OUR LORD'S MEMORIAL 2026

— Tuesday, March 31 at **18:00 —**

Methods for calculating the annual date for the Memorial differ among Bible Students. We do not insist that ours is the perfect way, but the UK Bible Students use the trusted method presented here. Should you find an error in our calculations, please write to us at <epiphuk@protonmail.com>

From the astronomical tables, 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

Editor's Note: There are differences, on the usually trivial order of seconds, between various data sources, but these are not statistically significant overall . . . . Our working data is from *Astronomical Tables of the Sun, Moon, and Planets*, by the Belgian astronomer, Jean Meeus, the acknowledged expert, and we default to his tables.

The data for **2026** follow. Times are expressed in 24-hour Universal Time (*UTC*), in hours and minutes, and shown in parentheses in the familiar 12-hour designation of **(*a.m.*/*p.m.*)**

1. Date and time of the Vernal (Spring) Equinox
March 20 at 14:47 (*p.m.)*

2. Date and time of the New Moon *preceding* the Equinox
March 19 at 01:24 *(a.m.)*

3. Date and time of the New Moon *following* the Equinox
April 17 at 11:52 (*a.m.)*

Therefore:

4. Date and time of the New Moon which occurs ***closest*** to the Equinox is
March 19 at 01:24 (*a.m.*)

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

March 19 at 01:24
+ 02:21

This results in **March 19 at 03:45 (*a.m.*)**

The day of the Memorial corresponds to a Jewish day running from *evening to evening*, unlike the traditional midnight to midnight. As the 2026 Jerusalem meridian time is **March 19 at 03:45 (*a.m.*)**, we need to pinpoint the start of Nisan 1; we do this by **backing up** to the previous **18:00 (6:00 p.m.)**, **March 18**.

> Count **14** days from and including **March 18 at 18:00 (6:00 p.m.)**. This yields **Tuesday, March 31**, at **18:00 (6:00 p.m.)**, signalling the onset of Nisan 14.
>
> Therefore the Memorial day starts **Tuesday, March 31** at **18:00 (6:00 p.m.)** and ends **1800 (6:00 p.m.)** the following day, **Wednesday, April 1**.

Refer to chart which accompanies the above article: 'Counting from Nisan 1 to Nisan 14, 2026'

PRIMARY SOURCE

Astronomical Tables of the Sun, Moon, and Planets, Jean Meeus (Willmann-Bell, Inc.; 1983), *pp. 3-43, 4-21*.

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