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Why was the  
Calendar changed?

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## THE RIDDLE OF THE CALENDAR

**N**O ONE stops to ask for an explanation of what is perhaps the most extraordinary fact in the world—the fact that all civilized time is dated from the birth of Jesus Christ. From the birth of a Jew, Who, on the sceptical theory, if He ever existed at all, was nothing more than a manual laborer in an obscure province of a now defunct empire in a far-off age, Who wrote no book, made no discovery, invented no philosophy, built no temple, and Who died when, as men count years, He had scarcely reached His prime—and died the death of a criminal. Even before His death the little band of disciples He had succeeded in gathering together all forsook and left Him! This is a story that has every characteristic and element of defeat and failure. Yet civilized time is dated from the birth of this Jew. The centuries carry His signature, and the years of the modern world by universal consent are counted from the time of His birth.

## ORIGIN OF CALENDAR UNCERTAIN

No one knows for sure how this extraordinary datum mark began to be used or when or by whom it was established. Not one educated man out of a thousand can tell, off-hand, why all calendars of civilized countries are reckoned from that distant birth in a small village in Israel. Every morning all the newspapers of the civilized world, although some of them have in their columns attacks in one form or another on Jesus Christ, adjust their date to His birth. Almanacs, Acts of Congress and Parliaments, business and politics, literature and the very dates on our letters and checks all unconsciously bear testimony to the birth of this Jew so long ago.

From the dawn of history there have been many great men whose contributions have left indelible marks on history, culture and civilization. The dialogues of Socrates, the philosophy of Plato and the plays of Shakespeare are studied in every college in the world. Nor is education considered adequate unless the achievements of such great, historical figures as Hannibal, Alexander the Great, Galileo, Newton, Roentgen and Einstein and many others are known. These great figures have profoundly



changed the direction of science, and some of the things they taught or discoveries they made have reached into and changed radically our everyday life. Yet, outside the college campus who can state just when or where these great benefactors of mankind were born? None of them have left their mark on time itself, although we may all derive some benefit from their contributions to knowledge.

### **NO MATERIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Time is dated from the birth of a Jew of Whom we know so little. He came from an insignificant village in an obscure part of the great Roman Empire. We are not even sure what language He spoke in his home, and of the first thirty years of His life we know practically nothing. The only record we have gives precise details of the facts concerning His birth and the last thirty-six months preceding His trial and execution on a Roman gallows. He led no great armies to victory, nor conquered worlds, nor subjugated masses of people. He founded no dynasty, propounded no new philosophy, and at His death the small group of people who had become His disciples fled and dispersed for fear of their own lives.

Thinking men as they consider this strange

phenomenon know that it can be no accident. It is a sign and a witness written on time itself by the One Who is the Lord of time. If we accept the theory of those who reject Christ, and try to explain Him away, the very calendar of modern times becomes inexplicable and an absurdity. How does it come about that not by some accident of circumstances, a conspiracy of fanatics, nor by an imperial edict, but by the combination of silent, unrecognized, unconscious forces, all civilized time is baptized into the name of Jesus Christ?

### **FAILURE OF ATTEMPTS TO START NEW CALENDARS.**

History records many attempts to establish a different calendar. The Romans used the letters A.U.C. (ab urbe condita) — “from the foundation of the city” (i.e., Rome). The Calif Omar imposed the date of the Hegira of Mohammed as the starting point of the Muslim calendar. The Jew dates his calendar from the creation of the world. In the Middle Ages the astronomer, La Place, tried to convince people that the celestial event that took place in the year 1250, when the orbit of the earth was exactly at right angles to the equinox, should be used as the starting point of history, rather than the transient names of earthly events and

# WHO?

kings. But the birth of Christ is still used as the datum mark of civilization.

Modern history shows attempts to change the calendar. In France, the first year of the Revolution was to be counted as year 1. This calendar lasted only 13 years, and then France reverted to the accepted calendar starting with the birth of Christ. When the State of Israel came into existence in 1948 it was decided to abolish the "Christian" calendar, and all official communications were dated from the creation of the world. Within a very short time this was found to be impracticable, and now both dates are to be found on official correspondence. Try as they may, men cannot take Christ out of the calendar; He still dominates time. All the forces of history and all the ideas that have been derived from human imagination have been used in attempts to change the calendar, and all have failed. Only one event so towers above the horizon of history because it is so transcendent and important that it can serve as a landmark and measure for civilized time.

**Christ . . . who being the holiest among the mighty, the mightiest among the holy, lifted with His pierced hands empires off their hinges, turned the stream of centuries out of its channel, and still governs the ages.**

**Jean Paul Richter**

Who is this **יְהוָה**—this One Who governs the ages, Whom the whole world acknowledges involuntarily, yet refuses to accept? Let us see what He said: "I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" (John 12:32). He came, the incarnate Son of God, the Word made flesh. It is fitting that the very years should bear homage to His name. The calendar represents the seal of Christ's kingship of time itself. Have you thought of this? Do you think that an imposter, in a remote, forgotten province of a perished empire could so deeply stamp himself on time itself as to compel all the centuries to bear His name, unless God so willed and desired? Or have you stopped to consider that Christ's claims may be true and worthy? And if His claims are true, is it nothing to you? Can you afford to pass Him by, or do you need Him as your Saviour and your Messiah? As He has changed history He can change you, too, if you but believe on Him Who said:

**I am the Way, the Truth and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me (John 14:6).**

—Charles Kalisky





"שָׁמַע אֵלַי, יַעֲקֹב, וְיִשְׂרָאֵל מִקְרָאִי! אֲנִי-הוּא,  
 אֲנִי רִאשׁוֹן, אֲנִי אַחֲרוֹן. לֹא מִרְאשׁ בִּפְתֹר  
 דְּבַרְתִּי, מֵעַת הַיּוֹתָהּ, שֵׁם אֲנִי. וְעַתָּה אֲדַנִּי יְהוָה  
 שְׁלַחְנִי וְרוּחוֹ  
 (ישעייה מח : 12, 16)

*"Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, My  
 called; I am He, I am the First, I also am the  
 Last. Come ye near unto Me, hear ye this; I  
 have not spoken in secret from the beginning;  
 from the time that it was, there am I; and now  
 the Lord God, and His spirit, hath sent Me."  
 Isaiah 48:12, 16.*

In this instance, we find a unique combining of  
 personalities, 1st. the LORD God is the one who  
 speaks. 2nd. HIS SPIRIT is in unison with  
 God. 3rd. GOD and His SPIRIT send still  
 ANOTHER ONE. He is the Messiah. These  
 three are one. In combination they are "Echod."

"שָׁמַע, יִשְׂרָאֵל, יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יְהוָה אֶחָד!"

*"Hear, O Israel: the LORD, our GOD, is one  
 LORD."*

YOU CAN KNOW  
 YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN  
*"The blood of Jesus Christ His  
 Son cleanseth us from all sin."*

PLEASE VISIT US ANY TIME

praise  
 the  
 LORD