



**What we know:**

- ~ The Gregorian calendar is reliable for marking solar years in AD and BC years.
- ~ The Hebrew calendar was based on lunar cycles beginning with each new moon, about 29.5 days.
- ~ Three times a year, all the priests served during the feasts of Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles. Deuteronomy 16:16
- ~ Early Hebrew calendars inserted an extra month to synchronize with solar years and seasons each 19 years.
- ~ The first new moon nearest the Spring equinox in BC 3 was on March 15 marking Nisan 1.
- ~ 40 weeks of 7 days is known to be the gestation period to birth of 280 days.
- ~ Jesus died at the Passover in 33 AD, in the middle of the 70<sup>th</sup> week of the Daniel 9:26-27 prophecy.
- ~ Jesus must have been born near to October, BC 2, and begotten late December BC 3 in Elizabeth's 6<sup>th</sup> month pregnancy.

**Assumptions regarding Abijah's 8<sup>th</sup> course of service in 1 Chronicles 24:10:**

- ~ That these priestly cycles of temple service began with Nisan: Exodus 12:2; Esther 3:7.
- ~ Jewish opinion is that service was 1 week, based on 2 Kings 11:9; 1 Chronicles 9:25 and 2 Chronicles 23:8, serving twice in a year.
- ~ Otherwise, if serving for 2 weeks, they served one time each year.
- ~ 48 weeks of Priest services were less than 12 Lunar months, and 12 Lunar months are less than a Solar Year.
- ~ We know of no way to exactly determine the week of Zacharias' 8<sup>th</sup> course of service in any year, as days, weeks or months were added to the Lunar Calendar to synchronize solar years. Furthermore, rotation with shift changes occurred on Sabbath days.
- ~ Except for being after Zacharias' temple service, we do not know the exact day or week for Elizabeth's conception to measure precisely to John's birth.
- ~ Mary's visit to Elizabeth may have been in the first or second week of her 6<sup>th</sup> month of pregnancy.