

The New Moons and Our Goals

By Aaron Berg

Should we care about the new moon? Does it matter if we observe them? Should we care about when a Hebrew month starts? What impact does it have on me?

Well let's take a look at what the Bible has to say about New Moons...

For many, this is a refresher of what you already know. I know in our local area, the new moons or Rosh Chodesh, in Hebrew, have been covered quite a bit in messages over the last few years. For some of us, we have understanding but it's kind of been put aside, something we know about, but not always a priority. So, whatever it may be for you, let's take a look at some passages that talk about Rosh Chodesh.

1 Chronicles 23:30 *They were to stand every morning to sing thanks and praises to ADONAI, and likewise every evening. 31 They were to be present regularly before ADONAI whenever burnt offerings were offered to ADONAI on Shabbat, at Rosh-Hodesh, and at the other designated times,*

2 Chronicles 2:4 *Here, I am about to build a house for the name of ADONAI my God, to dedicate it to him, and to burn before Him incense made of sweet spices; the house will also be for the continuing showbread and for the burnt offerings presented every morning and evening, on the shabbats, at every Rosh-Hodesh, and at the designated times of ADONAI our God. This is a perpetual regulation for Isra'el. Perpetual – not stopping -FOREVER*

2 Chronicles 8:12-13 *Then Solomon offered burnt offerings to ADONAI on the altar of ADONAI that he had built in front of the vestibule, 13 as each day required, offering according to the commandments of Moses on Shabbats, at Rosh-Hodesh and at the designated times three times a year - the festivals of Matzah, Shavu'ot and Sukkot.*

There are many, many more scriptures that talk about the New Moons and link them with the Sabbath and Holy Days. There are many places where the importance of these days, to God and for us, is mentioned. They aren't Holy Sabbaths like the Shabbat or the Annual Feasts, but they are clearly something God wants us to do. But why? Why does God want us to observe the New Moons?

Numbers 10:10 *"Also on your days of rejoicing, at your designated times and on Rosh-Hodesh, you are to sound the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; these will be your reminder before your God. I am ADONAI your God."*

So, The Feasts, Sabbaths and New moons they are all reminders. God wants us to always remember. But, remember what? First of all, He wants us to remember, **always**, His creation and what He has given us. Everything we have is from Him.

Genesis 1:14 *Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years;*

He gave us the Moon, Sun, Stars and Earth. Every month the moon orbits the Earth – that's of course where the word "month" came from. If you say it how an Irish friend of mine would say it, it makes more sense - "a moonth".

The Sun gives us light and warmth for plant life and crops. The Earth orbits the Sun once a year, as we know, creating seasons. The Earth rotates on its axis once a day, creating sun rises and sunsets, day and night. It gives us a time to be active and work and a time to sleep. It's perfect for our physical bodies... rejuvenation.

And then God rested on the seventh day of creation.

God made everything perfect for us to live and thrive on the earth. He wants us to remember that, and these are the signs God gave us, to help us. He gives us yearly, long term reminders with the Holy, annual Feast Days, during their appointed seasons as we rotate around the Sun once a year. Giving us a focus for the year.

He gives us weekly reminders as we come to Him on the Sabbath which remind us of His day of rest... the rest He gives us. Each week it is there to energize and center us for the following week.

He also gives us a fresh new day, every time the Earth makes one revolution on its axis, to start over... to rest and then go back and reassess our daily focuses. A short term focus and the ability to have daily success, along with being able to put aside the daily struggles as well. "That day is over....now a fresh new start!"

And then, he gives us an intermediate focus. Once every 28 days or so, the moon travels around the Earth. Once a month, He wants us to come together and have a reminder of what we have. He wants us to have a reminder of what our focus is, as well as a monthly celebration. It's also a monthly "Start Over", a fresh new start. It's a time of reflection on where you are, where you are going and where you came from. It's a time to reflect on the trials you overcame with God's help. It's a time to share with others how God blessed you, and give encouragement to others as they are going through their trials.

Now, isn't this why we are here? To learn, to grow, to live a life of love and joy, to celebrate the good and to learn and grow from our failures. It's our time to use the tools God gave us so we can learn how

His mind works, so we can know more about Him, so we can be like Him. This is our time to learn how to love, so we can love like Him.

Weekly and yearly we have special days to help us, but we **need** it monthly too... that's why He gave it to us!

If you think about it, God didn't need to create a moon that goes around the Earth. He could have chosen not to have a moon. It's His creation, He could have done it however He wanted. He put it there because He knows that it's important for our growth. The moon is for us, for a reminder. The moon is there for your growth. The moon is there for you to gauge yourself and set goals.

Any successful person knows that you have to set goals for yourself. You need to set short and long term goals, but you also need intermediate goals as well. Without a plan, you probably aren't going to succeed. Where do you want to be in a year? What about a month? What do I need to do, this and each week there-after, in order to get there? How do I reach that goal by the end of the week? How do I plan my day accordingly?

It's like working out at the gym. Many people have their New Year's resolutions. "This year I'm going to lose x amount of pounds....I want to get into a size whatever in one year!"... or, "I want to put on 10 pounds of muscle before our trip to Hawaii next year!"....or whatever it may be. 5 months later, they're at the same weight... no improvement... maybe even went backwards, out of discouragement. Was there a daily goal? Was there a monthly goal? Did you have someone to coach and encourage you? Is there someone else with similar goals that you can work out with, to motivate each other?

On our Spiritual quest to be more like God, He has given us the perfect goal setting tools. God knows more than we do what we need. There is a reason why God has put it in His scriptures so many times.

Here are a few more of those scriptures:

Numbers 28:11-14, *"At each Rosh-Hodesh of yours, you are to present a burnt offering to ADONAI consisting of two young bulls, one ram and seven male lambs in their first year and without defect; 12 with six quarts of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering for the one ram; 13 and two quarts of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering for each lamb. This will be the burnt offering giving a fragrant aroma, an offering made by fire for ADONAI. 14 Their drink offerings will be two quarts of wine for a bull, one-and-one-third quarts for the ram, and one quart for each lamb. This is the burnt offering for every Rosh-Hodesh throughout the months of the year.*

1 Samuel 20:5- 24, *David answered Y'honatan, "Look, tomorrow is Rosh-Hodesh, and I ought to be dining with the king. Instead, let me go and hide myself in the countryside until evening of the third day. 6 If your father misses me at all, say, 'David begged me to let him hurry to Beit-*

Lechem, his city; because it's the annual sacrifice there for his whole family.' 7 If he says, 'Very good,' then your servant will be all right. But if he gets angry, you will know that he has planned something bad. 8 Therefore show kindness to your servant, for you bound your servant to yourself by a covenant before ADONAI. But if I have done something wrong, kill me yourself! Why turn me over to your father?" 9 Y'honatan said, "Heaven forbid! If I ever were to learn that my father had definitely decided to do you harm, wouldn't I tell you?" 10 Then David asked Y'honatan, "Who will tell me in the event your father gives you a harsh answer?" 11 Y'honatan said to David, "Come, let's go out in the countryside." They went out, both of them, to the countryside. 12 Y'honatan said to David, "ADONAI, the God of Isra'el [is witness]: after I have sounded out my father, about this time tomorrow, or the third day, then, if things look good for David, I will send and let you know. 13 But if my father intends to do you harm, may ADONAI do as much and more to me if I don't let you know and send you away, so that you can go in peace. And may ADONAI be with you, just as he used to be with my father. 14 However, you are to show me ADONAI's kindness not only while I am alive, so that I do not die; 15 but also, after ADONAI has eliminated every one of David's enemies from the face of the earth, you are to continue showing kindness to my family forever." 16 Thus Y'honatan made a covenant with the family of David, adding, "May ADONAI seek its fulfillment even through David's enemies." 17 Y'honatan had David swear it again, because of the love he had for him - he loved him as he loved himself. 18 Y'honatan said to him, "Tomorrow is Rosh-Hodesh, and you will be missed, because your seat will be empty. 19 The third day, hide yourself well in the same place as you did before; stay by the Departure Stone. 20 I will shoot three arrows to one side, as if I were shooting at a target. 21 Then I will send my boy to recover them. If I tell the boy, 'They're here on this side of you, take them,' then come - it means that everything is peaceful for you; as ADONAI lives, there's nothing wrong. 22 But if I tell the boy, 'The arrows are out there, beyond you,' then get going, because ADONAI is sending you away. 23 As for the matter we discussed earlier, ADONAI is between you and me forever." 24 So David hid himself in the countryside. When Rosh-Hodesh came, the king sat down to eat his meal.

2 Chronicles 31:3, He determined a portion of the king's property to be given for the burnt offerings, that is, for the morning and evening burnt offerings and for burnt offerings on Shabbats, Rosh-Hodesh and the designated times, as prescribed by the Torah of ADONAI.

Nehemiah 10:32-33, "We will impose on ourselves a yearly tax of one-third of a shekel [one-seventh of an ounce of silver] for the service of the house of our 33 for the showbread, for the regular grain offering, for the regular burnt offering, for [the offerings] on Shabbat, on Rosh-Hodesh, at the designated times and at other holy times, for the sin offerings to make atonement for Isra'el, and for all the work connected with the house of our God.

Now, many will say “Those are all about sacrifices,... what about the New Testament or New Moons in the future?” Here are a few more scriptures that address that:

Colossians 2:16-17 *So don't let anyone pass judgment on you in connection with eating and drinking, or in regard to a Jewish festival or Rosh-Hodesh or Shabbat. 17 These are a shadow of things that are coming, but the body is of the Messiah.*

Isaiah 66:22-23 (NASB) *"For just as the new heavens and the new earth which I make will endure before Me," declares the LORD, "So your offspring and your name will endure. {23} "And it shall be from new moon to new moon And from sabbath to sabbath, All mankind will come to bow down before Me," says the LORD.*

So, it's in our future as well. It's in God's plan. He will continue to give the Sabbaths and New Moons to us as guide posts and reminders.

So, I'll go on record right now, and say that this article was written for my benefit...I am one of those that needed this reminder. I myself have been aware of the new moons, but I have had other priorities and “to dos” that have kept me from joining consistently with others to celebrate. I have let other “things” keep me from praising God and rejoicing in the blessings that the past month has brought. Because of this I have been missing out. You are missing out as well if you aren't celebrating the new moons. There have been some incredible blessing lately that God has given to so many and we need to use the time to acknowledge his blessing and for all that He gives us. At the same time, we all need encouragement in different times of our lives and to be able to gather together and discuss what is going on in our lives. This is such an important time to help each other set goals and to be that “work-out partner” for each other.

My desire with this article is to create awareness of the importance of The New Moons, so we can start coming together to help each other and to give each other encouragement. I hope we can all come with something to offer, something to celebrate and a way to encourage each other. I hope we can all bring and share what our spiritual goals are for the following month as well as the blessings we are thankful for. It's a great time to share how God has impacted your life lately and how He might impact the lives of others. That's what this time is for, to praise and recognize God for His Greatness and Love!

For those of you who are doing this already, that's great! Keep it up! I'm sure you are already seeing the great benefit!

Let's rejoice in the precious gift God gave us with the coming New Moon!

Thank you Father for the wonderful gifts of your signs and seasons and days and years!