The Thirteenth Month

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

By Larry & June Acheson

The Thirteenth Month

Thus saith Yahweh, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar, Yahweh of hosts is His name! — Jeremiah 31:35

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יהוה ישוע

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The Thirteenth Month

By Larry and June Acheson

The Scriptural calendar is a topic frequently discussed among believers, especially at the time of Yahweh's festivals. Since Yahweh's feasts are determined by a calendar, it is incumbent upon us to do all we can to ensure we are going by **HIS calendar**, and not someone else's! This act, however, is much easier said than done! There are a variety of interpretations over which calendar is "Scriptural," as opposed to the others, which are not. **Why is there such discord among the believers with regard to our Heavenly Father's calendar?** Quite frankly, the reason is this: Yahweh never gave us a clear-cut, step-by-step set of instructions for how to begin and end the year. Arriving at the correct conclusion, then, will require some "reading between the lines."

We know that Yahweh's year begins in the spring, as evidenced by the events surrounding the ten plagues of Egypt. The plague of hail, as recorded in Exodus 9:31-32, ruined Egypt's flax and barley crops, which had matured, but had not seriously affected the wheat and rye, which "were not grown up." Shortly afterwards, in chapter 12:2, we read that this same month was to be their first month of the year:

> This month *shall be* unto you the beginning of months: it *shall be* the first month of the year to you.

Thus, the first month of the year was observed right around the time of the maturing barley crop. But with no further information to guide us, a controversy emerges. Shall we use the maturing barley crop to be our measuring stick in setting the first month of the year? If so, what about those who live in different areas of the world? Barley can mature sooner in Egypt than it does up in Israel. Here in Texas, most crops mature at least a month before they do in the northern states. The question, then, is this: Do we require that the barley crop in one location of the world determine when the rest of the world begins its new year, or do we allow different localities to set their own new year based upon their own maturing barley crop? As you can see, this issue can become extremely complicated! Controversy abounds among those of opposing persuasions. Many sincere individuals eagerly await news that the barley is in the "green ear" in Jerusalem before they begin their first month of the year. Indeed, the first month of the year is termed "Abib," which means "*green*, i.e. a young ear of grain" according to *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* (word #24). Those who question the requirement that Jerusalem be the determining location of the maturing barley crop are quick to point out that, not so long ago, residents of different regions of the world would not have had the means to have known when the Jerusalem barley crop was maturing, as our modern communication system is only of recent invention. How would Americans have learned of Jerusalem's maturing barley crop 100 years ago?

Thus, there are individuals who rely on the maturing barley crop of their own local area to determine when to start the first month of the new year. Of course, this method, too, has its problems. As many of us are aware, one of the purposes behind the observance of Yahweh's festivals is to bring the believers together, in one place. When individuals or individual groups rely on their local maturing barley crop to set their first month of the year, the end result is that there will often be discrepancies, meaning that a group down south may observe Passover in March, whereas a group up north may observe it in April. Certainly, our desire should be that each of us be in ***unity*** … that we come to a mutual understanding of Yahweh's calendar that will keep us all "on the same page," so to

speak.[1] Our purpose in this study is not to make suggestions for how *you* should set the new year. Nevertheless, in these calendar discussions a parallel topic frequently surfaces — that of whether Yahweh's calendar is a ***solar calendar*** or a ***luni-solar calendar***, and we are occasionally asked to explain why we believe as we do. We hope this study helps to clarify our rationale!

Those who promote a solar calendar base their year on the period of time it takes the earth to make one complete revolution around the sun, which is approximately 365 days. Some sources list the solar calendar as having 364 days. Thus, a solar year can never be shorter than 364 days, nor longer than 366 days (in a leap year). Those who promote a *luni-solar calendar* rely on the observance of the first visible crescent moon after sunset to start each month. In ancient Israel, both the vernal equinox and agricultural conditions were used to determine when the first month of the year began.[2] As we mentioned earlier, the first month of the Israelites' year was called *Abib*, meaning "*green*, i.e., a young ear of grain." This greening of barley occurs in spring, at the time of the vernal equinox. Once the barley was observed having "green ears," the next visible new moon automatically set the start of the month of *Abib*. The chief characteristic of this *luni-solar calendar* is that it can contain thirteen months in certain years, whereas the solar calendar is pre-set with twelve months. The year marked by a solar calendar exceeds the lunar calendar by about 11 days.

Without involving ourselves in the controversy that surrounds the calendars promoted by the opposing sides, we will simply turn to Scripture in an attempt to discern whether or not any solutions to the dilemma are presented. Yahweh does not tell us in His Word to set our year by a solar calendar of 365 days, nor does He insist that we abide by a luni-solar calendar that will occasionally have years consisting of 13 months. Had such instructions been inspired to have been included in our Bibles, this controversy would never have surfaced. Since those instructions are missing, it is up to us to search out any Scriptural evidence that can clue us in to the calendar used by Yahweh's people.

As the title of this study implies, there ***is*** a passage of Scripture that provides strong evidence that a *luni-solar calendar* was used by the people of Yahweh. In the book of Ezekiel we are given a month-by-month account of Ezekiel carrying out Yahweh's instructions pertaining to his bearing the iniquity of both the house of Israel and the house of Judah. He was told to lie on his left side for 390 days to bear the iniquity of the house of Israel, and then on his right side for 40 days to bear the iniquity of the house of Judah (Ez. 4:4-6). We are given a time frame in Ezekiel demonstrating that the year in which he did this **had to contain thirteen months**.

To begin our investigation of the above claim, we need to start at the beginning of the book of Ezekiel. In chapter one, Ezekiel receives a vision from Yahweh. Let's read the first three verses of that chapter:

> [1]Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the **fourth *month***, in the **fifth *day* of the month**, as I *was* among the captives by the river of Chebar, *that* the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of the Almighty.

[1] June and I have devoted considerable time and effort researching Yahweh's calendar, and the result is our study entitled *Balancing the Calendar*, which is available online by accessing the following URL: http://www.ponderscripture.org/PDF%20Files/Balancing%20the%20Calendar%202.pdf

[2] *Cf., The Code of Maimonides*, Vol. XI, Book Three, Treatise Eight, "Sanctification of the New Moon," translated from the Hebrew by Solomon Gandz, Yale University Press, New Haven, CT, pp. 16-17,1956. Also see *The Babylonian Talmud*, Tractate Sanhedrin 11b. Both of the above references are quoted in our study *Balancing the Calendar*.

> [2]In the **fifth *day* of the month, which *was* the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's captivity**,
> [3]The word of Yahweh came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of Yahweh was there upon him.

In the above passage, we are told that the "word of Yahweh" came to him "in the fifth day of the month, which was the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's captivity." We know from verse one of this chapter that this was during the fourth month. This is a good starting point for us. The key time frame at this point is that it is **year five** of King Jehoiachin's captivity. After receiving this vision, Yahweh commissions Ezekiel to go to the children of Israel to warn them of the consequences of their rebellion. This commission occurs in chapter 2:

> [7]And thou shalt speak My words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they *are* most rebellious. (Ez. 2:7)

Thus having been commissioned, we read on in chapter three that Ezekiel visited his fellow brethren of the captivity at Telabib:

> [15]Then I came to them of the captivity at Telabib, that dwelt by the river Chebar, and I sat there astonished among them seven days." (Ez. 3:15)

Ezekiel was clearly overwhelmed by the vision that he had seen, coupled with the virtually hopeless mission to which he had just been assigned — a mission to bring Yahweh's people back to the Faith. The key words in the above verse, though, for purposes of this discussion, are "seven days." He remained in Telabib for seven days, according to the above verse.

Ezekiel's vision came to him on the fifth day of the fourth month during the fifth year of King Jehoiachin's captivity. If we were to draw up a calendar to depict this time frame, it would look something like this:

YEAR 5 OF KING JEHOIACHIN'S CAPTIVITY
FOURTH MOON

			4	5	6	7
				12	13	14
			18	19	20	21
			25	26	27	28
29	30					

Last day of the seven days during which Ezekiel "sat astonished" by the river Chebar (Ez. 3:15)

As displayed above, you will notice we have circled two dates on this calendar, the 5th and the 12th. We circled the 5th because that is the date on which Ezekiel received his vision from Yahweh.

We circled the 12th because this marks the end of the seven days that he "remained there astonished" among his brethren of the captivity.

At the end of those seven days (the 12th day of the fourth month of year five), the word of Yahweh came to him again. It was during this event that Ezekiel was given an astounding directive. He was told to lie upon his left side for 390 days, followed by 40 days on his right side. He was also given specific instructions as to what he was to eat and how he was to cook his food during this time frame. Keep in mind that during this entire period he was not to turn from one side to another (Ez. 4:8). Let's read this amazing set of instructions given to Ezekiel as found in Ezekiel 4:1-11:

> 1 ¶ Thou also, son of man, take thee a tile, and lay it before thee, and portray upon it the city, even Jerusalem:
> 2 And lay siege against it, and build a fort against it, and cast a mount against it; set the camp also against it, and set battering rams against it round about.
> 3 Moreover take thou unto thee an iron pan, and set it for a wall of iron between thee and the city: and set thy face against it, and it shall be besieged, and thou shalt lay siege against it. This shall be a sign to the house of Israel.
> 4 Lie thou also upon thy left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it: according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon it thou shalt bear their iniquity.
> 5 For I have laid upon thee the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel.
> 6 And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year.
> 7 Therefore thou shalt set thy face toward the siege of Jerusalem, and thine arm shall be uncovered, and thou shalt prophesy against it.
> 8 And, behold, I will lay bands upon thee, and thou shalt not turn thee from one side to another, till thou hast ended the days of thy siege.
> 9 ¶ Take thou also unto thee wheat, and barley, and beans, and lentils, and millet, and fitches, and put them in one vessel, and make thee bread thereof, according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon thy side, three hundred and ninety days shalt thou eat thereof.
> 10 And thy meat which thou shalt eat shall be by weight, twenty shekels a day: from time to time shalt thou eat it.
> 11 Thou shalt drink also water by measure, the sixth part of an hin: from time to time shalt thou drink.

Repeating what we have already outlined in our comments above, this passage clearly presents the seemingly bizarre instructions that were given to Ezekiel. He was ordered to conduct a "mimic siege" against Jerusalem as a sign against the iniquity of the house of Israel and the house of Judah. Furthermore, he was told to lie upon his left side for 390 days, followed by 40 days on his right side. Again, remember that during this entire period Ezekiel was not to turn from one side to another (Ez. 4:8). We do not read of any further time reference until we arrive at the eighth chapter of Ezekiel.

In Ezekiel chapter eight, we learn that the time frame has advanced from being the fifth year to the sixth year. By this time, Ezekiel had completed his act of obedience to our Heavenly Father. He had by now lain on his left side for 390 days, followed by his right side for another 40 days — a total of 430 days of "lying around." We read of this time frame in Ezekiel 8:1:

> 1 ¶ And it came to pass in the sixth year, in the sixth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I sat in mine house, and the elders of Judah sat before me, that the hand of Yahweh Almighty fell there upon me.

Notice that Ezekiel was sitting in his house with the elders of Judah on the fifth day of the sixth month. Clearly, as an obedient servant of Yahweh, he had completed the days he was commanded to lie on his left and right side. The question we are left to answer is this: Given the premise that Ezekiel observed a solar calendar, could he have *possibly* completed the "days of lying around" by the fifth day of the sixth month of the sixth year of King Jehoiachin's captivity? To best answer this question, we are displaying a solar calendar in which we use the dates given in Ezekiel, as displayed below. Since the 12th day of the fourth month was the last day of the seven days during which Ezekiel "sat astonished," we will present a calendar depicting him wasting no time in following through on Yahweh's directive to "lie down." Thus, as shown on the following sample solar calendar, "day 1" falls on the very next day, the 13th day of the fourth month:

5th Year of Jehoiachin's Captivity (Solar Calendar)

ABIB (1st month)						

ZIV (2nd month)						

SIVAN (3rd month)						

TAMMUZ (4th month)						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	1	2
						9
						16

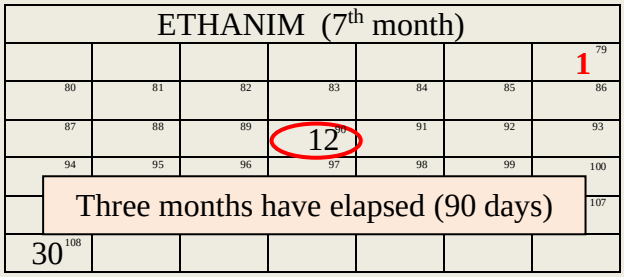
Tammuz 12 is the final day of the seven days that Ezekiel "sat astonished." The very next day, at the earliest, he began the 430-day "Lie-Down Venture," c.f., Ez. 1:1-2; Ez. 3:15)

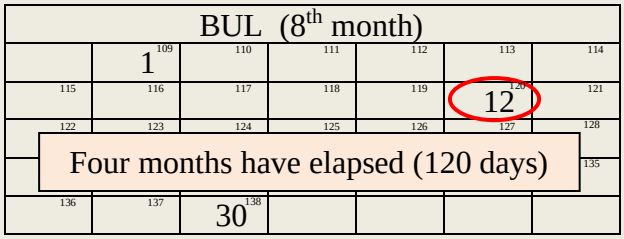
AB (5th month)						
		1 19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	12 30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37
38						
45	46	47	30 48			

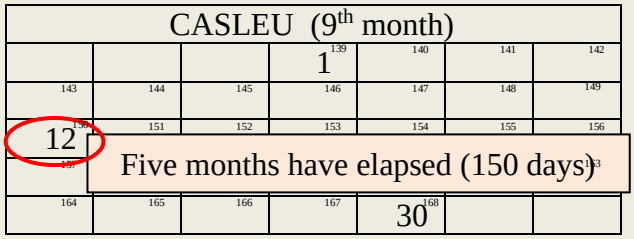
One month has passed by (30 days)

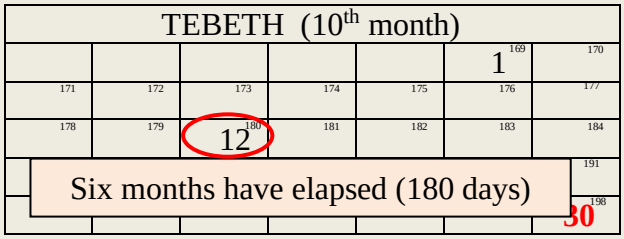
ELUL (6th month)						
				1 49	50	51
52	53	54	55	56	57	58
59	12 60	61	62	63	64	65
	67					72
					30	

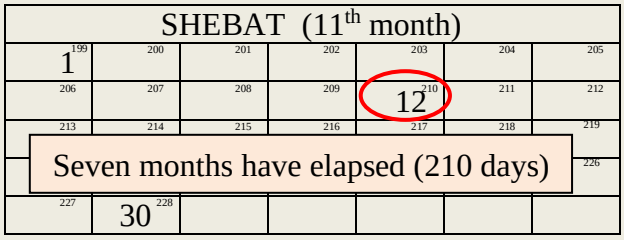
Two months have elapsed (60 days)

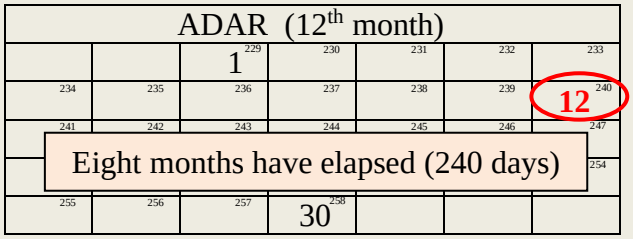

ETHANIM (7th month)
1
12
Three months have elapsed (90 days)
30


BUL (8th month)
1
12
Four months have elapsed (120 days)
30

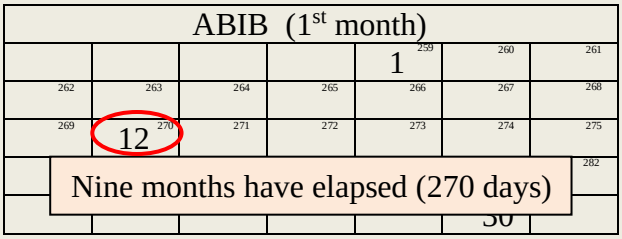

CASLEU (9th month)
1
12
Five months have elapsed (150 days)
30

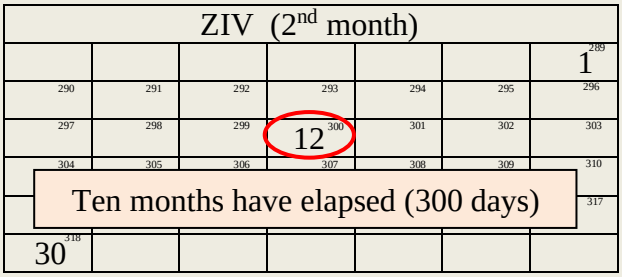

TEBETH (10th month)
1
12
Six months have elapsed (180 days)
30

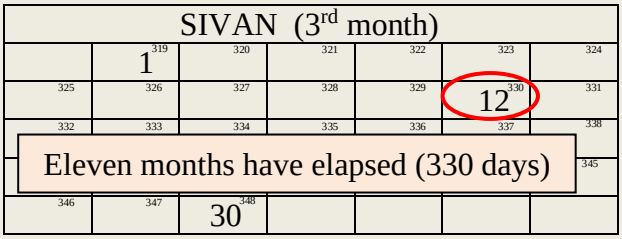

SHEBAT (11th month)
1
12
Seven months have elapsed (210 days)
30

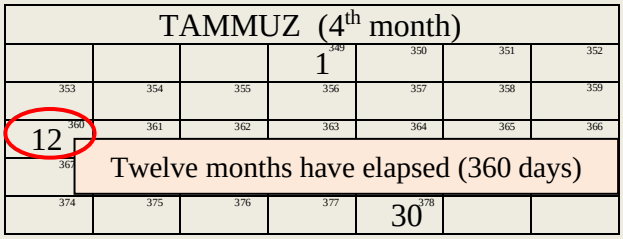

ADAR (12th month)
1
12
Eight months have elapsed (240 days)
30

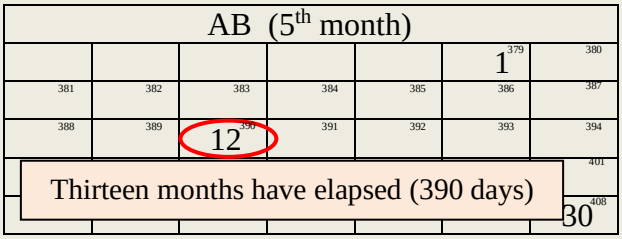
6th Year of Jehoiachin's Captivity -- Solar Calendar (continued)

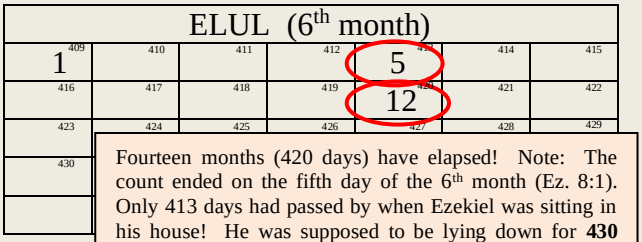












If the ancient calendar used by Ezekiel only consisted of 30-day months, the above scenario, at the very least, serves to demonstrate that *something* was lacking. It would have Ezekiel sitting in his house on day number 413. He was charged to lie on his side for 430 total days, so he was at least 17 days shy of reaching the goal … *if* that's the calendar he used.

But lest we ignore all of our options, we should remember that with a solar calendar, there must be **365 days in the year**, whereas we only allowed 360 days for the above calendar. Nevertheless, if we were to generously add *seven extra days* to the 412 days we gave Ezekiel, this would only give him a total of 419 days of "lying around" … still far short of the 430 days he was allotted. Moreover, even if each month during that twelve-month time frame were to have had *31 days*, Ezekiel would *still* have arisen too soon! We realize this is an impossible scenario, but for illustration purposes … in order to give skeptics the "benefit of the doubt," … if each month were to have contained 31 days, Ezekiel would have been "sitting around" on day #427 -- three days shy of his required completion date.[3]

Not only do we believe the above calendar is unrealistic due to its not allowing Ezekiel to complete the commanded 430-day *lying mitzvah*, but we also believe it is very unlikely that each month contained thirty days. A lunation consists of 29½ days (29.53059 days, to be more precise). This is why some months, when you go by the lunar cycle, consist of 29 days, whereas other months have 30 days. Some are persuaded that, in ancient times, the months *always* consisted of thirty days, and they cite the Genesis flood account as evidence validating their claim.[4] Regardless of whether or not this claim has any merit, by the time of Ezekiel, the current lunar cycle was in place, as verified by ancient sources, including an ancient Greek calendar known as the "Attic Calendar," which was in place during the fourth and fifth centuries BCE.[5] The preponderance of evidence supports believing that the ancients, including those of Ezekiel's day, did *not* recognize a calendar that contained only 30-day months. The following information is taken from *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*:

> ***a. The lunar month.*** There is no direct evidence that the ancient Hebrews ever observed any but a lunar month—i.e., a month of 29½ days, requiring alternation of 30-day months with 29-day months for practical purposes. Speculations concerning a purely solar reckoning, according to which the year was mathematically divided into twelve 30-day months without reference to the lunar phases, fail to explain why there should be months at all and do not take into sufficient account the widespread popularity of lunar calendars in very ancient times. It is true that 30 days are generally reckoned as a month's length (Gen. 7:11; 8:3-4; Num. 20:29; Deut. 21:13; 34:8; Esth. 4:11; Dan. 6:7; 12—A 6:8, 13) and that the year contained twelve months (I Kings 4:7; I Chr. 27:1-15) apart from intercalation. This formula is, however, only a practical way of reckoning and leaves undecided

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[3] For those who, like me, need a visual aid to validate this computation, please request our paper entitled "An Ezekiel Calendar ... If Months Had Contained 31 Days."

[4] See "Appendix: Did the 150 Days During the Great Flood Consist of Five 30-Day Months?"

[5] More information on this ancient calendar may be easily found online. For example, the *Opentopia Encyclopedia*, in its article "Attic Calendar," offers the following information: "The months were either 29 or 30 days in length, loosely in alternation, since the moon orbits the earth in roughly 29.5 days. However, rather than following a set scheme (along the lines of 'Thirty days has September...'), the duration of each month was declared just before month's end in an attempt to latch the first of the following month onto the upcoming new moon. The short months of 29 days were known as 'hollow' and those with 30 days as 'full'." The article may be read in its entirety by accessing the following URL: http://encycl.opentopia.com/term/Attic_calendar

> the precise calculation of the calendar. Arguments for a year of seven 50-day periods (the so-called pentecontad calendar) are even more precarious.[6]

We concur with *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible* that the ancient Hebrews' calendar consisted of months containing both 29 and 30-day months. This raises the question as to how such a calendar, known as a "Luni-solar calendar," could have worked out for Ezekiel … presuming that the year only contained *twelve months*. The following calendar demonstrates that he would have fared even worse than he would have with the "30-Day Month Only" calendar:

[6] From *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, Vol. 1, Abingdon Press, New York, 1962, p. 485.

5th Year of Jehoiachin's Captivity (12-Month Luni-Solar Calendar)

ABIB (1st month)						

ZIV (2nd month)						

SIVAN (3rd month)						

TAMMUZ (4th month)						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	1	2
3						
10					15	
29						

Tammuz 12 is the final day of the seven days that Ezekiel "sat astonished." The very next day, at the earliest, he began the 430-day "Lie-Down Venture," c.f., Ez. 1:1-2; Ez. 3:15)

AB (5th month)						
	1 18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	13
31	32	33	34	35	36	37
						44
45	46	30 47				

One month has passed by (30 days)

ELUL (6th month)						
			1 48	49	50	51
52	53	54	55	56	57	58
59	13 60	61	62	63	64	65
	67					72
				30		

Two months have elapsed (60 days)

ETHANIM (7th month)

					1 (78)	79
80	81	82	83	84	85	86
87	88	89	13 (90)	91	92	93
94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Three months have elapsed (90 days)

30 (107)

BUL (8th month)

1 (108)	109	110	111	112	113	114
115	116	117	118	119	13 (120)	121
122	123	124	125	126	127	128
129	130	131	132	133	134	135
136	30 (137)					

Four months have elapsed (120 days)

CASLEU (9th month)

		1 (138)	139	140	141	142
143	144	145	146	147	148	149
13 (150)	151	152	153	154	155	156
157	158	159	160	161	162	163
		29				

Five months have elapsed (150 days)

TEBETH (10th month)

			1 (167)	168	169	170
171	172	173	174	175	176	177
178	179	14 (180)	181	182	183	184
185	186	187	188	189	190	191
			29			

Six months have elapsed (180 days)

SHEBAT (11th month)

				1 (196)	197	198
199	200	201	202	203	204	205
206	207	208	209	15 (210)	211	212
213	214	215	216	217	218	219
				29		

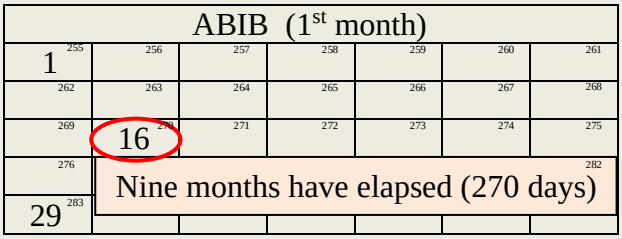
Seven months have elapsed (210 days)

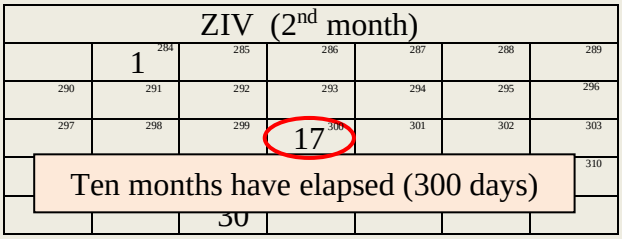
ADAR (12th month)

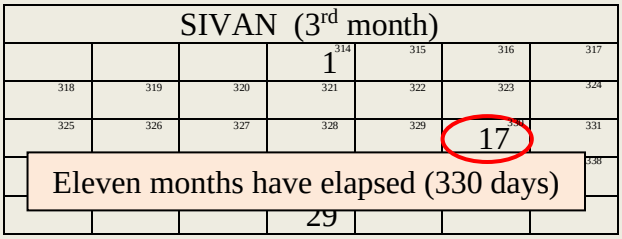
					1 (225)	226
227	228	229	230	231	232	233
234	235	236	237	238	239	16 (240)
241	242	243	244	245	246	247
248	249	250	251	252	253	30 (254)

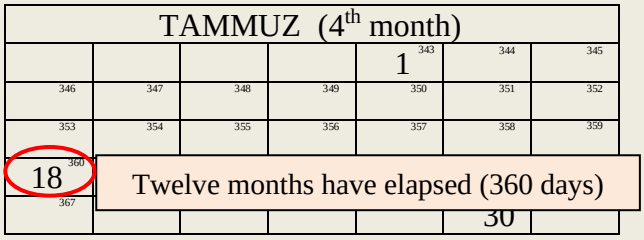
Eight months have elapsed (240 days)

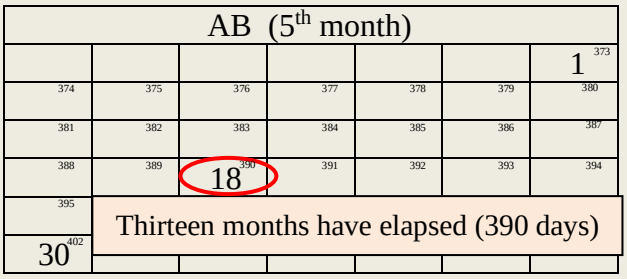
6th Year of Jehoiachin's Captivity -- 12-Month Luni-solar Calendar (continued)

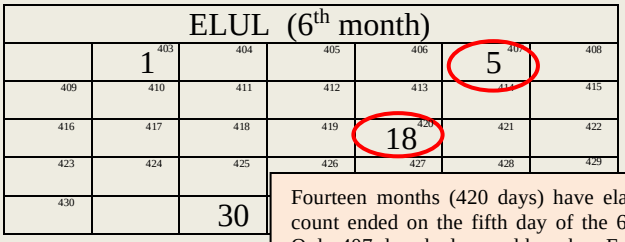












Fourteen months (420 days) have elapsed! Note: The count ended on the fifth day of the 6th month (Ez. 8:1). Only 407 days had passed by when Ezekiel was sitting in his house! He was supposed to be lying down for **430 days**!

As shown by the preceding twelve-month luni-solar calendar, Ezekiel *prematurely ended* his 430-day ordeal, i.e., he disobeyed the instructions given to him by Yahweh! He should have been "lying around" on the fifth day of the sixth month, not "sitting around"!

Keep in mind also that we have already given Ezekiel a "bare bones" amount of time during which he had to prepare for this period of adversity. As you may recall, he was told to prepare a certain amount of food and water for his adventure. Without a doubt, it would have taken some considerable amount of time and effort for Ezekiel to have made all the necessary arrangements for his siege. Note how Adam Clarke in *Clarke's Commentary* explains Ezekiel 4:9-10:

> 9. *Take thou also unto thee wheat.* In times of scarcity, it is customary in all countries to mix several kinds of coarser grain with the finer, to make it last the longer. This which the prophet is commanded to take, of wheat, barley, beans, lentils, millet, and fitches, was intended to show how scarce the necessaries of life should be during the siege.
>
> 10. *Twenty shekels a day.* The whole of the above grain, being ground, was to be formed into one mass, out of which he was to make 390 loaves, one loaf for each day; and this loaf was to be of 20 shekels in weight. Now a shekel, being in weight about half an ounce, this would be 10 ounces of bread for each day; and with this water to the amount of one-sixth part of a hin, which is about a pint and a half of our measure. All this shows that so reduced should provisions be during the siege that they should be obliged to eat the meanest sort of aliment, and that by weight, and their water by measure.[7]

Somehow Ezekiel had to come up with enough grain and water to last for 430 days' worth of baking bread. For us to presume he was able to come up with the necessary provisions on the same day he was granted his vision from Yahweh, this would make for a very lenient … and unrealistic … time frame. Nevertheless, for the sake of our friends who insist that a strictly 12-month calendar was in use during the days of Ezekiel's siege, we produced the above sample calendars to illustrate that the only way either calendar could have been in use would have been if Ezekiel was disobedient to Yahweh. Realistically, he needed some extra days to have prepared for his ordeal, which means he should have begun lying on his left side ***later*** than on the 13th day of the 4th month of the 5th year. Had we taken this factor into account, then by the 5th day of the sixth month of the sixth year he would have clearly spent even ***less*** time on his right and left side. The difficulties in reconciling those 430 days with a solar calendar or even a 12-month luni-solar calendar are just too overwhelming.

As mentioned earlier, it is possible for a luni-solar calendar to have *thirteen months* in the space of a year. Most years will only contain twelve months, just like a solar calendar, but occasionally a year of thirteen "moons" is necessary to keep the seasons balanced with the months. For example, during the time of the wave sheaf offering for the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the omer offering consisted of the firstfruits of the barley harvest. In order to be able to produce those grains necessary for the offering, the barley crop had to be in the "green ear" by the time of the sighting of the first new moon of the year. Fourteen days later, it was ready to harvest, making the wave sheaf offering a reality. That same cycle continues year after year. But what if, twelve months later, at the sighting of the new moon that should have marked the first month of the new year, the barley was only half-

[7] Adam Clarke, *Clarke's Commentary on the Bible,* 1985, Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, MO, p. 663.

grown, not even having any "heads," let alone "green ears"? The Israelites knew that they could not have proceeded with the count to the Passover, for there would certainly not have been any barley firstfruits available for the wave sheaf offering! They had but one option: Declare that new month to be the **thirteenth month** of the year. Abib, the name of the first month of the following year, would have to wait a few more weeks!

Is there Scriptural evidence that Israel used a luni-solar calendar consisting of thirteen months? Well, we have just examined Ezekiel's "mimic siege" using both a solar calendar and a twelve-month luni-solar calendar, and have discerned that *neither calendar* could have been used, unless Ezekiel broke the commandment of Yahweh by getting up too early from lying on both his left and right sides. Let's examine the time frame of Ezekiel's adventure one more time, this time reconciling the 430 days with a ***luni-solar calendar consisting of thirteen months*** in order to determine if this is the calendar that was regularly employed by Ezekiel.

5th Year of Jehoiachin's Captivity (A Thirteen-Month Luni-solar Calendar)

ABIB (1st month)

ZIV (2nd month)

SIVAN (3rd month)

TAMMUZ (4th month)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8 9 10 11 12

Tammuz 12 is the final day of the seven days that Ezekiel "sat astonished." The very next day, at the earliest, he began the 430-day "Lie-Down Venture," c.f., Ez. 1:1-2; Ez. 3:15)

AB (5th month)

One month has passed by (30 days)

ELUL (6th month)

Two months have elapsed (60 days)

ETHANIM (7th month)

Three months have elapsed (90 days)

BUL (8th month)

Four months have elapsed (120 days)

CASLEU (9th month)

Five months have elapsed (150 days)

TEBETH (10th month)

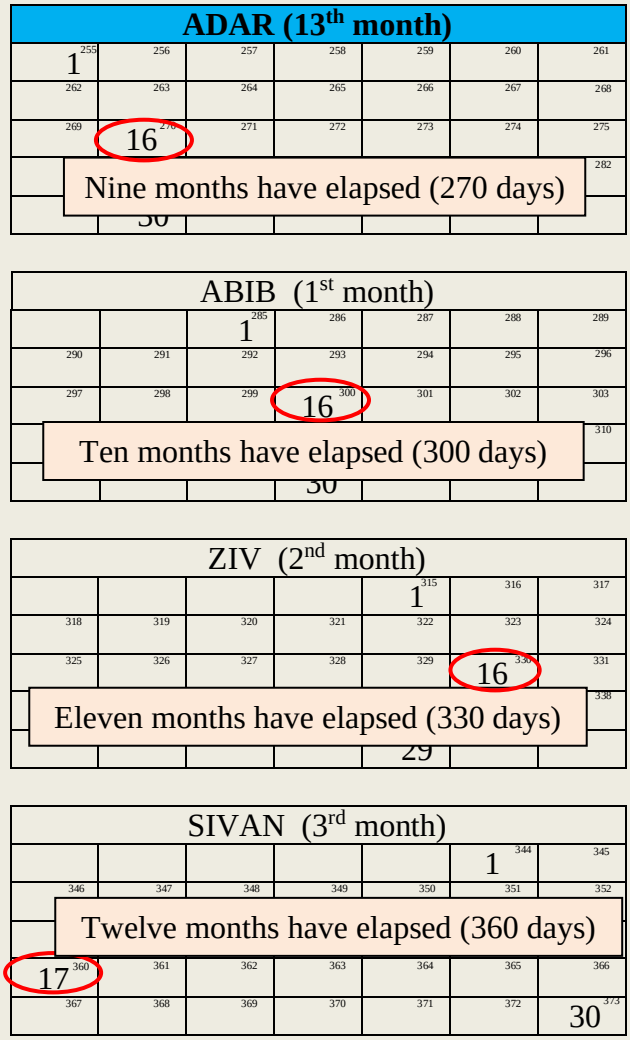
Six months have elapsed (180 days)

SHEBAT (11th month)

Seven months have elapsed (210 days)

ADAR SHENI (12th month)

Eight months have elapsed (240 days)



As indicated on the preceding pages, this 13-month *luni-solar calendar* would have given Ezekiel the necessary time to complete lying on both his left and right sides in time to be found in his house sitting with the elders of Judah on the fifth day of the sixth month. Based on this evidence, Ezekiel could ***not*** have observed a solar calendar. He definitely ***could have*** reckoned time with a luni-solar calendar, however.

Although many are of the mind that Yahweh intends for us to use the solar calendar, i.e., the sun, to determine our years, and hence the seasons of the years, there are some verses of Scripture that indicate otherwise. Shown below is Psalms 104:19:

> [19]He appointed the **moon for seasons**: the sun knoweth his going down.

In the scheme of things, those who seek the truth of Yahweh's will are going to find plenty of topics on which to disagree. The issue of which calendar He intends for us to employ is at or near the top of the list. It seems that for every conclusion one reaches, there is someone ready to point out its error. This controversy, as we indicated earlier, traces back to the fact that there are no clear-cut, concise, to-the-point passages of Scripture to which we can refer for an absolute solution to this enigma that has puzzled believers for centuries, even eons. We can all rejoice in knowing that there are many believers who care enough about what the Creator wants us to do that they are willing to

study into this matter. May Yahweh bless our study of this subject as we seek to gain understanding of His will for us!

Comparison Charts Illustrating the Three Calendars Represented in This Study

Solar Option (A 12-month calendar)

Month	# of "Lying Days" in the Month	Running Total	Comments
Tammuz (4th)	18	18 days	He began lying down on Tammuz 13 (Tammuz 13 to Tammuz 30 = 18 days).
Ab (5th)	30	48days	
Elul (6th)	30	78 days	
Ethanim (7th)	30	108 days	
Bul (8th)	30	138 days	
Casleu (9th)	30	168 days	
Tebeth (10th)	30	198 days	
Shebat (11th)	30	228 days	
Adar (12th)	30	258 days	
Abib (1st)	30	288 days	
Ziv (2nd)	30	318 days	
Sivan (3rd)	30	348 days	
Tammuz (4th)	30	378 days	
Ab (5th)	30	408 days	
Elul (6th)	4	412 days	Ezekiel was 18 days short of his 430-day goal (430 - 412 = 18).

Luni-Solar Option (A 12-month calendar)

Month	# of "Lying Days" in the Month	Running Total	Comments
Tammuz (4th)	17	17 days	Ezekiel began lying down on Tammuz 13 (Tammuz 13 to Tammuz 29 = 17 days).
Ab (5th)	30	47 days	
Elul (6th)	30	77 days	
Ethanim (7th)	30	107 days	
Bul (8th)	30	137 days	Four consecutive 30-day months is uncommon, but it occurred this year (2007).
Casleu (9th)	29	166 days	
Tebeth (10th)	29	195 days	
Shebat (11th)	29	224 days	Three consecutive 29-day months is unusual, but it occurred in both 2005 & 2007.
Adar (12th)	30	254 days	
Abib (1st)	29	283 days	
Ziv (2nd)	30	313 days	
Sivan (3rd)	29	342 days	
Tammuz (4th)	30	372 days	
Ab (5th)	30	402 days	
Elul (6th)	4	406 days	Ezekiel was 24 days short of his 430-day goal (430 - 406 = 24 days).

Luni-Solar Option (A 13-month calendar)

Month	# of "Lying Days" in the Month	Running Total	Comments
Tammuz (4th)	17	17 days	Ezekiel began lying down on Tammuz 13 (Tammuz 13 to Tammuz 29 = 17 days).
Ab (5th)	30	47 days	
Elul (6th)	30	77 days	
Ethanim (7th)	30	107 days	
Bul (8th)	30	137 days	Four consecutive 30-day months is uncommon, but it occurred this year (2007).
Casleu (9th)	29	166 days	
Tebeth (10th)	29	195 days	
Shebat (11th)	30	225 days	
Adar Sheni	29	254 days	In a 13-month year, the 12th month is referred to as "Adar Sheni."
Adar (13th month)	**30**	**284 days**	**The 13th month is called "Adar."**
Abib (1st)	30	314 days	
Ziv (2nd)	29	343 days	
Sivan (3rd)	30	373 days	
Tammuz (4th)	29	402 days	
Ab (5th)	28	430 days	Ezekiel stopped "lying around" at the end of the 28th day of the month with time to spare.
Elul (6th)	N/A	N/A	By Elul 5, Ezekiel had been freely "running around" for six days.

Appendix: Did the 150 Days During the Great Flood Consist of Five 30-Day Months?

The Great Flood of Genesis has caused quite a stir among those interested in learning what calendar was used by Noah. Several years ago, when the dates provided in Genesis chapters seven and eight were explained to us, we were shown that the only way for such a calendar to work would have been for the months to have contained, without exception, thirty days. This, of course, is in stark contrast to the luni-solar calendar as understood today, with months consisting of either 29 or 30 days. This variance occurs because a lunation is comprised of exactly 29.53059 days (roughly 29½ days). As the calendar used during the Great Flood was explained to us, each month had to contain 30 days because the flood waters began to fall on the 17th day of the second month, and the waters prevailed for 150 days. Then, on the 17th day of the seventh month, the ark came to rest upon the mountains of Ararat. The only way this seems to work is for each of those five months to contain 30 days (30 x 5 = 150).

Later, we were shown an opposing view in which the author explained that, no, ***one*** of those months had to contain 29 days. The explanation as given in his two-page treatise was impressive and persuasive. It behooves us to examine each view to see which one really aligns with the Scriptural account. Before we look at the opposing calendars, let's review the pertinent verses in the Genesis account of the Flood:

> **Genesis 7:11 –** "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, **in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month**, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened."
>
> **Genesis 7:24 –** "And the waters prevailed upon the earth **an hundred and fifty days**."
>
> **Genesis 8:3-4 –** "And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and **after the end of the hundred and fifty days** the waters were abated. And the ark rested **in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month**, upon the mountains of Ararat."

The first potential calendar I would like for us to review is the one in which ***one*** of the months contained 29 days. As we review it, we need to bear in mind that the waters were not abated (diminished) until after the end of 150 days. Then, on the 17th day of the seventh month, the ark came to rest upon the mountains of Ararat:

The "Four Months of 30, One Month of 29" Scenario

Year 600 of Noah, 2nd Month

FIRST DAY	SECOND DAY	THIRD DAY	FOURTH DAY	FIFTH DAY	PREPARATION	SABBATH
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1 17	2 18			5 21	6 22	7 23
8 24	9 25	26	27	12 28	13 29	14 30

This is "day 1" -- when the "windows of heaven" were opened.

Year 600 of Noah, 3rd Month

FIRST DAY	SECOND DAY	THIRD DAY	FOURTH DAY	FIFTH DAY	PREPARATION	SABBATH
15 1	16 2	17 3	18 4	19 6	20 6	21 7
22 8	23 9	24 10	25 11	26 12	27 13	28 14
29 15	30 16	31 17	32 18	33 19	34 20	35 21
36 22	37 23	38 24	39 25	40 26	41 27	42 28
43 29	44 30					

Year 600 of Noah, 4th Month

FIRST DAY	SECOND DAY	THIRD DAY	FOURTH DAY	FIFTH DAY	PREPARATION	SABBATH
		45 1	46 2	47 3	48 4	49 5
50 6	51 7	52 8	53 9	54 10	55 11	56 12
57 13	58 14	59 15	60 16	61 17	62 18	63 19
64 20	65 21	66 22	67 23	68 24	69 25	70 26
71 27	72 28	73 29	74 30			

Year 600 of Noah, 5th Month

FIRST DAY	SECOND DAY	THIRD DAY	FOURTH DAY	FIFTH DAY	PREPARATION	SABBATH
				75 1	76 2	77 3
78 4	79 5	80 6	81 7	82 8	83 9	84 10
85 11	86 12	87 13	88 14	89 15	90 16	91 17
92 18	93 19	94 20	95 21	96 22	97 23	98 24
99 25	2		102 28	103 29		

This month only had 29 days!

Year 600 of Noah, 6th Month

FIRST DAY	SECOND DAY	THIRD DAY	FOURTH DAY	FIFTH DAY	PREPARATION	SABBATH
					104 1	105 2
106 3	107 4	108 5	109 6	110 7	111 8	112 9
113 10	114 11	115 12	116 13	117 14	118 15	119 16
120 17	121 18	122 19	123 20	124 21	125 22	126 23
127 24	128 25	129 26	130 27	131 28	132 29	133 30

Year 600 of Noah, 7th Month

FIRST DAY	SECOND DAY	THIRD DAY	FOURTH DAY	FIFTH DAY	PREPARATION	SABBATH
134 1	135 2	136 3	137 4	138 5	139 6	140 7
141 8	142 9	143 10	144 11	145 12	146 13	147 14
	149 16	150 17	18			21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29						

It was AFTER this day (the 150th day) that the waters were abated.

This is also when the ark came to rest upon the mountains of Ararat.

The most obvious question raised by the above scenario is, "If the waters weren't abated until *after* the 150th day, then how is it the ark 'came to rest' upon the mountains of Ararat on that same 150th day?" The calendar proposed by those who insist that one of those months contained 29 days requires believing that the ark "came to rest" *before* the waters were abated. In order to explain the apparent discrepancy, we can presume lots of things, including the possibility that the Genesis account only gives us approximate dates; however, if we go strictly by the information provided … ***and*** if we presume that one of those five months contained 29 days, then we have to address the question of how the ark came to rest upon the mountains of Ararat ***before*** the flood waters had abated. This is a concern that, to this point, we have yet to see satisfactorily explained by those who promote this type of scenario.

This brings us to the "Thirty-Day Month Only" calendar scenario. Does it fit the Genesis account? Let's take a look at it:

The "Thirty-Day Month Only" Calendar Scenario

Year 600 of Noah, 2nd Month

FIRST DAY	SECOND DAY	THIRD DAY	FOURTH DAY	FIFTH DAY	PREPARATION	SABBATH
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1 17	2 18			5 21	6 22	7 23
8 24	9 25	26	27	12 28	13 29	14 30

This is "day 1" -- when the "windows of heaven" were opened.

Year 600 of Noah, 3rd Month

FIRST DAY	SECOND DAY	THIRD DAY	FOURTH DAY	FIFTH DAY	PREPARATION	SABBATH
15 1	16 2	17 3	18 4	19 6	20 6	21 7
22 8	23 9	24 10	25 11	26 12	27 13	28 14
29 15	30 16	31 17	32 18	33 19	34 20	35 21
36 22	37 23	38 24	39 25	40 26	41 27	42 28
43 29	44 30					

Year 600 of Noah, 4th Month

FIRST DAY	SECOND DAY	THIRD DAY	FOURTH DAY	FIFTH DAY	PREPARATION	SABBATH
		45 1	46 2	47 3	48 4	49 5
50 6	51 7	52 8	53 9	54 10	55 11	56 12
57 13	58 14	59 15	60 16	61 17	62 18	63 19
64 20	65 21	66 22	67 23	68 24	69 25	70 26
71 27	72 28	73 29	74 30			

Year 600 of Noah, 5th Month

FIRST DAY	SECOND DAY	THIRD DAY	FOURTH DAY	FIFTH DAY	PREPARATION	SABBATH
				75 1	76 2	77 3
78 4	79 5	80 6	81 7	82 8	83 9	84 10
85 11	86 12	87 13	88 14	89 15	90 16	91 17
92 18	93 19	94 20	95 21	96 22	97 23	98 24
99 25	100 26	101 27	102 28	103 29	104 30	

Year 600 of Noah, 6th Month

FIRST DAY	SECOND DAY	THIRD DAY	FOURTH DAY	FIFTH DAY	PREPARATION	SABBATH
						105 1
106 2	107 3	108 4	109 5	110 6	111 7	112 8
113 9	114 10	115 11	116 12	117 13	118 14	119 15
120 16	121 17	122 18	123 19	124 20	125 21	126 22
127 23	128 24	129 25	130 26	131 27	132 28	133 29
134 30						

Year 600 of Noah, 7th Month

FIRST DAY	SECOND DAY	THIRD DAY	FOURTH DAY	FIFTH DAY	PREPARATION	SABBATH
	135 1	136 2	137 3	138 4	139 5	140 6
141 7	142 8	143 9	144 10	145 11	146 12	147 13
	149	150 16	17	18		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

It was AFTER this day (the 150th day) that the waters were abated.

This day, AFTER the waters had abated, is when the ark came to rest upon the mountains of Ararat.

As this calendar illustrates, by day 150 the waters had not yet completely abated *and* the ark was still afloat. It wasn't until *after* this day that the waters were abated, and that is when the ark came to rest in the mountains of Ararat … the 17th day of the seventh month (i.e., day #151). This is the scenario that best fits the account as described in the book of Genesis. We are left to believe that during the days leading up to the Great Flood, each month contained 30 days. Did the cataclysmic shakeup of the earth caused by the Flood affect the lunar cycle, causing it to be what it is today? Many have reached this conclusion, which I thought seemed fairly reasonable, until I read the explanation offered by fellow truth seeker Joseph F. Dumond:

> When I explain the 30 days of Noah I remind people that the moon must be sighted in order to declare it New Moon day. Noah was locked inside the Ark for this length of time. It was also raining and overcast for much of the time. If we do not see the moon on the 29th day then it is automatically New Moon day on the 30th day. As you know there is no 31 days. Noah was not able to see the New Moon during this time inside the Ark. It would not be until he took off the window and was able to see the sky in order to send off the birds; then and only then could Noah sight the New Moon. But inside the Ark all he could do was count 30 days each month.[8]

As explained by Mr. Dumond, whenever it is overcast on the 29th day of the month, thus obscuring the sighting of the new moon that evening, by default we declare the next day to be "day 30." We cannot be so presumptuous as to declare the day following day #29 to be "New Moon Day" without having sighted the new moon crescent. Certainly, during the time of the Great Flood, Noah would have experienced his share of cloudy days, which in turn would have compelled him to declare five consecutive 30-day months. For us to build a doctrine around the belief that the months of antiquity all contained thirty days, we need to build it around something more tangible than the account of the Great Flood.

If we could be shown something more persuasive than the five months of Noah as he and his family endured the Great Flood, we might be persuaded that, once upon a time, each month literally contained thirty days. Nevertheless, our concern for now is, did such a calendar exist during the days of the prophet Ezekiel? We believe the evidence bears out that it did not. By the time of Ezekiel, the lunar cycle was the same as it is for us today, resulting in months of either 29 or 30 days. Either way, as we have seen, the year consisted of either 12 or 13 months. During the year of Ezekiel's mock siege, the year could only have contained thirteen months.

[8] Excerpt from an e-mail we received from Joseph F. Dumond on 10/28/2007. You can visit his web site by accessing the following URL: www.sightedmoon.com).