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12 or 13?

Patterns in Scripture are an interesting way to find hidden treasures. Finding patterns to reveal truth is one of our favorite exercises in the study of His Word.

Many are familiar with the Biblical calendar. Some struggle with the fact that some years contain 12 months, and other years contain 13 months. Without diving deep into the mechanics and reasoning, the fact of the matter is, if one uses the moon to determine the months, occasionally there needs to be 13 months in a Biblical year, otherwise what eventually happens is that Passover ends up in Winter. Since the appointed times in Leviticus 23 are agriculturally based, that indeed becomes a problem.

There are no verses in Scripture that state that a year cannot contain 13 months, although there are evidences that suggest that a 12-month year was the norm.

We see that during Noah’s flood, 5 months was exactly 150 days, attributing exactly 30 days to each month, and produces a precise 360-day calendar (Genesis 7-8). We also see that in Revelation that 3.5 years equates to 1,260 days, or again, a precise 30 days a month, and consequently exactly 360 days a year (Revelation 11:2; 12:6; 13:5).

A lunar cycle is no longer exactly 30 days, but now averages about 29.53 days. A solar cycle is no longer 360 days, but is now just over 365 days.

It is interesting to note that Enoch lived to be exactly 365 years of age. Was that prophetic? Did that mean that the Earth’s cycle around the sun would later take 365 days instead of 360 days?

Perhaps...

How did this change occur?

There are some that suggest that the sign that Hezekiah received in which Yah moved the sun back 10 degrees on the dial affected the calendar going forward (Isaiah 38:1-8). And there are others that suggest that the event in which the sun stood still for Joshua also affected the calendar (Joshua 10:12-14).

Regardless of the mechanical details of how and when this calendric change occurred, the fact remains that in the days of Noah, the calendar was 360 days in length, with twelve 30-day months. It also appears that in Revelation we could expect a change that once again produces a 360-day calendar.

Yeshua, our Messiah, even seems to hint at this upcoming change in the context of the beginning of the 3.5 year Great Tribulation:

Mark 13:20

And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days.

So, in the meantime, before we might revert back to the same calendar observations of Noah, some years end up with 13 months in a year. Is that a problem?

Well, it is not a problem Scripturally, as nothing in Scripture demands the length of a month, or the length of a year.

All we know is that the sun, moon, and stars are the celestial clock that YHWH gave us (Genesis 1:14-16)...so, the sun, moon, and stars are always right, regardless of what they might say.

But, we began to wonder, if there was indeed to be a calendric change in between Noah and end times, should we not at least find it hidden somewhere in the Torah?

Perhaps there is...

Maybe you are aware that the tribes of Israel are listed sometimes as 12 tribes, and other times as 13 tribes. To arrive at 13 tribes, the two sons of Joseph, Manasseh and Ephraim replace Joseph to create a total of 13 tribes.

To us, that sounded very similar to the months of the calendar, sometimes 12, sometimes 13. So we began to wonder if the Torah lists 12 and 13 tribes to the same percentage or frequency we would expect on average for 12 or 13 months. When we examine a full 19 year Metonic cycle, we should find that a 13th month occurs just over 1/3 of the time.

2/3 of the time, there are 12 months

1/3 of the time, there are 13 months

We actually find the tribes of Israel listed in the Torah three times:

In Genesis 35, we find:

- 1) Reuben
- 2) Simeon
- 3) Levi
- 4) Judah
- 5) Issachar
- 6) Zebulun
- 7) Joseph
- 8) Benjamin

- 9) Dan
- 10) Naphtali
- 11) Gad
- 12) Asher

So in Genesis 35, we find a total of 12 tribes

In Exodus 1, we find:

- 1) Reuben
- 2) Simeon
- 3) Levi
- 4) Judah
- 5) Issachar
- 6) Zebulun
- 7) Benjamin
- 8) Dan
- 9) Naphtali
- 10) Gad
- 11) Asher
- 12) Joseph

So in Exodus 1, we find a total of 12 tribes

In Numbers chapter 1, we find:

- 1) Reuben
- 2) Simeon
- 3) Gad
- 4) Judah
- 5) Issachar
- 6) Zebulun
- 7) Joseph
- 8) Manasseh
- 9) Benjamin
- 10) Dan
- 11) Asher
- 12) Naphtali
- 13) Levi

So, in Numbers 1, we find a total of 13 tribes.

2/3 of the time, there are 12 tribes listed in the Torah

1/3 of the time, there are 13 tribes listed in the Torah

With the months of the year:

2/3 of the time, there are 12 months

1/3 of the time, there are 13 months

Some will find this rather exciting. The more skeptical crowd will simply call it a coincidence.

Whatever you make of it, we hope that it was worth watching.

We pray that this teaching has blessed you,

and 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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