

## OUR LORD'S MEMORIAL DATE FOR 2020 — Sunday, April 05, 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  
<[epiphuk@protonmail.com](mailto:epiphuk@protonmail.com)>*

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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 we do take them into account in our original calculations. Our working data is from *Astronomical Tables of the Sun, Moon, and Planets*, by the Belgian astronomer, Jean Meeus, the acknowledged expert. Where there are slight discrepancies – as noted above – in the various data sources, we default to his figures. On the principle of ‘two or three witnesses’, we also cite two world-class, trusted institutions, identified in **Sources**, at the end of this paper.

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The data for **2020** follow. Times are expressed in 24-hour Universal Time (*UTC*), in hours and minutes (ignoring seconds, which do not affect the results for this year), and shown in parentheses in the 12-hour clock time (*a.m./p.m.*).

1. Date and time of the Vernal (Spring) Equinox  
**March 20 at 03h 51m (03:51 a.m.)**
2. Date and time of the New Moon *preceding* the Equinox  
**February 23 at 15h 33m (03:33 p.m.)**
3. Date and time of the New Moon *following* the Equinox  
**March 24 at 09h 29m (09:29 a.m.)**

***Therefore:***

4. Date and time of the New Moon which occurs *closest* to the Equinox is

**March 24 at 09h 29m (09:29 a.m.)**

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

March 24 09h 29m  
+           02h 21m

This results in **March 24 at 11h 50m (11:50 a.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.

Thus, for **2020** the Jerusalem meridian time is **March 24 at 11h 50m (11:50 a.m.)**

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

Nisan 1 *starts at this hour the preceding day* – that is, 18:00 (6:00 p.m.) on **March 23**

*Count 14 days forward from and including March 23.* This brings us to **April 05**

**Thus Nisan 14 starts at 18:00 (6:00 p.m.) on Sunday, April 05, your local time**

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## SOURCES

*Print-only*

**Astronomical Tables of the Sun, Moon, and Planets, Jean Meeus (Willmann-Bell, Inc.; 1983), pp. 3-43, 4-20.**

*Online*

**Her Majesty's Nautical Almanac Office Astronomical Information. Sheets (.pdf)**

*Astronomical and Calendrical Data Sheet for 2020*

<<http://astro.ukho.gov.uk/data/ais/pdf/ais107.pdf>>

**United States Naval Observatory**

*Equinox* – site undergoing revamp – offline until April 2020

*Phases of Moon* – site undergoing revamp – offline until April 2020