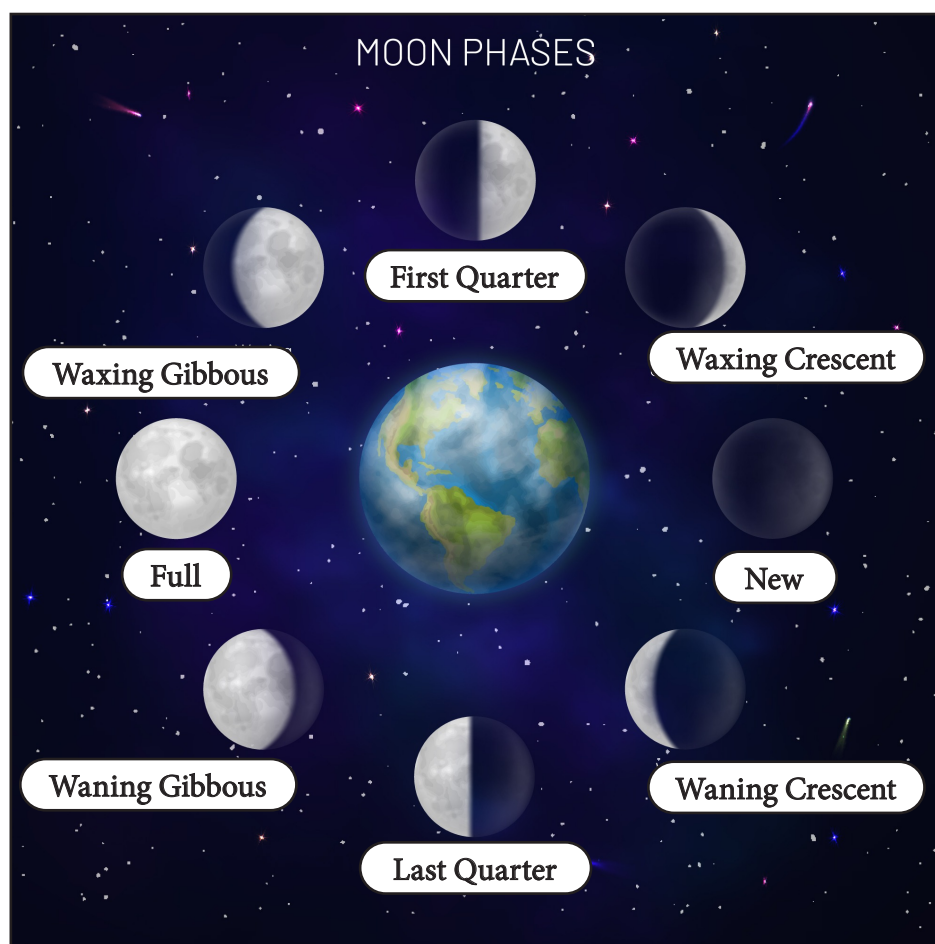




Lesson 18

New Moon: Crescent or Conjunction?



**The Biblical Month is one Lunar Cycle...
...but when does it begin?...what is the 1st day?...why does it matter?**

Part 1: So What? Who Cares?

Part 2: The Hidden Scripture Revealed

Part 3: The Spiritual Pattern

Part 4: Spotting the Translation Error

Part 5: Spiritual Insights

(Total of 9-Pages, including cover)

Eric J. Ellis

Editorial Review by Mary Elizabeth

Editorial Notes of 3-16-24

This Lesson was first posted on 01-27-24.

Today it has been edited and replaces the original. What changed?

First; a reader asked me to reread **Exodus 12:14-42**, and sure enough, here there are only four, and not 7-mentions of commands to keep the Passover perpetually for all generations. I am most grateful for her feedback. It was so kind of her to do that. Together, as truth-seekers like iron on iron, we enlighten & sharpen each other.

Secondly; another reader kindly pointed out that I had said that the New Moon was a special type of Sabbath, like the weekly Sabbath & Feast Days Sabbaths, but that it was not.

So I went back into the Word, and more carefully researched the many verses that mention the New Moon along with both the weekly Sabbaths and the Sabbath Feasts of Y'hovah, (see note at bottom of page). My conclusion was that I could not find a verse that specifically says that the New Moon is a Sabbath. So it looks like I had slipped up, and that he was correct. I so appreciate his diligence to point this out to me. Please let me know if we missed a verse that says otherwise. Although the New Moon is not specifically defined to be like a Sabbath Day, (except in the 7th-month & not to be confused with the weekly Sabbath), the context shows that the New Moon is however a special time to observe.

Thirdly; I eliminated the diagram on page two. It was actually a diagram of a lunar eclipse! For a new moon, the position of the moon is between the earth & sun in such a way as to block any reflection of light from the sun, but so as not to cause a solar eclipse either.

Additional Note; some readers are concerned that we are trusting in the keeping of the law for salvation. Let us reassure these readers, we believe salvation is only by the blood atonement of the Messiah, not by any works of man. We are saved by grace through faith. There is no other way.

Our English translations lead us into confusion by translating 2-different Greek words as "Law." One of these is from the word meaning "Torah," the instructions/teachings of life; while the other is from the word meaning "traditions of men," (which make the Word of no effect). The same thing applies to translations from Hebrew. One law is very good and the other "law" can be very bad.

This can also be seen as two other basic laws, "The Law of Sin & Death," (you sin & you die due to the death decrees); then there is "The Law of the Spirit of Life" found in our Messiah." This is when you walk according to the Spirit, not the flesh, and you live because the death decrees are covered by the blood of the Perfect Lamb, **Romans 8:2**. The blood frees us from the *PENALTY* of sin. The Spirit frees us from the *POWER* of sin. Because the death decrees are covered, we can walk by His Spirit in the newness of life. This is grace. We obey the Torah not to get saved, but out of love, because the Torah is written on our hearts & in our minds by His Spirit as we walk in it.

Verses giving clues of the New Moons as special days to be observed:

2Kings 4:23, 1Chronicles 23:31, 2Chronicles 2:4, 8:13, 31:3, Ezra 3:5, Nehemiah 10:33, Isaiah 1:13-14, Ezekiel 45:17, 46:3 Hosea 2:11. Amos 8:4, and Colossians 2:16.

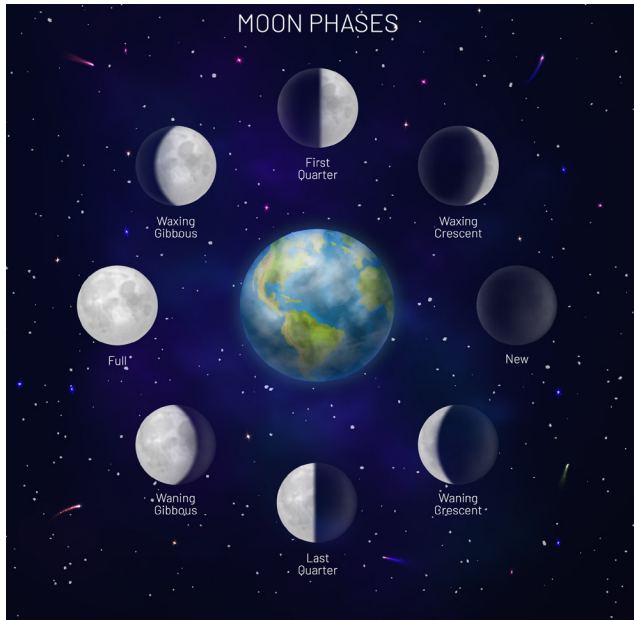
Part 1: So What? Who Cares?

This is a VERY BIG DEAL for those who desire to follow the Biblical Calendar. But ***WHY*** abide by the Biblical Calendar? Well, because the Biblical calendar pinpoints the beginning of the Biblical year, the beginning of the Biblical months within the year, & thereby the 8-major “Feast Days within those months.” Many want to “keep” these feast days, but how can you keep the days if you don’t know when they are? But why keep them? Well, because God repeatedly commands His people to keep these set-apart days perpetually for all generations, as is emphasized 4-times in **Exodus 12:14-42** alone for just the Passover.

As an aside, why would God still require us to keep the feast days today? **FIRST**, as a way to remember certain events, **SECOND**, to view God’s plan, and **THIRD**, as a rehearsal regarding their prophetic significance.¹ These feast days symbolize & reveal God’s plan for man & all of creation. These special events are a prophetic timeline which cannot be seen without understanding the feast days. More on that later, but back to finding the new moon marker.

Step 1. Defining a Biblical Month as a Lunar Cycle

Note God created the moon to mark time by lunar cycles, (Biblical, not Gregorian months):



*“14...”Let there be lights in the...heavens to divide the day from the night and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days & years:”
16...God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night...”*

Genesis 1:14 & v.16 New King James

The word “seasons” above is from Strong’s H4150 and means appointed set times for festivals & assembling. These 8-days are distinguished in **Leviticus 23** as certain days of the month, & three of them at certain phases of the moon (“new” or “full” moon). Therefore the lunar cycle is a Biblical month.

Step 2. Defining the 1st Day of the Month as the New Moon

We compare 2-verses to connect that the New Moon is the starting point for the phases of the moon, marking the beginning, the first day of each Biblical month.

“24...In the seventh month on the first day of the month you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation.”

Leviticus 23:24 New King James Version

“3. Blow the shofar [Strong’s H7782 which also means “trumpet”] in the New Moon in the time appointed on our solemn feast day.

Psalms 81:3 The Jubilee Bible

1. These are all outlined & defined in Lesson 4, “The 8 Feasts.” The first 4 are observed in remembrance & the last 4 as rehearsals of what is to come, (and have already begun!)

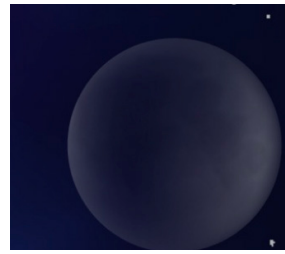
Step 3. Defining the Conjunction (the Dark Moon), as the New Moon (which we saw in Step 2 is the 1st day of the month)

The new moon (being the first day of the month), has to be either a crescent moon (close to a dark moon), or a dark moon. Why? Because the new moon is half of the 29.5 day lunar cycle before the full moon, and the full moon is always in the middle of the month.

Let's compare our two viewing options for the New Moon.



Crescent Moon
(Waxing/ beginning)



Dark Moon

A crescent moon is when only a sliver of the moon can be seen, as shown above.

A dark moon is when no sunlight is reflected from the moon because the moon is positioned between the earth and the sun in such a way so that no light from the sun can be seen reflected from the moon.

According to the well-entrenched religious tradition of both Judaism & "Hebrew-Roots-Christianity," the beginning of the lunar cycle is the crescent moon. So they must all be correct, right?

Or are they? It so happens that recently a mistranslated verse has been corrected that specifically says that *THE DARK MOON IS THE FIRST DAY ON THE LUNAR MONTH!* This long-hidden truth is now revealed in these last days. The mistranslation was due to a lack of understanding about the Biblical feast days, new moons, and the Hebrew language.

Here is the corrected mistranslated verse. In Part 2 we'll compare it to the one in error.

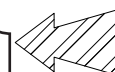
*"3. Blow the shofar on the dark New Moon today on our solemn feast."
Psalm 81:3 The Cepher Translation [underline is mine for emphasis]*

Part 2: The Hidden Scripture Revealed!

Recently a few translators who know the Hebrew language & culture in which the scriptures were written (along with understanding the feast days, & new moons), spotted the error. I first noticed this correction in Stephen Pidgeon's Cephher Translation, finding his explanation in the Preface to another of his books, "Yom Qodesh." Also, the well-known Bible teacher Isaac Heckman confirms the same thing.²

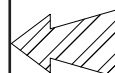
Here are the comparison verses, with the one in error shown first (KJV), and the second showing the corrected verse in the Cephher Bible Translation with the Hebrew word for the underlined words below being Strong's H3677.):

*"3. Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed,
on our solemn feast day." Psalm 81:3 King James Version*



Error

*"3. Blow the shofar on the dark New Moon today on our solemn feast."
Psalm 81:3 The Cephher Translation [underlines are mine for emphasis]*



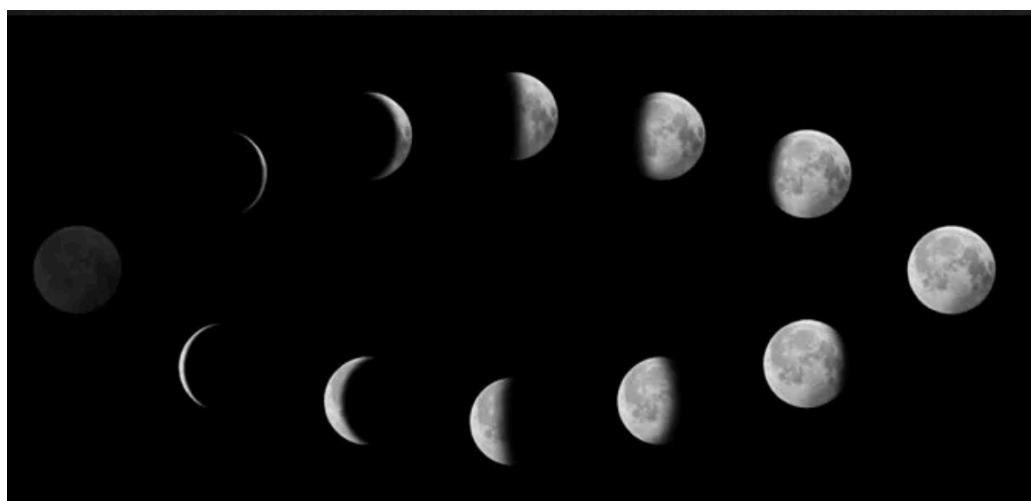
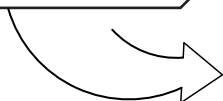
Correct

For background, note that the only feast of the eight Holy Convocations that begins on the first day of the month is the Feast of Trumpets (as shown in **Leviticus 23:24**). (Remember that the Hebrew word "shofars" (rams' horns), is often used as "trumpets," as seen in **Joshua 6:8**.)

This one "solemn feast" that is to be observed on the New Moon is the one in which the shofar is to be blown. That occurs on the first day of the 7th month, & therefore clearly places the dark moon as Day-1 of the new month (**Leviticus 23:23-25**), as we also saw on page-1. For that reason it is called the "Feast of Trumpets/Shofars, announcing the month of the Final Ingathering/Harvest."

The progression of the lunar month (starting at the dark moon), is seen as clockwise in this diagram, first waxing (increasing) till full moon, then waning (diminishing).

Dark Moon=
New Moon=
1st day of the Month



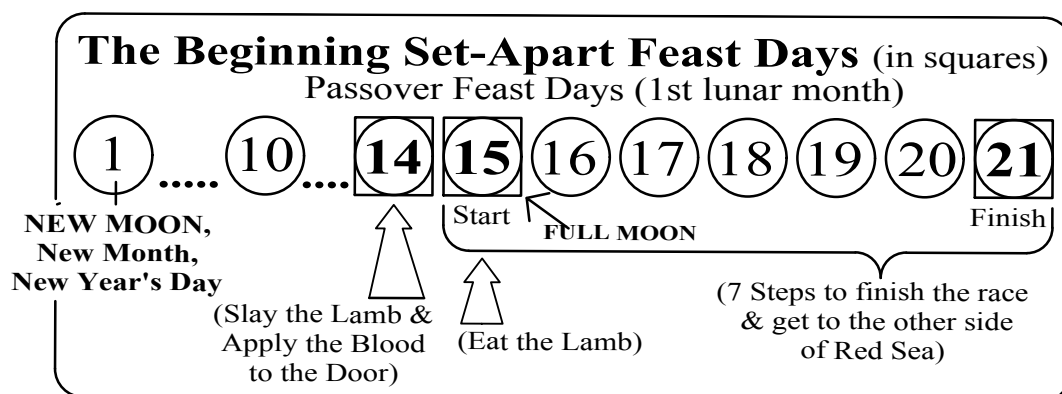
2. Find it as a free pdf on his great website, "calledoutbelievers.org" under "Events" then "Feasts & New Moon Dates." There he provides much more evidence that the dark moon is the New Moon (Day-1), of the new month. Isaac is a well-known Messianic Bible teacher.

Part 3: The Spiritual Pattern

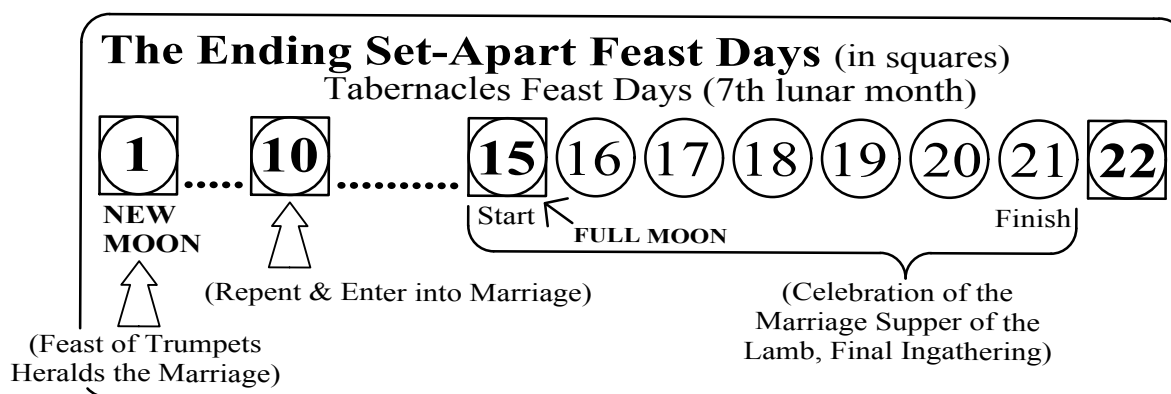
The dark moon tells us that the previous lunar cycle has ended & the new cycle has just begun. The dark moon is the New Moon, Day-1 of the new Biblical lunar month. Day-1 begins at sunset, since the Biblical day starts with the evening (sunset), and ends at the following sunset, (**Genesis 3:5**). This fits God's spiritual pattern of moving from darkness to light.

With all Biblical months, the full moon is ALWAYS the 15th day of the lunar cycle, (which begins at sunset following the 14th day of the Biblical lunar-cycle month).

Determining the new moon (& full moon) is now so simple! Anyone on earth can see...and keep track of them both, without guess work, & without knowledge of what's going on in Jerusalem. First we notice that the New Moon marks the beginning of the year on the first day of the first month of the year. This month was when Israel broke free from captivity, a type of us being set free from the bondage of the old nature & carnal mind, (by the blood of the Lamb, our Messiah). We also see below that the 15th (full moon), is the pivotal date for receiving the Lamb sacrifice & beginning a process of moving on into something glorious.



In this next diagram, we see the New Moon marks the beginning of the monthly Sabbath (7th month), where we enter into our rest. The New Moon heralds the event with Shofars sounding. The 15th day (full moon, brightest light) begins the celebration of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, full union with our Messiah, seen in the resurrection of our mortal bodies, finally free from the bondage of death. In all cases the moon is the marker, the sign in the heavens pointing the way.



The 22nd (8th Step) signifies "New Beginning!"

Part 4: Spotting the Translation Error

Before **Psalm 81:3** was translated correctly, there was uncertainty since there were several theoretical ways in how to determine the beginning of the month; each one having some scriptural support, but nothing definitive until now. And they each gave different results for years, months, and therefore Feast dates relative to the lunar days of the month.

This confusion resulted in several different Hebrew calendars, of which two are most commonly used today, both in error, since both depend upon Day-1 of the New Moon being the crescent moon. Once off on the wrong turn in the road, one will miss the desired destination.

For those who'd like to see firsthand where the word "dark" originates from, relax, you don't need to know Hebrew. Just get a Strong's Concordance. We'll use the one other verse that uses the Hebrew word for "dark," H3677. We compare with the KJV verse, the one in error:

*"20. He hath taken a bag of money with him and will come home
at the day appointed.*

[The new moons are special evenings to be observed.]

Proverbs 7:20 King James Version

*"20. He has taken a bag of silver with him, and will come home
at the day of the dark New Moon." [A special day to be home]*

Proverbs 7:20 The Cephher Translation

The word "appointed" (Strong's H3677), merely says that it is from Strong's H3680, whose basic meaning is "fullness," (think "complete"). *But fullness of light or fullness of darkness?* We'll soon see, but first note that this Hebrew word is also found in many scriptures that were always a part of the Tanak (as quoted in the teaching by Isaac Heckman in footnote 2), before the Catholic Church eliminated those books. Now, as we read on, we see that there's more info to really confirm that the "Dark Moon" is the correct answer.

The Strong's H3680 has a second listing which gives the predominant meaning as "covered (like clothing), concealed, or hidden"; in context, "DARK!" Our three Hebrew-English Lexicons repeat this definition. The Klein's 1987 edition (page 281, middle column, half-way down), adds a revealing comment. This note says that according to the Talmud, ³ 'the word derives from a Hebrew word meaning to cover and denotes the time of the new moon, the time when the moon is covered. "Dark" is a fitting English word to describe this.

Another confirmation is the fact that the "Feast of Trumpets" is the only feast on the first day of the month (new moon), and the only one declaring to blow the shofar/trumpet, so this verse (**Psalm 81:3**), is definitely referring to the new moon, not the full moon! The reason translators missed this was because they were not familiar with the Biblical Feast Days. Therefore **Proverbs 7:20** above would also be "dark moon," since it is from the same Hebrew word. The new moon evenings were (& still are) treated as special days, when darkness begins to yield to light. It would be a day to be home to celebrate.

3. They are special evenings because they are often mentioned with weekly Sabbaths & Y'hovah's Feast Days. These verses are listed in the intro page of this study.

Part 5: Spiritual Insights

In the big picture, we've known that as we progress further into the Millennial Kingdom of the Son there is more light (understanding), as righteousness arises and unrighteousness diminishes. We will see continuing alignment with God's divine order. The true calendar of the Creator will become more commonly evident, and then become widespread until it is dominant. That time has already begun.

In God's plan there is always a trend of moving from darkness to light, old nature to new, until there is no night, as seen in the revealing of the Bride, The New Jerusalem.

The first 7-years of the Millennial Kingdom are the toughest for it is the initial transition from rulership by fallen man to the redeemed, from Satanic rule to Messianic. This is when the tares come to full fruit, become clearly obvious, and get yanked out. This 7-year period ends in the fall of 2024, about the time of Tabernacles (Succot/ Final Ingathering), (& "coincidentally" also the time of pivotal USA elections). The devil knows his time is short, so in his desperation he is overplaying his hand as he floods the earth with lies (fake news & deception), and with violence, (**Revelation 12:15-17 & 12:12**). The sons of Y'hovah, the FirstFruit Company are about to be manifested to take up the reigns of rulership of the earth. The Word repeatedly says that once judgment comes, then righteousness comes forth, followed by the nations coming to the Messiah. This will be the prophesied "billion soul harvest!" (**Habukkuk 2:14**)

And this will be the completion of the "3rd-Temple,"...the Spiritual Temple, under construction since the Apostles were baptized in the Set-Apart Spirit. This is the merging to form a many-membered "One New Man" of many Living Stones being knitted together. The developing of this "Temple," the dwelling place for Y'hovah, is the purpose and the goal of creation. This Spiritual Temple People will be the centerpiece of the new heaven & earth; the marriage of the Overcomers to their Bridegroom, the Firstfruits-Son, Y'hshua. The Temple completion is at the first-resurrection, when we will be fully in the likeness of character with Y'hovah. By the marriage to the Son we are adopted by Y'hovah.

As light & truth advance, the pagan holidays will be replaced by a global observance of the Biblical Feasts. How do we know? It was prophesied long ago...

*"14. In the end, the enemies of Jerusalem who survive the plague will go up to Jerusalem each year to worship the King, the LORD [Yahovah] of Heaven's Armies, and to celebrate the Festival of Shelters [Booths/Succot/Shelters/Tabernacles/Final Ingathering/End Harvest].
17. Any nation in the world that refuses to come...to worship the King...will have no rain...
19. Egypt & the other nations will all be punished if they don't go to celebrate the Festival of Shelters.*

Zechariah 14:16-19 The New Living Translation

In order for all nations to celebrate this festival, they will need to know when the days are. For that to happen, they will all need to know the correct Biblical (Hebrew), Calendar, based on lunar-cycle months (as originally intended). And now we know that these Biblical months all begin with the "DARK" moon.

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