

YAIY NEWS



New Moon Questions

Q: Why don't you all go with Jerusalem observance of the new moon for unity's sake?

A: If the new moon was seen a day earlier in another part of the country, which does sometimes happen, then the brethren in that area would be in disobedience by not keeping the Appointed Times as they should. Yahshua's statement in the New Testament addressing the idea of worship not being in Jerusalem alone is revealing:

Yahshua saith unto her, "Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. Elohim is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth," John 4:21-24.

The Temple was destroyed in 70 A.D. and worship now is where two or more meet together: *For where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there am I in the midst of them,* Matthew 18:20.



His people have His Spirit within them (1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19; 2 Cor. 6:16). Since we are spread out across the world, we do our best to come together in obedience to His commands to meet and worship together:

And Yahweh spake unto Moses, saying, "Speak unto the children of Israel," and say unto them, "Concerning the feasts of Yahweh, which ye shall proclaim to be Holy Convocations, even these are My Feasts. Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of rest, an Holy Convocation; ye shall do no work therein: it is the Sabbath of Yahweh in all your dwellings. These are the Feasts of Yahweh, even Holy Convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons, Leviticus 23:1-4.

The command of keeping a "Holy Convocation" literally means that we are to be meeting together to keep any of Yahweh's commanded *moeds* (Appointed Times). In the future Kingdom it will be in Jerusalem (Isa. 66:23; Zech. 14:16), but for now we do the best we can with Yahweh and Yahshua's help, in Spirit and in Truth.

Question: Why not just use calculations from the United States Naval Observatory to figure out when to keep Yahweh's Feasts?

Answer: We actually do in preparation for the next year's Feast days, but we still practice the ancient ways of looking for the new moon. They didn't have the technology we have today. And we may not either, in the near future.

One may know when the time is estimated for the setting of the sun on a Sabbath, but mechanical watches can break. We should actually wait until we see the sun setting down below the horizon before we declare a new moon day. We could lose In-

He made the moon for the seasons;
The sun knows the place of its setting.

Psalm 104:19 NASB

I AM FILLED WITH Hope AND Joy.
Romans 15:13

IN THIS ISSUE

New Moon Questions	1
Brother James Penn	3
the parent-child relationship	4
Prayer List	4

New Moon Questions ...,cont.

ternet and phone services due to tribulation or other reasons. Even so, we will still need to keep Yahweh's Appointed Times. We all need to be practicing these things in obedience. It may be a big test for many, one that prayerfully we'll all pass. We are to observe those "lights" that Yahweh put in heaven for a reason (Gen 1:14-19).

Q: Why do you not go with a regular calendar?

A: Regrettably the world and its way of doing things is not in-line with Yahweh's ways. We are told to come out of symbolic Babylon and its false worship. In thinking how Yahweh wants us to keep His Feast days, let's consider the 4th day of creation:

And Elohim said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years," Genesis 1:14. The word for "seasons" is **Strong's** #4150 {moed} meaning, "appointed times."

In other words, these lights, such as a visible new moon are part of Yahweh's calendar for setting Appointed Times (Feast Days). His calendar is both lunar and agriculturally based.

Notice the following scriptures for the agriculture connection in Yahweh's calendar:

- **Lev. 23:10-11**, Wavesheaf (first fruit offering) of barley offered during early Spring. This is done in the first month of Yahweh's calendar, **verses 4-5**.
- **Ex. 9:31**, 7th plague of hail destroys *Abib* of barley, just before Passover occurred. Israel is looked upon for confirmation for the early barley grain, since Isreal has been designated as the "holy land" by Yahweh (**Zech. 2:12**).
- **Lev. 2:14**, *Abib* (early grain).
- **Deut. 16:1; Ex 34:18**, First month of the year is called, "the month of *Abib*." It's in the Spring, not in the dead of winter!

Q: Why do you have North America as a regional sighting area, can't it be divided into smaller areas? Wouldn't Alaska, for example, be large enough for a separate new moon region?

A: At certain times of the year it would be impossible to see the new moon from that far north. Alaska will have constant sunlight, in parts of the year, as the sun seems to float along the horizon around in a flat clockwise movement. In such situations it is has been agreed that it would be best to default to another area (further south) where brethren could confirm the new moon. The idea that Yahweh desires mercy and not sacrifice comes to mind.

It has been the common understanding and agreement among most of the major Sacred Name Assemblies in the United States, for example, to allow two or three reliable witnesses (Deut. 19:15; 2 Cor. 13:1) to confirm a new moon sighting wherever they may be within the nation, even though they may be in different time zones. The United States has four time zones, while other countries may have only one. It seemed appropriate to make all of North America inclusive for the reasons stated. Those from different areas or time zones will travel to the sojourning Feasts such as the Feast of Tabernacles in obedience to Yahweh. Besides the North America region, there would be the regions of South America, Africa, Europe, Middle East, Asia and Australia. Website for addition information: NewMoonReport.org

Q: What if I travel to a different county to keep the Feast of Tabernacles, will I need to still observe the Biblical calendar according to my region?

A: Sometimes it's best to answer a question with a question. If one was to travel to a different country would they keep the 7th day Sabbath according to their own region or the region that they come into? The answer would obviously be the region that they came into, and it would be the answer to any other Appointed Times. The weekly Sabbath is from Friday night sunset to Saturday night sunset wherever you may be.

Q: I Samuel 20:5 – How did they know that the new moon was the next day without sighting it? Someone pointed this out to me and it raised my curiosity.

A: We don't really have a definitive answer and can only speculate, but some have proposed that those of David's time, including David himself, knew the whole year out, through nothing more than "calculation," and didn't need to look for the new moon. In other words, they had a calendar already and didn't need to visually see anything.

It seems more likely that with a regular 29 to 30 day lunar cycle that David knew that since he didn't see it the 29th

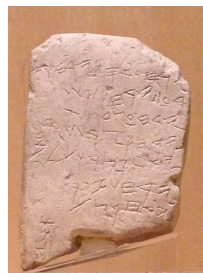
New Moon Questions ...,cont.

most assuredly it would show the next day, therefore affirming the new month. It has been suggested that they may have had an abacus type counting tool with beads on a string or something as simple as a string with knots. I'm not aware of any archeological finds on either a pre-calculated lunar based calendar at that time or strings with knots for the Israelites.

There is an Assyrian Calendar that was found in the form of a cuneiform tablet. It seems to be more of a chronological calendar of past events, placing events with the changing arrangement of the stars and planets. It is said to have been helpful for scientist to calculate some of the biblical events.

There is also what could be called an Israelite Calendar, but just like with the Assyrian tablet being called a calendar, it can be deceiving. It's actually called the Gezer Calendar (for the area it was found), but it is not lunar based. In fact, it seems to be a student tablet with an agricultural lesson on it which was translated and written as follows:

Two months are harvest
 Two months are planting
 Two months are late (planting)
 One month is hoeing flax
 One month is barley-harvest
 One month is harvest and feasting
 Two months are (vine-) pruning
 One month is summer fruit



Source: Albright, W. F. "Palestinian Inscriptions." In *Ancient Near Eastern Texts*. Edited by J. B. Pritchard, 320-22. 3rd ed. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton Univ. Press, 1969.

Question

Psalm 81:3 – I noticed in some versions that the “full moon” is mentioned. I know that this could have been added, especially since I was not able to find another scripture about it (witness).

Answer

The *Ryrie Study Bible's* note points out the 81st Psalm is associated with the Feast of Tabernacles that is a special time on Yahweh's calendar. Four of the seven “*moedim*” Feast Days occur in this month. It is a glorious time of deep repentance followed by the Good News of the first resurrection and then the promise of the coming Kingdom. This new moon (also translated month) is the “fullest” of monthly blessings for the faithful.

Instructions given for observing Tabernacles and Atonement are based on observance of the new crescent moon. So why mention the “full moon”? Most likely this is a poetic or exuberant expression of expectations of the final feast of the year. It is “full” of good news.

Brother James Penn

Elder John Reece and I had a blessed overnight trip with our lovely wives to Wichita, Kansas, back at the beginning of August of this year. We had previously been in communication with newly baptized Brother James Penn for over two years. We were delighted to be able to finally have an open opportunity to visit face to face and perform the immersion and laying on of hands in Yahshua's Saving Name.

We will continue to stay in contact with Brother James in the years to come, and trust that he'll be a continued blessing to those there at the Wichita Work Release Facility until his return into society as an upstanding and lawful citizen. There is “joy in heaven over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:7).

Elder David Brett



THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP

Now I say, “[That] the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be master of all; but is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father,” Galatians 4:1-2.

Though *these two verses* continue the Apostle Paul’s discourse on the efficacy of the Law – a Schoolmaster, to bring us to Yahshua, that we might be justified by faith – we have considered *these two verses* in light of the parent-child relationship, from the perspective of the responsibility and authority the parent has toward the child.

And we begin by asserting that unfortunately, many parents – and more than a few, too – have abandoned their role as tutors and governors and, through abrogating their responsibility and authority, reversed the position of their child ... conferring to *the servant*, the title of *lordship* before the time appointed for their release and hence, gotten to themselves, a grief of mind and sorrow of heart.

And we conclude by asserting that “without all contradiction, the less (the child) *should be* blessed of the better (the parent)” (Heb. 7:7) – blessed, we say, with training in the way he should go; blessed, with nurture and admonition; blessed, with correction, reproof, instruction, rebuke, exhortation; blessed, with a parent who is exemplary in word, conduct, love, faith, and purity that is void of offense and all, without provoking the child to a despicable response.

Elder John Reece

YAIY NEWS

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Prayer List

David & Barbara Creel, Robert Dorchester, Stella Rogers, Sean Rogers and Family, Loretta Reyes and Family, Michael Hutchinson, Chauncey Hargrove, David & Nancy Wilson Family/Friends, Jerry Castle, Mary Giles Family, Kenneth Faulkner, Quinnten Allen, Kat Durban, Isaiah Davis, Dulcena Tessner, Marylyn Patterson Family, David Andrews, Kenya Washington, Elder Lionel Gets Family, Joseph Miller, Adam Galvan Family, Neville & Maryke Stanton, Antionette Swart, Bertha Tidwell, Annette Heyward, Tammy Boucher, Magdalena M. Torres, Angela Bradley, Luann Campbell Family, Dwayne Mariam, Randell Serfess, Sonja Morgan, Diane E. Wright Family, Victor Kiiru Family, Maria Nelson Family, Hilda Driedger, David Nathaniel Malm, Susana Malm, Mike and Sheila Kemper, Susan Freeman, Paul Ingram, Ruth Bamba, Charlie Pelton, Eric Perkins Family, Marcy Mallinson, Monica Kleb, James Penn Family, Elder Jerry Healan Family, Sheila Sendeyo, Ny-Huff/Thompson family, Ronald Tidwell, Eugene and Rockie Family, Robert Creech, Emma Moss, Diane Crocker, Lucas Bentley, Nyakim Gatkuoth, Dustin Mariam, Jacqueline Maribicuro, Ryan Irving, Melissa Taylor, Zion Gotay (11-year old with heart problems), Henry Sunderman, Eileen Pelton, Annie Pelton, Elder Victor Kiira, Sheree Irving, Brown and Diane Morgan, David Townsend, Thomas Hunt, Valerie Freeman, Robbie Leonard, Cecil Wideman, Steven Wonderly Family, Elijah Uchenna Family, Pat Beasley, Elder Cornelius Kigen, Elder Thomas Musekenya, IsaYah Perkins, Ugur Yuksel, Linda Root Family, Karl Russell.

Also include in your prayers individuals seeking Yahweh from within prison facilities and for their families, plus overseas brethren and especially for the peace of Jerusalem (Psa. 122:6). The world’s leaders could also use our prayers (Jer. 29:7; 1 Tim. 2:2).

And give Him no rest, till He establish, till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth, Isaiah 62:7.

PRAYER REQUEST