

## **DOES YAHWEH HAVE A MASTER BENCH MARK? AND DOES IT MATTER?**

**What is a Bench Mark? What is it used for, and who uses it?**

**Anyone who constructs buildings understands that there has to first be a permanent Master Bench Mark established before the foundation of the structure is laid. A Bench Mark is a focal point to work from to indicate elevation and reference in topographical surveys. This is the original, or Master Bench Mark, which must be secure and undisturbed throughout the construction.**

**In other words, a Master Bench Mark is a beginning set point to work from. From the Bench Mark the readings of the transit instrument and the leveling rod is used for the builder to know how to condition the terrain of the land for the construction of the building.**

**It is crucial that only one location be set to establish the layout of the terrain, and to work from, in order for a building to be properly constructed. Other bench marks may be established but each additional reference point must always tie in with the original Master Bench Mark. After the Bench Mark has been set, the terrain prepared (for the building to fit on), the builder uses a set of design plans (blue prints), along with selected materials for the construction of the building. The materials are of all sizes, shapes, lengths, and strengths. The lesser strengths, such as roofing material is just as important as the studs, stone, or concrete, etc. The window can't say to the door, "I'm more important than you". Sound familiar?**

**This being said, some questions are: Is Yahweh building a house, if so, does He have a Bench Mark for His building? Where is His Master Bench Mark, His blueprints, and what is He using for building material?**

**The following scriptures point us to the answers:**

**1 Corinthians 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. 10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**

**Paul describes converted believers as being workers together, on Yahweh's building, and identifies the believers as the building itself, and that the building must be built upon the foundation of Yeshua. The Bench Mark is always set before the foundation is laid. The next scriptures introduces Salem (Jerusalem), the place Yahweh would set as His Master Bench Mark. Scriptures show that Salem and Jerusalem is the same place. Gen. 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.**

**Ps. 76:2 In Salem also is his tabernacle, and his dwelling place in Zion.**

**1 Ki. 11:36 And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my**

servant may have a light always before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there.

Here we see where the Bench Mark has been set before Yahweh began construction of His building.

Next we look at the blueprints.

**2Ki 23:2** And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant ....

The book of the covenant is the blueprint for Yahweh's building. Once the Bench Mark has been set, the blueprints presented, the foundation and construction begins. Solomon, David's son was commissioned by Yahweh to build His first house, using the blueprints He was given.

**1Ki 6:11** And the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying,

**12** Concerning this house which thou art in building, if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgments, and keep all my commandments to walk in them; then will I perform my word with thee, which I spake unto David thy father:

**13** And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.

**14** So Solomon built the house, and finished it.

In later years, Solomon turned to idolatry. Yahweh takes ten tribes away from his rule and gives them to Jeroboam.

**1 Kings 11:31** And he said to Jeroboam, Take thee ten pieces: for thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give ten tribes to thee:

**1 Kings 12:20** And it came to pass, when all Israel heard that Jeroboam was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and made him king over all Israel: there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only.

**1Ki 15:4** Nevertheless for David's sake did the LORD his God give him a lamp in Jerusalem, to set up his son after him, and to establish Jerusalem:

**Ps 125:1** They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever.

Jerusalem remains the Master Bench Mark. However, we see that because Jeroboam decided to disconnect from the Master Bench Mark, and replace it with his own Bench Mark, he lead his nation into idolatry. The ten tribes are no longer tied in with Yahweh's Master Bench Mark.

**1Ki 12:28** Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.<sup>29</sup> And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan. **30** And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even

unto Dan. 33 So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; .....

In changing the location of the Bench Mark, Jeroboam instituted idol worship, and changed the dates for the holy convocations.

Because the people allowed Jeroboam to lead them away from Yahweh's Master Bench Mark, and into idolatry, Yahweh allows these ten tribes to go into captivity, where they become scattered throughout the world. They never returned to Yahweh's Master Bench Mark.

The other tribes continued to honor Yahweh's Bench Mark and became known as the House of Judah. However, the people often followed wicked kings into idolatry invoking Yahweh's wrath. We read in the last part of 2Kings and 2Chr. how Yahweh allows the house of Judah, also, to be enslaved by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.

In the books of Ezra and Nehemiah we see where, many years later, tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi return to Jerusalem and reestablish the Master Bench Mark.

The following scriptures show that Yahweh did not change the setting of the Bench Mark.

Ps 139:21 Blessed be the LORD out of Zion, which dwelleth at Jerusalem.

Isa 2:1 The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 2 And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

The prophets, predicting a future time, shows that Yahweh's house is still to be where the Bench Mark was set, in Jerusalem.

Isa 31:5 As birds flying, so will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it; and passing over he will preserve it.

Isa 33:20 Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken.

Yahweh speaks of His Master Bench Mark as a permanent location.

Jer 3:17 At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem:...

18 In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel,...

Joel 3:16 The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: ....

17 So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: ....

20 But Judah shall dwell for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation.

The Bench Mark has been established from generation to generation.

**Zec 1:16** Therefore thus saith the LORD; I am returned to Jerusalem with mercies: my house shall be built in it, saith the LORD of hosts, and a line shall be stretched forth upon Jerusalem.

**17** Cry yet, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the LORD shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem.

A question was asked: Does Yahweh allow other bench marks to be used if they tie in with the Master Bench Mark? Prophecies foretells Yahweh will continue to build from His Master Bench Mark. We must remember it is not us that is building Yahweh's building, we are the building. In order for us to add a benchmark tie-in with His building, we would need His authorization to do so. In this case we would have to find where He has set a precedent for such permission. No doubt Yahweh can tie in as many additional bench marks as He chooses and He may use workers in so doing. However, can we find such a precedent where He has done this in His Word? Was that not what Jeroboam did in 1Kings 12<sup>th</sup> chapter?

**Zec 2:12** And the LORD shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again.

**Zec 8:3** Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.

**Zec 8:22** Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD.

**Zec 14:4** And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east,....

**Zec 8:8** And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem;....

**9** And the LORD shall be king over all the earth:....

Scripture tells us that in a future time the Master Bench Mark will be the only one used by all nations. All nations will be keeping Yahweh's appointed festival at the same time. If His set goal is to use Jerusalem forever as His Master Bench Mark, should not his people be using the same Bench Mark today?

**Zec 8:16** And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

**17** And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

**Is 4:3** And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. (The word

**"Zion", according to Strong's Conc. #6725 - 6726 is: a mountain of Jerusalem, a guiding pillar, a permanent capital. )**

**Do we have a reference in the New Testament concerning the Master Bench Mark? Yeshua went to the Master Bench Mark, Jerusalem, to fulfill the prophecy about his death and resurrection.**

**Lu 9:51 And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,**

**The new testament church began in Jerusalem, and received the holy spirit on the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem. This was a day which started and ended by Yehwah's calendar, as set forth by the new moon observation, not by man's calculation.**

**John describes his visions of the future new Jerusalem.**

**Revelation 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Even the heavenly city, new Jerusalem, is coming down to Jerusalem. Clearly, Jerusalem is Yahweh's focus, where He has set His Master Bench Mark.**

**Revelation 21:10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,**

**There are seven hundred, sixty-four mentions of Jerusalem in the Bible. That does not include numerous other phrases such as "mountain of Zion," "house of the Lord", etc.**

**Important questions are: What difference does this make, how does this effect us? Scriptures show Yahweh is building a house. He started with a physical building, and later a spiritual building, but it is still His house. After establishing His Bench Mark (Jerusalem), He used His blueprint (laws), laid the foundation (Yeshua), and started gathering His materials with one family, which became known as "Israel". When they split into two separate nations they became known as "the house of Judah" and "the house of Israel", both nations still from the same family, the same house of Israel. There was the "church in the wilderness", physical Israel, and later the "new covenant church", or spiritual Israel.**

**When Yeshua came He continued the plan, using the same blueprints of laws, working with His material, the new testament church (the house that Paul spoke of), still working from the Master Bench Mark in Jerusalem.**

**The same set of blueprints are still being used, and the Bench Mark is still intact in Jerusalem. Once the Master Bench Mark is set, it is never moved or disturbed until the building is finished. Obviously the house that Yahweh started is not finished yet! It is still under construction, and the Bench Mark is still in Jerusalem.**

**Considering that we can't all live and worship in Jerusalem, how can we set bench marks from the Master Bench Mark? If our extended bench marks are not based on the Master Bench Mark, they are going to be all wrong!**

**Just as Rehoboam did, one could probably get by with building onto an unsurveyed terrain if he was not striving for perfection, and was prepared for his building to fall apart within a short time. Keep in mind: Extending bench marks must always tie in with the Master Bench Mark.**

**How can we keep the holy convocations by the Master Bench Mark? Since there are several manmade calendars, which one should a believer use to determine when the holy convocations should be held? Likewise, how can anyone living in Alaska or Australia keep the Sabbath, or the holy convocations by the seasons commanded by Yahweh, from their own locale? Since their seasons differ they would keep the holy convocations at different times, even months apart, unless they all use the same Master Bench Mark.**

**Leviticus 23:4 These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.**

**Numbers 9:3 In the fourteenth day of this month, at even, ye shall keep it in his appointed season: ....**

**Clearly, if every nation set their own Bench Mark, by their own seasons they could not all observe the holy convocations at the same time. And when would the Sabbath day begin in the long darkness part during winters in Alaska?**

**World Wide Church members were taught to keep the holy days by the Jewish calendar which was not the original calendar that was in use during the time of Yeshua. Many groups still use this calendar, which was changed by a Jewish priest, Hillel, after the time of Yeshua .**

**Similarly, seventh day Sabbath keepers fault Sunday keepers as keeping the Sabbath on the wrong day. Sunday keepers have set their Bench Mark from the original place when Sunday worship was introduced, the Catholic church. But, does this mean that seventh day Sabbath keepers are more correct when they choose their own Bench Mark from their own locale rather than at Yahweh's Master Bench Mark?**

**However, if every nation on earth used Yahweh's Bench Mark, there would be no problem. Everyone could keep Yahweh's appointed Sabbaths at the exact same time.**

**Yes, it may require some effort and difficulties to get this information from Jerusalem, and change our way of thinking. But if we take Paul's statement seriously, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" we will find a way.**

**Now that Jerusalem has become a nation again we can get that information from Jerusalem by telephone, the Internet, or by word of mouth. There is even a Jewish newspaper that reports when the sun sets. Anyone with access to a computer can contact Jerusalem for this information. There are Jewish groups in present day Jerusalem that report when the first day of the new year begins, or the first day of each month begins. They report, by two or more witnesses, when the crescent of the moon is**

sighted from (the Bench Mark) Jerusalem. If it is sighted (always in the late afternoon) the following day is the first day of the month. If it is cloudy and cannot be sighted (twenty nine days from the last new moon), the sighting will automatically be proclaimed for the following day. In this way, if Yahweh wants a postponement He alone makes it. He determined when the first day of the new year began, thus introducing His own calendar.

**Exodus 12:2** This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.

**Exodus 9:31** And the flax and the barley was smitten: for the barley was in the ear, and the flax was balled.

The above scripture shows that prior to Yahweh's announcement of His new year, the barley was in the ear. Working from the Master Bench Mark, (Jerusalem), one can determine by the maturing of the barley (green ears) when the first day of Yahweh's new year begins, with the following new moon being the first day of the month.

There are many different views as to what shape the moon takes when it is new. According to Jewish history and tradition (as it was practiced during the time of Yeshua) it is the first sliver that is seen from Jerusalem, (at the Bench Mark) in late afternoon, making the following day the first day of that month.

Also, in respect to keeping the Sabbath, Nehemiah shows us when to start observing it.

**Nem 13:18** Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the sabbath.

**19** And it came to pass, that when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the sabbath, I commanded that the gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened till after the sabbath:...

Here is a plain, clear cut statement as to when we can know when the Sabbath begins.

I leave you with these important questions, ask yourself: Do I really want to set my own bench mark, as Jeroboam did, or do I want to observe Yahweh's Master Bench Mark? Then answer the questions: Should people in Alaska or Australia keep Yahweh's appointed days, by Yahweh's Master Bench Mark or by their own seasons, several months apart? And is there any place in the bible that gives a different place for Yahweh's Bench Mark? Has Yahweh ever set another Master Bench Mark, other than Jerusalem? Will He ever set another Master Bench Mark? If we hope to be a part of Yahweh's building, do we not have to abide by His Master Bench Mark?

To be more precise: should we, as followers of Yeshua, not do as He did

and observe Yahweh's appointed holy convocations as they were kept, at the same time they were set by Yahweh Himself from His Master Bench Mark in Jerusalem? Should we not use His calendar by observing the new moons to determine when to observe His appointed festivals?

One might question that because Yahweh said the Sabbath was to be kept from sundown to sundown that we have His permission to set our own Bench Marks. Do we have any scripture that indicates that? Can we use the following scriptures for proof of this claim?

Genesis 1:3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. 5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

Genesis 2:2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

Exodus 31:17 It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

Does this scripture show that we must all keep the Sabbath from sundown to sundown? It might if the earth was flat and the sun shined all over the earth at the same time and then, after twelve hours, turned off. But we know that the earth is round and that it is not light on both sides at the same time. On the other side of the earth it is in the dark part of the day. It might if Yahweh's concern is only for those who live on one side of the earth. So we must conclude that Yahweh was speaking from His Master Bench Mark even then. Yahweh is not the author of confusion, nor was the other side of the earth excluded from His plan. But if the whole earth recognizes His Master Bench Mark to work from, there is no confusion, nor problem for those whose seasons are different from those on the opposite side of the earth, for when the gates of Jerusalem (the Master Bench Mark) began to be dark, the Sabbath begins.

Nem 13:19 And it came to pass, that when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the sabbath, I commanded that the gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened till after the sabbath:...

Once we find the correct answers should we not then begin to observe the new moons, the Sabbath, and the appointed festivals of Yahweh from His Master Bench Mark, Jerusalem? Did Yeshua and the disciples keep the Sabbath and the holy days from the Master Bench Mark? What does the scriptures say?

Col 2:16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:...

Do we keep the holy days and the sabbath but ignore the middle part of the sentence, "the new moon"? If so why? Did not the early church also keep the new moon to determine when the holy days would occur? Does it matter? Did it matter when Jeroboam ignored God's Master Bench Mark? Read the study on keeping the new moons for further info.

