

NEW MOONS ARE THEY HOLY TIME?

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The Spirit of obedience is the Spirit of Truth and leads us into all truth. In this booklet you will find fascinating new understanding of the New Moons, and how we might learn to observe them. In this way we will be even more pleasing to Yahweh. It is better than having an attitude which wants to give excuses for not observing what He clearly shows us He wants us to keep and guard.

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Are the New Moons to be observed? If so, are they to be used just to mark time, or are they to be used to mark HOLY TIME in the same way as the Sabbath? Are they to be observed just as a Sabbath?

This is a study on the observance of the New Moons which seems to be ALMOST on a par with the weekly Sabbaths and the annual Feast days. While not stated to be HOLY time, they are commanded to be observed in much the same manner as the Sabbath.

In I Corinthians 10:11, we are told the Scriptures are to be used for our examples or types. "*Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples (types): and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.* "

What examples and types have been set in the Word of Yahweh for us concerning the New Moons? How about marking it with feasting, a glass of wine, and perhaps some real praise and thanks to Yahweh?

WHAT IS A NEW MOON?

Using *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* we find that when "new" is connected to "moon", it is always referring to the time when a crescent can be seen at the beginning of the month. It is #2320 meaning "the day of the new moon," or "the calends of a lunar month," and "a lunar month, beginning at the new moon."

This word is chodesh, pronounced kho'-desh, and is from the root #2318 or chadash pronounced Khaw-dash'.

Chadash means to "polish as a sword." [We are using *GESENIUS' HEBREW-CHALDEE LEXICON* which is numerically coded as with *Strong's* numerics.] The primary sense of chadash (#2318) is cutting or polishing. The significance of newness "appears to proceed from that of a sharp polished splendid sword."

As you can see, a new crescent appears as a curved sword blade. We must remember that when the sun, moon, and stars were set in Genesis 1:14, they were to be for lights, and thus the darkness of a conjunctive new moon is not a viable new moon. When He said they would be lights in the firmament in verse 14, the word is #3974 and means "a luminous body ... light (as an element); figuratively brightness." This same word is used three (3) times in verse 16.

In verse 15 we find that the sun and the moon are to be for "lights'... luminaries to be seen. They are to give light upon the earth. This last word "light is #216 and means "illumination or luminary (in every sense)..." Its primary root is to be or cause to be luminous. Again, in no stretch of the language could we construe this to mean the dark, conjunctive moon which cannot be seen.

A MONTH

When the term "month" is used, in nearly every single case in the Old Testament Scriptures it is the same word as "New Moon" or #2320 and means it is the month of days beginning with the sighting of a new crescent after sunset above the western horizon. Each month will have 29 or 30 days in it.

It can also imply a new beginning. In Genesis 8:13... *"And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first month, the FIRST day of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth. and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry. "He had looked upon the earth and a NEW BEGINNING of civilization began!*

The word "first" used with "day" in this verse is #259 and means unified, or the first of a period of days known as a month.

Again, in Exodus 12:2 we read, *"This month (2320) shall be the beginning (7218) of months: it shall be the first (7223) month of the year (8141) to you."*

The word "year" means a revolution of time. In the *Lexicon* we find it means, "the course of the sun, or of the changes of seasons, as spring, summer, autumn, winter." Those changes are marked by the sun using the spring and autumn Equinox's. and the summer and winter solstices. A year begins at the spring Equinox and the first new moon on or after that Equinox is the first month of the year.

Thus we see that the first month of a year begins with a NEW MOON. This NEW MOON is the beginning of the first or chief month of Abib. Since Genesis 1:14 says the sun and the moon would be for "signs", then we see the sign of the beginning of the year is the spring Equinox and the sign of the beginning of the months is a new slim crescent of a new slim crescent of the moon.

YAHWEH SPEAKS TO HIS PROPHETS

Often, we find that Yahweh would speak to His servants on the FIRST DAY of the months as in Numbers 1:1... *"And Yahweh spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tabernacle of the congregation, on the FIRST [DAY] of the second month, in the second year after they were come out of the land of Egypt..."* Question: What was Moses doing in the tabernacle of the CONGREGATION at that time unless he was supposed to be observing the New Moon?

Chapter 9:1 is a time setting previous to chapter 1:1 for it says..."And Yahweh spoke unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the FIRST month of the second year." Although not specifically stated, this could have been the first day of the first month. Let

us look at several more examples.

Ezekiel received the Word of Yahweh on the first day of the month as evidenced in Ezekiel 26:1... *"And it came to pass in the eleventh year, in the first [day] of the month, that the word of Yahweh came unto me..."*

Again in Chapter 29:17... *"And it came to pass in the seven and twentieth year in the first [month], in the first [day] of the month, the word of Yahweh came unto me..."*

And again in Ezekiel 31:1... *"And it came to pass in the eleventh year, in the third [month], in the first [day] of the month, that the word of Yahweh came unto me..."*

Even such minor prophets as Haggai show Yahweh as appearing on the first day of the month to speak to His prophets. Haggai 1:1... *"In the second year of Darius the King, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of Yahweh by Haggai the prophet..."*

NEW MOONS OBSERVED

One of the places of instruction to observe the New Moons is found in Numbers 28:11-15. *"And in the beginnings o f your months [new moons] you shall offer a burnt offering unto Yahweh; two young bullocks, and one ram, seven lambs o f the first year without spot;*

"And three tenths deals o f our for a meat offering, mingled with oil, for one bullock; and two tenths deals o f four for a meat offering, mingled with oil, for one ram; [one deal is 28 quarts]

"And a several tenth deal p f flour mingled with oil for a meal (meal) offering unto one lamb; for a burnt offering o f a sweet saviour, a sacrifice made by fire unto Yahweh.

"And their drink offerings shall be half an hin o f wine unto a bullock, and the third part o f an hin unto a ram, and a fourth part of an hin unto a lamb; this is the burnt offering o f EVERY MONTH throughout the MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

"And one kid of the goats for a sin offering unto Yahweh shall be offered, beside the continual burnt offering, and his drink offering. "

Numbers 29:6... *"Besides the burnt offering o f THE MONTH, and his meal offering, and the daily burnt offering, and his meal offering, and their drink offerings, according unto their manner, for a sweet saviour, a sacrifice made by fire unto Yahweh."*

Even the death of Aaron was marked on the first day of the month. Numbers 33:28... *"And Aaron the priest went up into mount Hor at the commandment of Yahweh, and died there, in the fortieth year after the children o f Israel were come out of the land o f Egypt, in the first [day] o f the fifth month. "*

Moses also observed the first day of the month! In Deuteronomy 1:3... *"And it came to pass in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first [day] o f the month, that Moses*

spoke unto the children of Israel, according unto all that Yahweh had given him in commandment unto them... "It is interesting to note that here is a RECORD of the whole congregation of Israel being gathered on the New Moon, a New month, to hear the Word of Yahweh. It appears to have been a COMMANDED ASSEMBLY. Otherwise, they would not have been there for Moses to address them on the New Moon.

After Israel had neglected the sanctuary under the reign of Ahaz, Hezekiah began to rebuild (repair) the Temple. II Chronicles 29:3... *"He in the first year of his reign, in the FIRST MONTH, opened the doors of the house of Yahweh, and repaired them. "This was a new beginning for the Assembly at that time. Verse 17... "Now they began on the first [day] of the first month to sanctify, and on the eight day of the month came they to the porch of Yahweh: so they sanctified the house of Yahweh in eight days; and in the sixteenth day of the first month they made and end. "*

SAUL AND DAVID

In I Samuel 20, a story is given concerning David and Jonathan, where David had fled from Saul. What is important in this episode is HOW the New Moon was observed during the time of David.

In verse 5... *"And David said unto Jonathan, Behold, tomorrow is the New Moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king at meat: but let me go, that I may hide myself in the field unto the third [day] at even."*

Verse 18... *"Then Jonathan said to David, Tomorrow is the New Moon: and you shall be missed, because your seat will be empty. "* Why would David's seat being empty have any MORE significance on this day than any other? It was obviously an ordinance to observe the New Moon. It was David's custom to be there, and all the leadership of Israel KNEW IT!

What was Saul's attitude toward the absence of David from this feast of the New Moon? Verses 24-26 give the answer. *"So David hid himself in the field: and when the New Moon was come, the king sat him down to eat meat.*

And the king sat upon his seat, as at other times, even upon a seat by the wall: and Jonathan arose, and Abner sat by Saul's side, and David's place was empty." Very significant.

Now notice the language of verse 26. *"Nevertheless Saul spoke not any thing that day: for he THOUGHT, Something has befallen him, he is NOT CLEAN; surely he is not clean.* Why was Saul concerned about whether David was clean or unclean? He was considering the fact that this is a time to be observed unto Yahweh. David, a leader in Israel, was not there to observe it as was customary. The New Moon was observed by feasting during the time of David. Should we not do the same today?

Let's understand. In verse 5, the word "meat" is #398 and means to dine. In verse 24, the word "meat" is #3899 and simply means food. So this feasting was to simply have a sumptuous meal together. It is NOT referring to this time as an appointed festival such as a "moed" Feast. Thus, there is no reference that this New Moon was holy time. Yet the example to observe it is obvious.

SIMILAR TO SABBATHS

During the time of Elisha, the New Moon was observed much the same way a Sabbath was. Going to see the priest on the New Moon apparently was equated on the same par as that of the Sabbath. During this time, the people gathered for the New Moon as indicated in the story of Elisha, the Shunammite in II Kings 4, especially verse 23... *"And he said, Wherefore will you go to him (Elisha) today? It is neither New Moon, nor Sabbath..."*

During the millennium, there appears to be the benefit of Worship Services on the New Moons. Isaiah 66:23 states... *"And it shall come to pass, that from **one new moon** to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall ALL FLESH come to **worship before Me**, says Yahweh.* "Since we are to worship on the New Moons in the Kingdom, should we not also do it NOW, in our flesh, as Saul, David, Elisha, and all those before us did? Is this not the same reasoning we use to justify the observance of the Feast of Tabernacles in Zechariah 14:16-19? It would seem to be far more righteous to come together once per month for the New Moon, than to come together each week for Woden's day, or Thor's day!

In Ezekiel 45:17 the prince was to make a burnt offering on the New Moons. *"And it shall be the prince's part to give burnt offerings, and meat offerings, and drink offerings, in the Feasts, and in the New Moons, and in the Sabbaths, in all solemnities of the house of Israel..."*

Verse 18... *"Thus says Yahweh; In the first [month], in the first [day] of the month, you shall take a young bullock without blemish, and cleanse the sanctuary..."* This is not only the New Moon of a month, but the FIRST New Moon of the year, the beginning of the month of Abib.

In Ezekiel 46:1-8... *"Thus says Yahweh; The gate of the inner court that looks toward the east shall be shut the six working days; but on the Sabbath it shall be opened, and in the day of the New Moon it shall be opened.." Verse 3... "Likewise the people of the land shall worship at the door of this gate before Yahweh in the Sabbaths and in the New Moons..." Verse 6... *"And in the day of the New Moon it shall be a young bullock without blemish, and six lambs, and a ram: they shall be without blemish."* These were special burnt offerings besides the continual burnt offerings.*

MEMORIAL TRUMPETS

The MONTHS ARE TO BE MARKED by the blowing of trumpets as a memorial. Notice Numbers 10:10... *"Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, AND in the beginning of your months, you shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your Elohim: 1 am Yahweh your Elohim."* Clearly, the New Moons are to be memorials!

Reread Numbers 28:9-15.

POLLUTION OF NEW MOONS

Amos condemned those who would pollute the Sabbaths and NEW MOONS for strictly commercial gain. Amos 8:4-5... *"Hear this, O you that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail,*

"Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the Sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit?"

"That we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes; yea, and sell the refuse of the wheat?"

Here is clear condemnation of the wrong observance of a New Moon, the impatience of wanting it to be over so they could cheat in their trade practices.

Read Isaiah 1:13-14. Yahweh condemns the observance of the New Moons, along with the Sabbaths, when they are observed with sin in the heart.

Even though New Moons are nowhere stated to be "holy" time, yet there is a requirement about not buying or selling, and instructions for offering burnt offerings on those special days. Obviously, Yahweh's calendar was special, and He wanted it always remembered. Is it not amazing so many of the leaders of Yahweh's Assembly refuse to observe the months according to the visible New Moon crescent?

AN ORDINANCE

I Chronicles 23:31...*"And to offer all burnt sacrifices unto Yahweh in the Sabbaths, in the New Moons, and on the set Feasts, by number according to the order commanded unto them, continually before Yahweh."*

II Chronicles 2:4...*"Behold I build an house to the name of Yahweh my Elohim, to dedicate it to Him, and to burn before Him sweet incense, and for the continual shewbread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the Sabbaths, and on the New Moons, and on the Solemn Feasts of Yahweh our Elohim. This is **AN ORDINANCE FOR EVER TO ISRAEL.**"*

II Chronicles 8:13... *"Even after a certain rate every day, offering according to the commandment of Moses, on the Sabbaths, and on the New Moons, and on the solemn Feasts, three times in the year, even in the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and in the Feast of Weeks, and in the Feast of Tabernacles."* Simple, it is to be done throughout the year.

II Chronicles 31:3, during the reign of Hezekiah, *"He appointed also the king's portion of his substance for the burnt offerings, and the burnt offerings for the Sabbaths, and for the New Moons, and for the set Feasts, AS IT IS*

WRITTEN in the Law of Yahweh. "

AFTER THE CAPTIVITY

When Judah returned from captivity, they immediately began to OBSERVE the New Moons. In Ezra 3:4-5... *"They kept also the Feast of Tabernacles, as it is written, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number, according to the custom as the duty of every day required.*

"And afterward offered the continual burnt offering, both of the New Moons, and of all the set Feasts of Yahweh that were consecrated, and of every one that willingly offered a freewill offering unto Yahweh. " This Scripture equates the New Moons with the set Feasts.

Ezra began to leave Babylon on the first day of the first month for a New Beginning. Ezra 7 6-9 ... in verse 9... *"For upon the first [day of the first month began he to go up from Babylon, and on the first [day] of the fifth month came he to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his Elohim upon him. "*

Matters of importance may be examined on the first day of the month (New Moon) as shown in Ezra 10:16-17... *"And Ezra the priest, with certain chief of the fathers, after the house of their fathers, and all of them by their names, were separated, and sat down in the first day of the tenth month to examine the matter.*

"And they made an end with all the men that had taken strange wives by the first d of the first month. " It is a day of cleansing.

Nehemiah talks of a special poll tax that was levied to obtain the animals for the burnt offerings which were to be made on the NEW MOONS, as well as all the other appointed days.

Nehemiah 10:32-33... *"Also we made ordinances for us, to charge ourselves yearly with the third part of a shekel for the service of the house of our Elohim;*

"For the shewbread, and for the continual meat offering, and for the continual burnt offering, of the Sabbaths, of the New Moons, for the set Feasts, and for the holy things, and for the sin offerings to make an atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our Elohim. "

Yahweh hated the way that Israel observed the New Moons and the Sabbaths. In Isaiah 1:13-14... *"Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the New Moons and Sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity (lawlessness), even the solemn meeting (is in lawlessness).*

"YOUR New Moons, and YOUR appointed feasts My soul Hates: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them."

CONCLUSION

Because Israel has rejected the Law of Yahweh, He promises to cause all these Holy Days, Sabbaths, and the New Moons to cease. Hosea 2:11... "I will *also cause all her mirth to cease, her Feast days, her New Moons, and her Sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts.* " This can be taken two ways. The people of Israel today, the Anglo-Saxons and others, and most self-professed Believers, do NOT observe Yahweh's holy days, nor the New Moons. They have ceased in our very beloved America.

It also means that even the false calendar of years, months, and feast days ... Christmas, New Years, Valentine's Day, Easter, and Hallowe'en , and the rest of her own chosen days, will come to a sudden end.

Colossians 2:16 does not take away the obligation to observe the New Moon, but rather upholds the practice of it by stating, "*Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink or in respect of an holy day, or of the New Moon, or of the Sabbath days; which are a shadow of things to come; but the body of Messiah.* "

Here, the New Moon is also on the same level as that of the Sabbaths. However, we have not been able to find a Scripture which states specifically that the New Moon is HOLY TIME. Rather, it is to be MARKED as any Sabbath, or Holy Day in order to ensure the correct marking of Yahweh's NEW MONTHS and years. This will ensure the purpose of KNOWING the accurate days of Passover, and the other Holy Days of Yahweh's calendar! It is a feast time which marks Yahweh's Calendar in the heavens for all to observe.

Yahweh's Holy Calendar

1. Abib (Green or Tender ears)
2. Ziv (Month of Flowers)
3. Sivan
4. Tammuz (Nimrod)
5. Ab
6. Elul
7. Tishri (Ethaniam)
8. Heshvan (Bul)

9. Chisleu
10. Tebeth
11. Shebat
12. Adar

At times there will be a 13th month called Adar II.

NOTE: This calendar is not Holy because of the names of the months, for some of them are just as pagan as January for Janua, or March for Mars. It is Holy because it was ordained to follow both the MOON and the SUN. Its calculations with the beginning of each month is to be in harmony with the visible crescent.