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January 2015

Shalom one and all!!

In case you are not aware, this year, New Years begins on the 10th of Tevet of the Biblical calendar! What you may ask is the big deal about the 10th of Tevet and New Years?

Well, Tevet is the 10th month and something very significant happened on the 10th day of the 10th month. So much so that God told Ezekiel to write the name of this day down that no one would ever forget! Well let's look at what the Lord thinks of this day:

Ez 24:1,2 Again in the ninth year, in the **tenth month**, in the **tenth day** of the month, the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, *write thee the name of the day, even of this same day*: the king of Babylon set himself against Jerusalem this same day.

Here is another verse talking about the importance of this day: 2Kgs 25:1 And it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the **tenth month**, in the **tenth day** of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, he, and all his host, against Jerusalem, and pitched against it; and they built forts against it round about.

Wow, this year starts on the very day Nebuchadnezzar surrounded Jerusalem. Look at a very special Biblical prophecy that has not been fulfilled yet: Zec 8:18,19 And the word of the LORD of hosts came unto me, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; The **fast** of the **fourth month**, and the **fast** of the **fifth**, and the **fast** of the **seventh**, and the **fast** of the **tenth**, shall be to the house of Judah joy and gladness, and cheerful feasts; therefore love the truth and peace.

First off, all these fast days mentioned have to do with the destruction of the temple around 586BC by Nebuchadnezzar:

It was the 10th of Tevet that the walls were surrounded. The fast of the 4th month is the 17th of Tammuz. This was the time when the walls were broken through. The fast of the 5th month is 9th of Av the day the Temple destroyed. The fast of the 7th month is the 3rd of Tishri which recognizes when Gedaliah, the governor Nebuchadnezzar put in charge, was killed.

So, some year, prophetically something will happen that will turn these days from being fast days now for over 2,500 years to days of great joy to Israel. What could possibly happen to have such phenomenal historical significance? So every year when we see these

days coming we watch what might happen. My point is we need to be on God's calendar! To begin this year on one of these days is a great reminder to be aware and watching on God's prophetic calendar. You can get our 2015 Biblical calendar [here](#).

The other idea I wonder about is that is God trying to tell us that this year could be a very important year in Israel's history? Time will tell. We need to keep Israel in our prayers this year. Did you know in many countries New Years Day is called Sylvester? Ever wonder why that is and why Israel as a nation does not celebrate it?

Concerning New Years day, here is what I came across via an email and research online concerning Israel and this day in history;

New Years, most commonly known as Sylvester, is named after an anti-Semitic pope. Not exactly what you'd expect in a Jewish state.

It's origins come from Pope Sylvester, whose saint's day falls on December 31st, what is now known as New Years Eve. He served as pope from 314-335 CE, and while very little is known about his actual life, it is known that he oversaw both the First Council of Nicea as well as the Roman Emperor Constantine's conversion to Christianity.

Pope Sylvester convinced Constantine to prohibit Jews from living in Jerusalem, the year before the Council of Nicea convened, and during the council, the Pope arranged for the passing of various anti-Semitic legislation. Some say he is one of the most anti-Semitic Popes of all time.

At the Council of Nicaea, Pope Sylvester arranged for the passage of a host of viciously anti-Semitic legislation. All Catholic "Saints" are awarded a day on which Christians celebrate and pay tribute to that Saint's memory. December 31 is Saint Sylvester Day - hence celebrations on the night of December 31 are dedicated to Sylvester's memory.

Why?

Pope Sylvester I died on December 31, 335. He was Pope from January 31, 314 to his death in 335.



He succeeded Pope Miltiades.

The **Saint Silvester Road Race** (official name in Portuguese: Corrida Internacional de São Silvestre) is a long-distance running event, the oldest and most prestigious street race in Brazil. Regarded as the main international event in Latin American athletics, the Brazilian competition is held yearly in the city of São Paulo on December 31. This day is Saint Silvester's Day, as it is the day in which the Catholic saint, who was a Pope, died in the 4th century of the Christian Era.

Numerous other European countries, such as Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovakia, Switzerland, and Slovenia, refer to New Years as Sylvester. But why Israel?

The tradition of Sylvester came to Israel along with the mass wave of European immigration around the time that Israel became a state. Of course, the Jewish calendar already had a "New Years," Rosh Hashanah, so there is not much need for a secular replacement. So the name "Sylvester" stuck.

On New Years Day 1577 Pope Gregory XIII decreed that all Roman Jews, under pain of death, must listen attentively to the compulsory Catholic conversion sermon given in Roman synagogues after Friday night services. On New Years Day 1578 Gregory signed into law a tax forcing Jews to pay for the support of a "House of Conversion" to convert Jews to Christianity. On New Years 1581 Gregory ordered his troops to confiscate all sacred literature from the Roman Jewish community. Thousands of Jews were murdered in the campaign.

In 46 B.C.E. the Roman emperor Julius Caesar first established January 1 as New Year's day. Janus was the Roman god of doors and gates, and had two faces, one looking forward and one back. Caesar felt that the month named after this god ("January") would be the appropriate "door" to the year. Caesar celebrated the first January 1 New Year by ordering the violent routing of revolutionary Jewish forces in the Galilee. Eyewitnesses say blood flowed in the streets. In later years, Roman pagans observed the New Year by engaging in drunken orgies—a ritual they believed constituted a personal re-enacting of the chaotic world that existed before the cosmos was ordered by the gods.

The Chief Rabbinate of Israel has declared that there can be no New Year's celebration in the Land of Israel. The Rabbinate's requirements state explicitly that "placing references to Gentile holidays at the end of the secular year is not allowed." That means no New Year's Eve for many Israelis.

Punishment for Celebrating New Year's Eve

This week the Chief Rabbinate published notices warning that any Israeli establishment holding a New Year's Eve Party would be punished by the religious authorities. Although the Rabbinate does not have legal authority to prevent anyone from celebrating the New Year, they are able to impose their will on large portions of the Jewish population due to their control over Kosher certification. "Any hotel or restaurant offering a New Years Eve celebration will have their Kosher certificate revoked," warned the Chief Rabbinate of Israel. Similar warnings were issued to establishments not to display Christmas trees or put up New Year's decorations.

So be careful in your wishing a "Happy New Year" to your Jewish friends. Having the 10th of Tevet fall on this day, a horrible day in Jewish history adds to the angst. [Let's get on God's calendar!](#)

Blessings!
Pastor Mark

Announcement!

We have removed some things from the newsletter. Our Recommended products and emails with special announcements on other products that get sent out every once in a while have moved to a separate mailing list. If you wish to get this information you will need to sign up for that list on our website.

We have also started a separate mailing list for other special announcements like special guest appearances and upcoming events. If you wish to get this information emailed to you, you will need to sign up for that list on our website.

[Click Here](#) to sign up on these lists.

A friendly reminder...

For our U.S. contributors, your charitable contributions must be postmarked by December 31, 2014 to be eligible for deduction on your 2014 tax return. If it is postmarked after January 1, 2015, it will apply to your 2015 Individual Contribution Statement.

Thank you for your support to El Shaddai Ministries
Taking Torah To the Nations!

Recipes

This month's newsletter has special Superbowl recipes. We hope you enjoy these recipes. We know there a little early for the Superbowl, but we wanted to give you time to prepare. :)

Simply Turkey Chili

Recipe by Amanda Ingraham

PREP 15 mins
COOK 45 mins
READY IN 1 hr

Ingredients:
Original recipe makes 8 servings

- 1 1/2 teaspoons olive oil
- 1 pound ground turkey
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cups water
- 1 (28 ounce) can canned crushed tomatoes



- 1 (16 ounce) can canned kidney beans - drained, rinsed, and mashed
- 1 tablespoon garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper

Directions:

1. Heat the oil in a large pot over medium heat. Place turkey in the pot, and cook until evenly brown. Stir in onion, and cook until tender.
2. Pour water into the pot. Mix in tomatoes, kidney beans, and garlic. Season chili powder, paprika, oregano, cayenne pepper, cumin, salt, and pepper. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer 30 minutes.

[Find it here](#)

Japanese Chicken Wings

Recipe by TLTRN

PREP 15 mins
COOK 45 mins
READY IN 1 hr



Ingredients:
Original recipe makes 6 servings

- 3 pounds chicken wings
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1 cup all-purpose flour for coating
- 1 cup butter

SAUCE

- 3 tablespoons soy sauce
- 3 tablespoons water
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup white vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder, or to taste
- 1 teaspoon salt

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. Cut wings in half, dip in egg and coat with flour.
3. Heat butter in a large, deep skillet over medium-high heat. Fry

- wings until deep brown. Place in a shallow roasting pan.
4. In a small bowl combine soy sauce, water, sugar, vinegar, garlic powder and salt. Pour over wings.
 5. Bake in preheated oven for 30 to 45 minutes, basting wings with sauce often.

[Find it Here](#)

Artichoke & Spinach Dip Restaurant Style

Recipe by TERRAD

PREP 15 mins
COOK 30 mins
READY IN 1 hr 15 mins



Ingredients:

Original recipe makes 12 servings

- 4 cloves garlic
- 1 (10 ounce) package frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained
- 1 (14 ounce) can artichoke hearts, drained and chopped
- 1 (10 ounce) container Alfredo-style pasta sauce
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. Place garlic in a small baking dish. Bake in the preheated oven 20 to 30 minutes, until soft. Remove from heat. When cool enough to touch, squeeze softened garlic from skins.
3. In an 8x8 inch baking dish, spread the roasted garlic, spinach, artichoke hearts, Alfredo-style pasta sauce, mozzarella cheese, Parmesan cheese, and cream cheese.
4. Bake in the preheated oven 30 minutes, or until cheeses are melted and bubbly. Serve warm.

[Find it Here](#)

Mouth-Watering Stuffed Mushrooms

Recipe by Angie Gorkoff



PREP 25 mins
COOK 20 mins
READY IN 45 mins

Ingredients:

Original recipe makes 12 large mushrooms

- 12 whole fresh mushrooms
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Spray a baking sheet with cooking spray. Clean mushrooms with a damp paper towel. Carefully break off stems. Chop stems extremely fine, discarding tough end of stems.
2. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add garlic and chopped mushroom stems to the skillet. Fry until any moisture has disappeared, taking care not to burn garlic. Set aside to cool.
3. When garlic and mushroom mixture is no longer hot, stir in cream cheese, Parmesan cheese, black pepper, onion powder and cayenne pepper. Mixture should be very thick. Using a little spoon, fill each mushroom cap with a generous amount of stuffing. Arrange the mushroom caps on prepared cookie sheet.
4. Bake for 20 minutes in the preheated oven, or until the mushrooms are piping hot and liquid starts to form under caps.

[Find it Here](#)

Annie's Fruit Salsa and Cinnamon Chips

Recipe by Ann Page

PREP 15 mins
COOK 10 mins
READY IN 45 mins



Ingredients:

Original recipe makes 10 servings

- 2 kiwis, peeled and diced
- 2 Golden Delicious apples - peeled, cored and diced
- 8 ounces raspberries
- 1 pound strawberries
- 2 tablespoons white sugar
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons fruit preserves, any flavor

- 10 (10 inch) flour tortillas
- butter flavored cooking spray
- 2 tablespoons cinnamon sugar

Directions:

1. In a large bowl, thoroughly mix kiwis, Golden Delicious apples, raspberries, strawberries, white sugar, brown sugar and fruit preserves. Cover and chill in the refrigerator at least 15 minutes.
2. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
3. Coat one side of each flour tortilla with butter flavored cooking spray. Cut into wedges and arrange in a single layer on a large baking sheet. Sprinkle wedges with desired amount of cinnamon sugar. Spray again with cooking spray.
4. Bake in the preheated oven 8 to 10 minutes. Repeat with any remaining tortilla wedges. Allow to cool approximately 15 minutes. Serve with chilled fruit mixture.

[Find it Here](#)

Best Brownies

Recipe by Angie

PREP 25 mins
COOK 35 mins
READY IN 1 hr



Ingredients:

Original recipe makes 16 brownies

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder

Frosting:

- 3 tablespoons butter, softened
- 3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease and flour an 8-inch square pan.
2. In a large saucepan, melt 1/2 cup butter. Remove from heat, and stir in sugar, eggs, and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Beat in 1/3 cup cocoa, 1/2 cup flour, salt, and baking powder. Spread batter into prepared pan.
3. Bake in preheated oven for 25 to 30 minutes. Do not overcook.
4. To Make Frosting: Combine 3 tablespoons softened butter, 3 tablespoons cocoa, honey, 1 teaspoon vanilla extract, and 1 cup confectioners' sugar. Stir until smooth. Frost brownies while they are still warm.

[Find it Here](#)

This Month in Jewish History

Tevet-Shevat

[10 Tevet]

- Asara B'Tevet, one of the four commemorative fasts mentioned by Zecharia HaNavi.
- Beginning of the siege around Jerusalem, 588 b.c.e.
- Yirmiyahu bought a field and prophesied that we will once again buy homes and land in Eretz Yisrael, 587 b.c.e.
- Yahrzeits of Zecharia and Malachi.
- King Herod captured Jerusalem, 37 b.c.e.
- 3,000 Jews killed in Bucharest riots, 1941.
- Memorial day for the six million Jews killed by the Nazis.

[11 Tevet]

- 100,000 Jews of Sicily expelled, 1492.

[12 Tevet]

- Yechezkial prophesied the downfall of Egypt and the triumph of Bavel, 587 b.c.e.
- A violent earthquake rocked Eretz Yisrael seriously damaging the walls of Jerusalem and Tower of David, 1033.
- Another Mordechai and Esther (of Medzibezh) saved the Jews from Chmielnicki's army, 1648.

[13 Tevet]

- First issue of the Hebrew printing press of Amsterdam (the Siddur), 1627.
- Rumanian Jews were excluded from the medical profession, 1868.

[14 Tevet]

- Jews of Laibach, Austria expelled, 1515.
- Window Purim. celebrated by the S'fardic community of Hebron.
- Population of Israel reached three million, 1971.

[15 Tevet]

- First printed edition of Sefer Mitzvot Gadol, Soncino, Italy, 1488.

[16 Tevet]

- Emperor Joseph II of Austria issued an Edict of Toleration in 1782 which repealed most restrictions on Jews that had been imposed by the Church.

[17 Tevet]

- The organization of the Jewish community of Rome was approved by the pope, 1524.
- Frederick William of Brandenburg issued a decree safeguarding the privileges of the Jews of Berlin, 1676.
- The yahrzeit of the Dubno Maggid, 1804.

[18 Tevet]

- Rabbi Huna Mori bar Mar Zutra, the head of Babylonian Jewry, and Mesharshya b. Pekuda were executed in Pumpedita, 468 c.e.
- Two ships with "illegal" immigrants were taken by the British to Cyprus, 1947.
- Two years later - to the day - the British announced their intention to release the Cyprus internees.

[19 Tevet]

- The Catholic Church in Recife, Brazil closed the two shuls then in existence there, 1638.

[20 Tevet]

- 795th yahrzeit of the Rambam (1204). On his 279th yahrzeit in 1483, the first printed edition of Gemara Brachot was published in Soncino, Italy. It contained Rambam's commentary on Mishna.
- The Jewish community of Ancona, Italy miraculously escaped unharmed from an earthquake, 1690. They declared a fast day in commemoration.
- The Nazis prohibited Jews from congregating in shuls and private homes for prayer, 1940. So too, did they forbid Jews from changing residences - this, a precursor of the ghettos.

[21 Tevet]

- Birthday of Shimon, son of Yaakov Avinu.
- Purim Ancona, followed the fast day mentioned above, for the 20 Tevet.

[22 Tevet]

- Anti-Jewish riots in Ancona, Italy, 1798 (day after the "local" Purim which had been celebrated since 1691).
- Roman mobs attempted to set fire to the ghetto and to sack it, 1798.

[23 Tevet]

- A fire which started in the home of the rabbi of Frankfort-on-the-Main nearly destroyed the whole Jewish ghetto, 1711.
- Yahrzeit of Nathan Straus, for whom the city of Netanya and the Israel Center's street are both named, 1931.

[24 Tevet]

- Purim of Sherif celebrated by the Jews of Tripoli, from 1745.
- Yahrzeit of Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Lyady, the Baal HaTanya, founder of Chabad, 1812.

[25 Tevet]

- Anti-Jewish riots in different parts of Austria, 1312.
- First critical edition of Chovot HaLevavot published in Italy, 1559.

[26 Tevet]

- Jews of Sicily required to wear a special badge, 1369.

[27 Tevet]

- Yahrzeit of Rabbi Shimshon Raphael Hirsch, 1888.

[28 Tevet]

- R. Shimon b. Shetach ridded the Sanhedrin of its Tzadoki members. The day was subsequently celebrated as a holiday.
- Jews of Switzerland were granted civic equality, 1866, upon

pressure exerted by the United States which had interceded on behalf of American Jewish citizens.

[29 Tevet]

- Earliest authorization for the establishment of a university, including medical and law studies, under Jewish auspices granted, Sicily, 1466.
- Recife, Brazil conquered by Portugal, ending the legal existence of the prosperous Jewish community there, 1654.
- Purim of Tripoli, celebrating the downfall of the Burgel Pasha, 1793.

[1 Shevat]

- The Biblical plague of ARBEH (locust).
- Moshe Rabeinu begins his farewell address to the people and review of the Torah, final year of wandering.

[2 Shevat]

- Death of Alexander Yannai, 76 b.c.e. Date was celebrated as a holiday, since his strong Sadducee policies and appointments posed a serious threat to Rabbinic Judaism.
- Yahrzeit of the Tzemach Tzedek, 1661.

[3 Shevat]

- Jewish mourners attacked in Fostat, Egypt, 1012.
- Hitler was appointed chancellor of Germany, 1933.
- The same day saw the founding of the Society of Youth Aliya, which brought the Israel over 115,000 children 12-16.

[4 Shevat]

- Yahrzeit of Rabbi Moshe Leib of Sasov, 1808. [Eli Wiesel tells the story that Reb Moshe Leib was well-known for always initiated greetings to others. It was his way of showing his love of his fellow Jews. Once, a person decided to sneak up on Reb Moshe and say Shalom Aleichem to him first. Just as Reb Moshe Leib was about to be "pounced upon", a woman called out the name Moshe (intending to call her own son) and Reb Moshe Leib turned around. When he saw the man behind him, he immediately greeted him with a warm Shalom Aleichem, thereby preserving his "record".]

[5 Shevat]

- Jews of Sicily and Naples were invited to return by Charles the Bourbon, 1740.
- BILU (for Beit Yaakov L'chu V'neilacha) founded, 1882, early Russian Zionist movement.
- Russian government closed the Volozhin Yeshiva, 1892.
- Yahrzeit of the S'fat Emet, the 2nd Gerer Rebbe, 1905.
- The 35 members of the Hagana (the LAMID-HEI) were ambushed and killed in the Gush Etzion area (Hebron hills), 1948.

[6 Shevat]

- Jews of Majorca were guaranteed protection, 1393. This was "forgotten" about 20 years later, when persecution started up again. 20 years after that, the Jewish community was destroyed.

[7 Shevat]

- Jews no longer required to attend conversionist services, 1430.
- Fifth Aliya began, 1930.
- KAF-CHET SAMEI'ACH., 1972.

[8 Shevat]

- The period of the Elders (Z'keinim, the contemporaries of Yehoshua) came to an end; marked by an ancient fast day.
- Jews of Colmar arrested for well-poisoning, 1348. (They were burned at the stake several months later.)
- Public execution of 9 Jews in Damascus, 1969.
- ASC b. LIJ, 1980.

[9 Shevat]

- In Toulouse, France, there was a Jew who converted to Christianity. He returned to Judaism, B"H. He was subsequently buried in a Jewish cemetery.
- Rabbi Isaac Males, HY"D, was burned at the stake, 1278, by the Inquisition, for allowing the burial. The severity of his punishment was based on the Church's need to deter those who might feel drawn to Judaism.
- Yahrzeit of Rabbi Eliezer Silver, leader of American Orthodox Jewry, 1968.

[10 Shevat]

- Seven German Jews were tortured and burned at the stake, 1235.
- Yahrzeit of the "Previous" (Chabad) Rebbe, 1950. He was the father-in-law of the last Lubavitcher Rebbe.

[11 Shevat]

- The Jews of Colmar (see 8 Shvat) were expelled, 1510.

This Day in Jewish History found at OU.org.

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