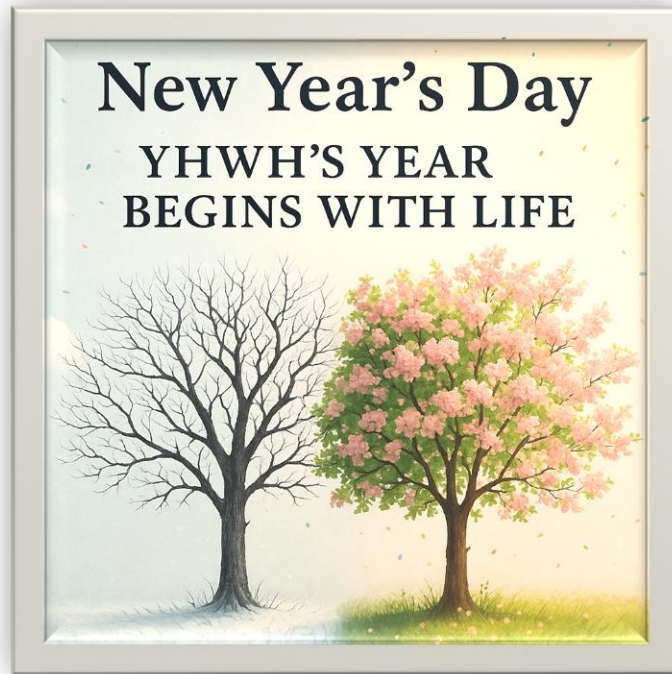


**Happy New Year
Rome's Tree or YHWH's**



THE TIME IS SET. THE CHOICE IS YOURS

**Written by Rex
For the Awakening Remnant**

**Walking the Ancient Path of Torah Obedience
Calling out Deception – Calling out Truth**

This month shall be to you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. (Exodus 12:2)

New Year's Day

Bringing in the New Year

Introduction – New Year's Day: Bringing in the New Year

Every year, the world raises its glass, lights the sky, and shouts into the midnight air, “*Happy New Year!*” But few stop to ask: Whose year are we celebrating? Whose calendar are we following? And who told us this was the beginning of anything holy?

The clock strikes twelve, and a new number is stamped on the Roman wall. Crowds celebrate with no knowledge of the gods they're honoring, the roots they're dancing on, or the rebellion they unknowingly reenact each January 1st.

This is not just a date on a calendar. It is a counterfeit mo'ed (Appointed Time) — a man-made beginning that directly challenges the times and seasons set by YHWH. It is a day soaked in pagan symbolism, crowned by emperors, and accepted by a church that long ago divorced itself from the appointed times of Heaven.

In this teaching, we will uncover the hidden roots of New Year's Day, trace its journey from pagan revelry to Christian respectability, and weigh it on the scales of Torah truth. We'll ask the hard questions:

- Why does the world begin its year in the dead of winter?
- What calendar did YHWH give us, and when does He say the year begins?
- And what spiritual consequences are there for honoring Rome's rhythm over Heaven's clock?

Because to “bring in the New Year” is not just a celebration — it is a declaration. And we must decide: Whose beginning will we declare?

The World's Celebration: What Are We Really Honoring?

Each year, the world stands in unison beneath a ticking clock, counting down the final seconds of December. As the hands strike midnight, cheers erupt, fireworks light the sky, and millions of people across nations raise their voices in one resounding declaration:

“*Happy New Year!*”  **Happy New Year!** 

But what exactly is being welcomed? What is being honored? And perhaps more importantly... who set this time? Happy New Year!

Families gather. Champagne flows. Resolutions are made with fleeting hope. Kisses are exchanged, songs are sung, and every corner of society participates as if this moment is holy, sacred, and unquestionable. Yet beneath the glitter and noise lies a dark truth: this “new year” has nothing to do with YHWH's time, YHWH's seasons, or YHWH's will.

This celebration is not rooted in Scripture. It is not an Appointed Time. It is not a remembrance. It is a tradition of man — more Roman than righteous, more cultural than covenantal.

While the world believes it is stepping into newness, what they are actually stepping into is another cycle of man-made time, aligned with a counterfeit calendar. A clock not wound by the hands of Heaven, but by the architects of empire.

The “new year” being brought in each January 1st is not a celebration of life or obedience or light — it is the continued embrace of a false beginning, a foreign rhythm, a calendar that wars against the appointed times of the Creator.

What the world calls new... is not new at all.

It is ancient rebellion, dressed in streamers and champagne.

The Pagan Roots of January 1st

In 46 BCE, Julius Caesar instituted a reform of the Roman calendar. Moving away from the earlier lunar system, he introduced a solar calendar more aligned with Egyptian reckoning — but tailored for Roman imperial needs. He designated January 1st as the official beginning of the year to honor Janus, mark his own political authority, and bring symbolic unity to Rome.

This was not a spiritual act. It was a calculated re-engineering of time to serve empire, not Elohim.

“The Julian calendar was not merely a calendar reform — it was a political tool. It redefined time itself to align Roman society under Caesar’s rule.” —
Calendrical Calculations, Nachum Dershowitz & Edward M. Reingold³

Thus, the Roman new year — born of politics, paganism, and power — replaced the rhythms of Heaven with the march of empire.

YHWH’s Calendar: A Different Beginning

But YHWH gave His people a different rhythm — a divine beginning.

This month shall be to you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. (Exodus 12:2)

That “month” is Aviv (Abib), in the spring, when the barley ripens, the lambs are chosen, and the shadow of Passover looms near. The biblical year begins not with drunkenness and darkness, but with life, sacrifice, and deliverance.

YHWH’s calendar leads to Covenant.

Rome’s calendar leads to confusion.

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil... who put darkness for light, and light for darkness... (Isaiah 5:20)

To call January 1st a “new beginning” is to choose man's counterfeit over Heaven's command — to celebrate at the altar of Janus while claiming to walk in the way of YHWH.

And he shall speak great words against the Most-High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most-High, and think to change times and laws... (Daniel 7:25)

This is not just a warning.
It is a fulfillment — and the world has already bowed to it.

The Church's Adoption: Sanctifying the Profane

The Roman calendar, born in the shadow of empire and offered to idols, would not remain Rome's alone. Over time, the church — which had once suffered under Caesar — rose up in power and slowly began adopting the empire's ways. And as the church grew in political strength, it did not challenge Rome's calendar — it baptized it.

By the 4th century CE, under Emperor Constantine, Christianity had become not a persecuted faith, but a state religion. With that political marriage came compromise. No longer operating from the Torah, the church turned to councils, creeds, and the customs of the empire around it.

Rather than returning to the biblical calendar YHWH established in Exodus 12, the early church fathers aligned themselves with the Roman year — embracing January 1st as the new beginning, and eventually calling it “the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ.”

“The church began to mark January 1st as a feast day... integrating it into the Christian liturgical calendar despite its pagan origins.” — The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church, 3rd ed.¹

This was not sanctification. It was substitution.

The true moedim — the Appointed Times of YHWH — were replaced with days Rome invented. The spring New Year of Abib was forgotten, and in its place came Lent, Advent, and the Roman New Year.

This is replacement theology in action.
It does not just say “*the Church replaced Israel.*”
It acts as though Rome replaced Sinai.

They have changed My ordinances and broken My everlasting Covenant. (Isaiah 24:5)

And so, January 1st became just another stone in the long road of compromise — a day once soaked in the worship of Janus, now dressed up as the “*Circumcision of Christ*,” paraded before the people as sacred... but never commanded by YHWH.

Christianity Inherited Without Questioning

Most modern Christians have no idea where their calendar came from. They never ask why the year begins in January, or who decided these things. The system was handed to them — complete, polished, and packaged with verses twisted just enough to make it sound “biblical.”

Thus says YHWH: Do not learn the way of the nations... For the customs of the peoples are worthless. (Jeremiah 10:2–3)

But the truth is simple:

YHWH never told us to celebrate January 1st. Rome did.

And while the church adopted it under the guise of honoring Christ, what they truly did was this:

- They declared what is unclean to be clean.
- They sanctified the profane.
- They chose Caesar's clock over the voice from the mountain.

But What Calendar Did YHWH Give?

While Rome crowned January in honor of Janus, YHWH had already declared when the year should begin — and it wasn't in winter's dead silence, but in spring's bursting life.

This month shall be to you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. (Exodus 12:2)

This divine instruction was not arbitrary. It came just before the Exodus — a nation's rebirth, a people redeemed, and a Covenant being written in blood and fire. The first biblical month, called Aviv (Abib), was to mark the head of the year. It was the time of the barley harvest, the Passover, and the first steps of freedom.

YHWH's calendar does not begin in darkness — it begins in deliverance.

Spring, Not Winter

Winter is when creation sleeps. Trees stand bare. The earth holds its breath. Nothing moves. And yet Rome declares it the start of the year — as if newness can be born from barrenness.

But YHWH begins His year when life rises, when the lamb is chosen, and when the fields begin to wave with grain. His time begins when things wake up, not when they freeze.

To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under the heavens. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Rome's "new year" is out of rhythm with creation itself.

The Biblical Calendar vs. the Gregorian One

The Gregorian calendar, introduced by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582, is a modified version of Caesar's Julian calendar. It was created to "correct" errors in the Julian solar count — but it did nothing to restore YHWH's design. Instead, it kept January 1st as the civil new year and continued aligning holidays to pagan festivals repackaged as Christian celebrations.

In contrast, the Hebrew calendar begins with Aviv, is lunar-solar, and is tied directly to the mo'edim — the Appointed Times of Leviticus 23.

YHWH's calendar isn't just about dates — it is about encounters. Each time and season is a divine Appointment.

Why YHWH's Rhythm Matters

YHWH said:

Observe the month of Aviv and keep the Passover unto YHWH your Elohim, for in the month of Aviv YHWH your Elohim brought you out of Egypt by night. (Deuteronomy 16:1)

This isn't just historical. It's instructional.

To observe the wrong calendar is to show up late to His Appointed Times. It is to miss His voice, to ignore His rhythm, and to walk by the ticking of a man-made clock instead of the heartbeat of Heaven.

Can two walk together, unless they are agreed? (Amos 3:3)

If we want to walk with YHWH, we must walk in His time.

V. What's the Harm? It's Just a Date... Right?

That's what they always say.

"It's just a date."

"It doesn't really matter when we celebrate — God knows my heart."

"The calendar doesn't save me — it's just tradition."

But time is not neutral. Every calendar tells a story. Every date we honor declares allegiance to the one who authored it.

YHWH gave His people a calendar — one written not with Roman ink, but with barley heads, new moons, and holy convocations. When we trade that sacred rhythm for a Babylonian system built

on political power and pagan symbols, we are not just changing the days — we are changing who we walk with.

Woe to them... for they have gone the way of Cain... and have perished in the rebellion of Korah. (Jude 1:11)

Following Babylon's Calendar Has Consequences

When we align ourselves with Rome's calendar, we are not just choosing convenience — we are rejecting YHWH's timing. And that choice has spiritual consequences.

- It dulls discernment
- It disconnects us from the Appointed Times
- It makes pagan practices feel normal and holy commands feel foreign

This is not new. It's been the enemy's pattern from the beginning: if he can't erase the truth, he will bury it under tradition, repackage it with religious language, and present it as "harmless."

But it is not harmless.

It is a slow reprogramming of the soul and brainwashing of the mind.

They have exchanged the truth of 'Elohiym for a lie, and worshiped and served the creation rather than the Creator... (Romans 1:25)

The enemy didn't need to outlaw Torah — he just needed to offer a more convenient calendar.

The Times and Seasons of Man vs. the Appointed Times of YHWH

YHWH's calendar is built around His voice. His feasts. His Covenant.

Rome's calendar is built around emperors, gods, and power.

One draws you to Mount Sinai.

The other leads you to a clock tower in Babylon.

He shall speak great words against the Most-High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most-High, and think to change times and laws... (Daniel 7:25)

He thinks to change them. But they have not been changed. We have just forgotten.

A Slow, Strategic Reprogramming

Ask yourself:

- Why does the world celebrate "resurrection" with rabbits and eggs?
- Why does the church light candles for Advent instead of blowing shofars at Yom Teruah?
- Why do Christians mark January 1st instead of Aviv 1?

Because somewhere along the line, someone changed the map. And we never asked why.

The harm is not in the date itself — but in what we surrender when we accept it.

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge... because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you from being priest to Me; since you have forgotten the Torah of your Elohim... (Hosea 4:6)

When we say “*it’s just a date*,” we are saying that YHWH’s Instruction is optional, that His timing doesn’t matter, and that Rome knows best.

But it does matter.

Because if you show up to a wedding on the wrong day — you miss the covenant.

A Call to Return to the True Beginning

The world celebrates its beginning in the middle of death.
YHWH marks His beginning at the rising of life.

The difference is not just seasonal — it’s spiritual.

YHWH does not ask us to guess the times. He has given us a calendar of Covenant. A divine rhythm. A holy timeline woven into the harvests, the heavens, and the heart of His people. To walk with Him is to walk in sync with His time.

But to return to that rhythm requires a turning.

A teshuvah — not just from sin, but from man’s systems. From the ticking of Babylon’s clock to the heartbeat of the King.

Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. (Jeremiah 6:16)

This is the crossroads.
And the call is clear.

Realign with Heaven’s Calendar

This is not about legalism. It’s about loyalty.

The one who sets your calendar sets your priorities. And the world is filled with people who claim to love YHWH, while following the timing of Rome. But if we are to be His — truly His — we must let Him define the days, the seasons, the Sabbaths, and the years.

To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven... (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

His purposes have their own appointed times.
We must show up when He calls — not when Caesar claps.

Rejecting the Traditions of Men
It's easy to go with the flow.
It's comfortable to say "*Happy New Year*" with the world.

But truth has never walked the wide road.
The calendar of YHWH has always been mocked, misunderstood, or ignored — just like the prophets who carried it.

You nullify the Word of God for the sake of your tradition.
(Matthew 15:6)

Traditions feel good. They're familiar. But if they're not from YHWH, they must be laid down.

Choose Light Over Illusion

The first biblical month is Aviv (which is in the Spring)— not January.
The head of the year is in the spring, not the frost.
The calendar of YHWH leads to Passover, not fireworks.
To Covenant, not confetti.

To obedience, not emotionalism.

To truth, not tradition.

For YHWH is our Judge, YHWH is our Lawgiver, YHWH is our King; He will save us. (Isaiah 33:22)

It is time to return.

Return to the beginning He declared.
Return to the rhythm He wrote.
Return to the seasons that speak of Him.
Return to Aviv over January. Obedience over popularity. Light over illusion.

Because every calendar is a crown — and only one belongs on the head of the King.

Conclusion: Whose Clock Are You Following?

This isn't just about one day.
It never was.

This is about authority.

Because whoever sets your calendar... rules your rhythm.
Whoever defines your time... shapes your worship.
And whoever you align your life to — that is who you serve.

You can't walk in Covenant while keeping Caesar's calendar.
You can't claim to follow the Ancient of Days while ignoring the days He declared holy.
You can't wear the name of YHWH and still dance to the rhythm of Rome.

No one can serve two masters... (Matthew 6:24)

Every calendar is a form of worship.
It tells you what is holy.
It tells you when to rest.
It tells you what to celebrate.
It tells you who your god really is.

And so, the question is not “*what day is New Year's?*”
The question is:
Whose clock are you following?

*Choose this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my house,
we will serve YHWH. (Joshua 24:15)*

Conclusion

The world may keep its countdown. It may lift its glasses, shout into the darkness, and dance on Babylon's stage. But those who belong to YHWH do not measure time by fireworks or tradition. We measure time by the light that broke through the darkness, by the blood on the doorposts, by the harvest of truth. His calendar is not just holier — it is His. And it is time to return to it. Time to choose the Creator's rhythm over the creature's invention. Time to leave behind Rome's illusion and walk in the clarity of Torah. The question is not whether the New Year's celebration feels harmless. The question is:

Whose clock are you following... and whose Kingdom are you preparing for?

References

¹Oxford Classical Dictionary, 3rd ed. (1996), Oxford University Press – Entry: “Janus”

²Encyclopedia Britannica, Online Edition – Entry: “New Year Festival”

³Calendrical Calculations, Nachum Dershowitz and Edward M. Reingold, Cambridge University Press, 1997 – Chapter 2: The Julian Calendar

Questions to Ponder

Why does the world celebrate New Year's in the middle of winter?

Answer:

Because the Roman calendar, set by Julius Caesar and later Pope Gregory, chose January 1st to honor Janus, the Roman god of transitions — not because of any Scriptural significance.

Did YHWH ever command His people to observe January 1st as holy?

Answer:

No. In fact, YHWH clearly declared the first month to be Aviv (Exodus 12:2), tied to the barley harvest and Passover, not the dead of winter.

How did the church come to accept this date?

Answer:

The early church adopted Roman systems as it became a state religion under Constantine and later leaders. Over time, January 1st was Christianized as the "*Feast of the Circumcision of Christ*" — but it was never given by YHWH.

What's the harm in just celebrating a new beginning with the world?

Answer:

It teaches people to accept a false rhythm and call it holy. Aligning with Rome instead of YHWH causes spiritual confusion, dulls discernment, and leads people away from the Appointed Times of the Creator.

If I want to return to YHWH's calendar, where do I begin?

Answer:

Start by learning the biblical calendar. Mark Aviv (Abib) as your new year, honor the mo'edim (Leviticus 23), and begin resetting your life to His rhythm, not Rome's. Even if the world mocks you — He won't.

This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. (Ex. 12:2)

————— ♦ Whose Clock Are You Following? ♦ —————