



Counting The Days

A Companion Book To
The Planning Calendar

Why Have A Calendar

Throughout history we find humans have been fascinated by the passage of time. No matter where in this world you live or go, you will find this is done in both small and great ways. Humans are so fascinated by the passage of time, we also have the common bond of marking what we see as significant events in our history both personally and otherwise. In a way, one could argue this is one of those commonalities that runs through us all and proves God created us all. What separates us is that we eventually threatened to corrupt all humanity with a common religion which would teach all future generations to reject, or never find, a relationship with The One True God of our creation. Due to these events, God confounded man's language at the Tower of Babel. (Gen. 11:1-9)

However, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1 This was all the basic materials our universe consists of. This material was unorganized, so the next steps God took in the creation process would organize it into a place

where He could create and commune with the ultimate being He had started this process in order to bring into existence. That being was man! The very next step God takes is to speak light into existence. Then He separated the light from the darkness to make day and night. In many ways, this was God creating time as we know it, for what is outside what we understand as time is something we simply do not comprehend. What we live in is what I like to call a fishbowl of time. Regardless of what may or may not be outside it, we live in a very one step in front of the other, one event followed by another, way.

Of course, God would go on to create many more things during creation's process, mostly focused on shaping the planet we live on to be our beginning home. The fact we often forget God originally gave us the opportunity to live forever in these current physical forms is what causes us to forget the entire universe was truly meant to be our home. Thus, God did not just organize this world, even creating a sun and a moon, but He also created the stars, which today we understand to be in a vastness of space we still can't really wrap our minds around! However, as God spoke elements of this world into existence, not the least of which would be life itself, He also organized the patterns in which life's cycle would run. While we put one step in front of the other, creation also has continuous cycles of repeating events, and this is true all through out the universe!

God told us He also gave us the sun, moon, and stars for the very purpose of being able to observe the passage of time. (Gen. 1:14-19) Unfortunately, man often looks at time as a way to count the days of our lives until we one day face the grave, instead of seeing them as the patterns we could/can depend on and live our lives by. In spite of this, these patterns were/are such an integral part of the way God created us, it was one of the things that after sending the great flood which wiped this world clean, God promised would continue as long as God allowed this world to remain! (Gen. 8:20-22) Thus, what we see is that observing the patterns God created us to live in does have value, and since man was not cursed with thorns and a need to work by the sweat of his

brow to eat bread until after he turned to disobey God, that value was not even about food being a major concern for humans in the beginning.

In this, we see God's words about giving us a way to observe the passage of time had value to it beyond survival. Much of this value we will likely never come to understand, for sin has more than destroyed our ability to really explore all God has created here, but that does not change the fact there is value. Even in speaking in terms of survival, there is the truth that if we had lived to develop the ability to go great distances into our universe and even live on other worlds, we would have lived under different suns, and thus a different set of cycles than the ones we live in here. Our days and nights might have been different lengths. The years and seasons might also have been very different. However, what would likely have developed alongside our ability to go deep into the universe is our ability to stay connected to this planet in many ways.

Why would I say this? Because God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and that is where God placed the man He had created. (Gen. 2:8) For all the vastness of our universe, for as large as our home planet is, there was still created a singular place upon our world where man could physically go and meet with God. This does not mean God was/is only in this place, but as physical beings, we needed this anchor. In falling into sin, we lost access to this place. In allowing sin to take such control of our lives that it caused God to send a worldwide flood, we lost the knowledge of even the general vicinity of where this garden was. However, in setting up a chosen nation, God, once again, gave us a place to look to where His presence was to directly reside upon this earth.

While the confounding of man's language caused us to have barriers that keep us all from simply melding into one thought, our common drive to continue marking the passage of time and events, left among men one of the great threads upon which God could pull and bring our focus back to Him. In establishing the chosen nation, not only did God give us a place to, once again, focus on, but He gave the

nation a calendar to show us all just how a people might look if they were to give God all the glory for their lives instead of the false gods and powers of nature men love to worship. Not only has God's calendar survived in that it's described for us in the Bible, but the chosen nation has survived, and a version of that calendar is still seen in the Jewish nation today!

