

OUR LORD'S MEMORIAL DATE FOR 2019
— **Tuesday, March 19, after 6:00 p.m. your local time** —

*Methods for calculating the annual date for the Memorial differ among Bible Students.
We do not insist that ours is the only way, but the UK Bible Students use the method presented here.
Should you discover errors in our calculations, please let us know via e-mail to
<antilutron@comcast.net>*

From astronomical tables, one needs to determine the following:

1. Date and time of the Vernal Equinox for the given year
2. Date and time of the New Moon *preceding* the Equinox
3. Date and time of the New Moon *following* the Equinox
4. Date and time of the New Moon which occurs *closest* to the Equinox

To find **Nisan 1**, an additional step is required:

5. Add *2h 21m* to account for the time difference at the meridian in Jerusalem

There are differences, on the order of seconds, between various data sources, but these are not statistically significant overall, though do we take them into account in our calculations. Our working data is from *Astronomical Tables of the Sun, Moon, and Planets*, by the Belgian astronomer, Jean Meeus, an acknowledged expert. Where there are slight discrepancies in the various data sources, we default to his figures. On the principle of 'two or three witnesses', we also cite at least two other reputable agencies, identified in **Sources**, at the end of this paper.

The data for **2019** follow. Times are in 24-hour Universal Time (*UTC*), expressed in hours and minutes (ignoring seconds, which do not affect the results for this year), and in parentheses by the 12-hour clock time (*a.m./p.m.*).

1. Date and time of the Vernal (Spring) Equinox
March 20 at 21h 59m (09:59 p.m.)
2. Date and time of the New Moon *preceding* the Equinox
March 06 at 16h 05m (04:05 p.m.)
3. Date and time of the New Moon *following* the Equinox
April 05 at 08h 51m (08:51 a.m.)

Therefore:

4. Date and time of the New Moon which occurs *closest* to the Equinox is
March 06 at 16h 05m (04:05 p.m.)

5. To this add the time difference of *2h 21m* at the meridian in Jerusalem

This results in **March 06 at 18h 26m (06:26 p.m.)**

Calculations required to arrive at Nisan 14 are counter-intuitive. Remember that the day of the Memorial corresponds to a Jewish day running from *evening to evening*, unlike the customary midnight to midnight. To determine the hour at which Nisan 1 *starts*, one must back up from the *Jerusalem meridian time* to the *nearest preceding* 6:00 p.m., then *add* 13 days to the result to reach the *start* of Nisan 14.

For **2019** the Jerusalem meridian time is **March 06 at 18h 26m (06:26 p.m.)**

Back up to the nearest preceding 6:00 p.m.:-

Thus Nisan 1 *starts at this hour this same day* – that is, 6:00 p.m. on **March 06**

Count 14 days forward from and including March 06. This brings us to **March 19**

Thus Nisan 14 *starts* at 6:00 p.m. (1800) on **Tuesday, March 19**, your local time.

SOURCES

Print-only

Astronomical Tables of the Sun, Moon, and Planets, Jean Meeus (Willmann-Bell, Inc.; 1983), pp. 3-43, 4-19.

Online

Her Majesty's Nautical Almanac Office Astronomical Information. Sheets (PDF)
Equinox and Phases of Moon <data will be provided when available>

United States Naval Observatory

Equinox <<http://aa.usno.navy.mil/seasons?year=2019&tz=+0>>
Phases of Moon <http://aa.usno.navy.mil/cgi-bin/aa_moonphases.pl?year=2019&ZZZ=END>

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