

QUMRAN AND NT CHRONOLOGY

by W.E. Nunnally

Mat. 26:17-20 - Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to prepare the Passover?" And He said, "Go in to the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'My time is at hand; I am to keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.'" And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover. Now when evening had come, He was reclining at table with the twelve disciples.

Mark 14:12-14 - And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover [lamb] was being sacrificed, His disciples said to Him, "Where do You want us to go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?" And He sent two of His disciples, and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him; and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is My guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"'"

Luke 22:15 - And He said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer."

John 18:28-29 - They led Jesus therefore from Caiaphas into the Praetorium, and it was early; and they themselves did not enter into the Praetorium in order that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Passover.

I. RABBINIC LITERATURE

Mishnah Rosh HaShanah 1:3 (Danby pg. 188) - Because of six new moons do messengers go forth...

Rosh HaShanah 1:4 (Danby pg. 188) - Because of two new moons the Sabbath may be profaned...

Rosh HaShanah 1:7 (Danby pg. 189) - If a father and his son saw the new moon they may both go to bear witness...

Rosh HaShanah 1:9 (Danby 189) - If a man saw the new moon but could not walk, he may be taken on an ass on the Sabbath or even on a bed, and if any lie in wait for them they may take staves in their hands (cf. Mk 2:3, and Mt. 10:10).

Rosh HaShanah 2:1 (Danby pg. 189) - If the witness was not known [to the judges] another was sent with him to testify of him. Beforetime they used to admit evidence about the new moon from any man, but after the evil doings of the heretics (Samaritans) they enacted that evidence should be admitted only from them that they knew (cf. 2:2-4).

Rosh HaShanah 2:6 - Examination of witnesses - first two accepted but the rest are also examined - chief of court - it is hallowed whether it is proper time or not.

Rosh HaShanah 2:9 - Gamaliel made a dissident rabbi profane the Day of Atonement according to his own private reckoning by summoning him to come "on the Day of Atonement according to your reckoning with stave and wallet in hand."

II. DEAD SEA SCROLLS

Community Rule (Vermes, p. 62) - "They shall not depart from any command of God concerning their times; they shall be neither early nor late for any of their appointed times, they shall stray neither to right nor to left of any of his true precepts."

Damascus Covenant (Vermes, pp. 87-89) - They shall keep the Sabbath day according to its exact interpretation, and the feasts and the Day of Fasting according to the finding of the members of the New Covenant in the land of Damascus.

Thanksgiving Hymns (1QH 12; Vermes, p. 197) - Bowing down in prayer...in accordance with the laws of the great light of heaven...

1QpHab 11 - "Woe to him who causes his neighbors to drink; who pours out his venom to make them drunk that he may gaze on their feasts" (Hab. 2:15). Interpreted, this concerns the wicked priest who pursued the Teacher of Righteousness to the house of his exile that he might confuse him with his venomous fury. And at the time appointed for rest, for the Day of Atonement, he appeared before them to confuse them, and to cause them to stumble on the Day of Fasting, their Sabbath of repose.

III. PSEUDEPIGRAPHA

I Enoch 74:1-75:2 - I saw another system of rotation with its own regulation whereby the system fulfills its monthly course of movement. All these things--including their fixed positions--Uriel, the holy angel who is the guide of all of them, showed to me. And I wrote down their fixed positions as he showed them to me; and I wrote down their months as they were, as well as the (variable) aspects of their illumination...If five years are combined the sun gains thirty extra days; consequently one of those five years gains, and when it is completed, it turns out to be three hundred and sixty-four days....and the moon falls behind the sun and the stars for thirty days. They (the sun and stars) bring about all the years punctiliously, so that they forever neither gain upon nor fall behind their fixed positions for a single day...For the moon...falls behind by sixty-two days in three years...On this account, people err in them...

Jubilees 1:14 - And they will forget all My laws and all My commandments and all of My judgments, and they will err concerning new moons, sabbaths, festivals, jubilees, and ordinances.

Jubilees 2:9 - And the LORD set the sun as a great sign upon earth for days, sabbaths, months, feast (days), years, sabbaths of years, jubilees, and for all of the (appointed) times of the years.

Jubilees 6:32-38 - Command the children of Israel so that they shall guard the years in this number, 364 days, and it will be a complete year. And no one shall corrupt its (appointed) time from its days or from its feasts because all (of the appointed times will arrive in them according to their testimony...and they shall not corrupt a feast...For...the book is written...for...the division of days--lest they forget the feasts and walk in the feasts of the Gentiles, after their errors and after their ignorance. And there will be those who will examine the moon diligently because it will corrupt the (appointed) times and it will advance from year to year ten days. Therefore, the years will come to them as they corrupt and make a day of testimony a reproach and a profane day a festival, and they will mix up everything, a holy day (as) profaned and a profane (one) for a holy day....after you have died, your sons will be corrupted so that they will not make a year only 364 days. And therefore, they will set awry the months and the (appointed) times and the sabbaths and the feasts, and they will eat all of the blood with all flesh.