

A New Look at **NEW MOONS!**

Should Yah's people today be concerned about observing the "New Moon" festivals? Were New Moons -- the first day of each Biblical month -- observed in ancient times? How were they observed by ancient Israel? What about in New Testament times? Will New Moons be observed in the Messianic Age, the World Tomorrow?

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We read an astounding thing in the book of Colossians, which thousands of Yah's people have overlooked, ignored, and misunderstood. In their attempt to refute the gainsaying and heresy of those who try to do away with Yah's laws and holy days, they have stumbled and overlooked a vital TRUTH!

Notice this remarkable passage! Paul writes, "So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival [margin, "FEAST DAY"] or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance [lit., "body"] is of Christ" (Col.2:16-17). The King James Version says in these verses: "Let no MAN, therefore, judge you in food, or in drink, or in respect of a feast day, or of the new moon, or of a sabbath day, which are a shadow of things to come; but the body *is* [note: these italics are *not* in the original, meaning the word "is" has been supplied by the translators and is not in the original Greek version] of Christ."

Let us notice three things in these verses. First, we are to allow no human being -- be he Gentile, or Jew, rabbi, or minister -- to "judge" or criticize us regarding these things, or to sit in judgment over us.

Secondly, these days -- festivals of Yahweh, new moons, and sabbath days -- are (present tense, meaning they STILL EXIST and have not been done away or abolished!) "shadows" of things to come. That is, they all foreshadow and picture elements in Yah's plan, future events still to come. Therefore, they have great meaning and significance for us, today!

The fact that the weekly Sabbath day is a "shadow" of the millennial reign of Christ, picturing the seventh "day" of Yah's seven-thousand year plan (see II Peter 3:8-10), is a wonderful truth, one we should appreciate as we "rest" every Sabbath day, as Yahweh commands. This fact does not lessen the importance of the weekly Sabbath, but strengthens and magnifies it! And so it is with all the other holy days, which picture vital elements in the overall Plan of Yahweh.

Thirdly, notice the last expression of this passage: "But the body (*is*) of Christ." What

does this mean? If we take this whole passage together, it becomes clear. Paul says, "Let no man, therefore, judge you *but the body of Christ.*" If we leave out the "is" supplied by the translators, the passage becomes clear. It is the body of Messiah that is to "judge" us -- that is, the true Church of Yahweh, led by the divinely appointed servants of Yahweh (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, etc. -- see Eph.4:11-13 and I Cor.12:12-30), inspired and led by His Holy Spirit (Rom.8:9-11, 16-17; compare also Hebrews 12:7, 17, I Pet.5:1-3).

The "body of Christ" means the Church, led by the ministers, who teach the word of Yahweh, and explain it. As Paul writes, "And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Rom.10:14-15).

Therefore, it is the Church or Assembly of Yahweh, led by Yah's Spirit, which leads us into "all truth" (John 16:13), which is to "judge" our actions and conduct regarding how we observe the holy days of Yahweh, *new moons*, and sabbath days!

But in so doing, during the past fifty years or so, has the End-time "church of Yahweh" been negligent? Have the ministers of Yahweh overlooked, and ignored, vital truth and a command which Yahweh gives in these verses?

A New Look at the "New Moons"

Notice! Among the days the Church is to "judge" us in respect to is the subject of NEW MOONS! According to the original calendar that Yahweh gave His people, each month of the year is a lunar month and begins with a NEW MOON! In ancient Israel, every new moon the trumpet was blown -- the shofar was sounded -- to call the people to celebrate and observe the new moon, the beginning of the new month.

In ancient Israel, special sacrifices were offered on every New Moon, signifying the importance of the day to Yah's people. In the book of Numbers we read:

"And in the beginnings of your months ye shall offer a burnt offering unto YAHWEH; two young bullocks, and one ram, seven lambs of the first year without spot; and three tenth deals of flour for a meat [meal] offering, mingled with oil, for one bullock; and two tenth deals of flour for a meat [meal] offering for one ram; and a several tenth deal of flour mingled with oil for a meat [meal] offering unto one lamb; for a burnt offering of a sweet savour, a sacrifice made by fire unto YAHWEH.

"And their drink offerings shall be half an hin of wine unto a bullock, and the third part of an hin unto a ram,, and a fourth part of an hin unto a lamb: this is the burnt offering OF EVERY MONTH [NEW MOON] throughout the months of the year.

"And one kid of the goats for a sin offering unto the LORD shall be offered, beside the continual burnt offering, and his drink offering" (Numbers 28:10-15).

The Custom in Ancient Israel

In ancient Israel, before the Exile to Babylon, the New Moons -- the first day of each month -- were observed as “minor festivals.” Evidence for this is found in the account of David and Saul. Notice:

“And David said unto Jonathan, Behold, tomorrow is the NEW MOON [marginal reference, “A time of rejoicing”], and I *should not fail to sit before the king at meat*: but let me go, that I may hide myself in the field unto the third day at even.

“If thy father at all miss me, then say, David earnestly asked leave of me that he might run to Bethlehem, his city: for there is a yearly *sacrifice* [margin, “feast”] *there for all the family*” (I Samuel 20:5-6).

The word for “sacrifice” in this verse is *zebah*. Notice what *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* says about this word:

“The basic meaning of *zebah* is 'sacrifice.' When a 'sacrifice' had been slaughtered by the priest, he then offered it to Yahweh. . . . The *zebah* was not like the burnt offering (*olah*), which was completely burnt on the altar; and it was unlike the sin offering (*hatta't*), where the meat was given to the priest, for most of the meat of the *zebah* was returned to the person who made the 'sacrifice.' The fat was poured on the altar (Lev.3:2). The person who made the *zebah* had to share the meat with the officiating priest (Exo. 29:28); Lev.7:31-35; Deut.18:3).

“In view of the fact that the people shared in the eating of the *zebah*, the 'sacrifice'

became A COMMUNAL MEAL in which the Lord hosted His people. . . . Apart from the sanctuaries, the Israelites also celebrated Yahweh's goodness together in their native villages. The story of Samuel gives several good illustrations of this custom (cf. I Sam. 9:13; 16:2-3)” (p.210).

In I Samuel 9:12 we read, “. . . he [Samuel the prophet] came today to the city; for there is a *sacrifice of the people today in the high place*: as soon as ye be come into the city, ye shall straightway find him, before he go up to the high place to eat: for the people will not eat until he come, because he doth bless the sacrifice; and afterwards they eat that be bidden” (I Sam.9:12-13).

Each New Moon therefore, with its extra sacrifices, was regarded as a “mini-festival,” not unlike the annual holy days of Yahweh. Feasting and worshipping were part of the festivities. Says the Soncino *Pentateuch & Haftorahs*, “In Pre-Exilic times, the New Moon was celebrated as a minor Festival” (p.695).

During the time of Elisha, the son of a woman died unexpectedly, and she asked for her husband to send for Elisha, the man of Yahweh. He replied, “Wherefore wilt thou go to him today? it is *neither new moon nor sabbath*” (II Kings 4:23).

A Day of Worship and Rejoicing

Being a festive occasion, and a special time for worship, when the New Moon arrived trade, buying and selling, and handicraft work stopped, and the Temple was opened for public worship

services.

We read in the book of Amos, Yahweh says to His people:

“Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail, 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?” (Amos 8:4-5).

On the New Moons, the trumpets were blown at the offering of the special sacrifices of the day. Yahweh commanded Israel, “Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, *and in the beginnings of your months [New Moons], ye shall BLOW WITH THE TRUMPETS over your burnt offerings, and over your sacrifices of your peace [fellowship] offerings; that they may be to you for a MEMORIAL before your Elohim: I am Yahweh thy Elohim.*” (Numbers 10:10).

Notice that the New Moon is listed right along with the annual Holy Days, the days of “gladness” and “solemn days.” The Hebrew word for “solemn” here does not mean stern, foreboding, grave, or serious-minded, but rather “festive,” “feast day.” It is the Hebrew word *moed*, meaning “an appointment, i.e., a fixed time or season, spec. a festival, by implication, an assembly.”

Although there is no Scriptural commandment in the Torah designating the New Moons as a day in which work was forbidden, as it was on the weekly Sabbath, and to a lesser extent on the annual holy days, nevertheless, since it is listed right along with the Holy Days as a day of worship and blowing of trumpets, and was a day to assemble for the special sacrifices of that day, in ancient Israel most labor and business activities ceased on the New Moons.

Almighty Yahweh says, in His Word:

“SING ALOUD unto Yahweh our strength; make a JOYFUL NOISE unto the Elohim of Jacob. Take a psalm, and bring hither the timbrel, the pleasant harp with the psaltery. *Blow up the TRUMPET in the NEW MOON, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day. For this was a STATUTE for Israel, and a LAW of the Elohim of Jacob*” (Psalm 83:1-4).

This reference to the NEW MOON is very significant. Although we know that the only Holy Day that falls on a New Moon is Rosh Hashanah, the first day of the seventh month, Tishri, which is also called *Yom Teruah*, the “day of blowing” of trumpets, nevertheless, the trumpets were also commanded to be blown on EVERY New Moon throughout the year, marking each New Moon as a festive and joyous occasion!

Says *Peloublet's Bible Dictionary*:

“The mentions of the new moons shows that they were regarded as a peculiar class of holy days, distinguished from the solemn feasts and the Sabbaths. I Chron.23:31; II Chron.2:4; 8:13;31:3; Ezra 3:5; Neh.10:33; Ezek.45:17: (“New Moon,” p.445).

The New Moons were celebrated with special rites on the first day of each lunar month, in ancient times, as part of the worship due to Yahweh by His people. They were highly regarded and

observed by family get-togethers, communal meals, and community sacrifices. The people would enjoy them, with a fellowship meal, with eating and drinking and fellowshiping before Yahweh. There would be singing of hymns, and spiritual songs, and songs of praise and worship.

But what about in the future? The fact is, Biblical prophecy also indicates that New Moons will be observed during the Messianic era -- during the 1,000 year reign of the Messiah!

New Moons To Be Observed in the Kingdom of Yahweh

In the prophecies regarding the Temple services which will be re-instituted during the Messianic Age, we read in Ezekiel:

“All the people of the land shall give this oblation for the prince in Israel. And it shall be the prince's part to give burnt offerings, and meat [meal] offerings, and drink offerings, in the feasts, **AND IN THE NEW MOONS**, and in the sabbaths, in all solemnities of the house of Israel . . .” (Ezek.45:16-17).

“Thus saith Yahweh Elohim; 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*. And the prince shall enter by way of the porch of that gate without, and shall stand by the post of the gate, and the priests shall prepare his burnt offering and his peace offerings., and he shall worship at the threshold of the gate: then he shall go forth; but the gate shall not be shut until the evening.

“Likewise the people of the land shall WORSHIP at the door of this gate before Yahweh in the SABBATHS and IN THE NEW MOONS” (Ezekiel 46:1-3).

Notice! During the Millennial Reign of the Messiah, there will be **WORSHIP SERVICES** ordained for all the people -- all Israel! They will worship Yahweh **ON THE NEW MOONS!**

In fact, a prophecy in the book of Isaiah makes the truth even plainer. Not only al Israel, but **ALL MANKIND** will worship Yahweh during the Millennial Reign of Christ, the Messiah, “from New Moon to New Moon”!

Isaiah declares:

“For as the new heavens and the new earth , which I will make, shall remain before me, saith Yahweh, so shall your seed and your name remain.

“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 YAHWEH.***” (Isaiah 66:23-24).

Clearly, the New Moon observances and celebrations are very important, in Yahweh's plan, and in His eyes. But among the people of Yahweh the remembrance and observance of the New Moons of Yahweh has fallen into disuse, and disregard. The end-time churches of Yahweh by and large totally neglect and ignore worshipping Yahweh on the New Moons!

Is this one reason why most professing people of Yahweh, today, are **SORELY LACKING**

in SPIRITUAL POWER, FAITH, and dynamic spiritual IMPACT in their lives?

Should we, as the people of Yahweh, observe the New Moons, today?

Should We Observe New Moons Today?

Says *Hastings Dictionary of the Bible*, a multi-volume work and authoritative:

“The celebration of the New Moon belongs to the most ancient of Hebrew rites. . . Lagarde held that the generic Heb. term for ‘joyous praise’ was derived from an old name of the New Moon. . . In the time of the earlier prophets, the New Moon stood in the same line with another lunar observance, the Sabbath. No work or business was attended to on either day (Amos 8:5). Hosea (2:11) speaks of the feasts, the New Moons, the Sabbaths, and festival assemblies as passing away with the national independence; and a similar connection between the New Moons and the other solemn days is found in Isaiah 1:13.

“Just as the New Moon occupies a prominent place with the prophets, so does it with Ezekiel and in the Levitical legislation. Ezekiel, who curiously enough frequently dates his prophecies on the New Moon (26:1, 29:17, 31:1, 32:1, cf. Hag.1:1), describes the gate of the inner court of the temple looking eastwards as kept shut for the six working days, but opened on the Sabbath and New Moon (Ezek.46:1). The prince, besides making special arrangements for the great New Moons of the first and seventh months (this is the probable meaning of Ezek.45:18-20), was also to provide offerings for ordinary New Moons (Ezek.46:10-7). The gate was open till the evening, and while the people stood without the prince was allowed to stand by the threshold. According to Ezekiel (46:6), the New Moon offerings consisted of a young bullock, six lambs, and a ram without blemish (the Sabbath burnt-offering was less, v.4), as burnt-offerings; an ephah for the bullock and for each ram, a handful of flour for each lamb, and a hin of oil to an ephah as a meal-offering (vs.7-8). In Numbers 28:11 the burnt-offering consisted of two young bullocks, one ram, and seven he-lambs of the first year without blemish; fine flour, oil and wine carefully proportioned (vs.12-14), and a he-goat as a sin-offering (v.15). The offerings here, as in Ezekiel, are more important than for the Sabbath (Num.28:9-10). An additional detail is added in Numbers 10:10, where the law ordains that ‘in the days of your gladness, and in your set feasts, and in the beginnings of your months’ the two silver trumpets were to be sounded during the sacrificial rites as a ‘memorial before your God.’ Some authorities have held that Psalm 81:3, ‘Blow up the trumpet in the New Moon, at the full moon, on our solemn feast day,’ refers to the ordinary New Moon. . . But the LXX . . . omits ‘every.’ The Targum refers the passage solely to the New Moon of the seventh month (Lev.23:24); and this, the traditional Jewish view, has been adopted by modern commentators” (“New Moon,” vol.3, page 521-522).

The *Encyclopedia Judaica* says regarding the observance of New Moons:

“The Torah placed its observance ON A PAR WITH the observance of the festivals, declaring, ‘Also in the day of your gladness, and in your appointed seasons, AND IN YOUR NEW MOONS, ye shall blow with your trumpets over your burnt offerings . . .’ (Numbers 10:10). A special *Musaf* sacrifice was ordained for the day (Num.28:11-15). The Bible mentions various practices observed on it, including festive MEALS . . . abstention from business transactions (Amos 8:5), and the practice of visiting the prophet (II Kings 4:23). When foretelling the chastisements that will come upon the Jewish people, Hosea says that the joys of the New Moon will cease

(Hos.2:13). The redemption is viewed as a time when 'from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before Me saith the Lord' (Isa.66:23)" ("New Moon," vol.12, p.1039).

Obviously, the New Moons were important in ancient Israel. Judging by the sacrifices offered on them, they were uniquely important, requiring more sacrifices than the weekly Sabbath. The prophet Amos says, "Hear this, you who swallow up the needy, and make the poor of the land fall, saying, 'When will the New Moon be past, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may trade wheat?'" Thus commercial activity ceased on this day (Amos 8:4-5). Although the New Moons were not Sabbath days in which no work was permitted, the people of Yahweh did not go about their normal occupations of buying and selling on that day.

Because of the sins of His people, Yahweh warns in the prophecies of Hosea, that He will punish Israel (Hos.2:2-10), saying, "I will also cause all her MIRTH to cease, Her feast says, her New Moons, her Sabbaths -- all her appointed feasts" (v.11).

Truly, Israel forgot all these wonder observances of the Law of Yahweh when she went into exile and captivity in 718-721 B.C., and to this very day, modern Israel neglects all these holy days and festivals of Yahweh!

In Isaiah 1:14, Yahweh tells His people Israel, who have forsaken Him (Isaiah 1:4, 10), "When you come to appear before Me, who has required this from your hand, to trample My courts? Bring no more futile sacrifices; incense is an abomination to Me. The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies -- I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting. Your New Moons, and your appointed feasts My soul hates; they are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them" (Isa.1:12-14).

Why was Yahweh so upset? Because of their hypocrisy and iniquity! They professed to worship Him, but they twisted and distorted and subverted His Holy Days, Sabbaths, and New Moons! Today, most people don't regard these days of Yahweh as of any importance whatsoever. Instead, they celebrate the world's pagan holidays of "Christmas" (the ancient Roman Saturnalia, all dressed up as to appear "Christian!"), Easter (whose very name is that of a pagan sex goddess of spring and fertility), and "Halloween" (a day of demonic revelry and wickedness).

What must Yah think of modern Jews and Christians alike who neglect and ignore His Holy Days, Sabbaths, *and New Moons*?

Yet, notice that these Scriptures all place the New Moons on a par with the annual festivals, as observances of Yahweh! They were celebrated in ancient Israel, at the Temple, and will be celebrated in the Temple in the Kingdom of Yahweh. Yahweh says through Ezekiel, "Thus says YAHWEH ELOHIM: 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*" (Ezek.46:1). Ezekiel goes on: "The prince shall enter by way of the vestibule of the gateway from the outside, and stand by the gatepost. The priests shall prepare his burnt offering and his peace offerings. He shall *worship* at the threshold of the gate. Then he shall go out, but the gate shall not be shut until evening. Likewise the people of the land shall *worship* at the entrance to this gateway before Yahweh *on the Sabbaths AND THE NEW MOONS*" (Ezek.46:2-3).

Hastings goes on to comment on the observance of the New Moons in Israel:

“As to the manner in which the New Moon was observed, there were other features besides the sacrifices. There was no ‘solemn convocation’ on the New Moon, but it is usually inferred from II Kings 4:23 that *visits were paid to the prophets on that day*. . . . The New Moon was apparently the time for changing David's officials, according to I Chron.27:1. It is not easy to gather the full significance of the incident related in I Samuel 20:5. David evidently refers to a *FAMILY FEAST ON THE NEW MOON*, but it is not clear that the king had a special feast on that day” (p.522).

During Christian times, Hastings points out, the observance of New Moons ceased among the vast “Christian” church. Its observance fell into disuse, in the church which began to avoid all things “Jewish.” However, the Jews continued its observance.

“Fasting was avoided on the New Moon (Judith 8:6). The observance of the New Moon fell into disuse in the Christian communities (Col.2:16). In the medieval Jewish circles the New Moon, however, retained its importance. Women did not work, fasting was prohibited, and in the synagogue liturgy many special features were introduced. On the Sabbath before the New Moon the event was publicly announced, on the day itself a reading from the law (Num.28:1-15) was introduced, special Psalms (forming part of the *Hallel*, Psalm 113-118) were chanted, and other liturgical passages were added. These are retained in the modern synagogue” (*ibid.*).

How, then, should true Christians, desiring to obey God and to keep His commandments, handle the question of observing the New Moon?

The New Moons and Christian Observance

New Moons, of course, are the first day of each month of Yahweh's sacred calendar. This passage of Scripture in Colossians 2:16 definitely connects them with observance of the annual holy days, Yahweh's festivals, and the weekly Sabbath! Although we are commanded not to allow any “MAN” to sit in judgment of us as to how we observe the New Moons -- such as pastors, ministers, rabbis, or neighbors -- we are to remember that Almighty Yahweh is our Judge, and we are to seek to please HIM in everything we do!

As Paul wrote, “Whether ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do ALL to the glory of Yahweh.” (I Corinthians 10:31).

Paul also wrote, “For do I now persuade men, or Yahweh? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Messiah.” (Galatians 1:10).

Paul also reminds us, “. . . for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith Yahweh, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to Yahweh. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to Yahweh.” (Rom.14:10-12).

Established FOREVER!

What about New Moons? Clearly, they are a BIBLICAL INSTITUTION! They were ordained by Yahweh, and they will last FOREVER -- so long as the days, months, and years, last! As Yahweh said of David's descendants, "My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that has gone out of my lips. Once I have sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me. *It shall be established FOREVER AS THE MOON, and as a faithful witness in heaven. Selah*" (Psalm 89:34-37).

Since the MOON is established "forever," it follows logically that the NEW MOONS also are ordained and established forever!

As Yah's people, then, we ought to be celebrating them every month, on the New Moon, by holding special worship services, where possible, and family festive banquets and feasts.

What about the Example of Christ and the Apostles?

What example did Yeshua (Jesus) Messiah and the apostles set for us, concerning the New Moons?

Although there is no specific mention of New Moons in the Gospels, nevertheless, we can know that Messiah both observed them and taught His followers to do so. The New Moons were ordained by Yahweh as a statute forever, as part of His holy calendar. And Christ Himself taught, "Think NOT that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets: I am not come to destroy [or do away with, abolish, or abrogate or rescind!], but to fulfill [i.e., fill up to the brim!]" (Matt.5:17).

Notice! Jesus -- Yeshua our Savior -- went on, saying, "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, *ONE JOT OR ONE TITTLE shall in NO WISE pass from this law till all be fulfilled*. Whosoever therefore that shall break one of these *least* commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called *least* in the kingdom of heaven: *but whosoever shall DO and TEACH them shall be called GREAT in the kingdom of heaven*" (Matt.5:18-19).

Yeshua Messiah and the apostles and early Church observed the New Moons. James, the apostle in charge of the Jerusalem Church, told Paul when he visited Jerusalem, circa A.D. 60, that the Church of Yahweh was *very zealous* to obey Yah's Law -- the Torah. This would, of course, include the New Moon ceremonies and services. Notice! James said:

"Thou seest, brother, how many thousands [Greek, *myriads*, meaning, literally, tens of thousands] of Jews there are which believe: and *they are all ZEALOUS OF THE LAW* [that is, the Law of Yahweh, or the Torah] . . ." (Acts 21:20).

Paul himself later witnessed to the Jewish leaders in the Sanhedrin,

"I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, and brought up at the feet of GAMALIEL, and *taught according to the PERFECT MANNER OF THE LAW OF THE FATHERS*, and was zealous toward Yahweh, as ye all are this day" (Acts 22:3).

Later, in Rome, Paul witnessed to the Jewish leaders in a similar fashion, saying, “Men and brethren, though I have committed nothing against the people or *customs of our fathers*, yet was I delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans” (Acts 28:17).

As followers of the Messiah, and the early church, therefore, should we not also highly regard Yahweh's Law, and the customs of obedience to Yahweh's Laws, handed down by our forefathers? Should we not also highly regard and worship on the New Moons of the Biblical, Hebrew calendar?

By all means! As Paul also wrote, “For not the hearers of the law are just before Yahweh, but the DOERS of the law shall be justified” (Romans 2:13). He added, “Do we then make void the law through faith? YAHWEH FORBID! Yea, we *establish the law!*” (Rom.3:31).

Observing the NEW MOONS Today

True Christians, then, should observe these days, and to keep them in remembrance, in a fashion that would be approved and pleasing in the sight of Yahweh.

Therefore, we should be “observing” or “marking” the passage of each New Moon -- that is, we should be observing time in accordance with Yahweh's sacred calendar, and keep track of each New Moon (new month) as Yahweh counts time -- not as the Roman and Gentile world does. And we should hold a memorial observance -- at the very least a family dinner, with appropriate Bible readings and study, together with a sumptuous meal, whenever possible, on the New Moons, with singing of psalms and spiritual songs and songs of praise to Yahweh.

It would certainly be appropriate to hold a “Kiddush” -- the wine and bread ceremony which Jesus held with His disciples at the “Last Supper” -- as part of the festivities connected with the fellowship or communal meal served on the New Moons. The “Kiddush” goes at least back to the time of Abraham and Melchizedek (see Genesis 14:18-20).

Let's notice this verse in Colossians again, as it is our only reference to the New Moons found in the New Testament. Notice two things about this verse: 1) We are to allow NO MAN to judge us in respect to HOW we observe these things, including the New Moons. That would mean, we should allow NO PAGAN to judge us or condemn us for observing them, and we should allow NO JEWISH rabbi or leader to sit in judgment of us, to condemn or judge us regarding these things, either!

Obviously, the professing Christian/pagan Churches, masquerading as Churches of Yahweh, don't observe the New Moons at all, and would tend to condemn us for observing them, calling us “Jewish.” Jews, on the other hand, might tend to judge us as to “how” we observe them -- do we go to synagogue, to mark their passage? Do we observe them at home as a special “minor festival”? Do we light candles, say the prescribed Jewish prayers, etc.?

Clearly we should observe them in a fitting manner, in a way pleasing to Yahweh -- not man. We don't need to become “Orthodox Jews” or “Ultra-orthodox” in order to obey Yahweh, and celebrate His New Moons in a godly and holy manner. We don't need to adhere to various

“traditions of men” which have accreted to the Jewish rabbinical observance of these days. Christ clearly warned us to avoid the “traditions of men” which often in effect nullify Yah's Law by their deleterious and noxious effects (Matt.15; Mark 7). The various rabbinic accretions added to the original Torah -- the many “do’s and don’ts” added in the Mishnah and through rabbinic halackha or “rules” -- are not necessary. As Peter told the disciples at the Church conference in Acts, chapter 15, “Now therefore why tempt ye Elohim, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?” (Acts 15:10).

It is clear from the Scriptures that the New Moons are NOT holy days of Yahweh, nor are they “commanded convocations.” Therefore it is not necessary for us today to hold regular religious worship meetings on these days, as we do on Sabbath days. Nor are we commanded to “rest” or “cease from all work” on them, either. **The New Moons are not Sabbath days.** However, they are days which should be given special attention, and celebrated, and normal routine work minimized when and where possible.

A Festive Family Meal

One of the main things we can do to observe each New Moon, today, is to hold a family feast, or festive dinner. It would be good to have an introduction, and Bible readings for the occasion, and ask a special blessing on the evening and the day.

At the special dinner prepared for the New Moon celebration, it would be all right to light candles, as some do on Shabbat eve, together with the meal, and then thank Yahweh for the blessing of the New Moon observance and laws He ordained. We should also ask Yah's special blessing on our families, children, friends and relatives, and not forget to ask His blessing on His Church, His Work, and to pray for the soon coming of the Messiah and His Kingdom.

We should all have a copy of the Jewish calendar, and we should take note when a New Moon is to occur. We offer a “Messianic Calendar” which has all the New Moons listed for each month of the year.

On the New Moon, we should have a special meal, beginning with the special “bread and wine” ceremony that Yeshua our Messiah instructed us concerning at His Last Supper. At that supper, He used *artos*, regular leavened bread, as a symbol of His body. This bread would have been similar to the modern Jewish Sabbath bread, or “challah.”

At the beginning of the meal, soon after sunset, we should pray especially that evening thanking Yahweh for His “New Moons,” the beginning on His month, blessing Yahweh who has given us the New Moons and months which are in His hands, and asking and praying for His guidance, protection, help, and strength, and prosperity, and blessing, upon us, our household, our children, Yah's people, His Work, and His Church, and that we might live peaceably with our neighbors and communities.

We should also use this as an opportunity to remember Messiah, as we break the bread, praying over it, as He is our “bread of life” (John 6:48-51). We should eat it, remembering His broken body, given for us (Matt.26:26; Mark 14:22; Luke 22:19; I Cor.11:24). We should then

partake of the wine, symbolizing His shed blood in our behalf, the blood of our Messiah, Savior, Redeemer, and Friend (Matt.26:27-28; Mark 14:23-24; Luke 22:17-18, 20; I Cor.11:25-30).

At this New Moon celebration meal, also, it would be good for us to make a special point to regularly pray as Paul declared: “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of THANKS be made *for all men*, for kings and all who are *in authority*, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of Yahweh our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (I Tim.2:1-3).

Yahweh has given us the “New Moons” to help us mark the passage of time. They are intimately involved with His holy calendar. As David wrote, “My *times* are in Thy hands” (Psalm 31:15). Also, Yahweh instructs us: “For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night” (Psalm 90:4). The Psalmist goes on: “So TEACH US *to number our days*, that we may gain a heart of wisdom” (verse 12).

Observing the New Moons helps us to “number our days” according to Yahweh's calendar and system of time-keeping, as opposed to the pagan Roman calendar! It helps us to *think in terms of Yah's calendar, and in relation to HIS time-table for our lives!*

New Moons -- an Official Time to Worship

Yahweh tells us through Isaiah the prophet that during the days of Yah's Kingdom on earth, when the Temple of Yah is restored, “And it shall come to pass that *from one New Moon to another*, and from one Sabbath to another, ALL FLESH shall come to worship before Me, says YAHWEH.” (Isaiah 66:23).

Obviously, New Moons will be observed and celebrated during the Kingdom of Yahweh, with people coming up to Jerusalem, to the Temple, to worship before Yahweh.

However, the Kingdom is not here, yet, and there is no Temple in Jerusalem, today. When there is, no doubt there will be official ceremonies held to commemorate the occurrence of each officially sanctioned “New Moon.” These will be visually observed by appointed “spotters” at the Mount of Olives, who will report their sightings to the future Sanhedrin, who will then announce and cause to be published the fact of the New Moon's occurrence.

Today, however, there is no Sanhedrin, and no official Jewish or Rabbinical court. Therefore, today we use the official Jewish Calendar by which we can determine which days are New Moons, the beginning of months.

The Jewish calendar is the official means by which we determine the dates of the New Moons and Holy Days of God. It is prepared by the rabbis and rabbinical colleges, based on the authority which Yahweh gave to them. As Yeshua Messiah said: “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: Therefore, *whatever they tell you to observe, THAT OBSERVE AND DO . . .*” (Matt.23:1-3).

The apostle Paul tells us, further, “What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? Much in every way! Chiefly because TO THEM WERE COMMITTED THE ORACLES [WORDS, TEACHINGS] OF ELOHIM. For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of Yahweh without effect? Certainly NOT!” (Romans 3:1-4). Yahweh is able to preserve His truth, even using men who don't believe the gospel, the truth about the Messiah! And He has done so, by using the Jewish authorities to preserve the sacred calendar all these centuries and millennia!

Disunity Among Churches Deplorable

Various church groups in the United States, however, reject the Jewish reckoning and authority, and each goes its own way, doing what seems “right in their own eyes” as to observance of the New Moons, and each create their own “sacred calendar” for use to determine the holy days of Yahweh. Sadly, rejecting the words of Christ, and Paul, who uphold the authority of the Jews, they do what seems “right to them.”

But Solomon warned in the book of Proverbs, “There is a way that SEEMS right to a man, but its end is the WAY OF DEATH” (Prov.14:12; 16:25). Such ways which may seem “right” in reality are nothing more than Satan the devil's deception -- which is the “way of death.”

Some churches and groups, today, have their own “spotters” scattered throughout the U.S., and each gives a report to their central office, which then takes the majority viewpoint and announces their decision throughout their church. Others have a man in Jerusalem who “spots” for them, and thus determine their calendar based on his observations. Others go by the Farmer's Almanac. Still others sight the new moons visually from their own location, be it in Pennsylvania, or Texas, or wherever. What is the result of every man doing what seems right in *his own* eyes?

MASS CONFUSION!

Yahweh Is Not the Author of Confusion!

This is mass confusion. Each is a “law unto himself.” Yahweh nowhere sanctions such trivia and foolishness in His Word, but rather our “Elohim is NOT the author of confusion but of *peace, as in ALL the churches of the saints*” (I Cor.14:32). The word for “confusion” here is *akatastasia* and means “instability, disorder, commotion, confusion, tumult” (Strong's, #181). Says *Thayers Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, “instability, a state of disorder, disturbance, confusion,” and says the plural of the word is used “of dissensions, of seditions.”

Truly, when we look at all the self-appointed “authorities,” each doing what seems right in his own eyes, we see disorder, instability, confusion, tumult, dissension, and strife. What an appalling scene! How far some of the so-called churches of Yahweh have descended down the slippery slope of self-righteousness, arrogance, and perversion, in their attempt to be “holier than thou.”

These small cults and sects really miss the point that the scribes and Pharisees (and the modern rabbinical schools, descended from the Pharisees) have authority as the religious leaders

of the Jews to make decisions relating to the calendar. They “sit in Moses’ seat,” as Christ said. He added: “Therefore WHATSOEVER THEY tell you to OBSERVE [i.e., what days are holy days, what days are new moons, etc.], *THAT OBSERVE AND DO*” (Matt.23:1-3).

The Jewish rabbinical authorities are the Elohim-appointed authorities who govern and make decisions relevant to the calendar -- not every church, minister, Tom, Dick or Harry, who wants to seem righteous.

Solomon warns us about those who would be “overly righteous”: “Do not be overly righteous, nor be overly wise: Why should you destroy yourself? Do not be overly wicked, nor be foolish: Why should you die before your time?” (Eccl.7:16-17). Paul also warns us about those who go about “seeking to establish their own righteousness, (who) have not submitted to the righteousness of Elohim.” (Rom.10:3).

It is also noteworthy that Paul tells us Yahweh who is not the author or source of all this confusion, is, on the other hand, the author or source of “PEACE, as in all the churches of the saints” (I Cor.14:32). The early Church was united. They all followed the officially established Jewish calendar. Each local church did not do its own “sightings” and declare its own (different) “new moons,” and “holy days.”

The word for “peace” in this verse is *eirene*, from a primitive verb meaning “to join,” This word means “peace, prosperity, one, quietness, rest, set at one again.” Notice! It connotes UNITY, rest from strife and confusion, and chaos, due to everyone doing “his own thing.” It comes from a basic verb meaning to “JOIN” -- which implies UNITY.

In other words, we should *all do the same thing, and not each one do his OWN thing!* Churches which strive over these issues, refusing to “join” with the official Jewish authoritative calendar, which Christ sanctioned (see again Matthew 23:1-3 and Romans 3:1-2), are sinning against Yahweh and despising the Law of Yahweh in their attempt to set their own standards of conduct, calendar-making, and “righteousness.”

Thayer’s Lexicon says of the word “peace,” in this verse, “(1) a state of national *tranquility*; exemption from the rage and havoc of war;” “(2) peace between individuals, i.e., *harmony, concord*;” “(3) security, safety, prosperity, felicity (because peace and harmony make and keep things safe and prosperous).” This word is the Greek equivalent for the Hebrew word *shalom*, and has a full range of united and similar meanings. Obviously, striving over the calendar, as these “calendar-conscious” groups all do, is NOT the way to peace, harmony, unity, tranquility, concord, safety, prosperity, or felicity!

The New Moons - An Observance for Today!

Yeshua Messiah said He did not come to abolish Yahweh's Law, but to fulfill it -- to fill it to the brim, to magnify it and make it to “run over” (Matt.5:17).

He also said, “Whoever therefore breaks one of the *least of these commandments, and teaches men so*, shall be called LEAST in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever DOES and

TEACHES them, he shall be called GREAT in the kingdom of heaven” (Matt.5:19).

Do you want to be LEAST in the Kingdom? Or do you want to be considered GREAT in the kingdom?

Most, if not all, of the End-time churches of Yahweh have seriously neglected and ignored the real meaning and celebration the New Moons which Yahweh ordained. As part of restoring the truth of Yahweh, and His laws and observances, we need to begin observing these days as Yahweh Himself commands.

The apostle Jude exhorts us, saying, “Beloved, when I gave diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and *exhort you that ye should EARNESTLY CONTEND for the faith ONCE DELIVERED unto the saints*. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our Elohim into lasciviousness, and denying the only Yahweh Elohim, and our Master Yeshua the Messiah.” (Jude 3-4).

Yahweh's New Moons are important. They are ordained of Yahweh. If we neglect them, we will pay a price. If we observe them, in a manner pleasing to Yahweh, He will surely bless us and inspire us, and shower His grace, and favor, upon us, and shelter us under the protective canopy of His Shekinah Presence. If we observe them properly, the New Moons will add a special dimension of joy and peace, and spiritual POWER in our lives.

Are we ready for it? What about you?