

E-mail from submission on our website: ethkogserv.org :-

From: Yared

Dear Editor;

Recently my wife gave birth to a baby girl. The baby was born at 03:30AM on 31 of August. Most people that I talked to said August 31, 2007 is Nehase 25,1999 in Ethiopian calendar; however, I and some other people argued that 03:30AM on Aug'31,07 is Nehase 24,1999. The reason given by me and others who supported my idea is that in Ethiopian time calculation new day begins at dawn 06:00am (12:00am) and Nehase 25,1999 begun at dawn 06:00am not 00:00am. So, would you please explain how we Ethiopians calculate our time and when a new day begins.

Regards, Yared

Response to your questions :-

Dear Ato Yared:

Thank you for visiting our website and for your e-mail generated from a form submission therein.

First of all, "Congratulations!" to you and your wife for having a new baby girl.

We apologize for the delay of our response caused by our busy schedule.

According to our Ethiopian system of computation of time, your baby was born on Friday, Nehassie 25, 1999 (August 31, 2007). This is because we count the day of the 24 hours, from the first instant of the time past midnight to the last instant of the time of the coming midnight. Even if we set and express the time of the birth of your baby to be kelelitu be9 se'at tekkul, again this is because it was still the extension of the night that had already begun at 1:00 o'clock last evening, Ethiopian Time, and was coming to end at dawn, i.e., keT'watu 12:00 se'at. However, the new day of Nehassie 25, 1999 that was inaugurated 3 and half hours before the daybreak, continued its course to the morning, and in the whole daylight, and finally half of the nighttime until the next midnight, as explained above.

Our computation of the "day", "ilet", as well as of the "daylight", "Me'alt", and the "nighttime", "Lelit", follows the Biblical Text, as well as the natural phenomenon. According to these basics, the cycle of one complete day comprises 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of nighttime, totaling 24 hours. The sun and the moon were created to divide the whole day of 24 hours into two parts of 12 hours each, called "daylight" of the sun and "nighttime" of the moon respectively; and accordingly, we follow this division for the designation of "Me'alt" and "Lelit", as well as for the assignment of the 12 hours for each phenomenon of daylight and nighttime. The daylight time duration that begins at daybreak, i.e.,

at the end of the 12th hour of the darkness and at the start of counting of the 1st o'clock in the morning Ethiopian Time, ends after 12 hours sunshine at 12:00 o'clock Ethiopian Time in the evening, from which time on, the nighttime duration of 12 hours continues until the daybreak of the next morning.

The 24 hours span of full day starts and ends just at the Zenith of Midnight. Why? The following evidences provide the explanation: 1) Midnight is the apex of the 24 hours cycle of the whole day, at which instant the pinnacle and intensity of darkness, i.e., negativity, begin to recede, and the omnipotence and prevalence of light, i.e., positivism, creep to be felt, take over and dominate, heralding the advent of the sunshine. 2) The religious belief and astronomical premise assert that the universe came into existence, Adam and Eve were created in the image of God, The Virgin Mary and Her Son, the Incarnate God Jesus Christ were born and resurrected, and Their Second Coming will be effected at that specific time; 3) This moment is the focal and starting point where and when the cycle of the annual calendar computation is based and calculated to produce the Days of Holy Celebrations and the durations of the Periods of Fasting of the whole year; 4) It is a standard canonical rule of our Church of Ethiopia that every ceremony of the day with regard to prayer, celebration or fasting should always begin immediately after the instant of midnight.

EKoG Servant

2nd e-mail from Sintayehu Yared, dated October 22, 2007

Dear Editor!!

I really thank you for your detailed explanation and for clearing my confusion regarding that matter.

However, after I read your replay another question came to my mind. My question is, since the day starts just after midnight, why do not we start counting the hours after that like the other countries do instead of counting as one o'clock after six hours.(morning 1'o'clock Ethiopian time.)

Thank you for your usual cooperation and God bless you.

Sincerely, Dereje

Our 2nd Response :-

Dear Ato Dereje:-

Thank you for your recent email.

The reason why we start counting daylight, "Me'alt", from dawn to dusk, and not from midnight to midday, like other countries, is because, as explained in our previous response, we follow the natural phenomenon and the Biblical Word, i.e., the time from "sunrise" to "sunset" is identified as "daylight". It is for this specific purpose that the "Sun" was originally created by God, as the Bible

relates, and this is what it does at "daybreak" of every new day until nightfall. The same applies to the "Moon" that was created to serve during the darkness of the nighttime that extend from sunset to sunrise, that we call "Lelit". What God had established, we Ethiopians do not destabilize or modify, but strictly maintain, even if others do otherwise as they are accustomed to do in many instances.

Had you carefully read the relevant content of our previous response, as this premise was sufficiently explained therein, you would have saved yourself from writing us again. Please go through it once more attentively. We assume the previous addressee "Yared" and the present one "Dereje" are the same person.

EthKoG Servant