

“Rosh Chodesh ~ Head Of The Month ~ New Moon”

Sabbath Workshop 8/19/06

Thus said the Master Yahweh, “The gate of the inner courtyard facing east is shut the six days of work, but on the **Sabbath** it is opened, and on the day of the **New Moon** it is opened.”

(Ezekiel / Yehezqel 46:1)

Today is Shabbat Mevarchim, the Sabbath that blesses the month. It is considered such because this is the last Sabbath before the new Hebrew month.

Definition of a “new moon” (also called a new phase of the moon):

- The phase of the moon occurring when it passes between the earth and the sun and is invisible or visible only as a narrow crescent at sunset.
- The crescent moon.

Rosh Chodesh means “new moon” or head of the month. The New Moon marks the first day of the first Hebrew Month.

We are **commanded** to keep the **New Moon Festival** each month.

- **Psalm 81:1-7:** Shout for joy to Elohim our strength; raise a shout to the Elohim of Yaaqob. Lift up a song and beat the tambourine, the pleasant lyre and with the harp. **Blow the ram’s horn at the time of the New Moon**, at the full moon, on our festival day. For this is a law for Yisrael and a right ruling of the Elohim of Yaaqob. He **appointed it** in Yehoseph (Joseph) for a witness, when he went throughout the land of Mitsrayim (Egypt); I heard a language that I did not know. He says, “I removed his shoulder from the burden; His hands were freed from the baskets. You called in distress and I rescued you; I answered you in the covering of thunder; I proved you at the waters of Meribah. Selah.
- **Yehezqel / Ezekiel 46:1-3** Thus said the Master Yahweh, “The gate of the inner courtyard facing east is shut the six days of work, but on the Sabbath it is opened and on the day of the New Moon it is opened. And the prince shall enter by the way of the porch of that gate from the outside, and he shall stand by the post. And the priests shall prepare his burnt offering and his peace offerings. And he shall bow himself at the threshold of the gate, and shall go out, but the gate is not shut until evening. **And the people of the land shall also bow themselves at the entrance to this gate before Yahweh on the Sabbaths and on the New Moons.**
- **Colossians 2:16:** “Let no one therefore judge you in eating or in drinking or in respect of a

festival or a **new moon** or Sabbaths which are a shadow of what is to come - but the body of Messiah.

- **Prophecies Regarding The New Moon & the Millennial Kingdom:** Isaiah 66:22-23

Creation & Purpose Of The Moon

- **Genesis 1:1-18**
- Notice in verse three Yahweh said “Let light come to be” and light came to be. This was the first day. Day and night were created on this day.
- In verse 14 - three days later Yahweh again says “Let **lights** come to be in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night...” This was the fourth day - (v. 19).
- There were THREE DAYS OF LIGHT **before** the sun, moon, and stars were created! What was this light? According to Strong’s concordance, the light created first (in verse 4) is translated as “owr” which is defined as “Yahweh, as Israel’s light” or “the light of His face” in other words it was the light of Yahweh’s shekinah glory. When evening came his glory departed temporarily. When morning came, it returned. The “day” begins at sunset. Evening is translated as “sunset” and morning as “sunrise”. The sunset and the sunrise were comprised the day.

The lights (notice the plurality) referred to in verse 14 is translated as “ma’owr” which means “an object which gives light.” Clearly, these two “lights” are two totally different things.

- **Verse 14-15:** The Sun and Moon were given a specific purpose. In verse fourteen Yahweh states that they are for “signs, and appointed times, and for days and years, and for lights in the heavens to give light on the earth.”
- Today we only acknowledge a single purpose for the sun & moon - to give light on the earth. Scripture clearly states that they are also for signs, appointed times, days, and years which is VERY important.
- The moon was created for a **sign, an appointed time, and to mark days, and years** in addition to providing light.
- An “appointed time” is translated as “mow’ed which means a “sacred season or a set

feast”. The moon was created as a **sign** to mark sacred seasons and appointed feast days this is why the “day” begins with the appearance of the moon. This is also the way the moon’s purpose is fulfilled.

Identifying New Moon Festivals In Scripture

- Remember Psalm 81:1-7 (top of the page), let’s see what Yahweh meant when He stated that he “appointed the blowing of the ram’s horn (shofar) as a witness in Joseph”.
- **Exodus 12:2** “This month is the beginning of months for you, it is the first month of the year for you.”

The words and phrase I have underlined is of great importance. These words when translated back into the original hebrew read “rosh chodesh” which we now know is “New Moon”. This Scripture literally reads “*This new moon, is the start of the new moons for you. It is the first new moon of the year for you.*” We know that the new moons fall on the first day of the Hebrew month.

Yahweh was announcing a new year and a new moon festival. On this day the shofar was blown for the new moon festival.

- It was immediately after this new moon festival Yahweh instituted the feast of Passover, and the feast of unleavened bread as an eternal law AND delivered His people from Egypt!. This was during the month of Abib. This new moon festival signified a deliverance from bondage, a new beginning and a great time of celebration.
- **The Great Flood:** It is interesting to note that the date of the great flood was calculated using the time of Noah's birth (Gen.7:11; 8:13). Genesis 8:13 reveals that Noah was born on the first day of the first month of the year (a new moon). The flood began 17 days after his six hundredth birthday (Genesis 7:11). On his six hundred and first birthday, the waters dried up (Gen.8:13).

The one whom Yahweh used to save humanity was born on a new moon, which is symbolic of a new beginning. There were only eight people saved out of the flood, and the number 8 is one of the numbers used in the Bible to signify a new beginning.

- **The Tabernacle** : Yahweh told Moses to set up the Tabernacle on the first day of the first month (Ex.40:1-2), which Moses did on the first day of the first month of the second year after the Israelites left Egypt (Ex.40:16-18). The presence of Yahweh rested on the Tabernacle on the first day of the month (Ex.40:2,17,33-34; Num.9:15).
- **Festivals**: The Feast of Trumpets is always to be observed on a New Moon day (Lev.23:24; Num.29:1). This festival pictures a new beginning for humanity (Matt.24:30-31) and the return of Yeshua as the conquering King of kings.
- **Moses Numbers The People**: On the first day of the second month, in the second year after Israel came out of Egypt, Moses was told to take a census of the people (Num.1:1-18).
- **The Death of Aaron**: Even the death of Aaron is recorded as occurring on the beginning of the month. Aaron died when he was 123 years old on the first day of the fifth month. The death of Aaron, ended the line of priests that came out of Egypt. Israel completed their mourning for Aaron on the first day of the next month and began their journey into the promised land with a new high priest (Num.33:38-39). This commemorated the death of the old priesthood and the beginning of the new one.
- **Renewal Of The Covenant** :On the first day of the eleventh month of the Israelites' 40th year of wilderness punishment, Moses assembled the people and went over their covenant with Yahweh again (Deut.1:3).
- **The Promised Land** On the first day of the eleventh month, Moses gave the instructions to Israel to possess the promised land (Deut.1:3-8).
- **Temple Cleansed**: Hezekiah commissioned the cleansing of the temple on the first day of the first sacred month (2 Chron.29:17)

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- **Another Great Deliverance:** Ezra departed from Babylon on the first day of the first month carrying with him the decree of King Artaxerxes to free the Jews from Babylonian captivity. Ezra arrived in Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month with the decree (Ezr.7:8-9).
 - **Repentance:** After the temple in Jerusalem was dedicated, Ezra read to the people from the book of the law on the first day of the seventh month (the Festival of Trumpets). This was the first time this had been done since the Jews returned from their captivity in Babylon (Neh.8:1-3).
 - **Repentance:** On the first day of the tenth month, Ezra and other priests began their deliberation to solve the problem concerning the Jews who had married foreign wives. The next year on the first day of the first month, their decision concerning this problem was formally made. They divorced the foreign wives (Ezr.10:16-17).
 - **Repentance:** After Hezekiah issued his command to repair the Temple and establish the worship of Yahweh in Jerusalem, the repairs began on the first day of the first month (2.Chron.29:3, 17). It is interesting that it took 8 days to clean the temple area up to the porch of the Temple and another 8 days to complete the repair and cleaning. The number 8 indicates a new beginning associated with the first day of the sacred month.

It is obvious from the above Scripture references that each time Yahweh wanted to significantly deliver Israel or when Israel was in a state of “shema teshuva” (repentance and returning) He made it a point to mention that it happened during the new moon festival. The new moon festival commemorates deliverance from bondage, a fresh start, and a time for celebration!

How To Scripturally Observe The New Moon Festival

Here are some references to how Israel honored the new moon festival in Scripture. We know that the shofar is to be blown on the new moon. Here are some other Scriptural ways Israel kept the New Moon Festivals.

- It is a time of remembrance, rejoicing, & celebration. And in the day of your gladness, and in your appointed times, and **at the beginning of your months**, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over your peace offerings. And they shall be

a **remembrance** for you before your Elohim. I am your Elohim.” (Numbers 10:10)

- Is it a Sabbath?: Although Scripture does not clearly state that the New Moon Festivals are Sabbaths, Amos 8:5 indicates that it was treated as a Sabbath. “When does the New Moon pass so that we sell grain, and the Sabbath so that we trade our wheat...”
- It’s a special time to hear from Yahweh. The children of Israel visited the prophet (to hear from Yahweh), today we are able to visit with Yahweh directly.
- It is a time of worship. We are to come before Yahweh and worship on this day. Isaiah 66:23
- It is a time of fellowship & feasting.

Reference: <http://www.bibleresearch.org/newmoontopics.html>

Satan’s Counterfeit to the New Moon Festival

For the most part, true believers tend to steer clear of anything similar to moon / sun worship. As a result the overly cautious may overlook the new moon festivals. Keep in mind that the festivals are not meant to be a worship of the moon in any way. The moon is a sign to mark seasons, days, years, and appointed times. The new moon signifies the beginning of the new calendar month. For everything that Yahweh wants to give us there is a counterfeit.

- **Islam & The Moon God:** The central deity in Islam is Allah. Followers of Islam also claim that Allah is the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This is said in hopes of converting Jews and Christians to their faith. It is no surprise to discover that Allah is in fact a pagan deity. He is the moon god who is married to the sun god. The stars are considered their daughters.
- The symbol of Islam is the crescent moon (the new moon).

Archaeologists have uncovered temples to the Moon-god throughout the Middle East. From the mountains of Turkey to the banks of the Nile, the most wide-spread religion of the ancient world was the worship of the Moon-god. In the first literate civilization, the Sumerians have left us thousands of clay tablets in which they described their religious beliefs. The ancient Sumerians worshiped a Moon-god who was called many different names. His symbol was the crescent moon. This was the dominant religion in Sumeria. The cult of the Moon-god was the most popular religion throughout ancient Mesopotamia. The Assyrians, Babylonians, and the Akkadians took the word Suen and transformed it into the word Sin as their favorite name for the Moon-god. Sin is a name which is Sumerian in origin which had been borrowed by the Semites.

In ancient Syria and Canaan, the moon god Sin was usually represented by the moon in its crescent phase. At times the full moon was placed inside the crescent moon to emphasize all the phases of the moon. The sun-goddess was the wife of Sin and the stars were their daughters. There were also sacrifices offered to the moon god. In Persia, as well as in Egypt, the moon god is depicted on wall murals and on the heads of statues. He was considered the Judge of men and gods. The Old Covenant constantly rebuked the worship of the moon god (see: Deut. 4:19; 17:3; II Kings. 21:3,5; 23:5; Jer. 8:2; 19:13; Zeph. 1:5, etc.) When Israel fell into idolatry, it was usually the cult of the moon god. As a matter of fact, everywhere in the ancient world long before Islam was birthed, the symbol of the crescent moon can be found on seal impressions, steles, pottery, amulets, clay tablets, cylinders, weights, earrings, necklaces, wall murals, etc. In Tell-el-Obeid, a copper calf was found with a crescent moon on its forehead. An idol with the body of a bull and the head of man has a crescent moon inlaid on its forehead with shells. **In Ur, the Stela of Ur-Nammu has the crescent symbol placed at the top of the register of gods because the moon god was considered head of the gods.**



Definition of Stela: an ancient upright stone or slab bearing markings

Even bread was baked in the form of a crescent as an act of devotion to the Moon god. Ur of the Chaldees was extremely devoted to the moon god. Ur of the Chaldees is where Abraham was called out of by Yahweh. (Ur is a now extinct city which existed in modern day Iraq). Zechariah 14 prophecies regarding the millennial reign of Yeshua. Note carefully what it says regarding every pot in Israel.

In Old Testament times, Nabonidus (555-539 BC), the last king of Babylon, built Tayma, Arabia as a center of Moon-god worship. Segall stated, "South Arabia's stellar religion has always been dominated by the moon god in various variations." Many scholars have also noticed that the Moon-god's name "Sin" is a part of such Arabic words as "Sinai," the "wilderness of Sin," (Exodus 16:1, Numbers 33:11). When the popularity of the moon god waned elsewhere, the Arabs remained true to their conviction that the moon god was the greatest of all gods. While they worshiped 360 gods at the Kabah in Mecca, the moon god was the chief deity. Mecca was in fact built as a shrine for the moon god.

This is what made it the most sacred site of Arabian paganism. In 1944, G. Caton Thompson revealed in her book, *The Tombs and Moon Temple of Hureidha*, that she had uncovered a temple of the moon god in southern Arabia. The symbols of the crescent moon and no less than twenty-one inscriptions with the name Sin were found in this temple. An idol which may be the moon god himself was also discovered. This was later confirmed by other well-known archeologists.

The evidence reveals that the temple of the moon god was active even in the Christian era. Evidence gathered from both North and South Arabia demonstrate that moon god worship was clearly active even in Muhammad's day and was still the dominant cult. According to numerous inscriptions, while the name of the moon god was Sin, his title was al-ilah, which means "the deity". He was the chief or high god among the gods. The Moon-god was called al-ilah, i.e. the god, which was shortened to Allah in pre-Islamic times. The pagan Arabs even used Allah in the names they gave to their children. For example, both Muhammad's father and uncle had Allah as part of their names.

The fact that they were given such names by their pagan parents proves that Allah was the title for the moon god even in Muhammad's day. Muhammad simply eliminated the marriage and children and proclaimed Allah (which means 'the supreme being') as the only god.

- Muslims fast during the month that begins and ends with the new moon. Therefore they **WORSHIP the moon god** on the Scriptural **NEW MOON FESTIVALS**.
- Islam is a revival of the ancient moon god cult. It has taken the symbols, the rites, the ceremonies and even the name of its god from the ancient pagan religion of the moon god. It is pure idolatry.
- Israel is called by Yahweh to keep the new moon festivals in addition to the feasts and Sabbaths. We are to view the sighting of the crescent moon as a sign marking the beginning of the new month. Throughout Scripture we see that the new moons were when Yahweh chose to significantly deliver His people from bondage. There is power in keeping this festival. If it wasn't, Satan wouldn't be trying to twist and distort it to such a great degree. We must keep a distinction between what Yahweh asked us to do and what Satan has counterfeited. Although Islam may appear to be keeping 'new moon festivals' it is **not the same** as what Yahweh

ordained for His people.

- The people of China also keep a moon festival which corresponds to the **full moon** NOT the new moon. It too is celebrated with food and feasting in honor of the moon gods & goddesses. Again, this is NOT the same as what Yahweh has ordained for us in Scripture.

The New Moon Festival For Today

“And on the **beginning of your months** you bring near a burnt offering to Yahweh; two young bulls and one ram and seven lambs a year old, perfect ones; three tenths of an ephah of fine flour as a grain offering mixed with oil, for the one ram; and one tenth of an ephah of fine flour as a grain offering, mixed with oil for the one ram; and one tenth of an ephah of fine flour, mixed with oil, as a grain offering for each lamb as a burnt offering of sweet fragrance, an offering made by fire to Yahweh. And their drink offering is half a hin of wine for a bull, and one third of a hin for a ram, and one fourth of a hin for a lamb. This is the burnt offering for each month throughout the months of the year, and one male goat as sin offering to Yahweh is prepared, besides the continual burnt offering and its drink offering.”

Numbers/ Bemidbar 28:11-15

- The sacrificial system has been upgraded therefore we cannot keep the festival as described here in Numbers. Note that in this same chapter there are instructions on what sacrifices to offer on the Sabbath day. We keep the Sabbath but not the animal sacrifices.

The phrase “burnt offering” is translated from the Hebrew word “ohlah” which means “ascends or goes up”. In the book of Hebrews it is explained how we are to keep the ‘burnt offerings’ (ascension offering) today.

- Hebrews 10
- Hebrews 13:10-16 ~ Through Yeshua our slaughter offerings are those of praise, doing good, and sharing.

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Ezekiel 45:13-20

- The people are to give the contribution to the prince in Israel. Prince is an accurate translation and the Hebrew word also means “prince or leader.”
- The prince takes responsibility for the offerings on the New Moon Festival and other appointed times. He **prepares it and makes atonement** for the house of Israel.
- Today our Princely Leader is Yeshua Messiah. (Hebrews 12:1-2, 13:15-16)

Consider what this means for us today! During each new moon festival, this is what is going on in heaven. Yeshua receives our slaughter offerings of worship and forgives our sin. Through this we draw closer to the Father. This is why Yahweh chose the new moon festivals to deliver, cleanse, and renew Israel’s covenant. It is because they followed the pattern of repentance set forth in Scripture. Satan doesn’t want anyone to be free from his grip, therefore he has blinded believers to this festival so that we would miss the time that Yahweh has chosen to move & deliver us from his hand. This is the work of the anti-messiah.

“...And it speaks words against the Most High, and **it wears out** the set apart ones of the Most High, and **it intends to change the appointed times and law** and they are given into its hand for a time and times and a half time. But the Judgement shall sit, and they shall take away its rule, to cut off and to destroy until the end.” (Daniel 7:25-26)

Summary Of The New Moon Festival

- < We are commanded to keep the new moon festivals.
- < The moon was created for a sign, an appointed time, and to mark days, and years in addition to providing light.

- < Yahweh chose to significantly deliver Israel on New Moon Festivals
- < We observe this festival by blowing the shofar, rejoicing, fellowship, worship, and feasting.
- < The religion of Islam is centered around the moon god. As a result the nation of Islam observes the new moon festivals by worshiping the moon god.
- < We are commanded to offer up **ascension offerings** during this time which are offerings of praise, doing good, and sharing.
- < Yeshua has atoned for our sins once and for all and yet we still sin. His blood covers all. At the time of the new moon festivals, repentance, forgiveness, deliverance and reconciliation is the focus, therefore we are admonished to come before the Father in worship and celebration and feast with other believers and remember the great things He has done!

New Moon Calendar 2006

(Day begins at sundown)

- < August 24-25 marks the month of Elul
- < September 22-23 marks the month of Tishrei
- < October 22-23 marks the month of Cheshvan
- < November 21-22 marks the month of Kislev
- < December 21-22 marks the month of Tevet