The Biblical Calendar

- A conversation with Ed and Dr. Douglas Hamp
- Observation, calculation, authority, Sabbath, and unity

Why the Calendar Matters

- Scripture sets apart appointed times
- The practical question is how to determine dates today
- The teaching does not mandate one system

Three Major Calendar Approaches

- Aviv: observed lunar cycles and barley
- Zadok: fixed 364-day structure
- Hillel II: calculated lunisolar calendar

Ed’s View of Aviv

- Ed considers Aviv closest to his reading of Torah
- Observation may shift the calendar between years
- Who certifies observations for the whole community?

The Zadok and Enochian Proposals

- Fixed 364-day framework
- Ancient community writings are relevant historical evidence
- Not every ancient document establishes biblical authority

Hillel II: Dr. Hamp’s Position

- Predictability for communities across the diaspora
- Common dates support shared celebration
- He favors the calculated approach until a higher authority determines otherwise

The Authority Question

- Who announces a new month?
- Who recognizes barley maturity?
- How can dispersed communities settle disagreements?

Yeshua and the Appointed Times

- Yeshua participates in Passover and Sabbath observance
- The debate about Sabbath in the Gospels concerns practice
- First-century observance is not identical to later Hillel II calculations

The Recurring Sabbath

- Genesis 2:2-3 introduces the seventh-day pattern
- Hamp challenges lunar-reset Sabbath proposals
- Study the weekly cycle separately from annual calendar disputes

History and Interpretation

- Qumran writings document ancient diversity
- Distinguish historical evidence from binding biblical commands
- Evaluate claims using text and context

Love and Unity

- Revelation 2:1-7: do not lose first love
- Matthew 22:36-40: love God and neighbor
- Do not let calendar disagreements destroy fellowship

Key Scriptures

- Genesis 1:14-19; Genesis 2:2-3
- Exodus 12:1-6; Deuteronomy 16:1
- Leviticus 23:1-44; Psalm 104:19

Additional Scriptures

- Luke 22:7-15; Matthew 12:9-12
- Acts 20:16; Revelation 2:1-7
- Matthew 22:36-40

Discussion and Application

- Which calendar assumptions are explicit in Scripture?
- Where is a historical inference being made?
- How can you pursue truth and preserve unity?

Closing Thought

- Study carefully; distinguish certainty from inference
- Keep the appointed times in view
- Treat fellow believers with patience and love