

American Minute with Bill Federer

Epiphany - Christ's manifestation to the world!
The History of the Holiday, "On the 12th Day of
Christmas ..."

"Epiphany" is a Greek word meaning "appearance" or "manifestation," celebrating Christ's "manifestation" to the world, as foretold in **Isaiah 49:6**:

"I will also give thee for a **light to the Gentiles**, that thou mayest be my **salvation** unto the **end of the earth**."

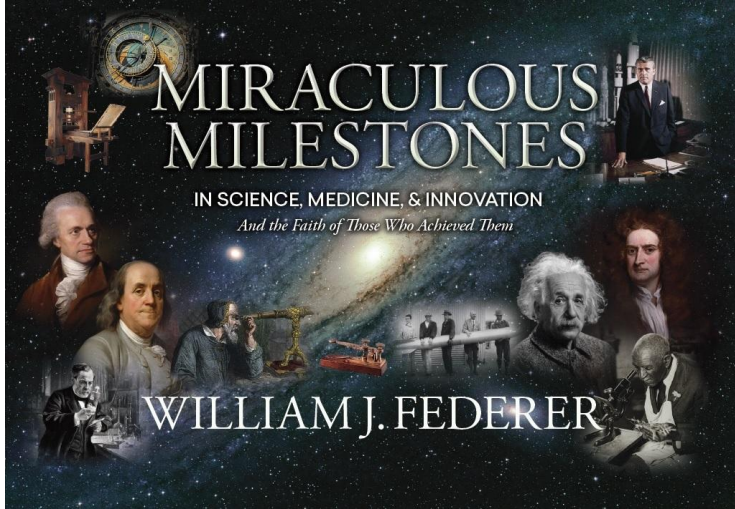


Epiphany commemorates the **Wise Men**, who were **gentiles**, visiting the infant **Jesus in the manger**, resulting in some cultures calling it **Three Kings Day**.

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Who Achieved Them

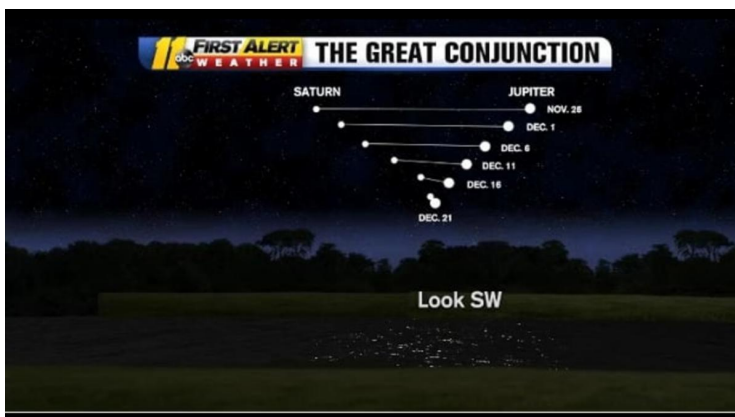


Epiphany also commemorates **Jesus** being revealed to the world at his baptism in the **Jordan River**, as recorded in John 1:29-34:



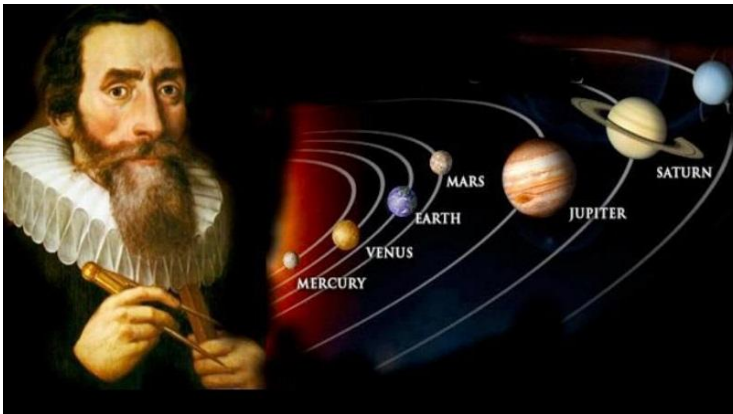
"The next day John seeth **Jesus** coming unto him, and saith, **Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world** ... that he should be made manifest to Israel ...

And John bare record, saying ... He that sent me ... said ... Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is **he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost**. And I saw, and bare record that this is the **Son of God**."



More recently, the timing of **Epiphany** being near the **Great Conjunction** of **Jupiter** and **Saturn** has added celestial drama.

Interest was heightened as over the **Winter Solstice**, December 21, 2020, the **two planets were closest** they had been in **800 years**, creating a combined bright light.



Astronomer Johannes Kepler, speculated that such a **conjunction** might possibly have been the **Star of Bethlehem** which

the gentile **Wise Men** saw.

Kepler wrote in 1614:

"This **star** is not of the ordinary run of comets or new stars ...

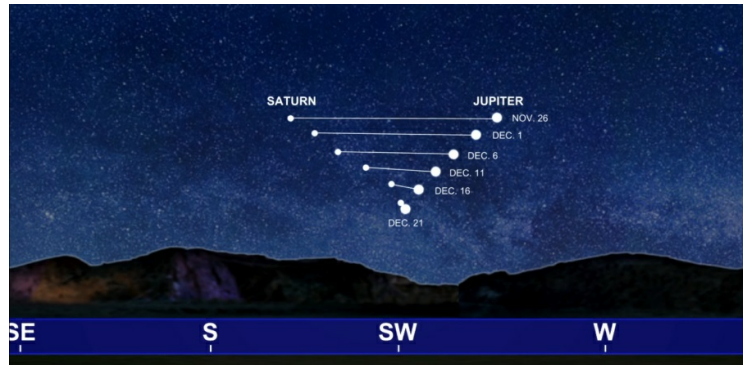
The **Magi** were of **Chaldea**, where was born astrology, of which this is a dictum: ***Great conjunctions of planets in cardinal points ... signify a universal change of affairs*** ...

Granted, then, that the **new star** of the **Magi** was first seen not only at the same time as **Saturn** and **Jupiter** were beheld each in the other's vicinity, namely June of BC 7, but also **in the same part of the sky as the planets** ...

What else could the **Chaldeans** conclude from their ... rules of their art, but that **some event of the greatest moment was imminent?** ...

Nor do I doubt but that **God** would have condescended to cater to the credulity of the **Chaldeans** (*Kepleri opera omnia*, IV p. 347.)

Similar **conjunctions** are also possible candidates for being the Christmas Star, specifically ones in **3-2 BC** between **Jupiter** and **Saturn**, **Venus**, or **Regulus**.



Jupiter is considered the **king planet**, with a mass **two and a half times greater** than all the other planets in the Solar System **combined**. Ancients associated it with the Supreme God.

Saturn has darker associations, leading some to speculate that the conjunction of **Jupiter's orbit** overtaking **Saturn's orbit** is symbolic of the kingdom of darkness being revealed but then being defeated by the appearance of the Kingdom of God.



Mark 10:45

“The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Epiphany is celebrated on **January 6th**, which in **Eastern Europe** was considered the **holiest day** of the season.

Western Europe, though, celebrated

December 25th, the birth of Christ, as **the holiest day** of the season.

As **Eastern** and **Western Europe** could not agree on which day was the holiest, it was decided at the **Council of Tours** in 567 AD, to make **all 12 days** from **DECEMBER 25 to JANUARY 6** "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

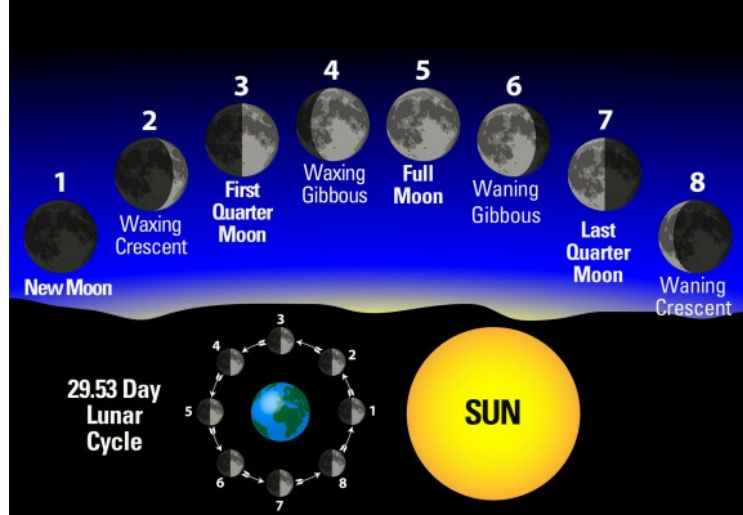


The days were called "**holy days**," which later came to be pronounced "**holidays**."

The **Council of Tours** also returned the beginning of the year back to **the ancient date of March 1st**.

Ancient peoples, for millennia, had used **calendars based on the moon**, whose

lunar cycles, incrementally shifted through the seasons, serving as an **enormous generational clock**.



Remnants of **March** being the **first month of the year** can be seen in the **old Roman Latin names of months: September, October, November, and December.**



- **"Sept"** is Latin for **seven**;
- **"Oct"** is Latin for **eight** (ie. octogon=eight sided);
- **"Nov"** is Latin for **nine**; and
- **"Dec"** is Latin for **ten** (ie. decimal=divisible by ten).

As the **Roman Empire** expanded and conquered more nations, these **lunar calendars** were difficult to reconcile with each other.

In 45 BC, Roman Emperor **Julius**



Caesar became, in a sense, the first globalist.

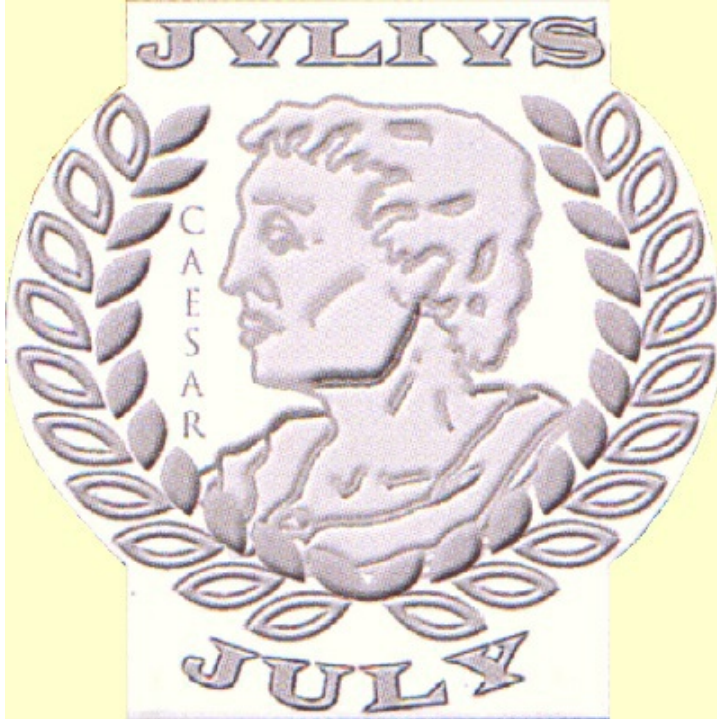
He wanted a **unified calendar** for the **entire Roman Empire**.

Caesar made **January 1st** the **beginning of the year**, leading some Christian leaders to consider it a **pagan date**.



Julius Caesar introduced the solar-based "**Julian Calendar**," with 365 days, and an **extra "leap day"** at the end of February **every 4th year**.

Rome's old fifth month, **Quintilis**,



was renamed after **Julius Caesar**, being called "**July.**"

As it only had 30 days, **Caesar** took a day from the old end of the year, **February**, and added it to **July**, giving the month **31 days.**



The next emperor, **Augustus Caesar**, renamed the old sixth month, **Sextilis**, after himself, calling it "**August.**"

He also took a day from the old end of the year, **February**, was added to **August**, giving that month **31 days**, and leaving **February with only 28 days.**

Augustus Caesar also wanted a **world-wide tracking system**

to **monitor** and **tax** everyone under his control -- an **empire-wide census.**

Luke 21:1-3 "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from **Caesar Augustus**, that **all the world should be taxed.** (And this taxing was first

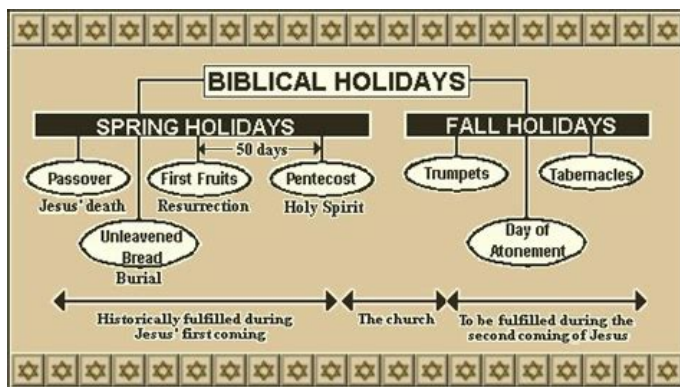
made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And **all went to be taxed, every one into his own city."**

For the first three centuries of Christianity, followers of Christ were persecuted throughout the Roman Empire in ten major persecutions.

Finally, **Emperor Constantine** ended the persecutions in 313 AD, and effectively made Christianity the recognized religion of the Empire.



Just as Julius Caesar unified the Roman Empire with the Julian Calendar, **Constantine** proposed at the **Council of Nicaea** in 325 AD to use the calendar to help **unify the "Christian" Roman Empire.**



The most important events in the Christian calendar were **Christ's Death, Burial and Resurrection.**

Christ's crucifixion as the **Passover Lamb** occurred on the **Jewish Feast of Passover**; His being **in the grave** occurred on the **Feast of Unleavened Bread**; and his **Resurrection** occurred on the **Feast of First Fruits**, or as it was later called, **Easter.**

The **Apostle Paul**

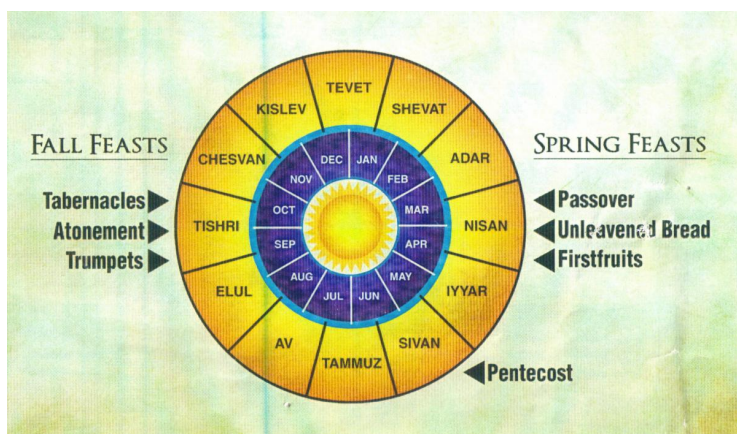
wrote in First
Corinthians 5:7-8

"For even **Christ**
our Passover is
sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us
keep the feast,
not with **old**
leaven, neither
with the **leaven** of malice and wickedness; but with the
unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."



First Corinthians 15:20 "But now is **Christ** risen from the
dead, and become the **firstfruits** of them that slept."

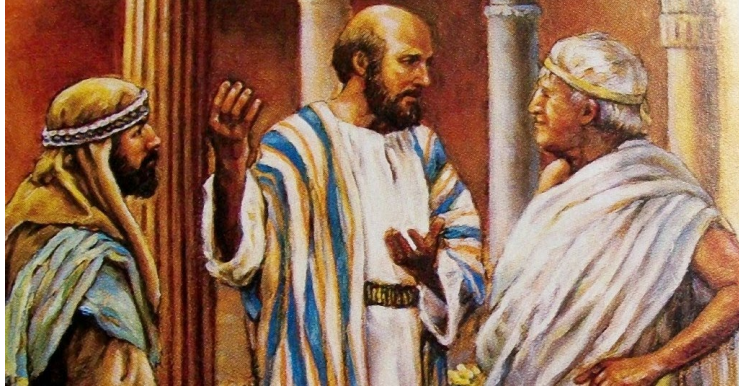


Constantine
wanted a
common date to
celebrate Easter,
and insisted the
date be on a
Sunday in the
Roman solar
calendar.

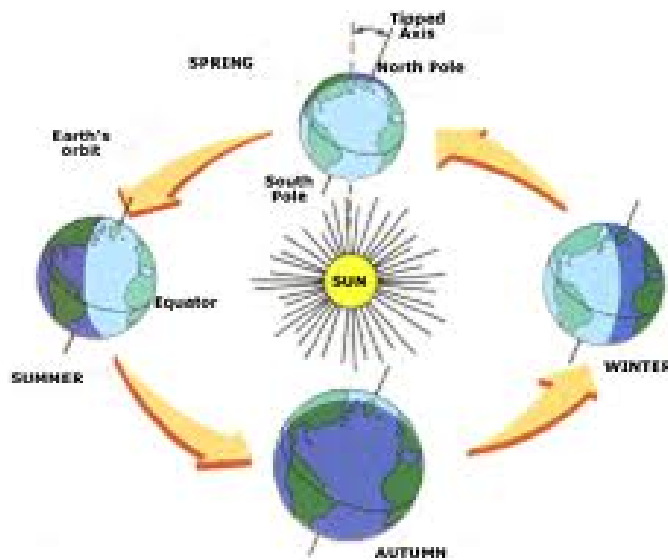
This effectively ended the original method of determining
the date, which was by asking **Jewish rabbis** each year
when the **Passover Feast** was to be observed based on
the **Hebrew lunar calendar** - traditionally beginning **the**
evening of 14th day of Nissan.

Constantine's act
was a defining
moment in the split
between what had
been a
predominately
Jewish Christian

Church -- as Jesus and his disciples were Jewish -- and the **emerging Gentile Christian Church**.



The new method of determining the date of **Easter** was the **first Sunday after the first paschal full moon falling on or after the Spring Equinox**.



Tables were compiled with the **future dates of Easter**, but over time a slight **discrepancy** became evident.

"Equinox" is a solar calendar term: **"equi"** = **"equal"** and

"nox" = **"night."** Thus **"equinox"** is when the **daytime and nighttime** are of **equal duration**.

It occurs once in the **Spring** around March 20 and once in the **Autumn** around September 22.

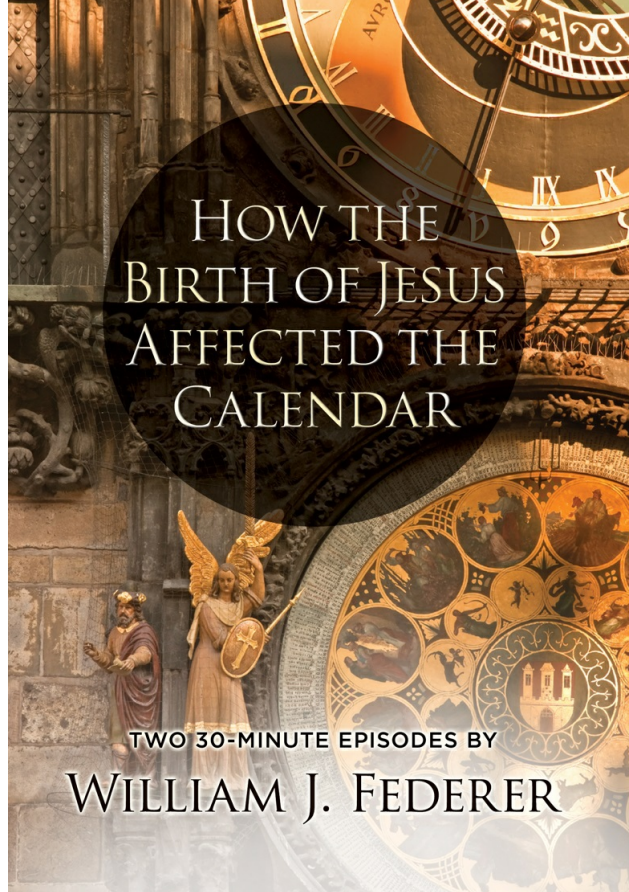
In the year 325 AD, Easter was on March 21.

During the Middle Ages, France celebrated its **New Year Day on Easter**.

Other countries began their New Year on Christmas, December 25, and still others on Annunciation Day, March 25.

[How the Birth of Jesus](#)

[affected the Calendar](#)
(DVD)



By 1582, it became clear that the **Julian Calendar** was slightly inaccurate, by about **11 minutes per year**, resulting in the **compiled tables**

having the date of **Easter ten days ahead of the Spring Equinox**, and even further from its origins in the **Jewish Passover**.

In 1582, **Pope Gregory XIII** decided to **revise the calendar** by **eliminating ten days**.

He set a **leap year every 4th year**

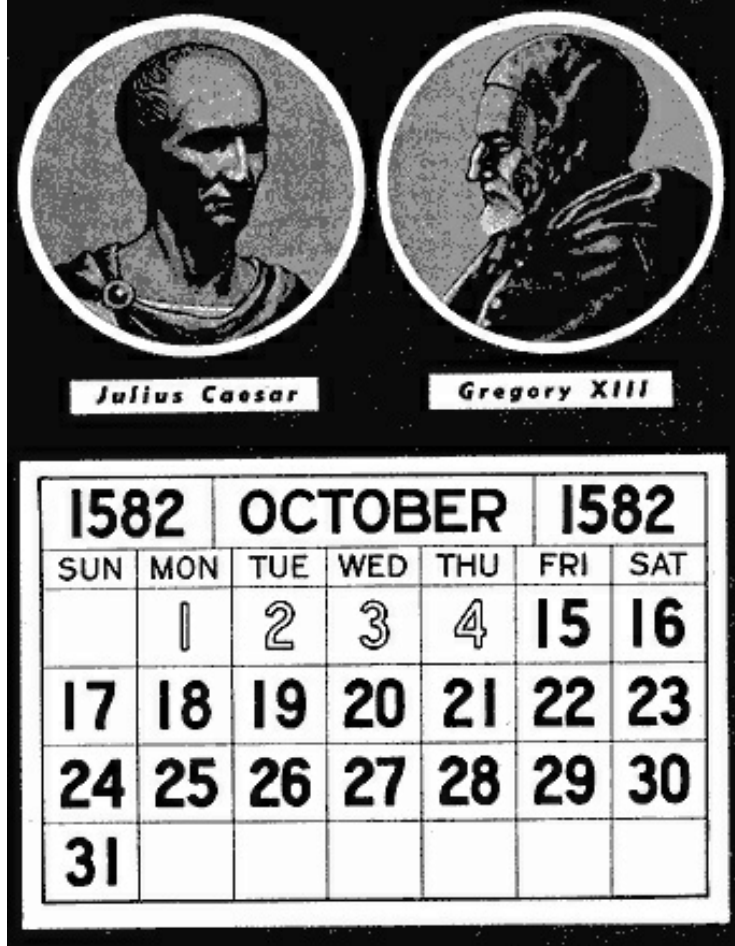
with a minor adjustment.

There is **NO** leap year in years divisible by 100, but not by 400.

Thus, there is **NO** leap days in 1700, 1800, 1900, 2100.

Yet there **ARE** leap days in the years 1600, 2000, 2400.

It sounds complicated, but it is so accurate that the **Gregorian Calendar** is the most internationally used calendar today.



Pope Gregory's "Gregorian Calendar" also returned the beginning of the new year **BACK** to Julius Caesar's January 1st date.

As England was an **Anglican Protestant country**, it reluctantly postponed adopting the more accurate **Catholic Gregorian Calendar**.

Most of

Protestant Europe did not adopt the **Gregorian Calendar** for nearly **two centuries**.



This gave rise to some interesting record keeping.

For example: **ships** would leave **Protestant England** on one date according to the **Julian Calendar**, called "**Old Style**" and arrive in **Catholic Europe** at an **earlier date**, as much of **Europe** was using the **Gregorian Calendar**, called "**New Style**."



Miguel de Cervantes
Nacimiento: 29-09-1547
Lugar: Alcalá de Henares



William Shakespeare
Nacimiento: 23-04-1564
Lugar: Stratford-on-Avon

Another example is that **England's William Shakespeare** and **Spain's Miguel de Cervantes**, author of *Don Quixote of La Mancha*.

They died on the same date, April 23, 1616, but when the differences between **England's Julian Calendar** and **Spain's Gregorian Calendar** are removed, **Cervantes** actually died **ten days before Shakespeare**.

In 1752, **England** and **its colonies** finally **adopted** the **Gregorian Calendar**, but by that time there was an **11 day discrepancy** between the "**Old Style**" (OS) and the "**New Style**" (NS).



When America finally adjusted its calendar, the **day after September 2, 1752 (Old Style), became September 14, 1752 (New Style).**

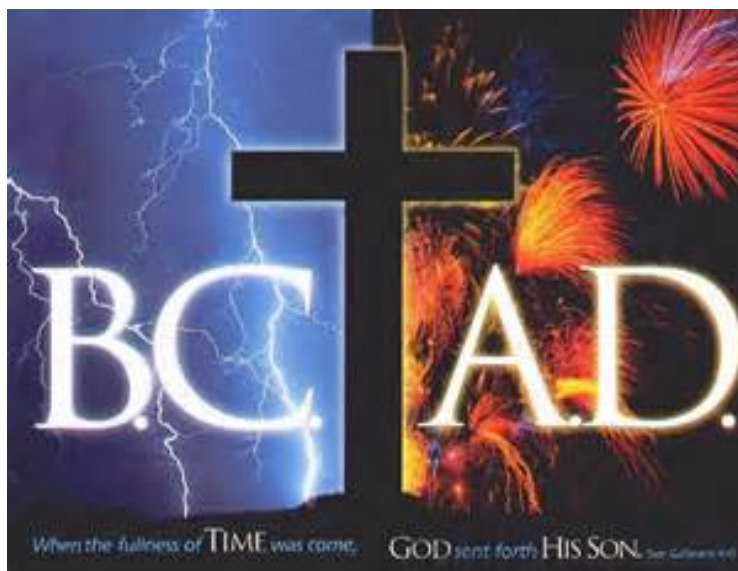
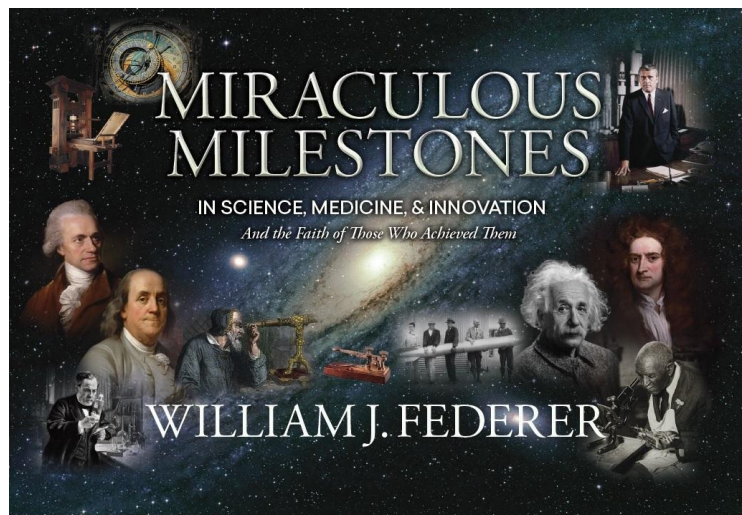
There were reportedly accounts of confusion and rioting.



As countries of **Western Europe, Portuguese, Spanish, French, Dutch and English,** began to trade and

establish colonies around the world, the **Gregorian Calendar** came into **international** use around the globe.

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All dates in the world are either **BC "Before Christ" or AD "Anno Domini" -- meaning in the Year of the Lord's Reign.**

In the late 19th century and early 20th centuries, secularists in academia popularized the

use of **BCE** - "**Before Common Era**" and **CE** "**Common Era**."

The futile nature of their effort is displayed with the question: When did the recording of time change from **Before Common Era** to **Common Era**? The answer is, the birth of **Christ**.

In their attempt to ignore **Christ** they are, nonetheless, forced to acknowledge Him.



England's **Henry VIII** made the **Anglican Church** the country's **established denomination** in 1534.

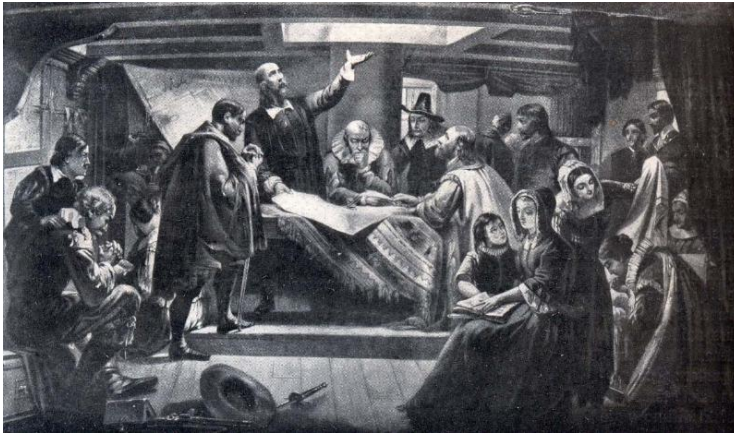
As in other nations, the government proceeded to **impose state-approved beliefs**, demanding uniformity of doctrine and services, thus restricting the freedoms of conscience, speech, and expression.

During this time, Christian dissenters, nonconformists, separatists, such as Puritans, Presbyterians, Quakers, Anabaptists, and Catholics, **fled** from England to



other European countries, or to the colonies in **America**.

Jews were expelled from **England** in 1290 by **Edward I** and not allowed back in till **Oliver Cromwell** in 1657.



Dissenters who remained in **England** practiced their faith in secret, sometimes suffering the intolerance judges in court, open

government persecution, and even martyrdom.

In 1625, a type of **Sunday school catechism song** came into use to teach children Christian doctrine, titled "**In Those Twelve Days,**" where a spiritual meaning was assigned to each day.



IN THOSE TWELVE DAYS (1625)

Chorus:

In those **twelve days**,
and
in those **twelve days**,
let us be glad,

For God of his power
hath all things made.

1. What is that which is
but **one**?

What is that which is
but **one**?

**We have but one God
alone**

**In Heaven above sits
on his throne.** Chorus



2. What are they which
are but **two**?

What are they which
are but **two**?

**Two Testaments, as
we are told,**

**The one is New and
the other Old.** Chorus

3. What are they that are but **three**?

What are they that are but **three**?

Three persons in the Trinity,

The Father, Son, and Ghost Holy. Chorus

4. What are they that are but **four**?

What are they that are but **four**?

Four Gospels written true,

John, Luke, Mark, and Matthew. Chorus

5. What are they that are but **five**?

What are they that are but **five**?

Five senses we have to tell,

God grant us grace to use them well. Chorus

6. What are they that are but **six**?

What are they that are but **six**?

Six ages this world shall last,

Five of them are gone and past. Chorus

7. What are they that are but **seven?**

What are they that are but **seven?**

Seven days in the week have we,

Six to work and the seventh holy. Chorus

8. What are they that are but **eight?**

What are they that are but **eight?**

Eight beatitudes are given,

Use them well and go to Heaven. Chorus

9. What are they that are but **nine?**

What are they that are but **nine?**

Nine degrees of Angels high

Which praise God continually. Chorus

10. What are they that are but **ten?**

What are they that are but **ten?**

Ten Commandments God hath given,

Keep them right and go to Heaven. Chorus

11. What are they that are but **eleven?**

What are they that are but **eleven?**

Eleven thousand virgins did partake

And suffered death for Jesus' sake. Chorus

12. What are they that are but **twelve?**

What are they that are but **twelve?**

Twelve Apostles Christ did chuse

To preach the Gospel to the Jews. Chorus

Though it cannot
be proven, the
song, "**In Those
Twelve Days,**"
may have been a
precursor to the
English folk song,

"The Twelve Days of Christmas," first printed in London in 1780, in the children's book, *Mirth without Mischief*.



An explanation of the song's possible meanings are:

My True Love = **God Himself**

1. Partridge = **Jesus Christ** (A partridge will feign injury to decoy predators from helpless nestlings - "He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities." Isaiah 53:5)

Pear Tree = **Cross**

2. Turtle Doves = **Old & New Testaments**

3. French Hens = **Faith, Hope & Love**

4. Calling Birds = **Four Gospels**

5. Golden Rings = **Pentateuch-First 5 Books of Bible**

6. Geese A-Laying = **Six Days of Creation**

7. Swans a-Swimming = **Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

8, Maids A-Milking = **Eight Beatitudes**

9. Ladies Dancing = **Nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit**

10. Lords A-Leaping = **Ten Commandments**

11. Pipers Piping = **Eleven Faithful Apostles**

12. Drummers = **Twelve Points in Apostles Creed**

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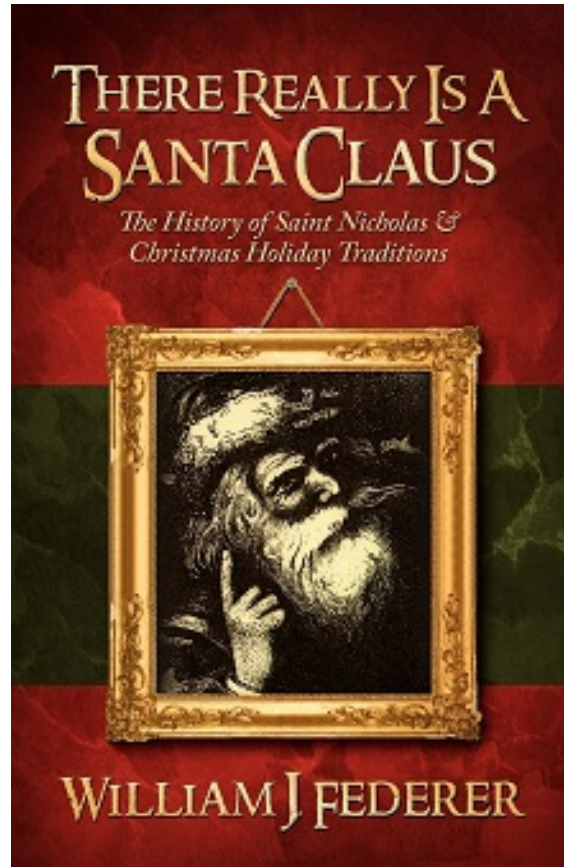
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