

רֹאשׁ חֹדֶשׁ

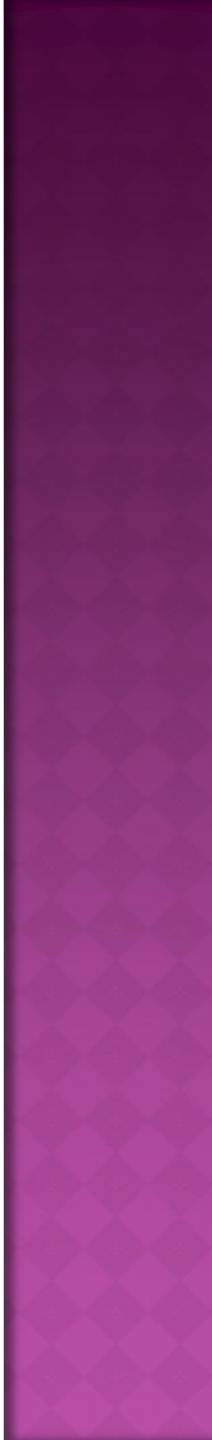
ROSH CHODESH

Head of the Month
An ongoing study for Beit Tefillah, Lawton

“He made the moon for appointed times”

Tehillim 104:19

THE NEW MOON



QUESTION:

- Is New Moon observance for modern day Nazarenes as it was for the Children of Israel upon release from Egypt?

THE HISTORY OF ROSH CHODESH

- ⦿ According to the Rabbis, the very first commandment given to the Israelites upon deliverance from Mitzryim was to sanctify the new moon causing the nation to depart from the solar tradition of the Mitzrites and to look at the moon for calculating the seasons and calculating times.
- ⦿ (Shemot 28:11-15 ISR)

SCRIPTURES TO READ

- Ex 12:1-2
- Num 10:10
- Num 29:6
- 1 Sam 20:5
- 1 Sam 20:24
- 1 Sam 20:27
- Neh 10:32-33
- Psa 81:1-4
- Isa 1:13-14
- Isa 66:23
- Eze 46;1
- Eze 46:6
- Amos 8:5
- Col 2:16

EXODUS (SHEMOT) 12:1-2

- ◉ And YHWH spoke to Mosheh and to Aharon in the land of Mitsrayim, saying, “This month is the beginning of months for you, it is the first month of the year for you.
- ◉ Traditional Judaism teaches that this is the very first mitzvot given upon release from Egypt; that this mitzvot instructs the Israelites to take control of their own calendar. They refer to it as **the Mitzvot of Rosh Chodesh**

MITZVOT?

- On Maimonides' list of the 613 mitzvot it is number 120: The Courts must calculate to determine when a new month begins according to Shemot 12:2
- Another list, it is number 107: “That the new month shall be solemnly proclaimed as Holy, and the months and years shall be calculated by the Supreme Court only.”
- **The authority to declare months is inferred from the use of the word “unto you” or “for you”**

NUMBERS (BAMIDBAR) 10:10

- ⦿ “And in the day of your gladness, and in your appointed times, and **at the beginning of your months**, you shall blow the trumpets (*chatzotzerot*) over your burnt offerings and over your peace offerings. And they shall be a remembrance for you before your Elohim. I am YHWH your Elohim.”

COMMAND TO BLOW THE SHOFAR OR THE TRUMPET

- ◉ Is this blowing the Shofar over the Offerings of the New month or is this blowing the shofar to declare the new month?
- ◉ According to Maimonides, (Laws of the Temple Vessels 7:5) the trumpet was blown with 9 Tekkia or 9 long blasts. And, it was done during the libations.

NUMBERS (BAMIDBAR) 29:6-7

- ◉ besides the burnt offering with its **grain offering for the New Moon**, the continual burnt offering with its grain offering, and their drink offerings, according to their right-ruling, as a sweet fragrance, an offering made by fire to YHWH
- ◉ ‘And on the tenth day of this seventh month you have a set-apart gathering, and you shall afflict your beings, you do no work.

BAMIDBAR 29:1

- ◉ ‘And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you have a set-apart gathering, you do no servile work, it is a day of blowing (Yom Teruah) *the trumpets* for you.’

THE COMMAND TO BLOW THE TRUMPET

- Like the previous question, “Is this blowing the Shofar over the Offerings of the New month or is this blowing the shofar to declare the new month?” Is the command to blow the shofar over the offering here to bring in Rosh chodesh or Rosh Ha Shannah?

ANOTHER QUESTION

- Is there any other command that would suggest that we blow the shofar for each Rosh Chodesh?

ANSWER

- ◉ Maybe, from a passage we already looked at.

BAMIDBAR 10:10

⦿ “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 YHWH your Elohim.”

⦿ Plus,,, next slide

BAMIDBAR 28:14

- ⦿ ‘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,’

COMMON THEME?

- ◉ For all new months there are prescribed offerings and for the seventh month the shofar is blown over the burnt offering.
- ◉ Is the shofar blown for all other months?
- ◉ Thoughts?
- ◉ My answer: Yes

DRASH

- ◉ Each Rosh Chodesh
- ◉ Since we do not bring offerings at this time, do we continue to blow the shofar?
- ◉ Thoughts?

WHAT ELSE WAS DONE?

- ⦿ There are no Mitzvot in the Torah that explain how to keep Rosh Chodesh other than what we have already looked at.
- ⦿ Let's look at some examples from the Tanakh

1 SAM 20:5

- ⦿ And Dawid said to Yehonathan, “See, tomorrow is the “New Moon”, and I ought to sit with the sovereign to eat. But let me go, and I shall hide in the field until the third day at evening.

SIT AND EAT

- ◉ Here is an example of an event that happened at a New Moon. Thoughts?

1SAM 20:24-27

- And Dawid hid in the field. And when the New Moon came, the sovereign sat down by the food to eat. And the sovereign sat on his seat, as at other times, on a seat by the wall, with Yehonathan standing, and Abner sitting by Sha'ul's side, but the place of Dawid was empty. But Sha'ul spoke not *a word that day*, for he thought, "It is an accident; he is not clean, for he has not been cleansed." 27And it came to be the next day, the second day of the month, that Dawid's place was empty. And Sha'ul said to Yehonathan his son, "Why has the son of Yishai not come to eat, either yesterday or today?"

QUESTION

- ◉ Why would there be a feast with the King two days in a row?
- ◉ And why would Dawid need to be clean to attend?

- ◉ Rosh Hashana???

- ◉ Thoughts???

WHAT TO DO

- ◉ On this particular new moon there is a feast with the King and his guests.
- ◉ And, it lasts for two days,, or is it one long day?
- ◉ And we know from Torah that the Shofar is blown.
- ◉ Thoughts??

NEHEMIAH 10:32:33

- And we imposed commands on ourselves, to give from ourselves yearly one third of a shekel for the service of the House of our Elohim: for the showbread, and for the continual grain offering, and for the continual burnt offering of the Sabbaths, of the New Moons, for the appointed times, and for the set-apart offerings, and for the sin offerings to make atonement for Yisrael, and all the work of the House of our Elohim.

RENEWING A COMMITMENT TO ELOHIM AND HIS TORAH

- In Nehemiah starting at about chapter nine the children of Israel are re-committing themselves to the Torah and one of the things mentioned is of course the New Moon.
- I would expect the mention of “New Moons” to be the word “Chodeshim” plural of “chodesh” but it does not.
- Thoughts???

WHAT CAN WE GET FROM IT?

- It seems to me that the observance of New Moons was important enough to mention when the ones gathered were re-dedicating.
- Thoughts?

TEHILLIM 81:1-4

- ⦿ Shout for joy to Elohim our strength; Raise a shout to the Elohim of Ya'aqob. 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 Ya'aqob.

QUESTION

- ⦿ Is the reference here “Blow the ram’s horn at the time of the New Moon, At the full moon, on our festival day” a reference to all new moons or to Yom Teruah and Sukkot?

YESHAYAHU 1:13-14

- ⊙ “Stop bringing futile offerings, incense, it is an abomination to Me. New Moons, Sabbaths, the calling of meetings - I am unable to bear unrighteousness and assembly. “My being hates your New Moons and your appointed times, they are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them.

⊙ **WHAT????**

YEHEZQEL 46:1-3

- ◉ ‘Thus said the Master YHWH, “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 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 YHWH, on the Sabbaths and on the New Moons.”**”

YESHAYAHU 66:23

- ⦿ “And it shall be that from New Moon to New Moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, *all flesh shall come to worship before Me,*” declares YHWH.

INFERENCE?

- ⦿ Can we infer from this “And the people of the land shall also bow themselves at the entrance to this gate before YHWH, on the Sabbaths and on the New Moons” that in addition to Shabbat, New Moon day is a Worship day?
- ⦿ I personally think that this is the case. New moon day, like Shabbat is a worship day.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES

- ⦿ Eze 46:6
- ⦿ Amos 8:5
- ⦿ Col 2:16

Ezekiel 46:1-7 (ISR) ‘Thus said the Master יהוה,
“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. 2 “And the prince shall enter by 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. 3 And the people of the land shall also bow themselves at the entrance to this gate before יהוה, on the Sabbaths and on the New Moons.

Ezekiel 46:1-7 (ISR) 4 “And the burnt offering which the prince brings to יהוה on the Sabbath day is six lambs, perfect ones, and a ram, a perfect one. 5 And the grain offering is one ěphah for a ram, and the grain offering for the lambs, a gift of his hand, and a hin of oil for an ěphah. 6 And on the day of the New Moon: a young bull, a perfect one, six lambs, and a ram, they should be perfect. 7 And he prepares a grain offering of an ěphah for a bull, and an ěphah for a ram, and for the lambs as his hand attains, and a hin of oil for an ěphah.”

Amos 8:4 (ISR) Hear this, you who are swallowing up the needy, to do away with the poor of the land, 5 saying, “When does the New Moon pass so that we sell grain, and the Sabbath so that we trade our wheat, to make the ěphah small and the sheqel large, and to falsify the scales by deceit, 6 to buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals, and sell the chaff of the wheat?”

Col 2:14-17 (ISR) 14 having blotted out the certificate of debt against us – by the dogmas – which stood against us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the stake. 15 Having stripped the principalities and the authorities, He made a public display of them, having prevailed over them in it. 16 Let no one therefore judge you in eating or in drinking, or in respect of a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths – 17 which are a shadow of what is to come – but the Body of the Messiah.

Col 2:16-17 (HRV trans. from Aramaic) 16

Therefore, let no man disturb you about food and drink, or about distinctions of feasts (*d'eda*), and new moons (*d'risha yarkha*, plural), and Sabbaths, 17 Which are shadows of things that are to come, but the Body of Messiah.

- Biblical feasts, new moons, and Sabbaths are shadows of future prophetic events, let no man disturb you or judge you in them, but the[*substance of those things is*] Body of Messiah.

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

- ◉ The silver trumpet is blown over the burnt offerings IAW: Bamidbar 10:10; Maimonides, (Laws of the Temple Vessels 7:5) and that it was blown with 9 long blasts.
- ◉ It is reasonable to believe that along with Shabbat, Rosh Chodesh is a worship day IAW: Yehezqel 46:3 and Amos 8:4
- ◉ We should not let anyone discourage us or judge us on the keeping of this set apart and Yah appointed time or event. IAW Colossians 2:16-17

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

- ◉ YHWH gave us the moon for Appointed times
IAW: Bereshith 1:14 and Tehillim 104:19
- ◉ The Rabbis say that the command to take control of the calendar was the first command to them upon release from Egypt and that it is the duty of the court to proclaim the new month and to set it apart IAW: Shemot 12:2
- ◉ Many of the references to the New Moon may refer directly to Yom Teruah
- ◉ Several do not refer to Yom Teruah.
- ◉ Amos 8 infers that there is no buying and selling, and Col 2 indicates that New Moon is prophetic of future events , e.g. Yehezqel 46:3

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- ◉ Do we need to come up with Halacha for keeping Rosh?
- ◉ Are we doing now everything that we can?
- ◉ Do you find joy in sighting of the new moon as my family and I do?
- ◉ What about work, and School, and other obligations?