

# New Moons

## Yesterday, Today and Forever

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*Many have asked "Why observe New Moons?". The simple answer is fittingly "because God says so". This article is intended to appropriately introduce you to New Moons in the Word of God.*

Many of those asking about the new moons come from a Sabbath or Saturday keeping background. Some of you attend church every Sunday faithfully. Most reading this article sincerely desire to do things Gods way. We have this goal in common. As we strive to do things Gods way, we often find ourselves rejecting the traditions of men. This is not a bad thing, as God tells us:

**Romans 3:4** let God be true but every man a liar,

So please, look up all scriptures listed. Study Gods word and prove all things for yourself when reading this (or any) literature. All biblical quotations are from the New King James Version unless noted.

It amazes me that ridicule and even persecution for observing the New Moons often comes from leaders of other Sabbath keeping groups. Some leaders have accused those observing New Moons of "Worshipping the Moon", "Making up Holy Days" and even trying to "be more Jewish than the Jews". (Personally, as an Israelite, I chuckle at that last charge.) Let's clear out this pretense and see what Gods word *really* says about the New Moons.

**God instructs us not to let any man judge us in these matters:**

**Colossians 2:16** So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, **17** which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

The apostle Paul clearly tells us that Festival, New Moon and Sabbaths are "**a shadow of things to come**". Eventually all of mankind will be doing these things. The last part of verse 17 shows us that these are *good* things by stating "**but the substance is of Christ.**". The word "substance" is used to show where these things come from and what these things are made of. Festival, New Moon and Sabbaths are of Christ!

Lets notice a couple of things:

1. Festival, New Moon and Sabbaths are linked together in Colossians 2:16-17.
2. There is a *difference* between Festivals, Sabbaths and New Moons.

## 1. Festival, New Moon and Sabbaths are linked together in Colossians 2:16-17.

Notice how God links New Moons with Sabbaths and his Festivals. God has always linked New Moons together with his Festivals or Sabbaths. Numbers 10:10 is the first example of this:

**Numbers 10:10** Also at your times of rejoicing-your appointed feasts and New Moon festivals-you are to sound the trumpets over your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings,(NIV translation)

**Notice:** Appointed Feasts and New Moon festivals are times of rejoicing - a time to have FUN!

## 2. There is a difference between Festivals, Sabbaths and New Moons.

This is a subtle mistake, but not ALL festival days are Sabbaths. The word Sabbath means “to cease”. A Sabbath (weekly or annual) is a day we cease from our regular work. We can (and should) work on most other days. A problem arises when people start calling annual Sabbaths by the term “Holy Days”. The word “holy” comes from the Hebrew root word **qadash** (Strongs#6942) and simply means “clean or set apart by God” and the Greek word **hagios** (Strongs#40) that fundamentally signifies separated as well. **Any day God has set apart for a specific purpose is holy, and properly called a “Holy Day”.**

**Leviticus 23:34** "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: "The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the LORD.

God has set apart all 7 days of the Feast of Tabernacles for our benefit. All 7 days of the Feast of Tabernacles are properly defined as *holy* days. Two of those days are Sabbaths (1 annual and 1 weekly). New Moons are not Sabbaths, but they are set apart or sanctified by God -- making them *holy* days.

### Are the Sabbaths and Festivals “thrown out” by God?

**Zechariah 14:16** And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

Do the Egyptians today keep the Feast of Tabernacles? How about the Syrians, Palestinians or even the Germans? This has not happened yet! This scripture is pointing to a time in the near future. Someday soon the Feast of Tabernacles will be kept on a worldwide scale.

### The Feast of Tabernacles in the future:

The Feast of Tabernacles is the perfect example to show that Festivals and Sabbaths are not “thrown out” by God. The Feast of Tabernacles is a Festival that lasts for 8 days (counting the Last Great Day). This Festival includes 2 annual Sabbaths and one weekly Sabbath. This verse is proof that God has not “thrown out” Sabbaths and Festivals.

**Colossians 2:16** So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding **a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17** which are a shadow of things to come

How can some Sabbath keeping leaders keep the Feast of Tabernacles and yet reject the New Moons?

Colossians 2:16 clearly shows us that **Sabbaths, New Moons and Festivals** are all linked together by God. Either Sabbaths, New Moons and Festivals are ‘kept’ *as a group* - or ‘thrown out’ *as a group*. Some take issue with the fact that the NKJV translation uses the singular form “**a new moon**” in Colossians 2:16. The same thing can be said of the words “**a festival**” in the same sentence. Clearly Paul is not talking about one particular festival of God, and discarding all other festivals. Proper logic would carry this same understanding over to the other singular subject -- a new moon.

### **What else does God have in store for the future?**

**Ezekiel 44:24** In controversy they shall stand as judges, and judge it according to My judgments. They shall keep My laws and My **statutes** in **all My appointed meetings**, and they shall hallow **My Sabbaths**.

This verse speaks of the soon coming 1,000 years of peace - the millennium. We find in that future time people will be taught Gods laws, statutes, all of Gods appointed meetings (see Leviticus 23 for a list of these appointed meetings) - and shall hallow Gods Sabbaths. Once again God has reinforced that Gods laws, statutes, festivals and Sabbaths are to be kept, and were never thrown out.

### **Ezekiel next tells us that the New Moons are also very significant to God in the future:**

**Ezekiel 46:1** "Thus says the Lord GOD: "The gateway of the inner court that faces toward the east shall be shut the six working days; but on the Sabbath it shall be opened, and on the day of the New Moon it shall be opened.

Some ministers - that would deceive - will point to that verse and again say ‘New Moon’, it’s in singular form. They will say that this is talking about one particular new moon, the Feast of Trumpets. The context of the paragraph shows us this is just not the case. **Notice what God tells us just 2 verses later:**

**Ezekiel 46:3** Likewise **the people of the land shall worship** at the entrance to this gateway **before the LORD on the Sabbaths and the New Moons**.

**Notice:** ‘on the Sabbaths and the New Moons’. This time God very specifically uses the plural form to include ALL New Moons. New Moons are a time people SHALL worship before God. There is no question for anyone who believes God. God says this will happen and it will come to pass. Ministers that purposely leave out verse 3 are not only ignoring the New Moons, they are ignoring the Word of God. When God says ‘thou shall’ do *something*, that *something* is a commandment.

### **New Moons are nothing new to Gods people:**

The Bible records many people observing the New Moons, including:

- The Israelites & specifically the Levites (Numbers 10:8-10, 1 Chronicles 23:31)
- Saul, Jonathan and David (1 Samuel 20:5,18 & 24)
- Solomon (2 Chronicles 8:13)
- Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 31:3)
- the Shunammite woman (2 Kings 4:23)
- one can conclude logically that Moses, Samuel & Ezekiel observed the New Moons.

**One other individual observed the New Moons - Jesus Christ. He still does to this day:**

**Malachi 3:6** "For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

**Hebrews 13:8** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

**Matthew 5:18** For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

Jesus Christ has made it very clear through Ezekiel 46:1-6 that he will observe the New Moons in the millennium. The 3 verses above make it clear that Jesus Christ will not change. Jesus kept the New Moons in the past, will keep them in the future and is keeping them now.

**Aren't we suppose to follow the example set by Jesus Christ?**

**1 John 2:3** Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

**1 John 2:6** He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

Don't you think that Jesus was raised in a household that observed Gods Laws? We know from the book of Luke that Joseph and Mary carried out animal sacrifices at the Temple in Jerusalem.

**Luke 2:22** When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord **23** (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), **24** and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." ( NIV translation )

**Luke 2:41** His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. **42** And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast.

Doesn't it make sense that the New Moons were observed by this same God fearing household? **Here are some of the scriptures that would have been read in that home:**

**Numbers 28:14** With each bull there is to be a drink offering of half a hin of wine; with the ram, a third of a hin ; and with each lamb, a quarter of a hin. This is the monthly burnt offering to be made at each new moon during the year. ( NIV translation )

**Ezra 3:5** Afterwards they offered the regular burnt offering, **and those for New Moons** and for all the appointed feasts of the LORD that were consecrated, and those of everyone who willingly offered a freewill offering to the LORD.

**Nehemiah 10:32** Also we made ordinances for ourselves, to exact from ourselves yearly one-third of a shekel for the service of the house of our God: **33** for the showbread, for the regular grain offering, for the regular burnt offering of the Sabbaths, the New Moons, and the set feasts; for the holy things, for the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and all the work of the house of our God.

**Psalm 81:3** Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day. ( KJV translation )

**Psalm 81 deserves special attention:**

Many have mistakenly said Psalm 81:3 is speaking of the Feast of Trumpets or the Feast of Tabernacles. Both assumptions are incorrect.

**The top 3 rules of understanding the Bible are:**

1. Context
2. Context
3. Context

Lets notice the context of **Psalm 81**:

Verse 3 - "Blow up the trumpet in the new moon" & "on our solemn feast day."

Verse 5 - "When He went throughout the land of Egypt,"

Verse 7 - "You called in trouble, and I delivered you;" & "I tested you at the waters of Meribah."

Verse 10 - "I am the LORD your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt;"

Verse 10 really drives the contextual point home. Psalm 81 is about the Passover season. Clearly the New Moon spoken of in verse 3 is the New Moon of the month of Abib - the beginning of the year.

**Exodus 12:1** Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, **2 "This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you.**

The message of Psalm 81:1-4 is basically **Happy New Year, now listen to God!**

The Feast spoken of in Psalm 81:3 can only be a Feast that falls during the Passover season. Logically the solemn feast day is the first day of Unleavened Bread. This was the day all of the Egyptian first born had been slain by God at midnight.

**Exodus 12:29** And it came to pass **at midnight that the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt**, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock.

**Exodus 12:42** It is **a night of solemn observance** to the LORD for bringing them out of the land of Egypt. This is that night of the LORD, **a solemn observance** for all the children of Israel throughout their generations.

The New Moon of Abib 1 is not an annual Sabbath - yet even this observance is a "statute":

**Psalm 81:4** For it is a statute for Israel, a rule of the God of Jacob.

**Ezekiel 37:24** "David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them.

**Ezekiel 44:24** In controversy they shall stand as judges, and judge it according to My judgments. They shall keep My laws and My statutes in all My appointed meetings, and they shall hallow My Sabbaths. ( Remember, this verse is a prophesy not yet fulfilled. )

Let's summarize what we have read:

Numbers 10:10            New Moons linked with appointed Festivals of God  
Exodus 12:1-2            New Moon marks the beginning of each year  
Psalm 81:3                New Moon linked with Passover & Feast of Unleavened Bread  
Numbers 28:14 (1420-1220 BC) \\  
Ezra 3:5 (500-400 BC)       - New Moons observed by Israelites for 1,000 years  
Nehemiah 10:32,33(500-400 BC) /  
Luke 2:41-42 Jesus raised in a house that regularly walked to the Temple  
Luke 2:22-24             Jesus raised in a home that kept "the Law of the Lord"  
Matthew 5:18             Jesus said "not one dot has passed from the Law"  
1 John 2:3                If we know Jesus, we keep his commandments  
1 John 2:6                If we are united with Jesus, we walk as he walked  
Hebrews 13:8             Jesus the same yesterday, today and forever  
Malachi 3:6              The LORD has not changed  
1 Samuel 20:5         \  
2 Chronicles 8:13       - David, Solomon & Shunammite woman all observed New Moons  
2 Kings 4:23             /  
Ezekiel 46:3             People SHALL worship God on Sabbaths AND New Moons  
Ezekiel 46:1             The operation of the future Temple hinges on New Moons  
Ezekiel 44:24            Gods Laws, Statues, Festivals & Sabbaths in the millennium  
Psalm 81:4                New Moon is part of a Statute, a law of the God of Jacob  
Zechariah 14:16        Festivals and Sabbaths kept at Jesus' return to earth  
Colossians 2:16         Festivals, New Moons & Sabbaths - linked together  
Colossians 2:16         Don't let any man judge you in New Moon observation  
Colossians 2:17         Festivals, New Moons & Sabbaths - Christ centered & future  
Romans 3:4                Trust God, not any man or traditions of men

And now an ***EXTREME VERSE***:

Psalm 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
A good understanding have all those who do His commandments.  
His praise endures forever.

With God -- Actions speak louder than words.

With God -- Application comes before revelation.

Do you want to have a better understanding of God & his plan for mankind and the Bible? Application comes before revelation. Apply Psalm 111:10 in your lives today.

**And finally** to answer those of you who sincerely desire to do things Gods way - Why do I observe "New Moons"? Again I say "Because God says so."