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Genesis Computation

4. Another feature of consequence pertaining to ancient chronology comes to light in this flood study, namely, that there are apparently **two ways** of numbering the lunar months in the Pentateuch: one, **from Tishri**, as in the Genesis computation, a method followed by the Israelites slaves in Egypt; and the second, **from Nisan** (the Abib of Moses), after the Exodus, and continuing to this present day....

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Chronicle of History

5. The Genesis calendar presents about the **earliest precedent** for beginning the civil year in the autumn. There are also arguments that the creation of the world occurred in this season.....

6. And still another value in the Genesis chronicle is of material consequence to the chronology of history.....

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Calendric Reckoning

....For in this calendric reckoning there occurs so exact an astronomical description of the flood year, that, in the event of its approximate century being identified, the year itself can certainly be dated.”

The Grace Amadon Collection, The Flood Chronicle, pages 1-19, excerpts, (emphasis supplied).

The Biblical Calendar

Other Applications Today

The Biblical Calendar Two Divisions: civil and religious may be identified from Genesis to Revelation. There are **other applications** of the Biblical Calendar which can be found today and will be unlocked in **Key 8**.