

# How Did Chaldeans Compute Their National Calendar?

5300 BC – Present

One may ask how Chaldeans did calculate the actual date of the Chaldean-Babylonian calendar and what archaeological, Biblical, and scientific evidence support this conclusion.

The Proto-Kaldi<sup>1</sup> celebrated the New Year Festival, AKITU / á-ki-ti-še-gur<sub>10</sub>-ku<sub>5</sub>, which used to take place in the month of Nisannu, when there was an equal amount of daylight and darkness, and recounts the “rebirth” of the natural order.

Present-day Chaldeans (descendants of the Proto-Kaldi) resumed celebrating AKITU worldwide

starting with the Chaldean Educational Center of America Akitu (CECA) Celebration in 2000. CECA followed and honored the traditional joyous days of the New Year Festival that their Proto-Kaldi forefathers celebrated since the first Chaldean capital Eridu founded in the 6<sup>th</sup> millennium BC in the heart of the Chaldean historical homeland Mat-Kaldu. This 5300 BC remarkable national festival marks the beginning of Chaldean Babylonian history.



To unify the native Mesopotamians, our Babylonian ancestors decided around 1894 BC to combine the two ancient New Year celebrations, Akitu (during the spring equinox in the month Nisannu) and SHAG-ĤUL ZAG-MUK, which literally means "beginning of the year" (celebrated at the autumn equinox in the month Elulu/Tashritu / Sept-Oct).

The Babylonians were the first to celebrate the unified New Year Festival of AKITU in Babylon. Since then, Babylon became the only legitimate urban to conduct this holy event between April 1<sup>st</sup> and April 11<sup>th</sup>.

The only exception took place around 689 BC post the nine-month siege and conquest of Babylon in 691 by Sennacherib who systemically sacked Babylon. However, moving the statue of Marduk to Assur and celebrating Akitu over there did not last for long. The reign of Sennacherib ended in his assassination by his sons while he was praying in front of the Marduk statue. His own children killed him for the destruction he brought about on Babylon the most sacred city of Mesopotamia. When Esarhaddon became the king in 680 BC he hastened to return the statue of Marduk and rebuild Babylon as he regarded the sacred city with feelings of respect and reverence. He also reinstated the Babylonian Akitu. This fact is supported by vast historians and archeologists who also assert that Chaldeans are the indigenous Mesopotamians whose local

<sup>1</sup> Proto-Kaldi: In 1988, historian Amer Hanna Fatuhi named pre-Sumerian culture Proto-Kaldi. This term was first used in his study entitled “Ur of Chaldeans ... An Iraqi Perspective”. Subsequently, it became common among Iraqi scholars since 1990s and worldwide in 2004.

dynasties ruled both states of Babylonia and Assyria.

It is also worth noting that the New Year Festival rituals began in Babylonia and were continued for thousands of years over there until its last performance in the second century BC. Thus, the Chaldean history begins in 5300 BC is a solid fact that can be proved beyond doubt according to the followings:

1- Any Mesopotamialogist knows that giving two cities the same name was rare, yet it was an acceptable or most likely unpleasant practice. On the other hand, it was forbidden to use the sacred name of an existing temple by people of another city because temples in ancient Mesopotamia were considered living beings, and a living being cannot exist in two places at the same time. However, both Eridu and Babylon were called by the same ancient name Nunki, and the É-sagila temple's name was deliberately used in both cities!

What is quite fascinating about this point is that the people who built Eridu and its suburb Ku-ara of Marduḥ/Asarluḥi are the same ones who built Babylon and its temple É-sagila.

2- Eridu and Babylon are the only cities in ancient Mesopotamia that hold the same exact name (NUN.KI) which means the homeland of life. This sacred name applied only to two cities throughout Mesopotamian long history; Eridu according to the (Nam-Lugal) list and Babylon according to Berossus' Chronicles!

It is also worth noting that the sacred neighborhood in Babylon where the Tower of Babylon/Ziggurat É-temenanki and É-sagila, the temple of Marduḥ are located is called Eridu.

3- As was mentioned in the records of the Chaldean *King Nabu-nasir* (Nabonassar) 747-734 BC who admits destroying most of the historical records of the Chaldean kings who preceded him “Nabonassar collected together the records of the deeds of the kings before him and destroyed them so that the reckoning of Chaldean kings might start with himself.”<sup>2</sup>

It is also quite documented that Sennacherib in 689 BC not only destroyed most of the Chaldean's records, burned libraries, and demolished the temples, but he also destroyed the entire city of Babylon as was recorded in his own chronicles:

*[“Sennacherib avenged himself on Babylon and dared to accomplish the unthinkable: he destroyed the illustrious and sacred city, the second metropolis of the empire, the 'BOND of HEAVEN and EARTH' which his forebears had always treated with infinite patience and respect: “As hurricane proceeds, I attacked it and, like a storm, I overthrew it . . . Its inhabitants, young and old, I did not spare and with their corpses, I filled the streets of the city . . . The town itself and its houses, from their foundations to their roofs I devastated, I destroyed, by fire I overthrew . . . So that in future even the soil of its temples be forgotten, by water I ravaged it, I turned it into pastures.”]*<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Oates, Joan, *BABYLON*, Thames & Hudson, revised ed. 1986 and reprinted 2000, P 113

<sup>3</sup> Roux, Georges, *Ancient Iraq*, Penguin books, 1992, P 322

4- The Bible confirms in more than one place the very deep and rich history of the Chaldeans asserting that they are a Nation since ancient times (A long-lived nation, an ancient nation ... Jeremiah 5:15 U.S. Catholic Bible). However, the two books of Genesis and Jeremiah could easily validate this fact.

5- The famous ancient encyclopedia BABYLONIACA <sup>4</sup> was in part a combination of the most reliable ancient Mesopotamian records and was highly valued by the Greeks and other classical historians. Babyloniaca aka Chaldeanica asserts that **“a Chaldean dynasty was the first to rule Mesopotamia since the Post- deluge time”**. It also confirmed that **the first Mesopotamian king was Chaldean**.

**Conclusion:** The court of law usually requires two witnesses to ratify a testimony, which is exactly what the Bible also requires. However, I have brought to your attention not two or three but five solid references. I could also add to the abovementioned tens of linguistic proofs and other historical records that exist in Mesopotamian literature, which I have covered in detail in my published books since 1988, especially the 2021 groundbreaking book *Chaldean Legacy*, the most reliable and highly prized by genuine reviews made possible by scholars and many online reviewers. The deep and rich study of this unmatched and undeniable academic book is based on hundreds of academic references. Likewise, my encyclopedic 2012 book *The Untold Story of Native Iraqis* based on more than 600 academic references, is among the top sources concerning this subject.

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[www.ChaldeanLegacy.com](http://www.ChaldeanLegacy.com) | [www.NativeIraqis-Story.com](http://www.NativeIraqis-Story.com) | [www.JewsofBabylon-Book.com](http://www.JewsofBabylon-Book.com)

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<sup>4</sup> Baqer, Baqer, Tah, *The Epic of Gilgamesh, Other Stories of Gilgamesh and the Flood*, 5th ed., Baghdad, 1986, P 209 / See also: *The Babylonian Akītu Festival and the Ritual Humiliation of the King* By Sam Mirelman <https://www.asor.org/onetoday/2022/09/babylonian-festival-and-ritual-humiliation>