

## Rosh Chodesh

We believe that Yahweh created a huge timepiece for us, principally composed of three astral bodies: the Earth, the Moon, and the Sun. This clock serves as a timepiece for God's appointments with humanity, and along with a very simple timing device in Israel, it establishes the basis of the biblical lunar year.

This study is broken into the following parts:

Part One – God's calendar

Part Two – The biblical view of the Rosh Chodesh

Part Three – Potential derashot

Part Four – The practice

Part Five – Determining the New Moon

Part Six – New Moons for our area in 2011

### Part One – God's calendar

**God is the one who establishes the calendar for us – not man.**

- [Daniel 2:21 HCSB](#) He changes the times and seasons; He removes kings and establishes kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.
- [Acts 1:6-7 HCSB](#) So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, at this time are You restoring the kingdom to Israel?" (7) He said to them, "**It is not for you to know times or periods that the Father has set by His own authority.**"

This text is sometimes misused by individuals who do not want to concern themselves with the timing elements of end-time prophecy. They reject the importance of the study of eschatology and try to justify their attitude with this text. This is most unfortunate because if you read it carefully you'll see that the point was that the Father *has set* time and dates by His own sovereign authority. We just don't need to worry about the grand scheme of things, but instead need to simply be faithful.

**He has no plans on changing this.**

- [Jeremiah 31:35-36 HCSB](#) This is what the LORD says: The One who gives the sun for light by day, the fixed order of moon and stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea and makes its waves roar--the LORD of Hosts is His name: (36) If this fixed order departs from My presence--*this is* the LORD's declaration--then also Israel's descendants will cease to be a nation before Me forever.

**Humans, like the antichrist in this passage, may THINK they can change His calendar but they are only kidding themselves.**

- [Daniel 7:25 HCSB](#) He will speak words against the Most High and oppress the holy ones of the Most High. He will intend to change religious festivals and laws, and the holy ones will be handed over to him for a time, times, and half a time.

**For us, days are measured from sunset to sunset, as established in Yahweh's initial holy week. Weeks are similarly established as seven days, with the weekly Sabbath being the day of rest and worship.**

- [Genesis 1:5 HCSB](#) God called the light "day," and He called the darkness "night." Evening came, and then morning: the first day.
- [Genesis 1:8 HCSB](#) God called the expanse "sky." Evening came, and then morning: the second day.

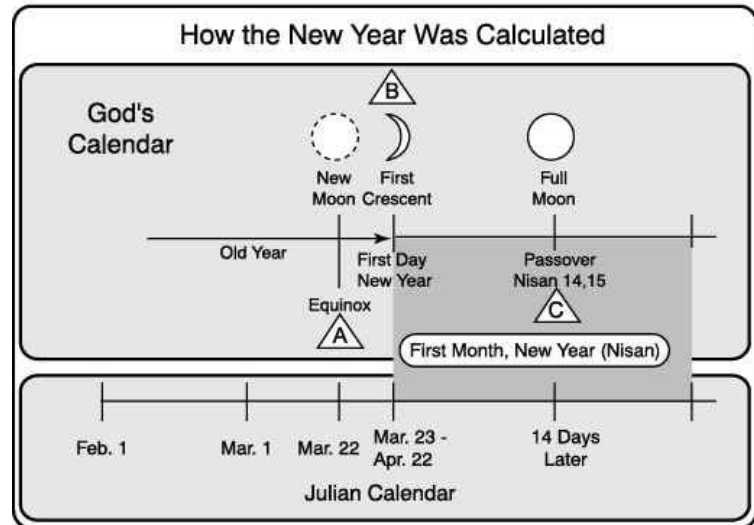
- [Genesis 1:13 HCSB](#) Evening came, and then morning: the third day.
- [Genesis 1:19 HCSB](#) Evening came, and then morning: the fourth day.
- [Genesis 1:23 HCSB](#) Evening came, and then morning: the fifth day.
- [Genesis 1:31 HCSB](#) God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. Evening came, and then morning: the sixth day.
- [Genesis 2:2-3 HCSB](#) By the seventh day, God completed His work that He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work that He had done. (3) God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, for on it He rested from His work of creation.

**The months are lunar, being measured from new to full moon.**

- [Psalms 81:3 HCSB](#) Blow the horn during the new moon and during the full moon, on the day of our feast.

**The year is measured from Tekufah to Tekufah (Spring to Spring). Yahweh identified for us which is to be the first month. Its Canaanite name was Abib ([Exodus 13:4](#)) and its later Babylonian name was Nisan ([Nehemiah 2:1](#); [Esther 3:7](#))**

- [Exodus 12:1-2 HCSB](#) The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: (2) "This month is to be the beginning of months for you; it is the first month of your year."



## Part Two – The biblical view of the Rosh Chodesh

**Yahweh approved of the observance of the New Moons and listed them among the joyous occasions at which we are to blow the trumpets. Note the explicit association with religious observance.**

- [Numbers 10:10 HCSB](#) You are to sound the trumpets over your burnt offerings and your fellowship sacrifices and on your joyous occasions, your appointed festivals, and the beginning of each of your months. They will serve as a reminder for you before your God: I am the LORD your God."
- [Psalms 81:1-5 HCSB](#) For the choir director: on the Gittith. Of Asaph. Sing for joy to God our strength; shout in triumph to the God of Jacob. (2) Lift up a song--play the tambourine, the melodious lyre, and the harp. (3) Blow the horn during the new moon and during the full moon, on the day of our feast. (4) For this is a statute for Israel, a judgment of the God of Jacob. (5) He set it up as an ordinance for Joseph when He went throughout the land of Egypt. I heard an unfamiliar language:

**It was on a Rosh Chodesh that the cloud of God's glory filled the tabernacle.**

- [Exodus 40:17 HCSB](#) The tabernacle was set up in the first month of the second year, on the first *day* of the month.
- [Exodus 40:34-35 HCSB](#) The cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. (35) Moses was unable to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud rested on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

**These were not shofarot. In fact, they were not even just any old trumpets. The passage in Numbers is a list of times when these particular trumpets are used. Yahweh Himself directly commanded this. That's how important He takes Rosh Chodesh to be.**

- [Numbers 10:2 HCSB](#) "Make two trumpets of hammered silver to summon the community and have the camps set out.

**We are not to fall into the trap so many pagan tribes do of worshipping the astral bodies.**

- [Deuteronomy 4:19 HCSB](#) When you look to the heavens and see the sun, moon, and stars--all the array of heaven--do not be led astray to bow down and worship them. The LORD your God has provided them for all people everywhere under heaven.

**King David observed the New Moon feasts.**

- [1 Samuel 20:5 HCSB](#) So David told him, "Look, tomorrow is the New Moon, and I'm supposed to sit down and eat with the king. Instead, let me go, and I'll hide in the field until the third night.
- [1 Samuel 20:18 HCSB](#) Then Jonathan said to him, "Tomorrow is the New Moon; you'll be missed because your seat will be empty.
- [1 Samuel 20:24 HCSB](#) So David hid in the field. At the New Moon, the king sat down to eat the meal.
- [1 Samuel 20:27 HCSB](#) However, the day after the New Moon, the second day, David's place was *still* empty, and Saul asked his son Jonathan, "Why didn't Jesse's son come to the meal either yesterday or today?"
- [1 Samuel 20:34 HCSB](#) He got up from the table in fierce anger and did not eat any food that second day of the New Moon, for he was grieved because of his father's shameful behavior toward David.

**In Elisha's day, it was common for people to gather to the prophet on the New Moon as they did at the Sabbaths.**

- [2 Kings 4:23 HCSB](#) But he said, "Why go to him today? It's neither New Moon or Sabbath." She replied, "Everything is all right."

**Jewish writers say that the tribe of Issachar was particularly renowned for its acquirements in astronomical and physical science. Their scholars were apparently critical in the calculation of the New Moons. Their addition to David's armies indicated that the educated class of people also supported his cause.**

- [1 Chronicles 12:32 HCSB](#) From the Issacharites, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do: 200 chiefs with all their relatives under their command.

**After the construction of the Temple, the Levites, who were not direct descendents of Aaron, still maintained the observance of the Sabbaths, New Moons, and other appointed festivals.**

- [1 Chronicles 23:31 HCSB](#) Whenever burnt offerings are offered to the LORD on the Sabbaths, New Moons, and appointed festivals, they are to do so regularly in the LORD's presence according to the number prescribed for them.
- [2 Chronicles 2:4 HCSB](#) Now I myself am building a temple for the name of the LORD my God in order to dedicate it to Him for burning sweet incense before Him, for *displaying* the rows of the bread of the Presence continuously, and for *sacrificing* burnt

offerings for the evening and the morning, the Sabbaths and the New Moons, and the appointed festivals of the LORD our God. This is *ordained* for Israel forever.

**Solomon, the wisest man ever, considered the observance of Rosh Chodesh to be part and parcel with the observance of the Feasts.**

- **2 Chronicles 8:12-13 HCSB** At that time Solomon offered burnt offerings to the LORD on the LORD's altar he had made in front of the vestibule (13) following the daily requirement for offerings according to the commandment of Moses for Sabbaths, New Moons, and the three annual appointed festivals: the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks, and the Festival of Booths.

**When Israel got right with God again under the rule of King Hezekiah, they returned to the observance of the Sabbaths, New Moons, and appointed feasts.**

- **2 Chronicles 31:1-4 HCSB** When all this was completed, all Israel who had attended went out to the cities of Judah and broke up the sacred pillars, chopped down the Asherah poles, and tore down the high places and altars throughout Judah and Benjamin, as well as in Ephraim and Manasseh, to the last one. Then all the Israelites returned to their cities, each to his own possession. (2) Hezekiah reestablished the divisions of the priests and Levites for the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, for ministry, for giving thanks, and for praise in the gates of the camp of the LORD, each division corresponding to his service among the priests and Levites. (3) The king contributed from his own possessions for the regular morning and evening burnt offerings, the burnt offerings of the Sabbaths, of the New Moons, and of the appointed feasts, as written in the law of the LORD. (4) He told the people who lived in Jerusalem to give a contribution for the priests and Levites so that they could devote their energy to the law of the LORD.

**The giving of offerings was a regular part of New Moon observance.**

- **Nehemiah 10:33 HCSB** the bread displayed before the LORD, the daily grain offering, the regular burnt offering, the Sabbath and New Moon offerings, the appointed festivals, the holy things, the sin offerings to atone for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God.

**Yahweh gave us the astral bodies specifically to identify the holy days when we are to join together in worship.**

- **Genesis 1:14 HCSB** Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will serve as signs for festivals and for days and years.
- **Psalms 89:37 HCSB** like the moon, established forever, a faithful witness in the sky." Selah
- **Psalms 104:19 HCSB** He made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows when to set.

**Proverbs indicates that the people routinely used the moon as a calendar – even for something as mundane as business trips.**

- **Proverbs 7:19-20 HCSB** My husband isn't home; he went on a long journey. (20) He took a bag of money with him and will come home at the time of the full moon."

**We should consider the joyous observance of the New Moon to be of more value than our commerce. It is the crass materialists who most despise the Lord's appointed days of worship.**

- **Amos 8:4-7 HCSB** Hear this, you who trample on the needy and do away with the poor of the land, (5) asking, "When will the New Moon be over so we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so we may market wheat? We can reduce the measure while increasing the price and cheat with dishonest scales. (6) We can buy the poor with silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and even sell the wheat husks!" (7) The LORD has sworn by the Pride of Jacob: I will never forget all their deeds.

**As a result, God will turn what is meant to be a blessing into a curse for the rebels.**

- **Hosea 5:4-7 HCSB** Their actions do not allow *them* to return to their God, for a spirit of promiscuity is among them, and they do not know the LORD. (5) Israel's arrogance testifies against them. Both Israel and Ephraim stumble because of their wickedness; even Judah will stumble with them. (6) They go with their flocks and herds to seek the LORD but do not find *Him*; He has withdrawn from them. (7) They betrayed the LORD; indeed, they gave birth to illegitimate children. Now the New Moon will devour them along with their fields.

**It's significant that during the Day of the Lord, as part of the Yahweh's wrath, these are no longer available. If removal of the ability to determine Rosh Chodesh is a sign of His wrath, then it should be considered a blessing to be able to do so.**

- **Isaiah 13:9-12 HCSB** Look, the day of the LORD is coming--cruel, with rage and burning anger--to make the earth a desolation and to destroy the sinners on it. (10) Indeed, the stars of the sky and its constellations will not give their light. The sun will be dark when it rises, and the moon will not shine. (11) I will bring disaster on the world, and their *own* iniquity, on the wicked. I will put an end to the pride of the arrogant and humiliate the insolence of tyrants. (12) I will make man scarcer than gold, and mankind more rare than the gold of Ophir.
- **Ezekiel 32:7-8 HCSB** When I snuff you out, I will cover the heavens and darken their stars. I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon will not give its light. (8) I will darken all the shining lights in the heavens over you, and will bring darkness on your land. *This is* the declaration of the Lord GOD.
- **Hosea 2:10-13 HCSB** Now I will expose her shame in the sight of her lovers, and no one will rescue her from My hands. (11) I will put an end to all her celebrations: her feasts, New Moons, and Sabbaths--all her festivals. (12) I will devastate her vines and fig trees. She thinks that these are her wages that her lovers have given her. I will turn them into a thicket, and the wild animals will eat them. (13) And I will punish her for the days of the Baals when she burned incense to them, put on her rings and jewelry, and went after her lovers, but forgot Me. *This is* the LORD's declaration.
- **Joel 2:10 HCSB** The earth quakes before them; the sky shakes. The sun and moon grow dark, and the stars cease their shining.
- **Joel 2:31-32 HCSB** The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the great and awe-inspiring Day of the LORD comes. (32) Then everyone who calls on the name of Yahweh will be saved, for there will be an escape for those on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, as the LORD promised, among the survivors the LORD calls.
- **Joel 3:14-16 HCSB** Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the Day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. (15) The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will cease their shining. (16) The LORD will roar from Zion and raise His

voice from Jerusalem; heaven and earth will shake. But the LORD will be a refuge for His people, a stronghold for the Israelites.

**The observance of Rosh Chodesh will not only endure through the millennium but even into the next universe!**

- [Isaiah 66:22-23 HCSB](#) "For just as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, will endure before Me"--the LORD's declaration--"so will your offspring and your name endure. (23) All mankind will come to worship Me, from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another," says the LORD.

**The people were to bring their offerings to the prince of the nation who was to be responsible for the actual presentation of the national offerings on the day of the Rosh Chodesh. He would bring these to the priest and represent the people.**

- [Ezekiel 45:17 HCSB](#) Then the burnt offerings, grain offerings, and drink offerings for the festivals, New Moons, and Sabbaths--for all the appointed times of the house of Israel--will be the prince's responsibility. He will provide the sin offerings, grain offerings, burnt offerings, and fellowship offerings to make atonement on behalf of the house of Israel.
- [Ezekiel 46:6 HCSB](#) On the day of the New Moon, *the burnt offering* is to be a young, unblemished bull, as well as six lambs and a ram without blemish.

**Note:** Consider the importance of the symbolism here. The prince was to be the one responsible for the festival offerings and would make fellowship offerings to make atonement on behalf of the house of Israel. Who will be our Prince during the Millennium and in the universe to come?

**The east gate of the outer court of the Temple was to be permanently closed (Ezekiel 44:2) because it had been sanctified by the entry of the Lord, but the inner court's east gate was opened for the New Moons and Sabbaths.**

- [Ezekiel 46:1 HCSB](#) "This is what the Lord GOD says: The gate of the inner court that faces east must be closed during the six days of work, but it will be opened on the Sabbath day and opened on the day of the New Moon.
- [Ezekiel 46:3 HCSB](#) The people of the land will also bow in worship before the LORD at the entrance of that gate on the Sabbaths and New Moons.

**Blind, ritualistic observance of the Sabbaths, New Moons, and appointed festivals, unaccompanied by righteous living is abominable to the Lord.**

- [Isaiah 1:11-17 HCSB](#) "What are all your sacrifices to Me?" asks the LORD. "I have had enough of burnt offerings and rams and the fat of well-fed cattle; I have no desire for the blood of bulls, lambs, or male goats. (12) When you come to appear before Me, who requires this from you--*this* trampling of My courts? (13) Stop bringing useless offerings. I despise *your* incense. New Moons and Sabbaths, and the calling of solemn assemblies--I cannot stand iniquity with a festival. (14) I hate your New Moons and prescribed festivals. They have become a burden to Me; I am tired of putting up with *them*. (15) When you lift up your hands *in prayer*, I will refuse to look at you; even if you offer countless prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are covered with blood. (16) "Wash yourselves. Cleanse yourselves. Remove your evil deeds from My sight. Stop doing evil. (17) Learn to do what is good. Seek justice. Correct the oppressor. Defend the rights of the fatherless. Plead the widow's cause.

**If we observe the New Moon, it is certainly not because we feel it is necessary for salvation. Adonists observe the Sabbath, New Moon, and the Lord's appointed festivals for increased understanding of the Scriptural culture, to help ourselves not conform to worldly culture, to teach our children about God's way of salvation through Yeshua the Messiah, and in anticipation of our nation's practice during the Millennium and beyond into the next universe.**

- **Colossians 2:16-17 HCSB** Therefore don't let anyone judge you in regard to food and drink or in the matter of a festival or a new moon or a sabbath day. (17) These are a shadow of what was to come; the substance is the Messiah.
- **Romans 14:4-6 HCSB** Who are you to criticize another's household slave? Before his own Lord he stands or falls. And stand he will! For the Lord is able to make him stand. (5) One person considers one day to be above another day. Someone else considers every day to be the same. Each one must be fully convinced in his own mind. (6) Whoever observes the day, observes it to the Lord. Whoever eats, eats to the Lord, since he gives thanks to God; and whoever does not eat, it is to the Lord that he does not eat, yet he thanks God.

### **Part Three – Potential derashot**

The observance of New Moon could be a good time to focus on:

1. God as the Creator of time (Genesis 1:1-5)
2. God as the Creator of new beginnings;
  - a. He makes us into a new man (Romans 6:4-6; Colossians 3:10; Galatians 3:27; 2 Corinthians 5:17)
  - b. He will one day give us a new name (Revelation 2:17),
  - c. a new song (Revelation 15:3)
  - d. a New Jerusalem (Revelation 3:12; 21:2).
  - e. a new heaven and earth (Isaiah 65:17; Revelation 21:1),
  - f. He makes all things new (Revelation 21:5);
3. God as our guiding light, shining in our darkness (1 John 1:5)
4. Yeshua as reflecting God's light to us (John 1:4-5)
5. Yeshua as a light to the goyim and Israel's glory (Luke 2:32)
6. Yeshua as a great light shining on those living in the shadow of death (Matthew 4:16)
7. A thousand years after its revelation, observance of *Rosh Chodesh* was forbidden during the Syrian-Greek persecution along with the Sabbath and circumcision. The grouping of *Rosh Chodesh* with these essential commandments indicates its importance. Since Jewish festivals were entirely calendar based and the calendar required witnessing and proclaiming the new moon, without the calendar there would be no festivals. By stopping the celebration of *Rosh Chodesh*, The Syrian-Greeks could also eliminate many of the *mitzvot*. In addition, the Syrian-Greeks strove to eradicate the notion of Jewish renewal. The new moon symbolized the rising up of the Jewish people. Just as the moon disappears and returns every month, the Jews thought of themselves as suffering exile and persecution but renewing themselves continually until the coming of the Messiah. As the Kiddush Levanah says, "*You ordered the moon to renew itself as a glorious crown over those You sustained from birth, who likewise will be resurrected to worship Your glorious majesty. Blessed are You, O Lord, who renews the month.*"
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### **Part Four – The practice**

The following are ideas on ways to observe the New Moon.

Before sunset, gather with family or friends with snacks and Bibles. Read some significant passages like:

- Genesis 1:14-19
- Numbers 10:10
- Numbers 28:111-15
- 1 Samuel 20:5, 18, 24-27
- 2 Kings 4:22-23
- 1 Chronicles 23:30-31
- 2 Chronicles 2:4
- 2 Chronicles 31:3
- Ezra 3:5-6
- Nehemiah 10:32-33
- Psalm 81:1-4
- Isaiah 66:23
- Ezekiel 46:1-3, 6
- Amos 8:4-5
- Colossians 2:16-17

Consider praying the Hallel, the hallelujah psalms that are recited at all joyous occasions. These include: Psalm 113-118, 136.

## Reading

When you look to the heavens and see the sun, moon, and stars--all the array of heaven--do not be led astray to bow down and worship them. The LORD your God has provided them for all people everywhere under heaven.

God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will serve as signs for festivals and for days and years."

He made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows when to set. Therefore, sing for joy to God our strength; shout in triumph to the God of Jacob. Lift up a song - play the tambourine, the melodious lyre, and the harp. Blow the horn during the new moon and during the full moon, on the day of our feast. For this is a statute for Israel, a judgment of the God of Jacob. He set it up as an ordinance for Joseph when He went throughout the land of Egypt.

This is what the LORD says: The One who gives the sun for light by day, the fixed order of moon and stars for light by night; who stirs up the sea and makes its waves roar - the LORD of Hosts is His name:

"If this fixed order departs from My presence then also Israel's descendants will cease to be a nation before Me forever. For just as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, will endure before Me so will your offspring and your name endure. All mankind will come to worship Me, from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another," says the LORD.

From Deuteronomy 4:19; Genesis 1:14; Psalm 104:19; Psalm 81:1-5; Jeremiah 31:35-36; Isaiah 66:22-23

Then pray the **Kiddush Levanah** which goes like this:

*Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who created the heavens by your command. You subjected them to fixed laws and time, so that they would not deviate from their set function. They are happy to do the will of their Creator, the true Author of Life, whose achievement is truth.*

*You ordered the moon to renew itself as a glorious crown over those You sustained from birth, who likewise will be resurrected to worship Your glorious majesty. Blessed are You, O Lord, who renews the month. Blessed by your omnipotent Creator, o moon!*

Then:

Have a feast like David.

Go worship with the man of God like the Shunamite woman was used to.

Give offerings at the Lord's house like the people in Nehemiah and Ezekiel's day.

## **Part Five – Determining the New Moon**

Each of the festivals, with the exception of Sukkot, are accompanied by the phrase “throughout your generations, wherever you live” (Leviticus 23:3, 14, 21, 31 cp Leviticus 3:17; 7:26; Numbers 35:29-30; Ezekiel 6:6).

The Hebrew term is *mowshab* (Strong's 4186). It's a masculine noun that can be literally rendered seat but is used for wherever you sit or rest, your assembly, dwelling place, situation, or location; even the time of dwelling or the dwellers.

- As a place for sitting: 1 Samuel 20:18, 25; Job 29:7
- As a habitation: Genesis 27:39; Leviticus 25:29; or city Psalm 107:4, 7
- As a metonymy for a time of habitation: Exodus 12:40
- As metonymy for inhabitants or dwellers: 2 Samuel 9:12
- As the site of a city 2 Kings 2:19 cp Psalm 107:4, 7 above

The Holman renders it “wherever you live” and the NET renders it “in all the places where you live.” Thus, the term indicates that the feasts and Rosh Chodesh are to be observed wherever we live, even if it is not in *eretz Yisrael*.

This is underscored by the fact of Sukkot's difference. Though it comes with the qualification “throughout your generations” (v.41), it does not have the phrase “wherever you live.” This is clarified that only those who are native born Israelis in Israel are to live in booths for the entire week (v.42). All the rest of us may observe the festival, but are not required to live in booths, presumably to demonstrate Hashem's peculiar fondness for Zion – His choice for a dwelling place.

- **Psalms 68:15-16 HCSB** Mount Bashan is God's towering mountain; Mount Bashan is a mountain of many peaks. (16) Why gaze with envy, you mountain peaks, at the mountain God desired for His dwelling? The LORD will live *there* forever!
- **Psalms 132:13-14 HCSB** For the LORD has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His home: (14) "This is My resting place forever; I will make My home here because I have desired it.

So, if the Rosh Chodesh are integral to determining the sacred calendar and is required “wherever you live”, then there has to be a system for those of us among the Diaspora to determine the New Moons, especially the one that initiates Abib (Nisan). Fortunately, there is and it's not rocket science.

A month begins at conjunction/molad, when the moon aligns itself with the sun and earth on an average of every 29.5 days.

A Rosh Chodesh/New Moon is determined by the first sunset after local conjunction. The determination, in order to be accurate, must be done locally throughout the Diaspora. This is done by first determining the day of conjunction and looking for the very next sunset to be New Moon Day. The easiest way to do this is to use your local conjunction time found online or in the media and declare the very next local sunset to be your Rosh Chodesh and the day for all weekly 7th day Shabbats.

Once New Moon day is determined and assigned a Roman day, the weekly 7th day Shabbats will fall on the same Roman day as the New Moon for the next 4 weeks until the next conjunction. Annual Shabbats are determined locally in the same manner.

What if you don't have access to online or other media resources? It's possible to Old School it if you like. It would be good to have a few people trained to do it the old way anyway, for when the power grid goes down.

Here's how to do it the old way. Look for the last waning crescent in the eastern sky on the morning of day 29 (Shabbat) of the month, before sunrise, between 4-7 AM. It's best seen when the sky is dark, before the sun's rays begin to light up the sky since once the sun brightens the sky, the crescent will disappear. If the crescent is seen on the morning of day 29, then it is a 30 day moon/month and sunset on day 30 locally is YOUR New Moon. If there is no last crescent on day 29 between 4-7 AM and the sky is clear, then that night on day 29 of the month at sunset is your local Rosh Chodesh.

If the morning of the 29th is cloudy, or offers an obstructed view, declare New Moon day anyway. Check when conjunction is in your area. Adjust and be flexible. So, say for example you declare New Moon Day on day 29 automatically, then look at the conjunction locally online or in the media. If it's that day locally, day 29, then that night is your New Moon locally. If conjunction is not until next day 30, then sunset on day 30 is your New Moon locally. Do not worry about the exact nanosecond of conjunction, but rather the mere day, or 24 hour period between sunsets. Keep it simple.

What if you cannot see anything the morning of the 29th day of the month! Well that is a challenge, no doubt. If you cannot see the last crescent in the morning of day 29 of the month, due to cloud cover, storms, buildings, etc. then the local leader/s must make his best calculation for Rosh Chodesh, based upon the previous week's moons.

To be able to make an accurate calculation, it is important to have watched the moon rise every day, or at the very least in the early morning of day 28 of the month. You will quickly learn the difference of the size and look of a 30 day moon, and a 29 day moon based on a 27 or 28 day moon.

If you are still not sure, you may want to keep two days as Rosh Chodesh (2 days starting with the nights of 29 and 30) in order to make certain that you keep the correct one.

Once you make your best calculation for Rosh Chodesh-New Moon Day, as you go through the first work week of the renewed month, continue to watch the daily moon phases. The 1st Shabbat (day 8) of the month should coincide, by visual appearance, very closely with the waxing 1st quarter moon phase. Just as the 2nd Shabbat (day 15) should coincide with the full moon phase. If you see this is not happening, your Rosh Chodesh calculation may have been off, and the month may need to be adjusted on the fly. No big deal. Between your estimated New Moon Day and the 8th day quarter phase of the new month, you have 7 days to adjust any miscalculation and will not miss any correct 7th day Shabbats. Day 8 will be your realignment day.

My suggestion is that you use the online calculators to get pretty close and then observe for yourself so you get used to the look of the moon. Like that, if you lose the media access, you'll have had lots of practice seeing the right thing.

## **Part Six – New Moons for our area in 2011<sup>1</sup>**

Daylight savings time is taken into account. Observance of the New Moon would be the evening of the following day.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/astronomy.html?obj=moon&n=809> and <http://individual.utoronto.ca/kalendis/kalendis.htm>

Date	Moonrise	Moonset	Time	Mer.Alt	Dist.(km)	Illumination	New Moon
May 3, 2011	5:51 AM	8:51 PM	1:17 PM	68.6°	400,038	0.3%	at 1:51 AM
Jun 1, 2011	5:10 AM	8:39 PM	12:53 PM	71.6°	392,979	0.0%	at 4:03 PM
Jul 1, 2011	5:49 AM	8:57 PM	1:27 PM	69.2°	380,382	0.2%	at 3:54 AM
Jul 30, 2011	5:49 AM	8:08 PM	1:04 PM	63.5°	371,570	0.1%	at 1:40 PM
Aug 28, 2011	5:52 AM	7:10 PM	12:36 PM	55.7°	364,153	0.4%	at 10:04 PM
Sep 27, 2011	7:11 AM	6:41 PM	1:01 PM	40.8°	357,653	0.3%	at 6:09 AM
Oct 26, 2011	7:17 AM	5:47 PM	12:36 PM	33.1°	357,109	0.1%	at 2:56 PM
Nov 25, 2011	7:32 AM	5:04 PM	12:19 PM	26.1°	362,515	0.4%	at 12:10 AM
Dec 24, 2011	7:15 AM	4:51 PM	12:02 PM	26.7°	369,372	0.0%	at 12:06 PM

- **Joel 2:31 HCSB** The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the great and awe-inspiring Day of the LORD comes.
- **Matthew 24:29-30 HCSB** "Immediately after the tribulation of those days: The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not shed its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the celestial powers will be shaken. (30) "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the peoples of the earth will mourn; and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.
- **Acts 2:19-21 HCSB** I will display wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below: blood and fire and a cloud of smoke. (20) The sun will be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and remarkable day of the Lord comes; (21) then whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.
- **Revelation 6:12 HCSB** Then I saw Him open the sixth seal. A violent earthquake occurred; the sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair; the entire moon became like blood;

**2014-2015 Tetrad.** Lunar eclipses come in cycles and because of the complexities of the relative motions of the earth, moon, and sun, there are years when there are more total lunar eclipses than others.

Total lunar eclipses are sometimes called "blood moons" because of the apparent color of the moon. They occur sequentially only extremely rarely. The next time they occur four in a row will be between 2014 and 2015. Amazingly, all four occur on Passover and Sukkot of each year. This sequence of four consecutive total lunar eclipses is called a Tetrad and the next one occurs:

- Tuesday, April 15, 2014 on Pesach'
- Wednesday, October 8, 2014 on Sukkot
- Saturday, April 4, 2015 on Pesach'
- Monday, September 28, 2015 on Sukkot

There are also several solar eclipses that will take place in 2015 and again, they will occur on Jewish holy days! So, the sequence would be:

- Tuesday, April 15, 2014 Pesach'; total lunar eclipse
- Wednesday, October 8, 2014 Sukkot; total lunar eclipse
- Friday, March 20, 2015; Religious New Year; total solar eclipse
- Saturday, April 4, 2015; Pesach'; total lunar eclipse
- Sunday, September 13\*, 2015; Rosh Hashanah (civil New Year); partial solar eclipse
- Monday, September 28, 2015; Sukkot; total lunar eclipse

The last time that four blood red moons occurred together was in 1967 and 1968, when Jerusalem was recaptured by Israel.