

### Understanding The Length And Time Of The Jewish Leap Year

By Norm Franz

Most of you who have our [Custom Jewish Calendar](#) are wondering why this year's calendar (5779) has two months of Adar which gives us Adar 2 beginning March 8th. In fact, most of you have noticed that this extra month is added periodically, but you are not sure exactly why or how often this occurs.

Simply put, this year (5779 on the Jewish Calendar) is a Jewish Leap Year which adds one whole month rather than just one day every four years like the Gregorian Calendar.

#### Please Explain Why

Ancient Israel did not have a fixed calendar that balanced the lunar cycles

of the Biblical calendar with the annual Feasts that were celebrated around the seasons of the various harvests. However, in the fourth century, [Hillel II](#) established a fixed lunar calendar that was based more accurately on the cycle of the earth (a day), the cycle of the moon around the earth (a month), and the cycle of the earth around the sun (a year).

According to the [Encyclopedia Judaica](#):

“To equalize the lunar with the solar year, and thereby render possible the universal celebration of the festivals on the days

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#### **Military and Financial Supercycles About To Hit**

In the July/August 2017 edition of The Elijah Report (TER), we put forth a Special War Alert surmising that there are three major war cycles scheduled to converge into a period of unprecedented global conflict between 2017 and 2024. This is important to understand in light of the end time wars Yeshua and the prophets spoke about in Bible prophecy.

#### MILITARY SUPERCYCLES

That report outlined how 12 different conflicts, spread throughout six theaters of war, were currently

manifesting throughout the nations. It also identified three major biblical wars scheduled for the last days just ahead of Messiah's return:

1. The Arab conspiracy to destroy Israel in the 1948, '67, and '73 Arab wars against Israel ([Ps. 83](#)). Today, the stage is being set for another round of conflict over who the Land of Israel and the city of Jerusalem belong to.
2. The ongoing war in Iraq that began in 1991 and fired back up again in 2003 continues today as the war against ISIS, and will culminate in a final war with Israel ([Jer. 50 and 51](#)).
3. The Russian/Arab confederacy that attacks Israel as foretold by... [More](#)

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designated in the Bible, occasional intercalations of a day in a month and of a month in a year were required.”

In other words, to balance the Biblical lunar calendar in a way that keeps pace with the seasons of the Biblical Feasts ([Lev 23](#)), a special commission of the Sanhedrin, headed by Hillel II, periodically added a day to various months and a month to various years.

That’s because the most accurate measurement of time for a year is based on the solar cycle, which is 365.25 days. As a result, every four (4) years, the solar calendar (365 days) falls one day short of a full solar year. Hence, every four years is a leap year that adds one day to the end of February which extending its regular 28 days to 29 days.

The lunar calendar, however, is considerably different, because a one year (12 month) lunar cycle is only 354 days which is 11 days short of a full year. Consequently, the lunar calendar adds an entire month to its calendar on its leap year approximately every three years.

The importance of this 11 day difference has to do with the Lord’s “appointed times” (feasts) in Leviticus 23 that take place during Israel’s three annual harvests (Passover, Shavuot/Pentecost, and Sukkot/Tabernacles).

For example, the Torah makes it clear that Passover is to be celebrated on the 14th of Abib in and around the spring barley harvest ([Lev. 23:4-5](#)). If the extra month is not added on the Jewish leap year, Passover would occur 11 days earlier every year. That means Passover would drift backwards into Winter, then Fall, then Summer, then back to Spring again, where it would start another backward cycle. This would cause all of God’s feasts to miss their appointed times.

Therefore, one month is added to the lunar calendar seven (7) times during a 19 year cycle which is applied every 3rd, 6th, 8th, 11th, 14th, 17th, and 19th year. This year (5779 on the Jewish calendar) is the 19<sup>th</sup> year, which makes 5782 (solar year 2022) the beginning of a new cycle.

Some misguided religious groups use the pure lunar calendar, where each month is determined by the moon. Hence, their calendar strings 12 lunar months together which shortens each year 11 days to 354.

Other groups use the lunar cycle in combination with the various harvests in Israel, beginning with the barley harvest at Passover, to establish the seasons. However, the Jewish calendar uses both the sun and the moon to determine the times and the season of the Lord—i.e., the months are lunar months set by the moon, and the years are solar years set by the sun.

It works this way because on the fourth day of creation, the Lord said, *“Let there be lights (sun, moon and stars) in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years”* (Gen. 1:14-16).

In other words, God uses all the celestial bodies in combination with the seasons of harvest to set the days, months and years of His appointed feasts which tell of His glorious redemption in Messiah Yeshua (Jesus) who came to make atonement for our sins during the Spring Feasts (Passover, First Fruits, Pentecost) and His return in power and glory during the Fall Feasts (Trumpets, Atonement, Tabernacles) to establish His kingdom:

*“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.”* (Ps. 19:1-3 <sup>NKJV</sup>)

How awesome are His works and how wonderful are His ways. Selah! ✨

**“He made the moon for the seasons; the sun knows the place of its setting.”**

**– Ps. 104:19**