

119

MINISTRIES

“The following is a direct script of a teaching that is intended to be presented via video, incorporating relevant text, slides, media, and graphics to assist in illustration, thus facilitating the presentation of the material. In some places, this may cause the written material to not flow or sound rather awkward in some places. In addition, there may be grammatical errors that are often not acceptable in literary work. We encourage the viewing of the video teachings to complement the written teaching you see below.”

Calendar Chaos: What to do?

We expect that all would agree that walking out our faith is important. We advocate following the Torah, just as our Messiah practiced and taught. That is a centerpiece of our apologetics-based ministry. In that, we do our best to interpret and apply the Torah as God intended to the best of our understanding.

Even though we make every attempt to do that well, and only to glorify YHWH, some understandably disagree with 119 Ministries on some of our presented conclusions. We find it rare that anyone agrees with us 100% should they view all of our 400+ teachings. Many of these points of contention are regarding small things. Sometimes these points of contention are regarding more impactful issues.

The point is this, sometimes there will be disagreement with 119 Ministries, or really any ministry for that matter. If any teacher demands 100% agreement with everything they teach, that would be a cult. We do not expect you to agree with 119 100%. If you do, we are actually a little concerned. We are likely wrong on some things. This is why we encourage all to test everything. No one has everything figured out. We even find that, after some time and further testing, we disagree with our own previous conclusions on a doctrine that we may have presented in a teaching. When that happens, we start over and try to do better.

One of the topics that often finds itself in the bucket of emails expressing disagreement with 119 Ministries is the detailed mechanics of how to calculate and observe God’s calendar. As most of us know, there is the modern Gregorian calendar that much of the world follows, and there is the Biblical calendar that determines YHWH’s mo’edim, or appointed times—God’s holidays, if you will.

For those who are interested in learning about our thoughts on how to calculate YHWH’s calendar, for whatever it might be worth, please see our teaching series, [Time: Our Creator’s Calendar](#).

It is a complicated topic for us in the faith. It is a passionate topic for many. It is also a topic that many believers claim to have all figured out, without any possibility for error. And many people absolutely love to tell others how easy it is and so obvious to see that they are right.

Regardless of how easy or difficult it might be to determine the proper calculation of YHWH's calendar, the reality is that we will not likely be united on this topic until Messiah Yeshua returns and sets us all straight.

Does that mean we should abandon trying to determine and observe the correct calendar?

No, we wouldn't say that, and here is why: we all desire to follow God, to love God, and love others. We do this by studying and following the Word that He gave to us. We should all do our best to follow the Word to the best of our understanding. We should never stop trying to do that better each and every day.

Even in our own presentation of what we believe to be the likely calculation of God's calendar, we spend the majority of our opening dialogue stating how we could be wrong. If we could be wrong, then that clearly means that others could be right.

And we will all stand before the Creator someday, and we all want to stand before Him and say that we made every attempt to follow His Word. Where we fail, we will be covered by grace. We all desire to follow His Word to the best of our understanding. We should all follow the Word how we understand it, not how someone else tells us. Listen to those who challenge your understanding, test it to Scripture, but don't simply follow someone else's understanding of the Word without understanding and agreeing to it yourself.

So what is the point of all of this?

The point is that we likely need to accept the reality that these calendar differences will exist until Yeshua's return. Unless new research or ancient information comes to light, there is not one ministry or individual that is going to get us all on the same page regarding the calendar. Many people will not believe something even if it can be proven, and many have their own proof to back up their beliefs.

But, if we are all responsible for our own interpretations on how to follow the Word, how is that a problem?

Well, how many believe it is important to assemble with others in the faith?

Hebrews 10:24-25

[And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.](#)

Not only is assembling together important, as we approach the coming Day of the Lord in which Yeshua returns, it will become even more important.

How does that relate to the Biblical calendar?

In the first century, as practiced by Messiah Yeshua and the apostles, those in the faith assembled on the feast days and the 7th Day Sabbath. These were days on which all work was to cease. It provided a perfect time to assemble together, worship, and study the Word.

When we are all observing different calendars, a breakdown happens here. With all of these different

calendars, how do we assemble together?

What can be done so that we can gather together despite our differences?

The best way we know how to answer that is to explain what the 119 Ministries team has done, as one example.

Some might be surprised to hear that not everyone on the 119 Ministries team follows the same calendar, and it's been that way for years. It becomes even further convoluted when those we have Bible study with currently and in the past have also followed different calendars.

How did we deal with it but not forsake assembling together? Did we separate and divide?

No...

Each family would rest on the days they believed they were to rest. Our individual families would observe the mo'edim on the days we believed we were to observe the mo'edim. In addition, we would also find a day to observe and get together as a group. We admit that this can be hard to do if one calendar places some observances a month apart. But we made it work the best that we were able as often as we were able.

For example, perhaps this year you celebrate the Day of Trumpets on a Tuesday and your congregation is assembling together on Thursday. What can be done? Perhaps you can blow some trumpets on Tuesday with your family and rest as we are commanded to rest. But, can you still assemble with your congregation on Thursday? Of course you can! —even better, right?

These are some of the things we have done to make things work. Despite the calendric differences, we valued each other. We all brought great conversation to the table. We all depended on one another.

We did not divide over the calendar. We made it work. Sometimes it was easy. Sometimes it was hard. But we put forth effort because we loved and cared for each other. Consider the weightier matters of the Torah. It's more important to love and care for each other than to agree on calendar days.

Sure, we entertained discussions about the calendar from time to time, trying to understand each family's perspective better. But the point is this: we made it work despite these differences, and quite frankly, many other doctrinal differences.

As we near the day of Yeshua's return, we all need each other that much more. We should be looking for reasons to bring us all together, not highlighting where we all differ on minor issues and using such as an excuse to go our separate ways. Sure, there are going to be reasons where some will have to part ways, as certain doctrines could be considered dangerous or incompatible with the Torah. We are not naive. That is going to happen from time to time. But, perhaps the question should be asked, do we need to divide over this, or can we all assemble together in a shared love and worship of our Creator?

Hebrews 10:24-25

[And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.](#)

So, if we can encourage you with this: whenever possible, assemble together despite differences. The adversary wants to divide and conquer. It is YHWH who sees us as the Body of the Messiah. We submit that we do better to glorify God when we act less like a collection of individuals, and more as the one Body of the Messiah.

In summary, it's doubtful there will ever be full agreement with calendric calculation and implementation until Yeshua's return. We do not think that most people are intentionally trying to cause problems in their different calendar interpretations, most simply want to follow the Torah the best that they are able. We cannot fault people for that. In fact, we should be encouraging it. We would rather have them make every attempt to follow the Torah as they believe they should follow it, even if it causes some differences. Because, no matter what, our collective application of the Torah is going to produce differences regardless, even outside the boundaries of the calendar. However, what we should not allow that to do, is cause division based on debatable matters, nor neglect the assembling with others.

We pray that this teaching has blessed you, and remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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