**Calendar**

**But, my beloved, do not forget this one thing,
that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years,
and a thousand years as a day.
*(2 Peter 3:8)***

**The Gregorian calendar is accurate to within half a day per 1,000 years. *(Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Extraordinary Book of Facts, p. 20)***

**George Washington was not born on “Washington’s Birthday,” February 22. He was born on February 11, 1732, according to the Julian calendar then used in Great Britain and the colonies. In 1752, they switched to the Gregorian calendar (which we use today) and dropped eleven days. Washington shifted his birthday by eleven days --as did many of his contemporaries -- in order to keep the “real” day. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 140)***

**What is the calendar, after all? The Chinese calendar is now in the year 4634. There is also a Jewish calendar and a Mohammedan calendar. Our Gregorian calendar was not adopted until 1582 and has inherent flaws. Scholars have even claimed that, figured accurately from Jesus’s birth, we are actually in the year 2002 now! *(Dr. R. Eugene Nichols, in Ave-News, June 1997)***

**Christendom did not begin to date its history from the birth of Christ until 500 years after His death. The system was introduced in 550 by Dionysius Exigus, a monk in Rome. *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 190)***

**The Jews and the early Christians started the day at sunset. “Christmas Eve” means, accordingly, the first part of Christmas Day, and it was only later that it came to be considered as the evening before Christmas. The same goes for New Year's Eve. *(Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 376)***

**I was happy to see January 2nd roll around. The holidays had worn me out, with all the demands of cooking, shopping and family get-togethers. Won’t it be nice to get back to normal? I thought as I began dismantling the Christmas tree. Before I’d gotten far, David, my three-year-old grandson, walked in. “Can I help?” he asked, picking up the tree skirt and draping it around his shoulders like a cape. “Put these ornaments in the box,” I said. David put them on himself instead. “Honey, it’s time to put Christmas away.” He looked at me sadly, so I hung candy canes on his ears and pinned the treetop star to his blond hair. “I am the boy who sings the hallelujah song,” he said, holding out his arms. Yes, I thought, hallelujah! Each and every day. Thanks to a boy who wouldn’t put Christmas away, I was reminded of the joy that has no season. *(Mary Belle Estes, in Guideposts magazine)***

**Ukrainian monk Dionysius Exiguus created the modern-day Christian calendar. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 166)***

**God: “Whew! I just created a 24-hour period of alternating light and darkness on Earth.” Angel: “What are you going to do now?” God: “Call it a day.” *(Dave Coverly)***

**In 1752, eleven days were dropped from the year when the switch from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar was made. The December 25 date was effectively moved back. Some Christian church sects, called the calendarists, still celebrate Christmas on January 7. *(Noel Botham, in The World’s Greatest Book of Useless Information, p. 120)***

**Absolutely nothing happened anywhere in America between September 3 and September 13, 1752. Nothing happened on those eleven days because they never existed. America changed its calendar in 1752, and those days were dropped to line up the new calendar. In 1752, America went from September 2 right to September 14, completing omitting September 3 through 13. *(Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell, p. 226)***

**Experts say time is getting shorter: 280 million years ago a year lasted 390 days. *(Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Extraordinary Book of Facts, p. 20)***

**February originally had twenty-nine days every year. In 8 B.C., the Roman Emperor Augustus renamed the thirty-day month of Sextilis, giving it the name of August to honor himself. He took a day from February so that his month would have as many days as July, which had been named for Julius Caesar. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 36)***

**The period of time mentioned as “forty days.” may refer to an actual calendar period, or (as seems more likely) it may be an approximate statement, equivalent to our term “about a month.” However, it is interesting and instructive to note how this word forty (days or years) appears again and again in Scripture. In most instances the word forty indicates “a period of time necessary to complete the work that is being undertaken.” *(Dr. Herbert J. Hunt, in A Study of the New Testament, p. 17)***

**Referring to an uncle, Ben Franklin wrote in his Autobiography, “He died in 1702, January 6, old style, just four years to a day before I was born.” Ben thought his own birthday was January 6, but today we mark it on January 17. Why the difference? Before 1752, England and the colonies used Julius Caesar’s calendar, based on a year that began on the vernal equinox date of March 25. The Julian year last 365 days, 6 hours – about 11 minutes longer than the actual solar year. Over the centuries, those minutes added up. The Julian calendar was gaining a full day every 128 years, and the calendar dates no longer matched the seasons. In 1582, Pope Gregory eliminated several calendar days to make the equinox fall on March 21, but England ignored the new Gregorian calendar. When Parliament fixed the discrepancy in 1752, it changed the beginning of the new year from March 25 to January 1 and “erased” 11 days to align the equinox with March 21. Thus 11 days are now added to Old Style dates that fall between January 1 and March 25, and the year for those dates is advanced by 1. When Ben Franklin was baptized, his birth date was recorded as January 6, 1705, according to the Julian calendar. Because of Parliament’s 1752 decision, we add 11 days and 1 year to come up with the date January 17, 1706. *(Ben Franklin’s Almanac)***

**The year 2000 marks the beginning of a new century. The millennium does not really start until the year 2001. However, most people are so excited about the event that they are saying the millennium is starting with the year 2000. *(Betty Debnam, in Rocky Mountain News)***

**September was the seventh month of the Roman calendar, October was the eighth. November the ninth and December the tenth. When Julius Caesar named July after himself and Augustus named August for himself and inserted these as the seventh and eighth months of our calendar year, the later months were moved up two months. *(Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It's a Weird World, p. 45)***

**Which pope invented a calendar? The Gregorian calendar, the one used today in most of the world, was issued in 1582. Pope Gregory XIII was annoyed over the Julian calendar, which was devised in 45 B.C., and was 11 days out of kilter. *(Nino Lo Bello, in The Incredible Book of Vatican Facts & Papal Curiosities, p. 53)*There was rioting in England when the Gregorian calendar was adopted and September 3, 1752, became, just like that, September 14. Many people insisted they had been deprived of eleven days. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 421)***

**The Russians showed up 12 days late to the 1908 Olympics because they were using the Julian calendar instead of the Gregorian calendar. *(The Daily Chronicle)***

**Fifteen hundred years after Julius Caesar installed the solar calendar, scientists and astronomers convinced Pope Gregory XIII that the calendar of 365 1/2 days was too long . . . that the year actually was 365.2429 days. After fifteen centuries, this created an error of 11 days. To correct this the Pope decreed that October 4 of that year should be followed by October 15. People rioted. Landlords screamed they were losing 11 days rent. Workmen hollered they were losing 11 days pay. Bankers winced because they were losing 11 days interest. But the Pope’s decision stuck. That’s why the calendar we use is known as the Gregorian calendar; and the old one, named for Caesar, is called the Julian calendar. *(Bernie Smith, The Joy of Trivia, p. 320)***

**Thubten Norbu, brother of the Dalai Lama, in writing about Tibet, says: “The Tibetan calendar has both good and bad days, but a very sensible Tibetan custom allows us to strike any such bad day out of the calendar altogether; so that, for example, instead of counting the ominous 13th, we just count the 14th twice. *(With Heinrich Harter, in Tibet Is My Country)***

**As the Earth turns on its axis, the new year will arrive in different time zones, traveling from east to west. The Earth is divided into 37 time zones separated by imaginary lines, called “meridians of longitude.” Local time is different in each neighboring zone. *(Betty Debnam, in Rocky Mountain News)***

**Today is the first day of the rest of your life -- unless you live on the other side of the international date line, in which case yesterday was the first day of the rest of your life. *(Orben's Current Comedy)***

**St. Petersburg, Florida, entrepreneur Sherry Sacino is so excited about the year 2000 that she plans to herald its arrival not once, but twice. She realized that if you cross the international date line, you can be both the first and last to celebrate the New Year. For an estimated $5,000, her First Flight company offers participants a chance to ring in the new millennium in Fiji and then do it again 24 hours later in Western Samoa. *(Ingrid Abramovitch, in Success)***

**Probably nobody has had their birthday celebration changed as often as George Washington. Washington was born on February 11, 1731 – but when he was twenty-one years old, the calendar was changed, and February 11 became February 22. For the rest of his life, February 22 was Washington’s birthday. But now, his birthday is usually not celebrated on February 22. It’s celebrated on the third Monday in February – and the date changes every year. *(Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell, p. 230)***

**It’s always said a year has 52 weeks, but no year has exactly 52 weeks. A non-leap year has 52 weeks and one extra day. A leap year has 52 weeks plus two extra days. *(Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell, p. 231)***

**In early Roman times, the calendar year ended on February 30th and the next year began on March 1st. During his reign, Julius Caesar renamed the month of Quintilius -- the month in which he was born -- in his own honor, giving us the month named July. Since July had only 30 days at that time, Julius eliminated the last day of the Roman calendar year (February 30th) and added one day to July so that it would not be shorter than any of the other months. Later, Augustus Caesar decided to rename the month Sextilius after himself, giving us the month named August. Up to that point August had only 30 days. Since Augustus didn't want his month to be shorter than the month named after Julius Caesar, he took another day of the end of the Roman calendar year (February 28th) and gave August 31 days. *(Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It's a Weird World, p. 95)***

**Assuming the United States makes it through New Year’s weekend with a few Y2K-related computer glitches, it doesn’t necessarily mean Y2K will be a non-event. In fact, most Y2K problems likely won’t reveal themselves until Monday, January 3rd, when millions of Americans return to work and school. Some Y2K experts think such glitches will continue popping up throughout the year. *(Jennifer Corbett Dooren, in Rocky Mountain News)***

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