

## **SYNOPSIS**

This paper considers why Talmidei Yeshua Messianic Ministry of New Zealand has adopted the Aviv (Scriptural) Calendar ahead of all others. The original Aviv Calendar given to Moshe (Moses) determined the dates of both Shabbat and the seven Moedim as set by YHVH in Torah. From the time Isra'el entered Eretz-Yisra'el under the leadership of Y'hoshua (Joshua) until King Hizkiyahu (Hezekiah), both the lunar and solar components of their calendar were in complete harmony. The Aviv Calendar used during that period was based on Vayikra (Leviticus) Chapter 23, hence it is often referred to as the Levitical Calendar. Throughout the 8<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> centuries BCE, both the lunar and solar components of the calendar went through stages of complete upheaval because of changes in the movements of the sun and moon. Those changes effected not only Isra'el but also all nations of the world. This paper considers the development of both the Levitical and the Greco-Roman Calendar systems, because they have both run through history like two parallel rivers. When Y'hudah (Judah) returned from exile in Babylon, they took with them a Babylonian Calendar, which reflected many changes that had occurred. Even the modified Levitical Calendar was subjected to further influence by the ruling empires. Adoption of the Hellenist culture by many in Y'hudah resulted in a secessionist sect who developed the Qumran Calendar in isolation from Y'hudah. It was a vain attempt to re-establish the perfect Levitical Calendar based entirely on solar cycles. That calendar was never used by Y'hudah and was lost with the destruction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple. Following the Temple's destruction, Rabbinical Judaism implemented further changes to the Levitical Calendar, producing what become known as the Hebrew Calendar. As Talmidim of Yeshua, we have stepped aside from all post-exile calendars and returned to a modified Aviv Calendar as our means of determining the dates for observance of the Shabbats and Moedim (appointed times of YHVH) in this 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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