Knights Meeting Reflections for June 2024

In the months of March and May, we covered the very difficult topics of God's Covenants with Man and God's Plan for mankind. I received a request for tonight's less difficult Topic some months ago. Tonight, we cover both the Secular and Non-Secular aspects of AD & BC and CE & BCE.

We talked before, in Ancient Times, birthdays were not celebrated; thus, remembrances of individuals were of their death dates. Sounds morbid but this was partly due to the less-than 50% infant survival rate of the time and the thought of "well if Bob doesn't amount to anything – what the hay".

So, in History, during these ancient times, any point in time was referenced to someone's death and there was no continuity in dating. Therefore, the Hebrews (as we heard in last Month's Nativity Verse) would refer to years since the death of Moses, Judas Maccabeus, etc.; but the non-secular communities would refer to the deaths of people like Harod the Great, Caesar Augustis, etc. (often tyrants in reality).

Therefore, in 525, a Christian Monk named Dionysius Exiguus did not want to count years in the memory of a Political person often being a tyrant bent upon the destruction of Christians. With his limited resources of fixing a date that he called the "Incarnation of Jesus". He labeled it as "Anni Domini Nostri Jesu Christi", *(in the year of our Lord Jesus Christ)*, or shortened to AD. This "numbering system" had spread to England in 731, including the term BC, and Portugal was the last European Country to adopt it in 1422; thus, just in time for use in newly found lands in the 15th. century.

The Dionysius numbering system was more of a "Chart or Table" format which was difficult to manage which led to the need for a more "calendar" format. During the following centuries, terms of "Christian Era" (using AD/BC), Vulgar Era (Hebrew as VE), and Common Era (CE/BCE by non-Christians) were in use which led to the need for the development of a common calendar. But they were "Yearly Calendars", with no or with varying start dates, of various types had been in use for thousands of years – generally Lunar based. In Christ's Time, the Julian Calendar (Julius Caesar died in 44 BC) in use. The "Moon Based" Julian calendar was replaced by the Gregorian calendar, as a refinement of the Julian calendar in 1582. It used the more accurate timing of the "Sun Year" of some 365 and slightly under ¼ days and is today in worldwide use as the "*de facto*" calendar for secular purposes.

This "de facto" aspect has always been a contention between both other religions and those generally addressing themselves as non-Christians. The efforts to "drop" AD for CE can be dated back to the 1500's; however, over the following centuries, with the refinement of astrological observations and more common access to documentation, Dionysius's date came under debate of being from six years late to two years early. As in any dispute, these detractors had not been able to come to any common ground; however, during the 19th and 20th centuries, enough "traction" was gained in seeing England and Wales using CE in 2002, the Jewish Faith replacing VE

with CE in 2005, and American Schools adopting books using CE starting in 2006 – with adoption nearly complete in 2018.

So where does this take us. Personally, I can often be heard to say, *"sometimes I think about how God must look down upon us in 'Despair'"*; but also, that at times that *"God may also look down upon us with some form of 'Humor'"*. A case in point tonight is that during COVID times when much of mankind had nothing to do but look at the internet, a substantial effort was undertaken to not only totally unseat AD and fix a start date for CE. This group was well funded and made up of Anti Christians from around the world, intent upon eliminating AD/BC totally. Late in COVID Times, a report of that "study" was issued in "Draft" format --- but since electronically "erased" from history.

WHY? A "Cliff-Notes" version from some accounts of what that "Draft" report said:

HA-HA, Dionysius was wrong! ***One AD, and consequentially our One CE, was not earlier than 6 BC or later than 5 BC. This proposition is based upon our extensive examination of the documented historical facts and calculations of astrological events of:***

1. ***The astrological event called the "Great Conjunction" of Jupiter and Saturn crossed paths three times in 7 BC*** *(with Venus in 3 – 2 BC).*
2. ***Rome issued the edict to Herod the Great to start the yearlong "Census of Quirinius" in Palestine in 6 BC.***
3. ***Harod the Great died in April of 4 BC (April 12th.).***
4. ***The first century total "Lunar Eclipse" in Palestine occurred in the spring of 27 AD (likely mid-April).***
5. ***As with typical "weather occurrences" consequential with Total Eclipses, Roman documents show that Palestine also experienced a major earthquake at that time.***
6. ***A "margin of error" of Astrological Events – being <= to ¼ of one percent.***

So, why was this report "Electronically Deleted" from history?

Immediate responses that the group received, I mean in electronic milliseconds, were:

In Danish & Swedish – "Dum", in Dutch - "Dom" in French – "Stupide & Idiot", German – "Dummkopf", Italian – "Stupido", and Latino – "Est'upido"!!! In your efforts to fix a start date of the Common Era (and develop a scientific cause for the elimination of the term AD), you may have disproved the date set by Dionysus; but you proved many of the Biblically described occurrences of the life of Christ!! This is not what was wanted!!!

So much for the humor tonight; but this has paved the way for us to not hear too much about the "Common Era" in our lifetimes. If you look at definitions today of the Common Era and controversy with AD, versus five years ago, you will find much of the History I talked about; but even Father's favorite encyclopedia Wikipedia, now

generally states (depending upon the date accessed): although opinions differ – it is agreed that there is "no reason" to adjust any "year zero" and acronyms of AD and CE have synonymous date usages.

Anni Domini Nostri Jesu Christi is:

"Anni / Dom-ini / No-stree / Yay-soo / Kris-tee"

Dionysius Exiguus is:

"Dion-nisus / Ig-nis-iohse"

Quirinius *is: "Qor-rin-ious"*