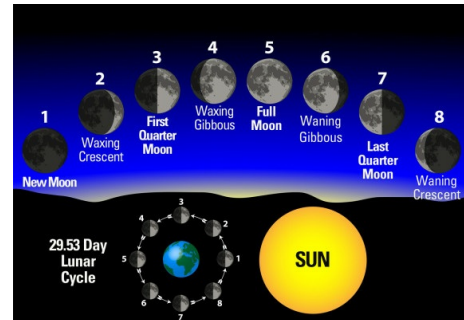


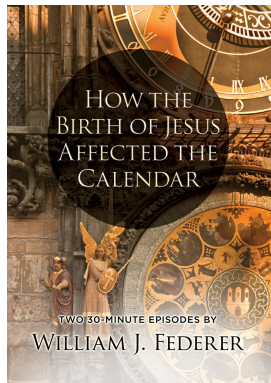
American Minute with Bill Federer Leap Day History

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Ancient peoples, for millennia, had used **calendars based on the moon**, whose **lunar cycles** incrementally shifted through the seasons.



These **shifting seasons** served as an **enormous generational clock**.



[How the Birth of Jesus affected the Calendar \(DVD\)](#)

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



Julius Caesar, who was in a sense the **first globalist**, replaced the many lunar calendars with **one new unified solar calendar**.

Based on the **sun**, it had **365 days** and a "leap"

day every 4th year on **February 29th.**

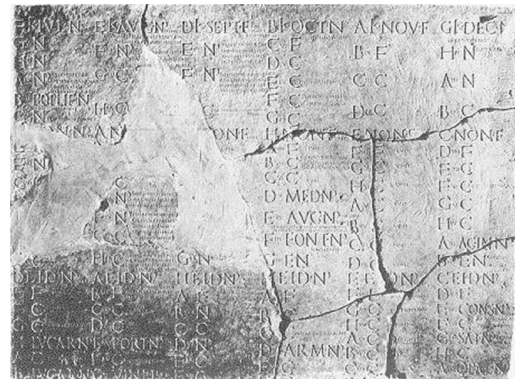
Instituted in 45 BC, this was called the "**Julian Calendar.**"

Caesar also made **January** the first month of the year.



Previously, **March** had been the **first month.**

Remnants of **March** being the **first month** is still seen in the **old Roman Latin names** of the months: **September, October, November, 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).

Rome's old fifth month, **Quintilis**, was renamed after **Julius Caesar**, being called "**July.**"



As it only had 30 days, **Julius 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**, and added it to **August**, giving that month **31 days**, and leaving **February** with only **28 days**.

Augustus Caesar also had his version of government tracking by conducting an **empire-wide census** to track everyone under his control.



The **Roman Empire** persecuted Christians for three centuries in ten major persecutions until **Emperor Constantine**.



Just as **Julius Caesar** unified the **Roman Empire** with the **Julian Calendar**, **Constantine** decided to have a **unified date** to **celebrate Easter-Christ's Resurrection** throughout the **Christian Roman Empire**.

The most important event in the **Christian calendar** was **Christ's crucifixion** as the **Passover Lamb** on the **Jewish Feast of Passover**, His being in the **grave** on the **Feast of Unleavened Bread**, and his **Resurrection**

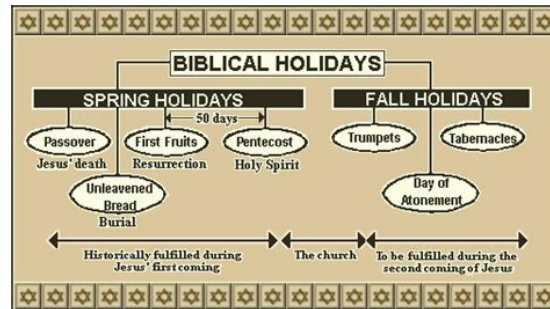


of the **Feast of First Fruits**, or as it was later called, **Easter**.

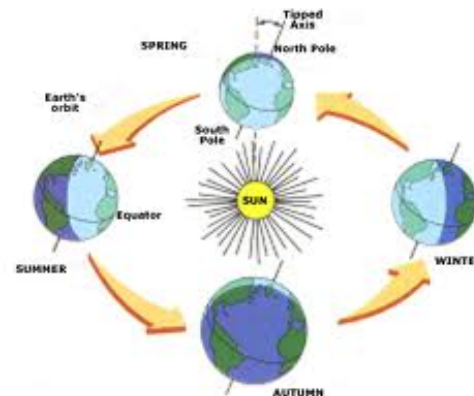
The Apostle Paul wrote in First Corinthians 5:7 "For even **Christ** our **Passover** is sacrificed for us."

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

At the **Council of Nicaea** in 325 AD, **Constantine** insisted that **Easter** be on a **Sunday** in the **Roman solar calendar**.



This 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**.



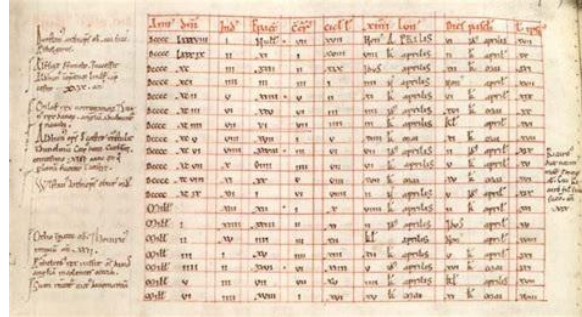
Prior to **Constantine**, Christians would ask Jews each year when the Passover Feast would be celebrated, which according to their lunar calendar began on **the evening of 14th day of Nissan**.

Constantine's new formula set the date of **Easter** as the **first Sunday** after the **first paschal full moon** falling on or after the **Spring Equinox**.

"**Equinox**" is a solar calendar term:

"equi" = "equal" and
"nox" = "night."

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



The image shows a page from an ancient manuscript, likely a computus table, which is a type of calendar used to determine the date of Easter. The page is filled with columns of text and numbers, including the names of months and the days of the week. The text is written in a medieval script, and the page is aged and yellowed.

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**.

Tables were compiled with the **future dates of**
Easter.

In 526, during the reign of
Christian **Emperor**
Justinian, the **scholarly**
monk Dionysius Exigus
thought it inappropriate
that dates were still being
recorded in relation to the
reign of anti-Christian
tyrant Emperor Diocletian - "**anno Diocletiani.**"

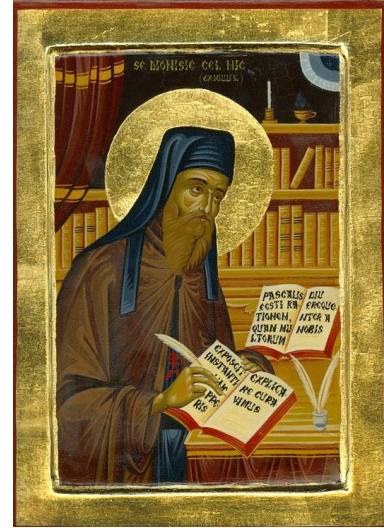


Dionysius Exigus began making
notations marking down dates in
relation to the birth of Jesus -
"**anno Domini,**" which in Latin
means "**in the year of the**
Lord's reign."

Gradually, this method of

recording all dates in relation to **Christ's birth** became the most accepted dating system in the world.

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



In the late 19th century, secularists in academia popularized the use of **BCE - "Before Common Era"** and **CE "Common Era."**

The pointless nature of this is displayed in the question: When did the recording of time change from **Before Common Era** to **Common Era**?

The answer is, the birth of **Christ**.

In the attempt to ignore **Christ**, he is nonetheless acknowledged.

In 567 AD, the **Council of Tours** returned the first month of the year **back to March**, as the **January 1st** date was associated with **pagan Rome**.



The **Council of Tours** also settled another controversy between the **Eastern** and **Western Roman Empires**.

The **East** celebrated **Epiphany, January 6**, as the **holiest day**, while the **West** celebrated **December 25**, so the decision was made to make **all 12 days** between them **"The Twelve Days of Christmas."**

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



Differing dates for Easter was a major conflict between the Bishops of the **Celtic Christian**



tradition and **Roman Catholic tradition**, as Saint Patrick confronted the Druid chieftain King Loigaire (Leary) on the **night before Easter**, c.433 AD, resulting in a large number of Irish converting.

Finally, at the **Synod of Whitby Abbey** in 664 AD, **King Oswy of Northumbria** agreed to have the **Celtic Church** come under the authority of the **Roman Catholic Church**.

The tables of when to celebrate Easter according to the Julian Calendar had a slight

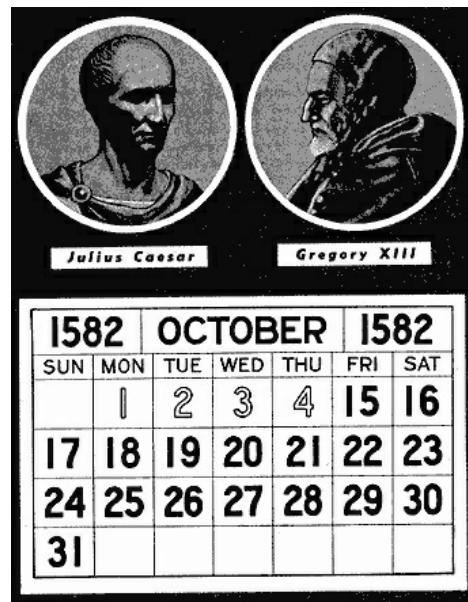
discrepancy.

By 1582, it became clear that the **Julian Calendar** was off 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**.

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** unless they are also **divisible by 400**.

Therefore, there **IS** a **leap day** in the years 1600, 2000, 2400, but there is **NO leap day** in the years 1700, 1800, 1900, 2100.

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.

Catholic countries quickly adopted the **Gregorian Calendar**, but **Protestant** countries did not for nearly two centuries.

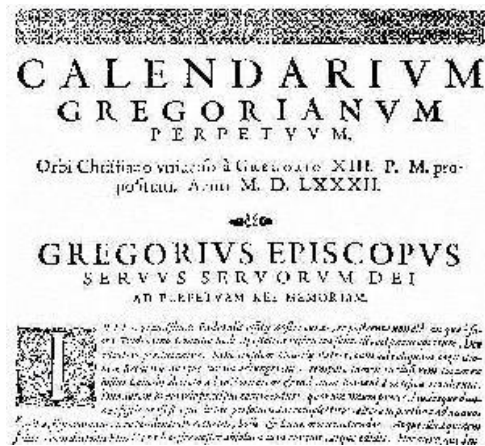


As **England** was an **Anglican Protestant country**, it was reluctant to adopting the more accurate **Catholic Gregorian Calendar**.



This gave rise to some interesting record keeping.

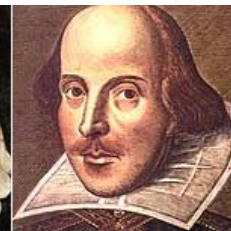
For example: **ships** would leave **Protestant England** on one date according to the **Julian Calendar**, called "**Old Style**" and arrive in **Catholic Europe** at an **earlier date**, as much of **Europe** was using the **Gregorian Calendar**, called "**New Style**."



Another example is that **England's William Shakespeare** and **Spain's Miguel de Cervantes**, author of *Don Quixote of La Mancha*, died on the same date, April 23, 1616.



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



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

But when the differences between **England's Julian Calendar** and **Spain's Gregorian Calendar** are removed, **Cervantes** actually died **ten days**

before Shakespeare.

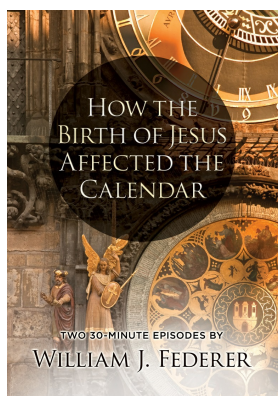
In 1752, **England and its colonies** finally adopted the **Gregorian Calendar**, but by that time there was an **11 day discrepancy** between the **"Old Style" (OS)** and the **"New Style" (NS)**.



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, particularly Portuguese, Spanish, French, Dutch and English**, began to trade and establish colonies around the world, the **Gregorian Calendar** came into **international** use.



[How the Birth of Jesus affected the Calendar \(DVD\)](#)

Another interesting event

occurred on this day during **Christopher Columbus'** last voyage.



Driven by storms around the Caribbean Sea, two of **Columbus'** ships were abandoned and the remaining two were worm-eaten and sinking.

Columbus was shipwrecked on Jamaica.

Indians brought food for a while, but then threatened to become hostile.



Columbus, using his skill as a navigator, predicted that a **lunar eclipse** would take place on **February 29, 1504**.

He called the Indian Chiefs to his marooned ship and told them if they did not stay on good terms, he would pray that God would blot out the moon.



When the eclipse began, the Indians shrieked and quickly made peace with **Columbus**.

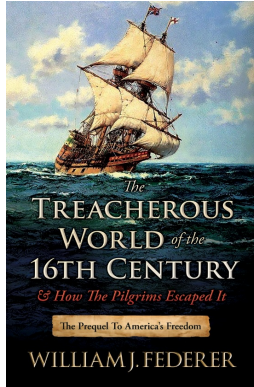
Columbus later wrote:

"My hope in the One who created us all sustains me: He is an ever-present help in trouble."

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