

Why xCoG Will Celebrate Two Days Late In 2020

Information in this document may be new to some members in churches derived from Herbert Armstrong's Worldwide Church of God, referred to collectively in this article as xCoG. It should not be, because the data for research is readily available at public sites¹ through search engines such as Google.

Two days late!

In the Roman year 2020, followers of Herbert Armstrong will be observing a Lord's Supper on what most of them believe to be the fourteenth of the first month of what they have been told is "God's Sacred Calendar". In reality, they will be doing their devotions not on the fourteenth, but on the sixteenth of the lunar month.

Check it out for yourself. Look on the internet or an almanac for the time of the new moon. Generally this will be in Universal Time (London, UK). Add two hours to it to obtain Jerusalem time. You then have the Jerusalem time and date of the new moon. It is not hard! Don't believe the critics who try to confuse you with clever words. God has made it easy to determine when the new moon occurs, in accordance with dependable predicatable laws of motion. Unbiased sources such as the Royal Observatory and the US Navy publish this data, as well as commercial sites (refer to a search engine e.g. Google).

Don't take anyone's word for it! Don't be an indolent foolish virgin, as warned in the parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25:1-13. Check it out! If you then are happy to observe the annual Holy Days two days late in 2020, then go ahead, but don't ignore this information and blissfully believe you are keeping the dates specified in Leviticus 23.

A new moon in 2020 is at 09:29 am Tuesday 24th March Universal Time. Add two hours, and this new moon is at 11:29 am Tuesday 24th March Jerusalem time. Sunset is around 5:55 pm, so the new moon occurs before sunset Tuesday afternoon, making this Tuesday, the first day of the lunar month (sunset Monday to sunset Tuesday). If it had occurred after sunset Tuesday, then the New Moon, the first of the lunar month would be the following Wednesday (sunset Tuesday to sunset Wednesday).

Hence the first of the lunar month based on a Jerusalem reference is Tuesday 24th March 2020. The fourteenth of this lunar month will therefore be Monday 6th April (sunset Sunday 5th to sunset Monday 6th)

The followers of Herbert Armstrong will be observing as the fourteenth Wednesday 8th April, two days late. Check it out for yourself now. You will have to give account to God at the judgement (Romans 14:12). Be able to justify what you do.

Later in the year, these trusting people will be holding the Feast of Trumpets on what they believe is the first of the month. A simple check with a calendar or astronomical information as provided by a reputable source such as the Royal Observatory or the US Navy will show they will be active on the third of the lunar month.

Soon after is the Day of Atonement, specified in Leviticus 23 as being on the tenth day of the seventh month. The Armstrong followers will hold it in 2020 on the twelfth of the month. They will be two days late

¹<https://www.timeanddate.com/moon/phases/israel/jerusalem> or check Google for similar, <http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/MoonPhase.php> (being upgraded, online again mid 2020) [Judaism 101: Current Calendar](#) [Jerusalem Calendar 2020](#) [Abdicate.net: Jewish Year 5780](#)

again for the start of the Feast of Tabernacles, commanded at the fifteenth of the same month. They will start theirs on the seventeenth of the lunar month.

How can this be? How can people who are devout and dedicated to observing the festivals of Leviticus 23 fall down on the dates?

How the Jewish Calendar was declared Holy and Infallible

Around 1940, Herbert Armstrong had a dispute with a rival, a Brother Dodd, over which new moon was the first month of that religious year. Dodd advocated a date which was different from the Jewish calendar that Armstrong was promoting. The outcome was that Armstrong staunchly declared Dodd to be wrong and himself to be right, and that the calendar of Judaism is the reference to be followed for determining the date of Passover, and he and his followers have used its dates ever since. (See "How to Figure Passover" ²)

Well, somewhat. ...

Well, actually, almost not at all.

Even though he wrote, in "How to figure Passover", "After thorough study of the Bible, of the Hebrew calendar, of history, and every angle, -- after going into the matter with all the Eugene brethren, and other brethren who have made a special study of this question, we have unanimously agreed that the Hebrew calendar has been preserved correct by the Jews. ", he nevertheless rejected most parts of it.

He did not observe most of the holy days observed on the Jewish Calendar, such as Simhath Torah, Hanukkah, Fast of Tebet, New Year for Trees, Fast of Esther, Purim, Lag b'Omer, Fast of Tammuz, Fast of Ab.. He rejected the Jewish calendar date for Shabuoth / Feast of Weeks (Pentecost), and used his own method, which he later confessed he got wrong for decades and had to change many years later. He rejected the belief of the supposed custodians of "the oracles of God" that the Passover lamb was slain late on the afternoon of the fourteenth of the first month.

These historical facts show that he did not really believe that "the Hebrew calendar has been preserved correct by the Jews." He actually believed that some, but not all, of "the Hebrew calendar has been preserved correct by the Jews." Quite possibly, he clung to it because his rival, Brother Dodd, had rejected it.

The Controversial Postponements

A controversial feature of the Judaism calendar is its use of "postponements" to facilitate the observance of customs of the elders at certain times. These postponements have been widely discussed, but not in the Armstrong literature, and are well known, but again not among the Armstrong followers.

It is because of these postponements that Judaism will be able to comply with the customs of the elders while appearing to be meeting on the correct days of Leviticus 23. This otherwise impossible phenomenon was made possible centuries ago by redefining the start of the month, so that the month does not necessarily begin on the astronomical new moon, but begins whenever the priests said it did. This Jewish religious law, set in stone by the Sanhedrin around 358 AD, cannot be changed except by an appropriate revocation or amendment by a lawful meeting of the Sanhedrin. Since the Sanhedrin has not held any meetings since 358AD, and attempts to reinstitute it have all met with failure because no one has been able to meet the requirements of pure ancestry, ritual purifications, etc. changes are not feasible.

² [How to Figure Passover](#) . Alternatives: [HOW TO FIGURE PASSOVER](#) [HOW TO FIGURE PASSOVER](#) [An Examination of Mr. Armstrong's 1940 Good News Letter About 'The Calendar'](#) Appendix 1 below (starts page 4)

The Jewish Calendar in use since that time has been, is, and will continue to be, a fixed table covering a cycle of nineteen lunar years. There are no calculations required or used. They just follow the nineteen year pre-determined cycle table.

So, in 2020, Judaism will begin its month of Nisan on March 26, even though the new moon (conjunction) will be at 09:29 UTC (11:29 am Jerusalem time) on March 24. Even though they do not keep the Judaism customs of the elders, and therefore have no reason to postpone, the followers of Armstrong will also start their year and month on the third of the lunar month. When the Jews are observing their Passover on the fourteenth of their calendar, actually the sixteenth of the lunar month, so will the followers of Herbert Armstrong.

Will your crown be taken from you because you trustingly followed a man, and did not bother to check the new moon for yourself?

The Future and Your Future

Six lunar months later, Judaism begins its month of Tishri on September 19, as will the followers of Armstrong, even though the new moon will be at noon UTC (2 pm Jerusalem time) on September 17. All the other annual holy days of this month will also be held two days late, which suits Judaism, which can then celebrate the customs and also appear to be on the correct date, at least on their postponed calendar.

How are subsequent years? 2012 has postponements: one day for the Passover season, and two days late for the seventh month. 2013 is correct, with no postponements because the actual dates will not clash with the customs. However there will be a clash with customs in 2014, and there will be a two day postponement in the Passover season, and a one day postponement in the seventh month.

If you are a Christian, you are expected to "prove all things", to "work out your own salvation".

Remember the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25. Half of them had not done their work, expecting someone else to have done things for them, and that others had done for them what they should have done for themselves.

Why do people keep postponements although they do not keep the customs of the Judaism elders? Weird, but some do. You may be asked this question.

Rom 14:12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

What will be your reply?

Further Reading

[Why does the Jewish calendar have postponements?](#)
[Why New Moons Are Irrelevant to the Jewish Calendar](#)

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Obtainable from links at rkjv.org/links.html

APPENDIX 1 HWA Letter

How to Figure Passover

Herbert W. Armstrong

Passover is on the 14th of the first month, ABIB (Nisan). The problem is to figure when is 1st day of month Abib.

Because the Catholics and Protestants figure "Easter" a month earlier than the Hebrew calendar sets Passover this year, -- and because Brother Dodd has published the date March 22 as Passover, while both Stanberry and Salem organizations have published the date as April 21st, many of the brethren are in doubt, and want the FACTS.

Briefly, after very exhaustive study, and counsel with brethren who also have made thorough study of the question for years, the facts are these:

- 1) The Bible YEAR is solar, while the Bible MONTH is lunar.
- 2) PROOF the Bible month is lunar; that is, each month begins with a new moon: By studying Numbers 28 and 29, we learn offerings were held DAILY (verses 3-4), WEEKLY on every Sabbath (verse 9), MONTHLY on the 1st day of each month (verse 11), and YEARLY on the annual holydays (verse 16 and on thru chapter 29). Compare with I Chronicles 23:31; II Chronicles 2:4; 8:13; 31:3; etc., where the same sacrifices and meat and drink offerings are mentioned, and in each case the MONTHLY offerings are on the NEW MOON. Since Numbers 28:11 says this is in the "beginnings of your months," or the first day of each month, we have Bible proof the 1st day of each month is calculated by the New Moon.
- 3) The Bible YEAR is solar. This is proved by the festivals and holydays. A month is between 29 and 30 days. A 12-month year, or lunar year, is approximately 354 days, whereas a solar year is a little more than 365 days. Thus a lunar year is about 11 days less than a solar year. If the Bible year were lunar, always 12 new moons, Passover would about 11 days earlier each year. Thus, in about nine years it would come in the MIDWINTER; in another 9 in the fall, and a few years later Passover would come in the SUMMER. In 34 years it and all the holy days would make the round of all four seasons. But Passover ALWAYS comes in the SPRING, at time of the early grain harvest. On the morrow after the Sabbath during Feast of Unleavened Bread, the priest waved the wave-sheaf, and none of the early Spring grain could be used until this was done, Leviticus 23. Pentecost ALWAYS came in the summer, Tabernacles always in the Fall at time of, or right after, Fall harvest, Leviticus 23:39. These were SET feasts, set for DEFINITE SEASONS of the year, Exodus 23:14-17; 34:18, 22-23; Deuteronomy 16:9, 13, 16; Leviticus 23:4; Numbers 28:2; Exodus 13:10.
- 4) These facts prove there had to be an intercalary, or 13th, month ADDED to the year SEVEN TIMES in each 19 years. God had set the sun, the earth, and the moon in motion so that once every 19 years the sun and moon come into conjunction. That is, once in 19 years there will be a new moon on March 21st, for example. There are SEVEN more new moons in each 19-year solar-lunar cycle than there are solar months, (12 to the year). Thus God's great time cycle, written in the heavens, is based upon SEVEN -- God's complete number, signifying Sabbath -- added to TWELVE, the number of Tribes of Israel, number of Jesus' original apostles, etc.! Since this is true, the ONLY POSSIBLE METHOD by which months can begin on new moons, and yet the solar year can be retained, is to add a 13th month every two or

three years, 7 times in 19 years. Nowhere do the Scriptures specifically mention an intercalary month, yet these facts of astronomy and these Bible facts PROVE it was used.

5) Now, our problem is, WHEN, and HOW OFTEN, did God ordain these intercalary months should be added?

Research reveals two basic points on this question, 1st, GOD DID NOT RECORD IT IN THE BIBLE, which gives us absolutely nothing more to go on than I have stated above. 2nd, History is vague on the subject, shedding little light that can be accepted and trusted. Yet we know God gave HIS PEOPLE a fixed rule for calculating TIME PERIODS, and for figuring WHEN to hold the Festivals of Jehovah. Otherwise, the prophecies, so full of definite time-periods, can never be understood. Otherwise God's people could not obey Him!

We learn in the Bible the men of old did have understanding of the times. They knew how to figure time. "Of the children of Issachar, were men that HAD UNDERSTANDING OF THE TIMES, to know what Israel ought to do," I Chronicles 12:32. See Esther 1:13.

In Daniel 7:25, the "little horn," or papacy, was to "think to change TIMES" as well as laws. Notice, only to THINK to change them -- to deceive the world in general, but not God's people. Thus with the LAW and the Sabbath. The world is deceived. But have WE lost "TIME" in respect of the Sabbath? No! This Scripture, then, indicates TIME HAS NOT BEEN LOST! The true sacred calendar is no more lost than the weekly Sabbath. Then WHO HAS PRESERVED THIS TIME, this sacred CALENDAR? To whom did God give it? To whom were "the oracles of God COMMITTED?" To ISRAEL AND JUDAH, of course! Israel LOST the Sabbath, LOST time LOST even her national name and identity. But JUDAH NEVER DID. Judah has kept TIME in respect to the weekly SABBATH. The Jews rejected Christ. They apostatized in doctrine, BUT THEY WERE STRICT, STICKLERS FOR THE LETTER. Would such a people have lost their CALENDAR? If so, TIME IS LOST! There is no other source thru whom God could have committed AND PRESERVED His calendar. He did COMMIT it to them. Therefore it must be thru them He has preserved it! They had the calendar correct at the time of Christ. They figured Passover, all the feasts, as He did. In 70 A.D. the Jews were scattered into every nation. The present "Jewish calendar" has come down intact without change since 100 A.D. -- that much is proved by history. Could they have changed it, and all changed it exactly in the same ways, while scattered all over the world, and that within a thirty-year period between 70 and 100 A.D.? IF THE PRESENT JEWISH CALENDAR EVER WAS CHANGED FROM THE WAY GOD COMMITTED IT TO THEM, IT HAD TO BE DURING THOSE THIRTY YEARS. The Jews in one part of the world, without knowing what the Jews in other parts of the world were doing, all had to get it changed in exactly the same way! That, of course, was utterly IMPOSSIBLE!

Further PROOF comes thru the continuous observance of Passover by one Jewish sect, going by the name of "Samaritans."

In the Encyclopedia Britannica, 14th edition, Vol. 17, page 357, we read:

"The Samaritans have throughout their history observed the Passover with all its Pentateuchal ceremonial and still observe it down to the present day. They sacrifice the paschal lamb, which is probably the oldest religious rite that has been continuously kept up." Here are the ONLY people who have kept Passover, continuously, thru all generations without a break, exactly as God gave it to them under the old Testament form. They have NEVER made any change in their doctrines regarding Passover, or the manner of observing it. Could THEY have lost the calendar -- the way of figuring WHEN to take it -- as God committed it to them? Hardly! Yet they

use today the same calendar all the Jews use -- the sacred original Hebrew calendar!

Interesting, too, is the fact they observe Passover on the eve, or night part, of the 14th, not on the 15th. They kill the lamb between sunset and dark, at the very beginning of the 14th. They observe the FEAST the night of the 15th. Also they have continued to figure Pentecost from the morrow after the WEEKLY SABBATH during the days of unleavened bread, the true Bible way -- instead of from the first annual Sabbath.

In conclusion, unless God has preserved His sacred calendar thru the Jews, then WE DO NOT KNOW how to figure Passover or ANY of the holydays this year. For there is NO AUTHORITY for any other way.

There is NO BIBLE AUTHORITY WHATSOEVER for figuring the 1st day of the 1st month from the new moon NEAREST the Spring equinox!

As soon as I learned of Brother Dodd's published dates for the festivals this year, I sent him a telegram asking his authority for his dates. His reply is that he bases his method of figuring on certain statements of profane history found in encyclopedias. He replies, In some Bible dictionary, or Encyclopedia, or Jewish encyclopedia, I read something like this: "The ancient reckoning of Passover was from the actual sight of the New Moon nearest the Vernal Equinox . . .!"

But, we ask, (tho Brother Dodd is quoting from memory, and was unable to find the clipping or reference, or state WHERE he had read this), how did the man who wrote that article in the encyclopedia KNOW this was the ancient method of reckoning? Did HE offer proof? The Jews, continuing the observance of all of the seven annual festivals every year continuously, tho scattered all over the world, say it was figured anciently as they figure it today, by the Jewish calendar. What more dependable record has come down from Moses' time?

Bro. Dodd also cited Josephus, Jewish historian, to indicate that Passover could NEVER be earlier than March 20th, or later than April 19th. Yet in Hastings Bible Dictionary, I find this same Josephus quoted as saying the Vernal equinox (March 21), always occurred IN Nisan, which means the year always began with the new moon PRIOR to March 21st. They quote one more author to this same effect, (Muss-Arnolt, p. 77). Thus one writer says Josephus (Ant. 1,5,5) to figure from the new moon PRIOR to March 21st, another uses the same Josephus to prove we ought to take the new moon NEAREST the same date, or about half the time the new moon FOLLOWING March 21st, while in the Britannica I find statements supposed to be historic that it ALWAYS began with the first new moon AFTER March 21st.

Surely we can see that profane history only contradicts itself, is inaccurate cannot be depended upon, and HAS NO AUTHORITY WHATSOEVER. There is no Bible authority for any of it.

God did not commit His oracles, or the preservation of His TIMES to profane history, or to the Roman Catholics, but to the Israelites. And they have been preserved BY THE JEWS.

The Catholics are the ones who have thought to CHANGE the Times. They say the paschal new moon this year is the one BEFORE March 21st, and figure Easter accordingly. The Jews say it is the one AFTER March 21st.

*****After thorough study of the Bible, of the Hebrew calendar, of history, and every angle, -- after going into the matter with all the Eugene brethren, and other brethren who have made a special study of this question, we

have unanimously agreed that the Hebrew calendar has been preserved correct by the Jews.

The new moon occurs, IN JERUSALEM, (World Almanac), at exactly 10:18 P.M., the night of April 7th, which is the eve of April 8th. However, God had the new moon observed by the naked eye, and by this method the first day of the 1st month begins the following sunset, April 8th. Thus Passover comes after sunset April 21st, and the HOLY CONVOCATION after sunset April 22nd, which is Abib 15th. The second holyday begins sunset April 26th, with holy convocation held during the day-time, April 29th. Pentecost this year is JUNE 17th, sunset, until sunset June 18th, instead of June 12th [Sivan 6] as erroneously figured on our calendar printed three years ago.

Sacred Calendar, for 1940

PASSOVER, after sunset April 21st.

UNLEAVENED BREAD, April 21 to 29th,
First Sabbath, meeting after sunset
April 22nd, second Sabbath, daytime
April 29th.

PENTECOST, daytime meeting, Tuesday, June 18th [sic., he means Monday June 17th].

TRUMPETS, Sabbath, October 3rd.

ATONEMENT (fast), October 12th.

TABERNACLES, sunset October 16th to sunset October 24th