Differences Between the Jewish and Gregorian Calendars

There is approximately 240 years difference between the Jewish and Gregorian calendars. Historians and scholars agree that both calendars are not 100% accurate but it is too late to change now. There is not real strong desire to correct either calendar. Also the secular world would not want to use either creation or Jesus' birthday as a bases for a calendar.

Jewish Calendar

The present Jewish calendar is based upon calculations by rabbis in the second century A.D. They tried to start their calendar with the creation of Genesis one. This was done at least 4,000 years after the event. The information available to them limited their accuracy. Taking literally the chronologies of the Bible, and the well-established post-biblical history we calculate that the Jewish calendar is short by about 250 years.

Not wanting to use any reference to Christ the Jewish calendar uses references to the period before Christ as B.C.E. (before the common era). And the period after Christ as C.E. (common era).

The Biblical Jewish calendar is based on a lunar calendar has 354 days in a year. That is, 12 months with 30 days.To synchronize with the solar calendar a 13th month is added every 3 years (Adar II). Those using the lunar calendar usually begin their day at sundown.
A moon-year has 354 days, and a sun-year 365 days. The Jewish calendar is based on a compromise between the two, and is reckoned according to both the sun and the moon. The months are figured according to the moon (twelve months of 29.5 days each), and the year according to the sun. In order to take up the extra eleven days, a whole month is added to the calendar in leap years. Every second or third year there is a thirteenth month, a second Adar.

- **The months are figured according to the moon: (12 months of 29.5 days) = 354 days**
  The length of a month in the Jewish calendar is determined by the time it takes for the moon to make one revolution around the earth as determined by the conjunction of the sun, moon, and earth in a line. This is the "birth" of the "new" moon. Such a revolution is completed in 29 days, 12 hours, 44 minutes and 3.5 second.

- **The year is figured according to the sun: (365.25 days) = 365 days**

365 - 354 11 days	The 11 day difference is adjusted by adding another month called Adar II (13th month) every second or third year	354 + 11 365 days

Gregorian Calendar

This calendar was an attempt to begin a new date based on the birth of Jesus Christ. Their calculations were off by approximately 6 years. We know this for several reasons. For example, Herod the Great died in the year 4 B.C. Yet he was alive when Jesus was born. This pushes Jesus' birth the 4 B.C not 1 A.D. Furthermore when Jesus was two years old the magi or wisemen met Herod (Mt.2). This pushes Jesus' birth back to around 6 B.C. As a result the Gregorian calendar is off by 6-7 years.

The Gregorian calendar uses the referebce of B.C. (before Christ) for the time before Christ was born. After the birth of Christ the reference A.D. (“the year of our Lord” from the Latin *Anno Domini*).

The Gregorian calendar is based on a solar calendar has 365 1/4 days in a year. Every 4th year is considered a leap year where 1 day is added to adjust for the extra 1/4 day in a year.

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05-47-2004
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