

SCRIPTURES AND EVENTS THAT HAPPENED ON NEW MOON DAYS

There are lots of studies available concerning keeping the new moon day as a worship day, and this writer is not judging anyone for not understanding all there is to know about keeping the new moons. People have made it very complicated.

The original Hebrew word "month" and the word "moon" both come from the same Strong's Concordance # 2320 = Chodesh. Anywhere the word "month" is used it can also mean "moon". Anywhere the term "first day of the month" is used it also is "a new moon". Many claim that the new moons are not to be kept because they are not listed with instructions of worship as holy days. Others express surprise that the Bible has so much to say about the "new moon". This writing, without getting controversial or complicated, is to help these people with their own study by pointing to the many scriptures that allude to the new moon and finding locations that the reader can use to read about what the Bible actually says regarding the new moons and how, or if, Yahweh sanctioned them to be kept by his people.

Genesis 8:5 And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month: in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, (a new moon day) were the tops of the mountains seen.

Note: In order to write this history about the exact time the writer (Moses) had to know by some method when the tenth month had arrived, and he also had to know when the first day of the tenth month arrived. No other humans other than Noah's family was left alive to relate this history, so before the flood they had a method to tell when the new year begin, and when the first of the next month begin.

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, (a new moon day) 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.

Note: This was the 6th hundred and first year (year 601) on a new moon day. Now we will fast forward to a time when God is reintroducing His chosen nation Israel to the New Year that He wants them to start observing.

Exodus 12:2 This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: (the new moon day) it shall be the first month (a new moon day) of the year to you.

Exodus 12:18 In the first month, (a new moon day) on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even.

Note: To keep the Holy Days on the exact date Yahweh instructed Israel had to know when the first day of the first month begins, otherwise they would keep those days on wrong dates. Does not the same hold true for us today?

Exodus 40:2 On the first day of the first month (a new moon day—and a new year) shalt thou set up the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation.

Note: Israel had to know when the New Year day begins in order to set up the tabernacle as Yahweh instructed. Once they knew when the first day of the New Year began (new years day), counting from that day they knew the next sighting would be the second month. If the new moon was not sighted for some reason on the 29th day, since there are only 30 days in God's months, then the next day (the 30th) would automatically be the first of the month (new moon day) for that month.

Exodus 40:17 And it came to pass in the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, (a new moon day) that the tabernacle was reared up.

Note: Some people may have a problem with Israel working on a Sabbath, thus claiming this is proof that the new moon is not to be observed as a Sabbath. Most of the work done by the priests were done on the Sabbath, showing Yahweh's work is allowed on the Sabbath. Christ worked, did his father's work, on the Sabbath. Setting up the tabernacle was Yahweh's work.

Leviticus 23:5 In the fourteenth day of the first month (a new moon day) at even is the LORD'S Passover.

Note: Another time when one would have to know when the new year started in order to know when the 14th arrived.

Leviticus 23:24 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, (a new moon day) shall ye have a Sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.

Note: This is the only Holy Day that falls on a new moon day. One might ask, "How can we know when the new moon day is?" Some claim it is the dark part, the full part, or the crescent part. Answer this: "how do we know when the Sabbath is?" We are told to keep the 7th day. But what method is used to determine when the 7th day was set? The Bible does not tell us! Do we decide for ourselves, let the Catholic Church decide for us, or do we go into Jewish history and discover how it was done when Yeshua kept it? We can use the same method to determine how to keep the new moons. There are Jewish people who still observe the new moons and there's a lot of literature available as well as internet web sites that share information on new moon observance. One internet source is: www.karaite-korner.org/net_newmoon.shtml. Two good historian sources is the Jewish Encyclopedia and the Jewish historian Philo and Josepheus. Various other commentaries give information, as well.

From Harper's Bible Dictionary, 7th edition, pg. 459 we read: "Throughout Hebrew history gatherings partly religious and partly social were held at each new moon—times often mentioned with the Sabbath (various scriptures are given) showing that labor and

commerce were halted (Amos 8:5), offerings were increased, rituals were observed. A suggestion of the social meal enjoyed at the new moon is reflected in the story of Saul and David. After the Diaspora less rigid observance of the Feast of the New Moon prevailed.

Official announcement was made from Jerusalem of the coming of each new moon (until the 1st century A.D. by the lighting of fire signals on the Mount of Olives, and until the 4th by sending messengers) after the Sanhedrin had seen the young crescent of the 30th or 31st of the month and had declared "The new moon is consecrated." The day on which the crescent appeared was the 1st of the new month. While the astronomical calculation of the new moon was known to scholars in Israel following their contact with Babylonian astronomy during the Captivity, the traditional method of declaring its appearance was not abandoned until the 4th century A.D."

Note: "until the fourth century A.D." would indicate the new moon method of setting time was being used during the time of Yeshua. Until the fourth century God's way of determining the first of the month was by sighting the crescent of the new moon.

Numbers 1:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tabernacle of the congregation, on the first day (the new moon day) of the second month, in the second year after they were come out of the land of Egypt, saying,...

Note: God proceeded to instruct them how to take a census for an army. Notice how often Yahweh speaks to Israel on a new moon day. Is it not fair to assume they were also attending worship services in the tabernacle on that same day?

Numbers 1:18 And they assembled all the congregation together on the first day of the second month, (the new moon day) and they declared their pedigrees after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, by their polls.

Numbers 9:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the first month (the new moon day) of the second year after they were come out of the land of Egypt, saying,... Numbers 9:5 And they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month (a new moon day) at even in the wilderness of Sinai: according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so did the children of Israel.

Numbers 20:1 Then came the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, into the desert of Zin in the first month: (a new moon day) and the people abode in Kadesh; and Miriam died there, and was buried there.

Numbers 28:11 And in the beginnings of your months (new moon days) ye shall offer a burnt offering unto the LORD; two young bullocks, and one ram, seven lambs of the first year without spot;

Note: The Lord required burnt offering on every new moon day. Offerings were a part of Israel's worshipping services to Yahweh.

Numbers 29:1 And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, (the new moon day) ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work: it is a day of blowing the trumpets unto you.

Numbers 33:3 And they departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the morrow after the Passover the children of Israel went out with an high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians.

Numbers 33:38 And Aaron the priest went up into mount Hor at the commandment of the LORD, and died there, in the fortieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the first day (the new moon day) of the fifth month.

Deuteronomy 1:3 And it came to pass in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month , (the new moon day) that Moses spake unto the children of Israel, according unto all that the LORD had given him in commandment unto them;

Note: The commandments of Yahweh were delivered to Israel on the new moon day. Can we still think that new moon days are not sacred to Yahweh?

2 Chronicles 29:3 He in the first year of his reign, in the first month, (the new moon day) opened the doors of the house of the LORD, and repaired them.

2 Chronicles 29:17 Now they began on the first day of the first month (new moon day – new year) to sanctify, and on the eighth day of the month came they to the porch of the LORD: so they sanctified the house of the LORD in eight days; and in the sixteenth day of the first month they made an end.

Note: Israel begin to (do Yahweh's work) repair and sanctify the house of the Lord on the new moon day. Should we not do Yahweh's work on this same day?

2 Chronicles 35:1 Moreover Josiah kept a Passover unto the LORD in Jerusalem: and they killed the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month (identified by the new moon day).

Ezra 3:6 From the first day (the new moon day) of the seventh month began they to offer burnt offerings unto the LORD. But the foundation of the temple of the LORD was not yet laid.

Ezra 6:19 And the children of the captivity kept the Passover upon the fourteenth day of the first month (identified by the new moon day).

Ezra 7:9 For upon the first day of the first month (new moon day—new year's day) began he to go up from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month (the new moon day) came he to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him.

Ezra 8:31 Then we departed from the river of Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month, (the new moon day) to go unto Jerusalem: and the hand of our God was upon us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy, and of such as lay in wait by the way.

Ezra 10:16 And the children of the captivity did so. 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 (the new moon day) of the tenth month to examine the matter.

Ezra 10:17 And they made an end with all the men that had taken strange wives by the first day of the first month (new moon day—by new year's day) .

Note: Continue to mentally insert “new moon” for “month”.

Nehemiah 8:2 And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month. (new moon day)

Esther 3:12 Then were the king's scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors that were over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language; in the name of king Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king's ring.

Ezekiel 26:1 And it came to pass in the eleventh year, in the first day of the month, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Ezekiel 29:17 And it came to pass in the seven and twentieth year, in the first month, in the first day of the month, (new year's day) the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Ezekiel 30:20 And it came to pass in the eleventh year, in the first month, in the seventh day of the month, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 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 the LORD came unto me, saying, Ezekiel 32:1 And it came to pass in the twelfth year, in the twelfth month, in the first day of the month, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Ezekiel 45:18 Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the first month, in the first day of the month, thou shalt take a young bullock without blemish, and cleanse the sanctuary:

Ezekiel 45:21 In the first month, in the fourteenth day of the month, ye shall have the passover, a feast of seven days; unleavened bread shall be eaten.

Joel 2:23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

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 the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying,

Leaving “months” and going to “new moons” we could do the same thing with “the new moon” and insert “first day of the month”. The results would be the same. So we will leave “new moon” as stated.

1 Samuel 20:5 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.

1 Samuel 20:18 Then Jonathan said to David, Tomorrow is the new moon: and thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty.

1 Samuel 20:24 So David hid himself in the field: and when the new moon was come, the king sat him down to eat meat.

Note: These verses show that there was a special celebration held on the new moon day, and that they expected it to be the following day. However, it also hints that maybe it was cloudy on the expected 29th day, and the new moon was not sighted, so they may have kept a second new moon day on the 31st. Historians attest to this habit when it was too cloudy to see the new moon on the 29th.

2 Kings 4:23 And he said, Wherefore wilt thou go to him today? it is neither new moon, nor Sabbath. And she said, It shall be well.

Note: This verse shows that it was the custom to go to a “man of Yahweh” for healing or prayers to be answered on new moon day just as it was to do on the Sabbath, both being a day of worship.

1 Chronicles 23:31 And to offer all burnt sacrifices unto the LORD in the Sabbaths, in the new moons, and on the set feasts, by number, according to the order commanded unto them, continually before the LORD:

2 Chronicles 2:4 Behold, I build an house to the name of the LORD my God, 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 the LORD our God. This is an ordinance for ever to Israel.

Note: This is a strong scripture supporting the keeping of the new moons. If one uses similar scriptures for keeping the Sabbath and the Holy Days how can the new moons be ignored? Yahweh says, “this is an ordinance forever to Israel”.

2 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.

2 Chronicles 31:3 He appointed also the king’s portion of his substance for the burnt offerings, to wit, for the morning and evening 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 the LORD.

Ezra 3:5 And afterward offered the continual burnt offering, both of the new moons, and of all the set feasts of the LORD that were consecrated, and of every one that willingly offered a freewill offering unto the LORD.

Nehemiah 10:33 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 God.

Psalms 81:3 Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day.

Isaiah 1:13 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, even the solemn meeting.

Isaiah 1:14 Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.

Isaiah 66:23 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, saith the LORD.

Note: Another strong scripture showing that the new moon is a day for worship, just as the Sabbath and the Holy Days are days of worship. In a future age all of mankind will worship on these days, including the new moon days. On the other hand, if the Sabbath still is to be observed, why is the new moon not kept? Or, why keep the Sabbath if the new moons are no longer kept. These scriptures show that God honors them equally as a day of worship.

Ezekiel 45:17 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: he shall prepare the sin offering, and the meat offering, and the burnt offering, and the peace offerings, to make reconciliation for the house of Israel.

Ezekiel 46:1 Thus saith the Lord GOD; The gate of the inner court that looketh 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.

Note: The gates will be opened for worship on the new moon days just the same as on the Sabbath.

Ezekiel 46:3 Likewise the people of the land shall worship at the door of this gate before the LORD in the Sabbaths and in the new moons.

Ezekiel 46:6 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.

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.

Note: Yahweh predicts that Israel would lose the knowledge of and the joy of keeping the Sabbaths, the Holy Days, and the new moons, and that has happened. Very few religions keep these solemnities.

Amos 8:5 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?

Note: Eventually Israel did not value Yahweh's special celebrations, they could hardly wait till the Sabbath or the new moon ended so they could get back to their crooked business as usual. No wonder Yahweh said he hated "their" Holy Days and new moons.

However, this scripture shows Israel still keeping Yahweh's appointed feasts, abstaining from work, which included the new moons.

Colossians 2:16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days:

Note: Paul tells this congregation not to let anyone "judge" (St.Conc. #2919 = condemn, or call to question) them in how they eat, drink, or keep the holy days, new moons and Sabbath days. Had they not been taught to keep the new moons, as well as the other days mentioned, the new moon would not have been included. This verse can be taken to mean they were to keep these days holy, perfectly so that no one could fault them, or it could mean not to allow men's judging to sway them from keeping them. Or, perhaps, both. However, it does not mean that they were not to be kept because people were judging them in a condemning way. If the new moons were no longer to be observed then neither is the Sabbath since the new moons are given identical importance.

We should remember how to find when the first New Year day started. We can do it by comparing scriptures Ex. 9:31-32, 12:2 & 13:4 which determines that the flax and barley were matured enough that it was destroyed by the hail but the wheat and rie was still in the ground and was not damaged. The location where it is to be found is near Jerusalem. Between these two crops, in the location near Israel, at the sighting of the new moon the New Year was established. Also one can check with those Jews who have preserved the tradition of keeping the New Year just as was being observed during the time of and by Jesus.

In conclusion: We have presented these scriptures so the reader can determine what the Bible has to say about it and use them to help make their own decision: To Keep or Not To Keep the New Moons, and should the New Moon be kept as a Sabbath? And why keep the Sabbath and Holy Days and not the New Moon? Some Sabbath keepers believe there is no connection between Holy days and the new moons. Studying the scriptures we find that it is so important to God that He is going to reinstate worship on the new moon days in his future kingdom. (Eze.46:1) Some believe the Holy days should be kept, others think they were done away with when the sacrifices became obsolete, therefore they no longer keep the Holy days as days of worship, but do keep the Sabbath. However, the Holy days are called by God as "His" and He demands a holy convocation (day of worship) to be a part of the Holy days just as he commands the Sabbath, and the new moons to be days of worship throughout the scriptures. Some think because the new moons were not included in the list of Holy days that they are not "holy" or to be kept like the Sabbath and Holy days. The new moon days has nothing to do with the sacrificial laws that Christ fulfilled. The reason the new moon worship was not listed along with the prophetic Holy days is because the new moons do not serve the same purpose. The Holy days picture the plan of God for mankind. The new moons picture when the Holy days are to be observed and so that mankind would know when the new year and new month's begin. If one does not believe that the Holy days are still to be observed, then there is no real need of the new moon for that purpose, but time still goes on and there's still a need to keep a record of the passing of time. However,

from the very beginning God instituted each new moon as a day of worship so that we would not lose its importance, otherwise why would the new Testament church still be keeping the new moons along with the Holy days and the Sabbath? (Col.2:16) Some people resist keeping the new moon day simply because they fear the extra inconvenience that this would cause them. I will not say that it will not cause extra problems for many in the society in which we live. However, it's a matter of faith. We had to make many difficult adjustments when we first decided to serve God. Can we not see that God will bless us for any hardship we endure for His name sake? Did the apostles shrink back when persecution befell them? Did Jesus Christ give up when they crucified him (for our sake)? How willing are we to go all the way for him? Can we believe what he said when he said the heavenly father would supply all our needs if we serve Him? I hope so.

Study done by Rhoda Foust

edited 2013