

Transcript -How to Keep the New Moon

This is a Shabbat, it`s the 8th day of sukkot. It is abutting with sukkot, it is not part of sukkot. It is a separate day called the Last Great Day but it is a Holy Day.

In the Bible we have Sabbaths, we have moedim Holy Days, and we have another set apart time. There is actually three set apart times in the Bible.

Now there are Sabbath keepers out there that have been Sabbath keepers for 100's and even 1,000's of years that only keep the Shabbat. Seventh Day Adventists, they are one of them. Church of God 7th Day, they keep the Shabbat but they don't keep the Moedim ,they don't keep the holy time. And most Holy Day keepers, like the congregation I came out of ... Church of God and all the breakoffs ... they keep the Shabbat and they keep the set apart times but for some reason they don't keep the new moons, the 3rd set apart time.

So we are going to talk about today about the new moon. What is the new moon? What is it about? What is the purpose of it? And what does Yahweh tell us?

New moons are mentioned in scripture many times in the Old Testament and the New Testament yet most Sabbath keepers do not recognize the new moon. Again, one of those mysteries why not we will see as we go along.

Let's start in II Kings 4. The first thing I want to show you is that there is absolutely no difference as far as being set apart to a Shabbat, a Moedim or a new moon. They are always together the only difference, as we will see, is there are different things to do just like every holy day. One holy day we don't eat, right? Yom Kippur. One holy day we take our leaven out of our house. One holy day here we feast. Not every holy day is the same. Every holy day has different things and different things we do on it.

So the fact that a new moon is not a Sabbath, it doesn't change the fact that it is set apart time.

2Ki 4:22-23 *And she called to her husband,... this is when the woman is going to Eliyahu when her son has died and she is ready to leave and go to him to find out why ... and said, Please send to me one of the young men, and one of the donkeys, and I shall run to the man of Elohim, and return.And he said, Why are you going to him today; it is neither new moon nor Sabbath? And she said, Peace.*

So we see the new moon again is put on a par with the Sabbath day. And apparently it was the normal thing, on the new moon and the Sabbath you are going to go and hear the man of Elohim.

2Ch 31:3 *And the king's portion from his substance was for burnt offerings, for burnt offerings of the morning and the evening; and the burnt offerings of the Sabbaths, and of the new moons, and of the appointed seasons, as it was written in the Torah of YAHWEH.*

So again, no difference, all three are set apart times. There is differences to what you can do on each one and how we perform them but all three are set apart time o Yahweh. And to most

Sabbath keepers, they have no idea what a new moon is, they don't recognize the new moon and they don't keep the new moon.

Hos 2:11 *I will also cause all her joy to cease, her feast days, her new moons, and her Sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts.*

So again, you always see them together; Shabbats, Holy Days, new moons. They are all in the same category, all being set apart time.

Isa 1:13-14 *Do not add to bringing vain sacrifice; its incense is an abomination to Me. The new moon and Sabbath, the going to meeting, I cannot endure the evil assembly. My soul hates your new moons and your appointed feasts. They are a burden to Me. I am disgusted of bearing them.*

And we know why Yahweh is saying this. Yahweh is saying this because of the attitudes of these people about the Shabbats and the Holy Days and the new moon because they are commanded. But again they are in the same realm.

2Ch 8:13 *even as the matter of every day required, offering **according to the commandment of Moses**, on the Sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the appointed feasts three times in the year, in the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and in the Feast of Weeks, and in the Feast of Booths.*

So clearly we see here as we are looking at these references, **according to scripture** with no preconceived ideas in your head, just taking a Bible and reading it, you're seeing that each time the Shabbat is mentioned with the Holy Days, it's mentioned with the new moon. Now interestingly enough, I think everybody here recognizes the Holy Days; we are all Holy Day keepers. Do you know that the 1st and last day of unleavened bread is never called a Sabbath in the Bible? It's never called a Sabbath; it's a set apart day and you have a set apart meeting but there's nowhere in scripture that the 1st day and the last day of unleavened bread are called Sabbaths. And I'll read it to you here, let's go to Leviticus 23. I'll make an interesting point after I read the scripture.

Lev 23:4 *These are appointed times of YAHWEH, holy gatherings which you shall proclaim in their appointed seasons: So it is a Holy Day, an appointed time but it's never called a Sabbath.*

Lev 23:6-8 *And on the fifteenth day of this month is the Feast of Unleavened to YAHWEH; you shall eat unleavened things seven days. On the first day you shall have a holy gathering (appointed time); you shall do no laborious work; and you shall bring near a fire offering to YAHWEH seven days; and the seventh day shall be a holy gathering; you shall do no laborious work.*

So again, it's a set apart time to have a holy gathering but it is never called a Sabbath. And there is an important point to make beside the fact there are set apart times besides Sabbaths. It is the fact that the Jewish people incorrectly counting to Shavuot. Because during these days of unleavened bread, what does it say? On the morrow after the Sabbath you are to count 7 weeks to Shavuot, right? They were to count after this appointed meeting which was never called a Sabbath. So there is really no ambiguity here, there is only one Sabbath that week. The 1st day and the last day are not Sabbaths, they are Holy Days, never called a Shabbat. So what he is saying count the morrow after the Sabbath, there is only one Shabbat. And like I said, if it was

always falling on Sivan 6, the Bible would have said Shavuot is on Sivan 6. But you have to count it and that is why the day is not given.

So clearly I think we can see here that there are Shabbats and we know every 7th day is a Shabbat, right? Also we know that the 1st day of the 7th month is called a Shabbat. We know that the day of Yom Kippur is called a Shabbat. We know the 1st day of Sukkot is called a Shabbat and we know the last day is called a Shabbat. The difference is these are high day Shabbats called Shabbatons and that is how you can tell the difference in scripture. It's actually a special Shabbat called a Shabbaton. But again the 1st day and the last day of unleavened are not said of that in Leviticus.

So let's give the 4 reason why for the new moon. What is the reason that Yahweh gives the new moon? What is the purpose of it? And how should we be observing it?

1. It's a memorial to us.

1Ch 23:31 *And they were to offer all burnt sacrifices to YAHWEH in the Sabbath, in the new moons, and on the set feasts, by number, according to the order commanded to them, continually before the face of YAHWEH,*

The first thing that a new moon does, the first purpose is it's a memorial. It's a memorial of time; it's the beginning of the month. And if you don't recognize the new moon, how can you recognize your moedim? How can you count to Pesach? Pesach is the 14th day of the 1st month according to what ... according to the new moon. The feast we are keeping now on the 15th day of the 7th month according to what ... according to the new moon. If you are not recognizing the new moon, how are you recognizing the Holy Days?

In this day and age we live in, maybe you have this calendar in your pocket that makes it a little easier. Unfortunately the Israelites didn't have little pocket calendars out in the wilderness.

2Ch 29:3 *In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of YAHWEH and repaired them.*

Again it was a memorial. The sanctuary of Yahweh was built and dedicated on the new moon.

2Ch 29:17 *And they began to sanctify on the **first of the first month**, and on the eighth day of the month they came to the porch of YAHWEH; and they sanctified the house of YAHWEH in eight days, and on the sixteenth day of the first month they had finished.*

So again, a memorial.

2Ch 2:4 *behold, I am building a house to the name of YAHWEH my Elohim, to dedicate to Him, to burn incense of sweet spices before Him, and for the continual showbread, and for burnt offerings morning and evening, on the Sabbath, and on the new moons, and at the set feasts of YAHWEH our Elohim. This **shall be upon Israel forever.***

Num 10:10 *And in the day of your gladness, and in your appointed times, and in your new moons, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings. And they shall be to you for **a memorial** before your Elohim. I am YAHWEH your Elohim.*

So again, clearly a memorial.

Psa 81:3 *Blow the ram's horn in the new moon, at the covered moon, on our feast day.*

It's talking about the Feast of Trumpets. It's a memorial of the blowing of trumpets when it happened on the 1st day of the 7th month.

1Cor 15:52 *In a moment, in the blinking of an eye, at the last trumpet; for a trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall all be changed.*

So we know the Messiah returns at the last trumpet at the Feast of Trumpets; it's a memorial. Every year when we keep the Feast of Trumpets, what are we rehearsing? We are rehearsing the memorial of our Messiah's return. **But again, if you don't recognize the new moon, you won't be keeping it.**

2. New moons are for worship, for giving to Yahweh and for giving thankfulness.

Num 28:11-15 *And in the beginning of your months (the new moon) you shall bring near a burnt offering to YAHWEH: two bulls, sons of the herd, and one ram, seven lambs, sons of a year, ones without blemish. and three tenth parts of flour, a food offering mixed with oil for the one bull; and two tenths parts of flour as a food offering mixed with oil for the one ram; and a tenth part of flour mixed with oil as a food offering for the one lamb; a burnt offering, a soothing fragrance, a fire offering to YAHWEH; ... and he goes on and on ... This shall be the burnt offering of every month for the months of the year.*

So clearly we know the sacrifices to Yahweh, what were they? They were there for drawing closer to, so we have the opportunity to worship and offering to Yahweh, showing thankfulness. And we have been trying to spend extra time in the new moons in celebration, in singing, in prayer, and different types of thankfulness.

Isa 66:22-23 *For as the new heavens and the new earth which I make stand before Me, declares YAHWEH, so your seed and your name shall stand. And it will be, **from new moon to its new moon, and from Sabbath to its Sabbath**, all flesh shall come to worship before Me, says YAHWEH.*

So clearly, from new moon to new moon and from Sabbath to Sabbath we will have **the opportunity** to have the blessing to come and worship before Yahweh.

Ezr 3:4-5 *They also performed the Feast of Sukkot, as it is written, and the burnt offerings by number, days by days, according to the ordinance, the thing of days in its day. And afterward the continual burnt offering, **both of the new moons, and of all the set feasts** of YAHWEH that were set apart, and of everyone who **willingly offered a freewill offering to YAHWEH.***

So again, everyone has that opportunity of coming and sharing worship and offering to Yahweh. Ezekiel 46, this is during the millennial Temple.

Eze 46:1 *So says Adonai YAHWEH: The gate of the inner court that faces the east shall be shut the six days of work. But on the Sabbath day it shall be opened, and in the day of the new moon it shall be opened. So only on the new moon and the Sabbath is the eastern gate open.*

Eze 46:2-3 *And the prince shall enter by way of the porch of the gate from outside and shall stand by the gatepost. 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 out, but the gate shall not be shut until the evening. And the people of the land **shall worship at the door of that gate on the Sabbaths, and on the new moons, before YAHWEH.***

So, if you haven't been celebrating the new moon, I hope this is pricking your heart saying, "What an opportunity I have been missing!" That's the way I felt. I felt, wow, what an opportunity that I am not going to miss.

3. To hear the voice of Yahweh through His leaders.

I want to show you all the times that Yahweh **reveals** something on the new moon.

Deu 1:3 *And it came to pass, in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month on the first of the month (on the new moon), Moses spoke to the sons of Israel according to **all that YAHWEH had commanded him** concerning them;*

When did He speak to them? On the new moon.

Num 1:1 *And YAHWEH spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tabernacle of the congregation, **on the first of the second month** (on the new moon), in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying,*

Num 9:1 *And YAHWEH spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying,*

Eze 26:1 *And it was in the eleventh year, in the first of the month, the Word of YAHWEH was to me, saying,*

Eze 29:17 *And it happened in the twenty-seventh year, in the first month, in the first of the month, the Word of YAHWEH was to me, saying,*

Eze 31:1 *And it happened in the eleventh year, in the third month, on the first of the month, the Word of YAHWEH was to me, saying,*

How many times is Yahweh revealing something to His servants on the new moon? And it excited me cause I'm thinking ,wow, in this day and age when we are learning all these new things, I can't wait to see what He is going to be revealing on these new moons.

Hag 1:1 *In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, **in the first day of the month, the Word of YAHWEH came** by Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah; and to Joshua, the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, saying:*

So again, there is a very large prospect of prophecy, of divine revelation, that we could be missing if we are not observing the new moon.

4. To discuss important business matters.

Ezr 10:16-17 And the sons of the exile did so. And Ezra the priest with men, heads of the fathers, according to the house of their fathers, and all of them by names, were separated. And they sat down in the first day of the tenth month to examine the matter. And they finished with all the men who had dwelt with foreign women by the first day of the first month (the new moon).

So we know the story of what was happening here, there was going to be a separation. But important business was done in the congregation. Why would it be done on the new moon? Because the new moon is not the Sabbath. There is nowhere in the Bible where it says the new moon is a Sabbath, you're not restricted from work. There is no command that we cannot do work or cook on the new moon and because of that, because of this paradigm everybody thinks Sabbaths are holy time, everybody is just ignoring the new moon. But clearly, what we see here is **the new moon is no different as far as is set apart time with the Sabbath and the Holy Days**. Is simply not a day you must abstain from cooking or working but it is a set apart day for Yahweh. **There should be a set apart meeting in your congregations and there should be worship toward Yahweh on these days.**

Just to show some other examples in the Bible to prove the point, we can go to 1 Samuel 20. This is where Saul is trying to trick David and he wants to kill him.

1Sa 20:5 And David said to Jonathan, Behold, the new moon is tomorrow. And sitting I should certainly sit with the king to eat. And you shall send me away, and I shall be hidden in the field until the third evening.

So again, it was a normal occurrence that on the new moon David was going to be there along with everybody else. They are having a special feast on this day.

1Sa 20:18 And Jonathan said to him, Tomorrow is the new moon, and you shall be expected, for your seat will be empty.

So very very clearly, David the King of Israel kept the new moon. Not only did he keep it, **he was expected to be there**. Now, let's look what happened when David did not show up?

1Sa 20:24-26 And David was hidden in the field. And it was the new moon. And the king sat down by the food to eat. And the king sat on his seat, as from time to time, on the seat by the wall. And Jonathan rose up, and Abner sat at Saul's side. And David's place was empty. But Saul did not say anything on that day, for he said, It is an accident; he is not clean; he is surely not clean.

So Saul is actually extremely surprised, the only reason David must not be here is, he must be unclean. Clearly, you read this and you see that the new moon was as much an everyday occurrence or time occurrence as the Sabbath and the Holy Days. And **when David did not show up, King Saul was actually upset at why he wasn't there.**

Amo 8:4-6 Hear this, you who swallow up the poor, even to make the humble of the earth to cease, saying, When will the new moon have passed, so that we may buy grain? Or the Sabbath, so that we may open the wheat, making smaller the ephah, and making greater the shekel, and

to falsify the deceitful balances, in order to buy the helpless with silver, and the poor for a pair of sandals, and sell the chaff of the wheat?

So here it is, people were being **rebuked for not taking serious the new moon**. Those **polluting the new moon are condemned**; serious, serious thing here.

Even in the New Testament, go to Colossians 2, the scripture many Sabbath keepers use over and over and over to prove that the Sabbath is still in the new covenant body today. But they are missing one little point of the scripture.

Col 2:16 *Therefore do not let anyone (outside the body) judge among you about eating, or drinking, or in how you keep the feast days, or the new moon, or the Sabbath day,*

They always mention the Sabbath day and the Holy Days and they forget about the new moon.

Col 2:17 *which remain shadows of coming things, but the body of Messiah judge you.*

The new moon with the Holy Days and the Shabbat remains a shadow of coming things, it's very clear. It's very clear the new moons should be kept, the new moons should be recognized, there's no doubt about it.

So what is the conclusion? The conclusion is there are 3 different types of set apart days in scripture. There are Sabbaths, the most kadosh set apart days to Yahweh and that is why we have the most restrictions on them. We have feast days or chagim are the next most set apart days. And then you have new moons which are set apart days like the Sabbath and Holy Days **just with different restrictions**, in the way there is one Holy Day we don't eat. Another Holy Day we don't eat leaven. There's one Holy Day we build a sukkot on the roof. So every Holy Day is different, they are not all the same. And the fact that the new moon is not called a Sabbath in scripture, it should not take away the point that it is set apart time. So again in conclusion, the fact that the new moons are not Sabbaths that should not take away from their set apart meaning. Passover is not a Sabbath, it's not a Holy Day but it's the most important day of the year.

We need to embrace and keep each new moon for the blessing of Yahweh for recognizing these days in our life. If we do not celebrate the new moon we are losing 12 or 13 blessing every year. Isn't that interesting that according to the Hebrew calendar, there is either 12 or 13 months ... the tribes of Israel are either 12 or 13. How you are counting? Joseph is two, Ephraim and Manasseh; you are getting 13. What does Joseph mean? Adding to. So you are actually getting 12 or 13 blessings a year.

Also since Yahweh gives inspiration to His leaders on the new moons, if we neglect them then we are missing out on these important messages from Yahweh. We are commanded to assemble on these days as we are on other set apart days but work is not restricted. There is nothing that says you can't work, you can't cook as far as your personal work on these days. Simply it is another day that you get to set apart to Yahweh for blessing.

So I end it here with *Pro 25:2 The glory of Elohim is to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.* So I encourage you to enjoy and cherish the new moon. Wow, I didn't think I would get through it that quick so I'll take questions.

Q.For those of us in the wilderness, how do we do it?

A. The way the Sabbath is also a commanded assembly. You should not be sitting at home on the Sabbath by yourself but if there is nobody around, then there is nothing you can do. But if you have a local assembly you should be going to your local assembly. What we will try to do possibly as we try to do 1 or 2 live services maybe we will try to do that also on the new moon, that brethren can share the new moon with us. We do do the new moon a little different than the Shabbat.

On Shabbat every week we basically do the Torah reading and we will harangue on that a little bit, then we have a message and we harangue on that a little bit and then we take a break for lunch. Then we do testimonies where every person will get up and share a testimony. And then we do corporate prayer where we all will give our prayer requests and then together we will pray for all the people in the congregation. Then we go on to worship and it lasts all day. It lasts till dark.

So, on the new moon we usually don't do testimonies and those things. We try to put more time toward worship and some of the other things of Yahweh. It doesn't really tell us in scripture. It doesn't say so many restrictions and that's why I went over the 4 reasons which maybe I'll mention again; 1, as a memorial; 2, for worship and offering to Yahweh in thankfulness; 3, to hear the word of Yahweh through His leadership; 4, discussing important matters. If we have congregational business, we are not going to do it on Shabbat but on the new moon we can, if there is important things in your congregation that you need to discuss.

It's an **added celebration every month** to mark again Yahweh as Creator of the Universe in the sense that He is the Creator and He has given us another month of time and another way to blessing.

Q. When you do the new moon, the conjunction is the previous day, at sunset starts the new moon day

A. Yes.

Q.What did you say you do from sunset on the new moon, you blow the shofar

A. That's right, you blow the shofar as a memorial of marking time. But what I was getting at was what we do on the Shabbat not the new moon.

Q. Is there an offering

A. If you go to **Deut. 16:16** *Three times in a year shall all your males appear before YAHWEH your Elohim in the place which He shall choose (Jerusalem): In the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and in the Feast of Weeks and in the Feast of Tabernacles. And they shall not appear before YAHWEH empty*

And of course this means people bring their Holy Day offering up here for the work of Yahweh but if you look into these words when He says to not appear empty, **it's not just talking about money**. What He is saying is, whatever your gifts are you are to come with your gift to use. So the offering we give to Yahweh, if you look at every Holy Day, every Holy Day comes with a fire offering. A fire offering is really a purification of our souls. So these are days that could be, if you are very financially blessed and you to give a special financial offering on these days you could,

but **it is more of an offering of our self**, our talents, our gifts. It's some kind of giving to Yahweh; maybe it's more time where you're very busy and you say, ``Okay, Yahweh, this day I am going to offer you this much extra time on this day for ... whatever.`` Could be visiting a nursing home, that's why He doesn't give us the restrictions of a Sabbath because on a Sabbath we shouldn't be doing those things. The Sabbath is set apart for time with Yahweh. On a new moon since work isn't restricted, you could go to a nursing home, you can go to a hospital, you can go to anything like that which would be good.

Q. Is there buying and selling on that day

A. There is no restriction for buying and selling on that day but of course there is a cultural part in the Bible. They were not buying and selling because they were all keeping the new moon. If everyone is keeping the new moon then nothing is open to buy and sell. And that's the point in Amos, where he is saying their heart really wasn't in it. They couldn't wait till the sun went down and they were buying and selling again.

We are trying, our congregation, when we did the study came to the same conclusion that we don't want to work on that day. Even though it is not restricted, we don't want to work because if you do your regular work more than likely it's not going to be a set apart day. It will be no different than any other day but there is nothing restricted from work or cooking so we said we're ... this is the interesting part of the new moon. Every other Holy Day Yahweh tells you exactly how to do it, just like a Sabbath. Here, this is a freewill offering to Yahweh. That's where the part too, the worshiping and giving an offering, so He is saying, ``I'm not commanding you, let me see what you are going to do on your own.``

The Bible says that when you do everything you are required consider yourself unprofitable, you only did what was required. So we decided we were not going to work on the new moon and we are going to dedicate the whole day to Yahweh. So, each person has to decide for himself. But that's really what this is; it's an opportunity 12 or 13 times a year **for you to give up that freewill offering of what you are convicted of** and something that I find really neat. That now it is really up to us, that Yahweh is giving us the opportunity where we are not just doing it because it is commanded but we are actually having the blessing of doing it from the heart.

Q. When you say don't work, you mean like a regular job type of work

A. Regular work, we're not doing that but there is no restriction, as a matter of fact, since we get together on Shabbat and have a fellowship meal together, we are limited to things because you have to cook your food on the preparation day. Where I'm thinking to myself, wow, now on the new moon I can cook pizza for the brethren or something special that I couldn't do on the regular Shabbat. So there is no requirement or restriction for any type of work or cooking. It just gives us the principle guideline of the new moon and now Yahweh is saying, ``I'm leaving it in your hands. Let Me see what you're going to do with it.``

Q. How did ancient Israel determine the conjunction

A. The conjunction is constant. It's every 29 and a half days ... 29 days, 12 hours, 14 minutes ... and the moon runs on a 19 year time cycle and it repeats its self. So when you know one cycle, you know every cycle. And very easily for anyone to know when the conjunction is, if you are watching the waning crescent when you go out the last day of the month, in the morning you will

see actually, the moon and the sun up at the same time. Simply put your hands up like this, and how many centimeters there are between the sun and the moon are how many hours there are to the conjunction. So this thing that ancient people couldn't tell when the conjunctions are, they really weren't cavemen, they knew. The conjunction was something very simple, not hard to determine.

There were people going all the way back to Egypt which part of the calendar came out of, that was there whole job watching the constellations and watching the stars. The pyramids, one of the oldest building projects in the world, were built on the 33rd parallel. How would they ... know because of the constellations and the stars.

So, it is not very hard to figure out the conjunction the same way it is not very hard to figure out the day of the equinox. You know, if you go on a sun dial they used in those days, every day the sun dial changed its place and only on the equinox was the sun dial exactly on the middle. One of the reasons Yahweh says you are not to sell your land in perpetuity is that from your land ... if you go to a Bedouin today that still lives in their villages and some their families go back 2,000 years and ask them when their anniversary is, you know what they will tell you ... They will tell you when the sun is in a certain conjunction, that's their anniversary. They don't know the Roman calendar, they don't use it.

So we have tested this out where we live that we could see the mountains behind us, the Golan Heights, and we see when the equinox comes in the spring, it's exactly on the same spot and then it will keep going and then in the fall it's in exactly the same spot. So people knew it see when the equinox was when the sun was rising over that hump.

Q. Does the conjunction ever fall on Shabbat

A. Sure, it could fall on any day of the week.