

EQUINOX OR EQUILUX – WHICH DO WE USE?

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What a question! We had always used the equinox to mark the end of one year and provide the springboard for the next. However, teachings began to emerge that suggested the equinox should be used instead. The rationale for this was drawn from The Book of Enoch, which speaks of day and night being equal. While the equinox is a time when day and night are VIRTUALLY equal, the timing for TRUE equality is the equinox. So - in our earnest search for truth, we determined to study out the matter. Which one should be used for Yah's liturgical calendar purposes? Here is what we found:

<https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/equinox.html>

### **Equal Light**

*"Equinox" is drawn from the Latin terms for equal (equi) and light (lux). So how do we find out which dates fit the description and qualify as **truly equal day and night**?*

*To measure the day/night split in a 24-hour span, astronomers use common definitions of sunrise and sunset. Simply put, sunrise is defined as when the **first bit** of the Sun's disk appears and sunset is when the last bit of the disk vanishes.*

*Calculating the length of day **between those two moments**, we find that **two dates every year reach equinox** in most latitudes.*

Please realize that this is relative to one's view of the horizon. Flat terrain will yield a different result than hilly terrain regarding when the sun's disc first appears and when it vanishes from one's sight. As a result, a mutual determination for the equinox is not easily determined when consulting one individual and then another. The verdict is usually resolved by relying on published data. The latitude of one's location plays an important role as well, which we'll discuss shortly.

Broadening our search a bit, this information was presented from a broadcast in Ohio in 2020, but it's information is broadly applicable:

<https://www.wkyc.com/article/weather/equinox-vs-equinox-how-are-they->

[different/95-898bc1b2-505b-4604-a3e9-93365e33391d](#)

*Equinox Vs Equilux: how are they different?*

*It's officially fall! The sun is crossing exactly over the Equator. This means equal day and equal night right? Almost, but not quite. Let's talk about equilux.*

*Credit: WKYC*

*Author: WKYC Weather Team*

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*CLEVELAND — The official start of fall... the autumnal equinox... and the equal period of daylight and darkness? Not exactly (but close).*

### **WHAT IS THE AUTUMNAL (FALL) EQUINOX**

*For the official start of a new season, we use Earth's position to the sun as a reference point to mark the change. The terminator or the position of (sunrise/sunset) is vertical, north-to-south, from the north pole to the south pole. Check out this animation from the National Weather Service:*

*The official start of Fall - the Fall/Autumnal Equinox - is THIS MORNING, at 9:30 AM EDT. This marks the time when the day-to-night line, called the terminator, is perfectly vertical from pole to pole and the sun is directly over the equator. [#FallEquinox](#) [#FirstDayOfFall](#) [pic.twitter.com/kkSH3HMORN](https://pic.twitter.com/kkSH3HMORN)*

*— National Weather Service (@NWS) [September 22, 2020](#)*

*One of the biggest statements made about daylight during the equinox is that both day and night are the same. That means 12 hours of day and 12 hours of night for every single location on the planet. Is this true? Not quite. The word we are looking for is "equilux" which means "equal light" in Latin.*

### **WHAT IS THE EQUILUX**

*Equinox and equilux are similar but not interchangeable. Equilux is the day when we get equal day and night, which means the sun is set for 12 hours and we see the sun up (at least a part of it above the horizon) for 12 hours. Equilux is usually a few days after the equinox and is based on latitude.*

## **WHY IS THE EQUILUX (EQUAL DAY & NIGHT) NOT OFFICIALLY ON THE EQUINOX**

- 1.) *Large Sun: a disc in the sky, larger than just a point*

*As the sun sets, the center of the sun may be at the horizon, but there is still a little bit left above the horizon to still make it look like the sun is up. This adds another minute or two of "daylight."*

*Credit: WKYC*

- 2.) *Atmospheric Refraction*

*Due to air pressure and humidity, the sun may appear 0.5 degrees higher in the sky than it actually is, adding another couple minutes to "daylight" (according to earthsky.org).*

## **HOW TO DETERMINE WHEN YOUR EQUILUX WILL TAKE PLACE**

*It is based on latitude...*

*The closer you are to the equator, the more significant the atmospheric refraction will be (more humidity and pressure). Thus, the farther south you live, the longer it will be into fall before your town actually has equal day and night.*

*\*from timeanddate.com*

*When your Equilux be (for 2020):*

**60° NORTH** -- Sept 25

**55° NORTH** -- Sept 25

**50° NORTH** -- Sept 25

**45° NORTH** -- Sept 25

**40° NORTH** -- Sept 26

**35° NORTH** -- Sept 26

**30° NORTH** -- Sept 27

**25° NORTH** -- Sept 27

**20° NORTH** -- Sept 28

**15° NORTH** -- Sept 30

**10° NORTH** -- Oct 4

**5° NORTH** -- Oct 17

- (end of quote from wkyc.com) -

Here at returningtothegarden.com we noted a total lack of uniformity when establishing a verdict for the equilux timing - due to multiple factors. Not only does air pressure and humidity have a bearing on the way that the data is interpreted, but this points to the more vital realization that latitude is absolutely fundamental in determining the equilux.

This means there will be wide variances in the timing for this phenomena from one region to another. If we look at these stats for 2020, we can easily see the discordant nature of this method. The equilux for the 5 degree north latitude comes 22 days (more than three weeks) after the equilux at the 60 degree north latitude. This method is replete with variance which will create considerable disparity if it is used for calendar determinations.

**The equilux is marked by variable data, whereas the equinox is a universal event.** The structural and mathematical uniformity of the Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS) calendar implies such a universal event to mark the end of a year – an event that would apply to the entire earth simultaneously. This is why Psalm 19 relates to the EQUINOX as it does:

Psalms 19:4

(4) Their line is gone out **through all the earth**, ...

The online Cambridge Dictionary helps us to clarify this:

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/equilux>

*The date of the equilux will vary depending on where on Earth you are, whereas the equinox is a fixed instant in time.*

It is important to understand that in the **schematic nature** of the DSS calendar, the precise moment of equal light and dark does not need to be detailed. The equinox signals the immanency of equal day and night, and because it IS "**a fixed instant in time**", it is uniformly available through simple observation. THIS (the moment of equinox) is an anchoring event, whereas focusing on the precise timing for equal day and night creates a variable standard not suitable for a uniform worldwide observation. Simply observing the equinox is the critical factor to ensure a universal calendar, as implied in the scrolls.

The equinox is a sign that is exclusively from the sun. Nothing else has any bearing on it. Because it is a sign of the sun, this designation for the start of the year is echoed in Jubilees where we find many references to the calendar:

*Jubilees 2:8-10:*

8) *On the fourth day the Lord made the sun, the moon, and the stars. He placed them in the heavenly firmament to shine on the whole earth, to rule over day and night and to separate between light and darkness.*

9) **The Lord appointed the sun as a great sign above the earth for days, Sabbaths, months, festivals, years, Sabbaths of years, jubilees, and all cycles of the years.**

10) *It separates between light and darkness and (serves) for well-being so that everything that sprouts and grows on the earth may prosper. These three types he made on the fourth day.*

We see here that **the Lord appointed the sun as a great SIGN above the earth for all cycles of the years**, and this is so that everything that sprouts and grows may prosper. The crops must be ready for the festivals!! **All cycles** of the year would include the proper timing to transition from the old year to the new. The sun (as the GREATER light of Genesis 1:14) rules over the other lights to provide the marker for this change of year. It is the equinox.

While the equilux is actually the precise timing of equal portions of light and dark, just how is this light and darkness to be measured? It is arbitrary at best, and while there are some claims to determine it precisely, it cannot be determined by the average person. Furthermore, it is inconsistent from one place to another. The equilux is simply a surmised **observation** – not an event.

The consistent **event** Yah provided for mankind to use in identifying the timing for yearly transition is the equinox. Psalms 19 refers to the equinox when it tells of a line from the heavens which goes throughout all the earth:

Psalms 19:1, 4

(1) To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. **The heavens declare the glory of God**; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

(4) **Their line is gone out through all the earth**, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,

The equinox can be observed by anyone anywhere - simply by using a sundial, or even just a stick and a few stones to mark the movement of the sun's shadow. At the equinox and ONLY at the equinox, it makes a straight line from east to west. This line goes throughout the entire earth simultaneously.

This Psalms 19 Scripture is backed up in the New Testament by James. Speaking of the heavens, he relates the handywork of Yah as being a perfect gift from above, and he says that it comes down from our Father who gave us these lights. He then says that there is no variance with the Father, and he relates this steadfastness to the words "neither shadow of turning".

James 1:17

(17) Every good gift and every **perfect gift** is from above, and cometh down **from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.**

As you track the east to west shadow of the sundial each day, the shadow forms an arc. This arc gets progressively larger or smaller as the season ensues. However, at the precise timing of the equinox event, there is only a straight line, with no arcing of the shadow at all - no variance from the straight line. This arcing that shows a variance from the straight line that forms at the equinox is the shadow of turning spoken about by James. The equinox event that happens twice in the year is the **ONLY** time there is no arc (shadow of turning).

This line Yah established in Psalms 19:4 is THE line of "no shadow of turning" that James was referencing. It is consistent throughout time and all around the world. Just as a side note, there is considerable evidence that James spent much time in Qumran, so he understood the Zadok calendar, and seems to be authenticating it here by specifying the equinox as Yah's perfect sign to determine the change from one year to the next. So - James considered the equinox to be a perfect gift (sign) for this purpose - sent from the Father, in whom is no variableness. In other words, this sign is THE perfect sign from the Father, and it will never be otherwise because Yah remains the same forever.

In our Psalms passage, we see that this line was a sign that is specifically related to a "race".

Psalms 19:4-6

(4) Their **line is gone out through all the earth**, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,

(5) Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man **to run a race.**

This race is the cycle of the new year. The equinox determines when it (the race of the new yearly cycle) can begin. It can NEVER begin PRIOR to the sign that Yah put in place that says the exiting solar year is completed! That would be like saying man could run before he was even born. You cannot

put the cart before the horse, and you cannot begin a new year until the Yah given sign of the line is provided to say the old year is complete. Verse 6 seems to chime in to validate this.

Psalms 19:6

(6) His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

The word "heat" in this verse is typically translated as "sun". This would be saying that nothing is hid from the "sun". We see in this verse that this line is sent from the end of heaven, and it appears everywhere in the world simultaneously. Nothing can hide from this sign of the sun or prevent its occurring. It will be visible to all who are seeking it. This shows how important it is for all of mankind to be aware and observant of this sign, and it validates the critical purpose for its existence.

Going back to our James passage for a moment, we might want to put verse 17 in just a brief context.

James 1:16-18

(16) **Do not err, my beloved brethren.**

(17) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

(18) Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, **that we should be a kind of firstfruits** of his creatures.

The verse before warns us not to err, then we have the wording about the inflexible sign by our unchanging Father of lights above. Verse 16 implies that it will be common to err by failing to understand the gravity of this sign. Then verse 18 links it to being a word of truth, and hinges it to being a type of firstfruits (which we see as being a type of the Bride of Messiah). It seems to be of major importance that we GET THIS!

The enemy wants to scatter and divide, but Yah's obvious intent when structuring this calendar of the scrolls was to unite the body in a profoundly simple method to observe His Holy Days. If we can only accept this calendar in its pure form, the method it advocates for signaling the end of the solar year is pinned to the equinox - **the sun's event sign** that can be easily and universally evidenced by the sundial!