



# OUR OFFICIAL & MOST CURRENT UNDERSTANDING OF:



THE ZADOKITE CALENDAR



SIDEREAL TIME



THE PRIESTLY COURSES



- & THE SONGS OF THE SABBATH  
SACRIFICE.

# OFFICIAL DOCTRINE OF FIRST HARVEST MINISTRIES CONCERNING OUR CURRENT UNDERSTANDING OF BIBLICAL TIME AND CALENDARS

## *Chapter One: Discovering the Zadokite Priestly Calendar*

Ten years ago, I encountered what is termed the *Zadokite Priestly Calendar*, the only temple authorized timekeeping system discovered in the Qumran caves in 1948.

Instantly, by the prompting of the Spirit, I knew this was the true Biblical calendar. This profound realization drove me to learn, teach, and promote this calendar to the scattered tribes of Israel, believing it to be a tool for uniting us in the end times.

The more I studied it, the more perfect it appeared. Its calculations are unchanging, and the annual Sabbaths are as predictable as the weekly Sabbaths. The New Year consistently begins on the same day of the week, making it the only calendar that passes the Biblical test of 1260 days as mentioned in the books of Revelation and Daniel.

Additionally, it uniquely incorporates all three heavenly bodies: *the sun, moon, and stars*, in harmony with Genesis 1:14. My understanding deepened when I realized that the term *New Moon* does not appear in the Torah, revealing a clearer alignment with the Zadokite system.

However, my excitement was tempered by disappointment. Many of my ministry brethren rejected this calendar, choosing instead to adhere to the Jewish calendar while even Jewish authorities admit that their current calendar is not the original but expect Messiah to correct it upon His return.

I, however, believe that Elijah will come first to make these crooked places straight. *First Harvest Ministries* was among the first to accept and embrace the *Zadokite Priestly Calendar*.

Early influences on my understanding included *Mr. Jerry Morris*, a calendar pioneer who shared his teachings on YouTube, and *Professor Rachael Elinor* of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Professor Elinor's work shed light on the Qumran community's role in preserving this calendar, confirming their identity as the true keepers of time—the exiled Zadokite priesthood.

### *The Historical Role of the Zadokite Priesthood*

The Zadokite priests held divine authority over temple time-keeping and religious observances during Israel's monarchy. This authority was established during the reign of King David (circa 1010–970 BCE) and solidified under King Solomon (circa 970–930 BCE). Their stewardship of the temple's rituals and calendar has roots in Biblical and historical tradition.

### *Key Moments in Zadokite History*

#### **King David's Appointment of Zadok**

Zadok, a descendant of Aaron through Eleazar, rose to prominence during King David's reign. His loyalty during Absalom's rebellion (2 Samuel 15:24–29) established his credibility as a high priest. When David brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, Zadok and his fellow priests were tasked with its care and the oversight of temple rituals (1 Chronicles 15:11–14).

## Consolidation Under King Solomon

Solomon further established Zadok's authority by removing Abiathar, a rival priest, and appointing Zadok as the sole high priest (1 Kings 2:35). This action cemented the Zadokite lineage as the temple's religious and temporal stewards, giving them exclusive oversight of the sacred calendar, festivals, and sacrificial system.

## The Zadokite Calendar and Timekeeping

The Zadokite priests were entrusted with regulating the temple's sacred calendar, which was deeply rooted in a solar-lunar system. They were responsible for determining the timing of:

Daily Sacrifices

Weekly Sabbaths

Monthly New Moons

Annual Feasts (e.g., Passover, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot)

Evidence from the Qumran community suggests they adhered to a distinct solar calendar based on a 364-day year. This system aligns with the teachings found in the Dead Sea Scrolls and reflects the Zadokite tradition of timekeeping.

## Legacy of the Zadokite Priesthood

The Zadokites maintained their authority over temple rituals and timekeeping until the Second Temple period. Even after the Babylonian exile (586 BCE), their influence persisted through leaders like Ezra and during the Hellenistic and Hasmonean periods. Though later priestly factions like the Pharisees and Sadducees gained prominence, the Zadokites' legacy as stewards of Israel's sacred calendar remains foundational.

## Chapter Two: My Frustrations

It did not take long for me to face the reality that there was as much confusion in this calendar as in all the others. Even those who embraced the Zadokite Calendar interpreted it differently, especially concerning the concept of intercalations.

Initially, under the tutelage of *Jerry Morris*, I believed there was absolutely no need to intercalate the calendar. Enoch, one of the books from which this calendar finds its origin, never mentioned any intercalation. In fact, Enoch stated that the years would remain perfect if we adhered to this calendar without intercalation. For three years, I firmly defended this understanding.

However, REALITY STRUCK. If the Zadokite Calendar were kept according to Enoch's instructions over many years, Passover would eventually occur in the winter. Why? Because the Zadokite Calendar accounts for only 360 days annually.

We know the Earth's rotation requires just over 365 days. While the Zadokite Calendar adds FOUR INTERCALARY DAYS to account for this discrepancy, these days are not included in the counting of Holy Days and it still leaves a missing day, the 365th day.

*This doctrinal position letter does not aim to delve into the technicalities of intercalation. Rather, it seeks to explain our journey in understanding holy time.*

### The Problem

If Enoch did not prescribe intercalation, and there is no explicit Biblical command to do so, why do we encounter untenable issues without it?

For example, Moses teaches that the first day of Abib, or the New Year, should align with the ripe barley in Jerusalem. Without intercalation, it does not take long for the calendar to fall out of sync with the agricultural reality of Abib.

## The Dilemma

I faced a profound dilemma: REALITY VERSUS FAITH in the Enoch Calendar. I was convinced of this calendar's truth but also recognized the undeniable reality of its limitations. Was there an answer? This tension marked a pivotal moment in my journey, one that would lead to deeper understanding and greater clarity in our pursuit of holy time.

### *Chapter Three: My Stars, Have I Found a Clue?*

By divine providence, I do not remember when or how, but I realized that the answer to my dilemma lay in the *Book of Enoch*. WHAT HAD WE MISSED? If Yahweh created this calendar, it had to be perfect and need no intercalation.

I decided to start from scratch, discarding all preconceived ideas, and simply read the Book of Enoch again. That was when I began to notice a pattern: ENOCH WAS FIXATED ON THE STARS. He referred often to "*the heavenly luminaries*." My research led to a shocking discovery—in ancient civilizations, days were often counted using what is known as "*star time*" rather than solar time. The proper term for this is "*SIDEREAL TIME*," and the subject is beyond fascinating.

I will explain the difference between star time and solar time later in this letter. Before doing so, allow me to explain why I believe Enoch used this ancient sidereal time.

# Enoch and Celestial Observations

## THE BOOK OF ENOCH

The Book of Enoch, an ancient Jewish text, contains detailed descriptions of celestial movements, including the paths of the Sun, Moon, and stars. It emphasizes a profound understanding of astronomy, suggesting that Enoch's timekeeping may have been influenced by sidereal principles, especially for tracking stars.

## FOCUS ON STARS

Sidereal time relates to the position of stars rather than the Sun. The Book of Enoch discusses the "courses of the heavenly luminaries" in terms that could align with sidereal time, such as dividing the year into specific cycles of celestial movements.

## ALIGNMENT WITH ANCIENT PRACTICES

Ancient societies often observed the stars for agricultural and religious purposes. If Enoch lived in such a society, he might have tracked time using star positions, which are inherently tied to sidereal time.

## WHY SIDEREAL TIME MAKES SENSE

### Predictability of Stars

Sidereal time is extremely precise for tracking star movements, making it valuable for navigation or aligning rituals with celestial phenomena.

### Pre-Solar Timekeeping

Early human civilizations may have relied more on sidereal cycles (e.g., constellations' positions) before formalizing solar-based calendars.

## Enoch's Role as a "Watcher"

Enoch is described as a "scribe" and "watcher" who studied divine and celestial mysteries. Sidereal timekeeping, as a reflection of the stars, could symbolize a closer connection to the heavens.

IF ENOCH INDEED COUNTED DAYS USING SIDEREAL TIME, THEN HIS WRITINGS ARE PERFECTLY ACCURATE, REQUIRING NO INTER-CALATION FOR THE YEAR TO ALIGN PROPERLY.

In the next section, I will break down what this would look like practically in our current understanding of time.

## *Chapter Four: Missing Time Found*

If you are missing a 24-hour day per year on the Zadokite Calendar—and we are—where could it be? IT COULDN'T JUST VANISH. It must be out there somewhere. If we could find it, intercalation would no longer be necessary because time would be healed.

Well, that's exactly what my research into sidereal time uncovered: A MISSING DAY. Where? By counting days as Enoch did, by the stars rather than the Sun.

### THE DAILY DIFFERENCE

**THE DAILY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SIDEREAL DAY AND A SOLAR DAY IS APPROXIMATELY 3 MINUTES AND 56 SECONDS (OR 236 SECONDS).**

To calculate the cumulative time difference over a year, we can multiply this daily difference by the number of days in a year.



## CALCULATION

Daily Difference: **236 seconds/day**

Number of Days in a Sidereal Year:

Approximately **365.256 days**

Annual Time Difference:

**236 seconds/day**  $\times$  **365.256 days** = 86,164 seconds/year

Convert to Hours, Minutes, and Seconds

86,164 seconds  $\div$  60 = **1,436.07 minutes**

1,436.07 minutes  $\div$  60 = **23.93 HOURS**

This means the cumulative annual time difference is approximately 23 HOURS, 56 MINUTES, AND 4 SECONDS—NEARLY A FULL SIDEREAL DAY.

This cumulative difference of nearly one day explains why the stars appear to return to the same position in the sky (relative to Earth) after one sidereal year, despite the solar calendar being based on the Sun's position.

### Practical Implication

This difference is why the same stars appear in the same position in the night sky on the same calendar date each year. Over a solar year, the stars "shift" slightly each day because sidereal days are shorter, and by the end of the year, the cumulative effect adds up to one extra sidereal day.

Thus, if we count time using sidereal days (23 hours, 56 minutes, and 4 seconds each) instead of solar days, WE RECOVER THE "MISSING DAY" AND WOULD NEVER NEED TO INTERCALATE.

## ***Chapter Five: Mystery Solved, Right? Wrong!***

So, we have found that missing day, only to discover the absolute necessity of intercalation. Why? Because mankind does not count days by stars as Enoch did; WE COUNT BY THE SUN. Therefore, our year will always come up short of perfection. If indeed we counted by Enoch's method, we would have perfect time.

### ***What Now?***

I had to confess that I was wrong and accept the simple fact that without intercalation, the Zadokite Calendar would not work. Thus, I agreed to begin intercalating by adding a full week every seven years so that time could catch up with itself. But now we face another baffling issue: WHEN DO WE DO IT?

This question introduced yet another mountain to climb because every group under heaven seems to intercalate at different times. Some do it every three years, some every seven years, some at certain equinoxes or equiluxes—it was truly maddening. The beautiful simplicity of the Zadokite Calendar was becoming less simple and less beautiful.

### ***Providential Guidance***

For many years, we decided to join with another ministry in their method of intercalation until another providential thing happened.

## ***Chapter Six: The Priestly Courses***

Sometimes you must go back to the beginning of your journey to find your answers. At my beginning with *Jerry Morris*, I remembered him always referring to "*The Priestly Courses*" and "*The Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice*."

He would always say, "*The Calendar must always line up with the priestly courses and the songs of the Sabbath sacrifice.*"

I am not sure how I let that slip past my ears in the future years of calendar study, but evidently, I did. Truthfully, I had not the slightest idea of what he was even referring to, so I basically set it aside in my mind.

Just a few months ago, the current group we were in alignment with was about to put out next year's calendar, and they would indeed be intercalating (*Adding a week*) to the calendar.

This would have been a major movement in our keeping of time. However, at that pivotal moment, a lady walked into my church one Sabbath by the name of *Sara Vaughn*. She came to our church because she knew we kept the Zadokite Calendar and the weekly Sabbath. When she came, she quickly let me know of her love for this calendar and began to show me her years of intense timekeeping mechanisms with this beloved Zadokite Calendar.

Before I continue, allow me to explain for those who may not know. This Calendar we are referring to was lost for thousands of years and recently discovered in 1948 at the time that Israel was re-established as a nation. This calendar had been preserved by the beloved Zadokite legitimate priesthood of the Holy Temple. They alone were authorized to maintain holy time, and this is what they did so faithfully in those desert sands.

Sara asked me when we planned to start our new year in 2025. When I told her, I saw a disappointed look on her face. She said, "*Y'all are intercalating at the wrong time.*" Well, who did this little lady think she was? I briefly thought. But immediately, I felt that gentle prompting of the Holy Spirit I had felt ten years

earlier when I first found this Calendar. He spoke to me to listen to her, and so I invited her into my office for an in-depth conversation.

I asked her why she thought we were intercalating wrong, and she said the words that rang true in my spirit. She said the exact same words that I heard Jerry Morris say so many times: "*Pastor, you are not lining up with the priestly courses.*"

I somehow knew she was right even though I didn't understand, I knew.

### ***The Revelation of the Priestly Courses***

So I asked Sara to explain these priestly courses to me. This is what she taught me: The legitimately authorized time keepers worked in courses or shiftwork and these were known as the Priestly courses.

For nearly 1,000 years, immaculate records were kept by the Holy priests of Israel, the Zadokites. From the time of King David, IN THOSE RECORDS OF THEIR ANNUAL COURSES OF SHIFTS AT THE TEMPLE, THE RECORDING OF THEIR INTERCALATIONS WAS KEPT PERFECTLY INTACT.

Here we had 1,000 years of tried and true recorded history of proper intercalation.

### ***Aligning with History***

I will not bore you with the details of those priestly courses. However, I immediately ordered "*The Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice*" to see if it aligned with the priestly courses, and I was blown away by how it all tied together. Why hadn't I just listened to Jerry Morris all those years ago?

Jerry was correct that there should never be a need to intercalate, but I believe because he did not know about sidereal time as we had found, he was forced to acknowledge the need to intercalate many years later.

### **A Ministry in Assurance**

As a ministry, I am in full assurance that we are currently standing in accurate Holy time. It has been a long journey, but we have stood faithful, and we remain open to any further revelation from the Holy Spirit.

Your Shepherd  
Pastor. Shane Vaughn



# FIRST HARVEST MINISTRIES

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Proclaiming and Publishing The Message of The Coming Kingdom of Yahweh. Restoring the Jubilee message of the Redemption of all creation. Declaring the voice of Elijah to the ends of the earth, restoring all things in preparation for the coming of the Messiah of Israel, Yahshua (Jesus), the Son of Yahweh. (God)

