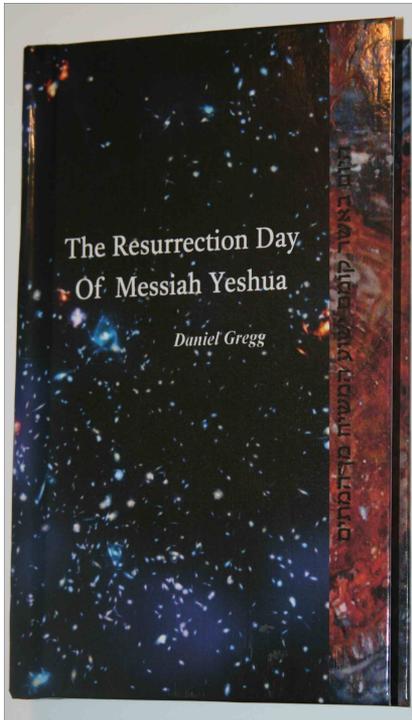


הַיּוֹם בַּאֲשֶׁר קוֹמַם יֵשׁוּעַ
הַמָּשִׁיחַ מִן־הַמָּוֶת



**The Resurrection Day
Of Messiah Yeshua**

When It Happened

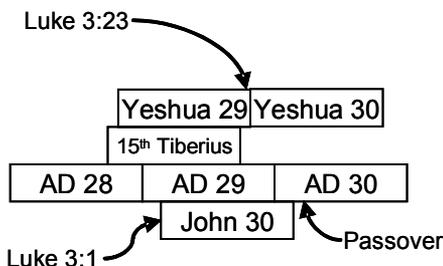
According To The Original
Texts

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(laid out in book order)

Figure 52: About 30 Years of Age



According to Luke 3:23, “And when he began, Yeshua himself was about thirty years of age.” We see that Luke qualifies his statement, “about thirty years” (ὡσεὶ ἐτῶν τριάκοντα). The most parsimonious explanation is that Luke actually knows when Yeshua’s birthday is, and how old he will be, and that by “about” he means *almost* thirty, or as we say, “twenty-nine going on thirty.” Luke is not some historian writing centuries after the fact and trying to guesstimate Yeshua’s age. He was close to events and researched and investigated the matters from living witnesses, so it would be unparsimonious to construct a chronology that assumes Luke’s ignorance (cf. Luke 3:1-4).¹⁹⁸

In Luke 3:1, John begins his ministry in the 15th year of Tiberius (which is a fixed year in Roman history), when as a qualified priest he could enter the ministry at the age of thirty (Num. 4:3). This confirms that John turned 30, and not 31 in the 15th year of Tiberius, and fixes the year of his birth as early spring 2 B.C., and that of Yeshua in the fall of 2 B.C. The word of Yahweh came to John in the wilderness (cf. Luke 3:2), and so it was the Almighty that picked the time to start his ministry, according to the legal time for his service as a priest to go before Yahweh’s Anointed. The course of Abijah would have been on

¹⁹⁸ Many suppose that Luke is using round numbers, wherein “about thirty” means 30 ± 5 years. But since Luke knew how old Messiah was and when his birthday was, we would have to accuse Luke of deliberately obscuring the matter by speaking such. Furthermore, a figure such as 30 ± 5 years assumes a modern concept of one significant digit. The ancient concept of rounding here with “about” is no greater than $30 \pm \frac{1}{2}$ year. And further “about” is typically used for “almost” and not thirty and then some. For in that case Luke could have just said “thirty.”

duty in A.D. 29 for the second week of Nisan (3/12-3/19) [Nisan 5 to Nisan 12], and this is when John could have received his anointing at thirty years of age.

It would be toward the end of the 15th year of Tiberius, or perhaps sometime in the days from August 19th to September 27 that Luke was referring to when he said Yeshua was “about thirty.” This time period was in late summer of A.D. 29, just before his thirtieth birthday on Tishri 1. It also means that the first Passover of Yeshua’s own ministry was that of A.D. 30, and completely rules it out as the year of the crucifixion. Also ruled out is A.D. 31 since John mentions at least three Passovers, and A.D. 32 is also ruled out by the lack of suitable dates for Nisan 14.

Now, if an attempt is made to shift Messiah’s thirtieth birthday to Tishri 1, A.D. 28, then this implies that John began his ministry outside of Tiberius’ fifteenth year (i.e. before Aug. 19, A.D. 28). The only way to overcome this is to move the start of John’s ministry to within a few months before Messiah’s ministry started. But doing this would not explain how John gained such a large following at first, and why Yeshua only caught up to him in numbers of disciples a year later (John 4:1). So, John the Immerser began his ministry in the spring of A.D. 29. Yeshua was immersed close to, but not after Tishri 1, A.D. 29, and the Passover of John 2:13 was A.D. 30, which is when Yeshua’s ministry really got going, almost a year after John’s.

Some translations, and a few Greek texts, try to make Luke 3:23 say, “beginning to be about thirty,” and so imply that the passage refers to a time after Yeshua’s thirtieth birthday (but not too far past it). The King James says, “began to be about thirty years of age,” but the New American Standard says, “when He began His ministry... was about thirty years of age,” which suggests “almost” thirty. Since Luke 3:1-2 tells of the start of John’s ministry, it is probable that “when He began His ministry” is what he means in 3:23, and that we should take the meaning as “almost” thirty.

Obviously the scribes that edited the variations to imply that Yeshua was already in the beginning of his thirtieth year felt the difficulty of squeezing Messiah’s starting point too close to John’s. The variants give them another five months to work with. However, I

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