

# **Welcome to the Tabernacle**

## **LESSON 19... God's Birth Calendar**

**A study by Zola Levitt**

**I was asked by one of my publishers to look into writing a book about the birth of a baby from a biblical perspective.**

**I wanted to find some theological principle, perhaps some hidden truth in the Scriptures, about how each of us is born.**

**I wanted to know if the Scriptures held some secret as to how God makes us.**

**To that end I contacted Dr. Margaret Matheson, a Bible-reading friend, and a very good obstetrician who has delivered over ten thousand babies.**

**I questioned Margaret about pregnancy in general, how it is calculated, and how the baby develops within the mother.**

**I learned that the average pregnancy is 280 days and is counted from the first day of the last menstrual cycle before conception.**

**Making calculations on the Jewish calendar is rather a hobby of mine, and I placed this 280 days on an “ideal Jewish year.”**

**The ideal Jewish year would start exactly at the spring equinox, with the first day of Nisan, the new moon of the first month, occurring on the first day of spring, March 21st.**

**The year of the Hebrews is composed of twelve (and occasionally of thirteen) lunar months, of thirty and twenty-nine days alternately. The year begins in autumn as to the civil year, and in the spring as to the sacred year. The Jews had calendars anciently wherein were noted all the feasts, all the fasts, and all the days on which they celebrated the memory of any great event that had happened to the nation.** McClintock and Strong Cyclopedia

**Interesting, I found that a pregnancy of 280 days, begun on March 21, would end on a very interesting date, December 25.**

**We don't know if Christmas Day was actually the date of the birth of our Lord, but we do know that Kislev is the accurate date of**

**Chanukah, the Feast of Dedication,  
which our Lord did commemorate  
(John 10:22).**

**John 10:22 "And it was at  
Jerusalem the feast of the  
dedication, (**Chanukah**) and it  
was winter."**



**Hanukkah is observed for eight nights, starting on the 25th day of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar, and may occur from late November to late December on the Gregorian calendar.**

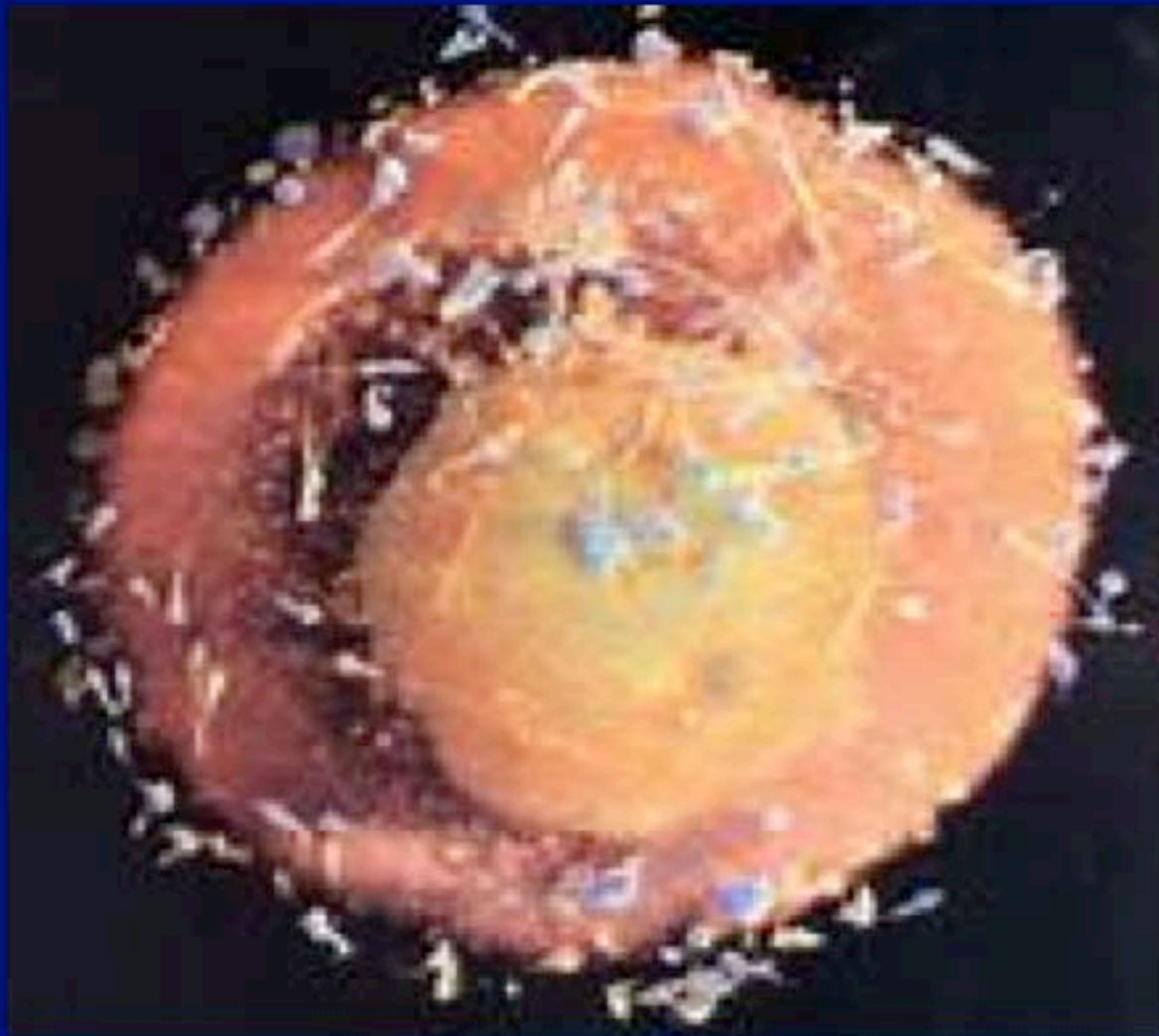
**Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, is**

**commemorating the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century.**

**That discovery led me to think that there must be something very biblical indeed about the pregnancy term, and I asked Margaret for more details.**

**It was really Margaret's first statement that turned me on to the whole system I'm about to disclose.**

**I asked Margaret to tell me in some detail just how the baby is made and how it grows, and she began with this statement: "On the fourteenth day of the first month, the egg appears."**



**Egg in the womb.**

## **I. PASSOVER**

**I couldn't help hearing that familiar ring of Leviticus 23:5 "In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the Lord's passover."**

**The Jews use an egg on the Passover table as symbolic of the new life they were granted by the sacrifice of the lamb in Egypt.**

**The egg is an appropriate enough man-made symbol of a new life, and I was fascinated that the fourteenth day of a pregnancy does the same thing as the fourteenth day of God's festival year: It brings the chance of new life.**

**I was already thinking in my mind that the baby must develop along the schedule of the seven feasts, but I concealed my excitement from Margaret.**

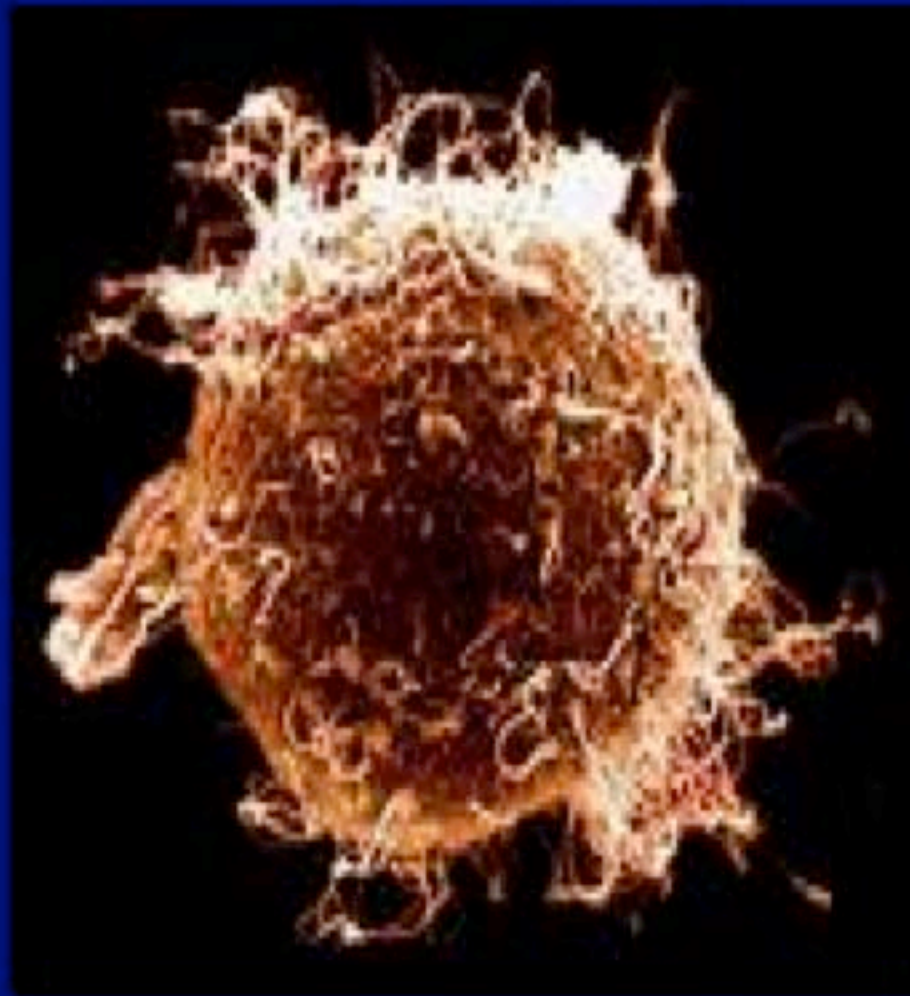
**I didn't want to encourage her to slant the facts in any way, just to prove a biblical point.**

**I asked Margaret how soon fertilization of the mother's egg must occur if pregnancy is to happen.**

**Her answer was very clear and very definite.**

**“Fertilization must occur within twenty-four hours or the egg will pass on.”**





**Fertilized Egg**

## II. The Feast of Unleavened Bread

**Leviticus 23:6 "And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the LORD: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread."**

**Not only did the two momentous prenatal events occur on the right days, but they were also the appropriate events.**

**The egg, of course, for Passover, and the idea of fertilization, - the planting of the seed - for Unleavened Bread, the burial of our Lord.**

**His crucifixion on Passover gave each of us believers life everlasting.**

**His burial in the earth, prepared for each of us, the glorious resurrection to come.**

**I almost held my breath as I inquired about First Fruits.**

### **III. The feast of First Fruits**

**I realized that this third feast is not on a definite time cycle.**

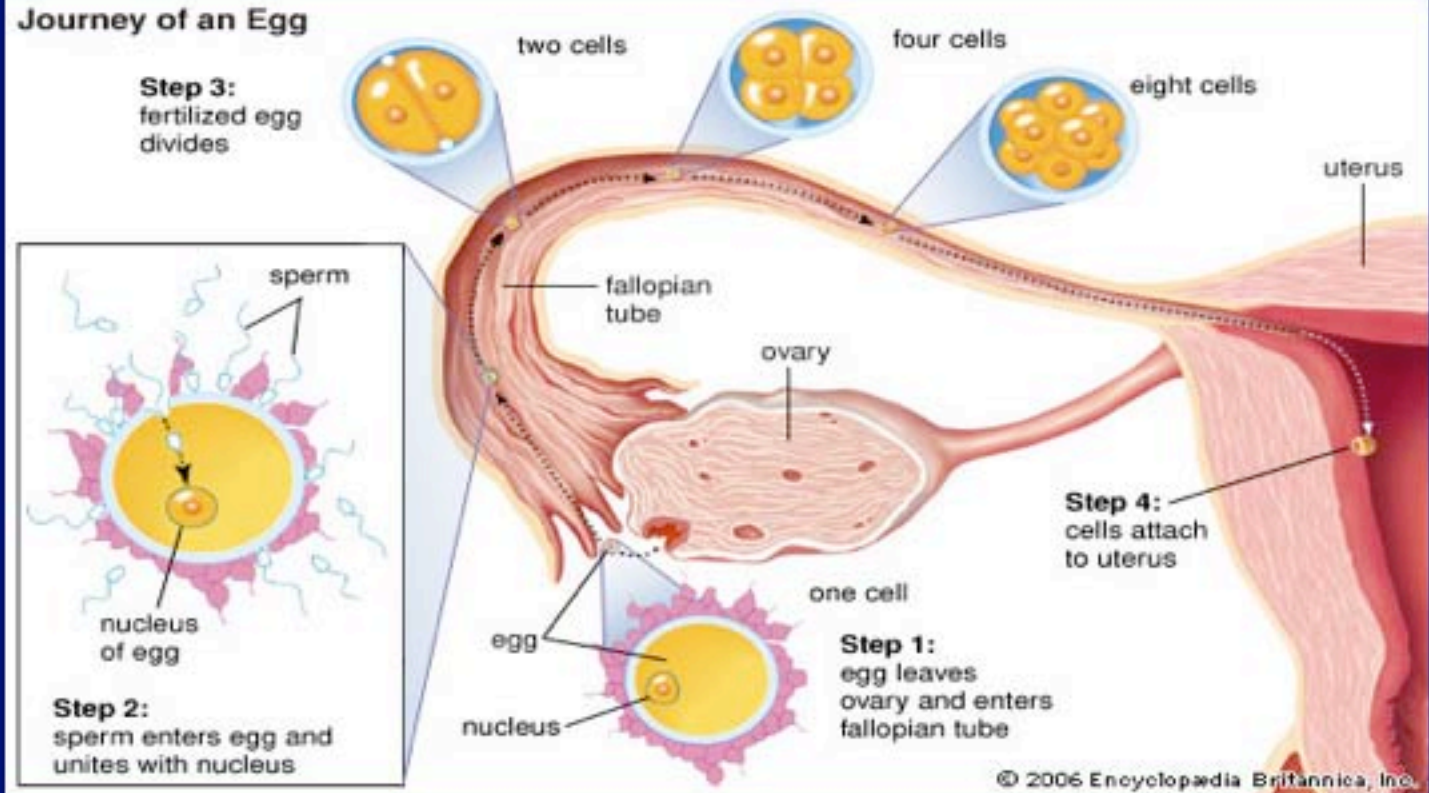
**It simply occurs on the Sunday during the week of Unleavened Bread.**

**I asked Margaret cautiously what happened next in the birth process.**

**“Well, that’s a little bit indeterminate,” she said.**

**“The fertilized egg travels down the tube at its own speed toward the uterus.”**

## Journey of an Egg



# Journey Of The Egg

**It may take anywhere from two to six days before it implants.”**

**I loved her word “implants” because it so suggested the festival of First Fruits, the spring planting, and it was the correct technical term, I found out.**



**The medical term is  
“implantation.”**

**This marks the moment when the  
fertilized egg arrives safely in the  
uterus and begins its miraculous  
growth into a human being.**

**God designed the conception of each of us in accordance with those first three majestic feasts, so appropriately fulfilled by our Lord, but would the system continue?**

**The next one was the tough one.**

**It seemed that things were happening fast on the pregnancy schedule, but the seven feasts' schedule now called for that long wait until...**

## **IV. PENTECOST**

**I asked Margaret cautiously what the next development would be with our implanted egg.**

**“Well, of course, we have a slowly developing embryo here for a long time,” she said...**



**Developing Embryo**

**“It goes through stages, but there’s really no dramatic change until it becomes an actual fetus.”**

**That’s the next big event. You can see it all right here on the chart.”**



**Human Embryo at 6 weeks**

**6 to 7  
Week  
Old  
Human  
Embryo**

**Photo  
shown  
actual  
size.**





**I looked across the little pictures at what seemed like a little tadpole, which soon had flippers, and then began to look like a little man from Mars, and so on down to the very last picture on the page.**



# Human Embryo at 7 weeks (50 Days)

**There I saw a human baby, and beside that drawing, the very scriptural message, “Fifty days.”**

**I looked up at Margaret, trying to conceal my excitement, and said carefully, “Is the fiftieth day important?”**

**“Well,” said the obstetrician, “Up until the fiftieth day you wouldn’t know if you’re going to have a duck or a cocker spaniel.**

**But at the fiftieth day of the embryo, it becomes a “human fetus.”**



**Human Embryo 7 Weeks**

**Scriptural phrases were flying through my head.**

**“A new creature” seemed to be the appropriate one for the momentous event of the change from this indiscriminate life form, the embryo, to what was essentially a human being.**

**Indeed, on that day of Pentecost, those as yet unregenerate Israelites at the Temple became truly “new creatures”.**

**They received the Spirit of God and have life eternal.**

**They would now go on to another life outside the confines of the fleshy bodies they were in, in the manner that that fetus would go on to another life outside the body of its mother.**

**The baby, I now realized, had developed very early and now was only gaining size and strength.**



**But, of course, there were a few small perfections to be added by the hand of the Creator, and I was delighted to find that one of these coincided so exactly with the next feast.**

## **V. THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS**

**The perfection that arrived just at the beginning of the seventh month was the baby's hearing.**

**Margaret's medical textbooks, including the definitive *Williams Obstetrics*, stated that the baby's hearing was now fully developed.**



3 weeks



7 weeks



15 weeks



22 weeks



**Baby at 7 Months**

**At the first day of the seventh month, the baby could discriminate a sound for what it really was.**

**Just in time for the Lord to descend from heaven with a shout and with the sound of the trump of God, that baby could perceive the sounds!**

**I was now out for blood — that is, the blood that would represent the sixth feast, the**

## **VI. Day of Atonement.**

**This was the outstanding day of blood sacrifice, and I specified to Margaret that I wanted to know if there was any development just ten days into the seventh month.**

**Half quoting from her textbook and concentrating hard, Margaret stated that the important changes now indeed were in the blood.**

**It was necessary for the fetal blood, which carried the mother's oxygen through the baby's system, to change in such a way that the baby could carry the oxygen that it, itself, would obtain upon birth.**

**Technically, the hemoglobin of the blood would have to change from that of the fetus to that of a self-respiring and circulating human being.**

**The fetus does not breathe, but rather depends on the oxygen obtained through the mother's blood circulation.**



**Naturally, this system must be changed before birth, and that change occurred, according to Margaret's textbooks, in the second week of the seventh month, and to be precise, on the tenth day!**

**Leviticus 17:11 "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."**

**Indeed, each person of Israel had to present blood to the Lord through the high priest of Israel on the Day of Atonement.**

**If that blood was acceptable, then there would be life.**

**Likewise, in the fetus, when that blood was mature, there would be life.**

**But, of course, the fetus is not ready to be born.**

**There remained still another feast, and by this time I was quite confident that Margaret would come up with the appropriate fulfillment.**

## **VII. TABERNACLES**

**I asked for the fifteenth day of the seventh month, and she immediately recognized the date as the beginning of the safe delivery period.**

**“You see, that’s when the lungs are developed,” she said, “And as long as they get their little lungs going, we can bring them along, even if they are born at that early time.”**

**I'm afraid if they decide to come before those lungs are finished, then they have very little chance.**

**But by the fifteenth day of the seventh month, a normal baby has two healthy lungs, and if born at that point, can take in its own air and live on it."**

**The Feast of Tabernacles, I pondered, but, of course, the Tabernacle is the house of the Spirit, the spirit is the air in the Bible!**

**Didn't God blow breath into Adam (Jonathan) to make him live?**



**Didn't Christ breathe the Holy Spirit upon His disciples?**

**Tabernacles is the end of the road — the end of the feasts, the end of God's plan, the beginning of the kingdom.**

**The baby would live if born at Tabernacles.**



**The believer will live once he enters the kingdom.**

**I followed this system still further, even though I had seen in God's feasts, the birth of each one of us.**

**There is still the full 280-day period to consider, which leads to the actual normal birth time.**

**I now had such confidence in the logic of the Bible that I took out my Jewish calendar again and worked with the added Festival of Dedication, Chanukah.**

**It was not given by God on Mount Sinai, but was prophesied by Daniel (Daniel 8:9-14), and took place in 165 B.C. when the Temple was rededicated.**

**Daniel 8:14 "And he said unto me,  
Unto two thousand and three  
hundred days; then shall the  
sanctuary be cleansed."**

**The nature of Chanukah has to do  
with the eternal light in the  
Temple (and in every synagogue  
today).**

**God had made a great miracle on the occasion when Antiochus entered the Temple and sacrificed a sow on the altar.**

**The Maccabees threw him out but found only one precious can of consecrated oil a day's supply — with which to maintain the eternal light.**

**A great miracle answered their prayers, however.**

**The oil lasted eight days and sustained the light until more was ready.**

**And so the Jews still light a candle each night for eight nights on the Feast of Chanukah.**

**I found what I fully expected on the Jewish calendar.**

**Chanukah lies just the right distance beyond Tabernacles to account for the actual birth of the baby.**

**The 280 days, it occurred to me while working with the Jewish calendar, expressed exactly ten of those mysterious twenty-eight day cycles of the moon, a system more in keeping with the way God would plan things than our Western nine-month pregnancy estimate.**

**All of the above conclusions are given just as I found them out, researching with a friend, the obstetrician.**

**No attempt has been made in a book of this space to create precision medical charts on technical calendars and so forth.**



**It shows that the Bible is not just somebody's poetry or somebody's mythology.**

**We don't have to shrink back, defensively claiming that we just "believe" in the Word on something like this.**

**Rather, we can see the Creator, efficient as He is, using certain structures from organism to organism, and with His masterpiece, Man, using this magnificent calendar of festival occasions and prophetic fulfillments, in the assembly and development of each of these special creatures.**

**Thus we have seen our Lord progress through Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits and Pentecost.**

**We shall see Him, soon we pray, in that Feast of Trumpets, and we shall return with Him on the day of Atonement.**

**But His complete birth cycle, as it were, will see Him crowned as the rightful King of this creation, when that final Tabernacles is reached.**

**Each of us will then begin that magnificent life with God that we are promised, and our Lord will begin the kingly reign He has so**



Prayer Time