

A HEBRAIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE FEAST OF THE NEW MOON (THE MOADIN – APPOINTED TIME OF ROSH HODESH)

- *Does God really want us to keep a monthly appointment with Him at New Moon?*
- *Why would we do it?*
- *How would we celebrate it?*
- *What is the physical and spiritual meaning of this timing?*



We know that on the first day God “created” light – the Light of the Messiah, the Word of Yeshua.

John 1:1 “1 IN THE beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself.

God then makes the rest of creation. We do not worship that which God made, i.e. sun, moon, stars, but we worship the Creator.

It is exactly in this “time” of the first seven days of creation that we find this verse describing the “lights” in the firmament to divide day and night.

Genesis 1:14 “14 And God said, Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be ¹**signs and tokens** [of God’s provident care], and [to mark] ²**seasons, days, and years,**

Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day (the warm hours) from the night and let them be for:

- **1) Signs** (a twist away from the light) - Hebrew 226 – “**oth**” – an appearing signal, a flag, a beacon, monument, a token) and
- **2) Seasons** - Hebrew 4150 “**moêd**” – an appointment, a fixed time or festival where we convene for a purpose)
- **3) Days and years** (a revolution of time).

God tells us that the sun and the moon are flags wavering at us everyday, declaring His commitment and calling us to meet with Him regularly so that we can be blessed.

We can meet with God anytime of the day or night.

This time (New Moon) as well as the other Appointed Times (Festivals) is a special time when God wants to be with us.

God's desire is that we are catapulted from one level to another. We need to stop at these times so that our spirit man can be energized by the "vision" of what lies ahead of us.

Somehow or other Joshua and Caleb had connected to the Source of Life:

- when others saw giants, they saw provision;
- when others saw failure, they saw opportunity.



But which day is the Appointed Time?

God sets out a pattern, of how the Israelites were supposed to come before Him at the tabernacle to worship Him.

A time table was laid out – set in place and **coupled to the moon** (specifically the new moon) so that everyone would know when the time and the season was right.

1 Chronicles 23:31 *“31 And to assist in offering all burnt sacrifices to the Lord on **Sabbaths, New Moon festivals, and set feast days** by number according to the ordinance concerning them, continually before the Lord.*

Interestingly we are told that the burnt offering must be by number and in “accordance to the order”.

What would this mean?

The Hebrew word for “**order**” is Strongs 8199 “**Mishpat**” and means: “a particular right / privilege in order to get / receive favorable justice”

After the Tabernacle had been built, His presence was subject to the fact that we lay down / surrender our wills and willingly begin to walk in obedience to His Commandments.

2 Chronicles 2:4 *“4 Behold, **I am about to build a house** for the Name of the Lord my God, dedicated to Him for the burning of incense of sweet spices before Him, for the continual showbread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the Sabbaths, New Moons, and on the solemn feasts of the Lord our God, as ordained forever for Israel.*

2 Chronicles 8:13 *“13 A certain number every day, offering as Moses commanded for the Sabbaths, the New Moons, and the solemn feast days three times in the year—the Feasts of Unleavened Bread, of Weeks, and of Tabernacles.*

CALLING FOR THE LEADERS (FATHERS) AND THE WHOLE HOUSE HOLD TO WORSHIP HIM

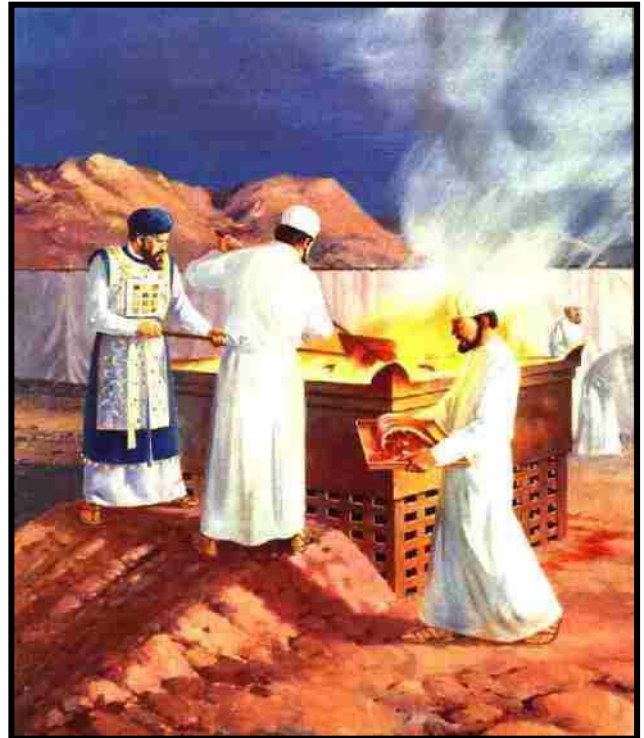
Most of God's Appointed Times (Feasts) were dependent to a large degree on the Levites / priests.

In this Appointed Time – the focus is clearly on the fathers / leaders to open the way and to take the family with them to worship God.

(Remember it's not to worship the moon – but the specific time of that moon's cycle that sets in place a meeting directly with God)

God calls the **princes** i.e. leaders of the tribe / in today's terms, the father of the household, to bring an offering and to make atonement:

- sin offering
- grain offering
- burnt offering
- peace offering



every month on a specific ¹date for the House of Israel.

Ezekiel 45:17 “17 And it shall be **the prince's part** to furnish [from the contributions of the people] the burnt offerings, meal offerings, and drink offerings at the feasts and **on the New Moons** and on the Sabbaths, at all the appointed feasts of the house of Israel. He shall prepare and make the sin offering, the meal offering, the burnt offering, and the peace **offerings to make atonement** for, bringing forgiveness and reconciliation to, the house of Israel.

¹**Note:** it is not a date in terms of any calendar but the **exact time** when the moon is new that matters.

This tells us that we have to be **studying the heavenlies**, we have to be watchmen on the wall to see when the time will be just right.

This calls for the believer to be

- vigilant
- awake (i.e. not sleeping)
- ready to move.

As the witnesses call out – “New Moon!” - we have to be ready to go before God with our offering.

Modern day man structures his life around many things, day off on Sunday, payday, etc.

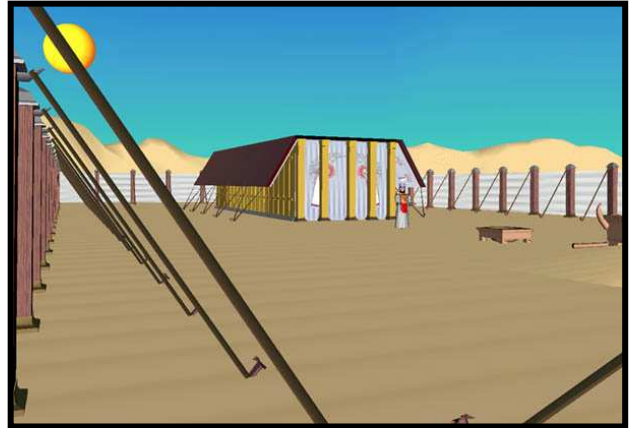
The believer structures his monthly cycle or path of meetings with God in terms of the New Moon.

The door / gate of the Tabernacle in the inner court is kept shut for six days of the week except for the:

- shabbath
- day of the New Moon.

As soon as the prince / father has made the sacrifice then

“the people of the land will worship there”.



Ezekiel 46:1-3 “1 *THUS SAYS the Lord God: The gate of the inner court that faces east shall be shut during the six working days, **but on the Sabbath it shall be opened, and also on the day of the New Moon it shall be opened.***

2 And the prince shall enter by the porch or vestibule of the gate from without and shall stand by the sidepost of the gate. The priests shall prepare and offer 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 evening.

*3 **The people of the land shall worship at the entrance of that gate before the Lord on the Sabbaths and on the New Moons.***

HOW DID THE ISRAELITES CELEBRATE THE NEW MOON (ROSH HODESH)?

A study of the life and time of the Israelites gives us a number of clues to describe how they celebrated the New Moon festival.

As we study these, we need to be asking ourselves how this can be interpreted in today's terms – ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you how you should be going about your worship at this time.



1. We worship God

The people stand at the gate of the Tabernacle i.e. in front of God's Face to worship / praise / sing / declare His glory.

Ezekiel 40:44 *"44 Then the man [an angel] led me [from without] into the inner court, and behold, there were two chambers in the inner court: one beside the north gate but facing the south, and one beside the south gate but looking toward the north.*

Ezekiel 46:3 *"3 The people of the land shall worship at the entrance of that gate before the Lord on the Sabbaths and on the New Moons.*

2. Fathers Lead

The word "prince" is the Hebrew word Strong 5387 and means "King / the exalted one"

2 Chronicles 2:4 *"4 Behold, I am about to build a house for the Name of the Lord my God, dedicated to Him for the burning of incense of sweet spices before Him, for the continual showbread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the Sabbaths, New Moons, and on the solemn feasts of the Lord our God, as ordained forever for Israel.*

The prince / father / leaders / people burn incense before God all this time. We (each one of us) are the "Altar of Incense" before God now that the veil has been torn.

Every prayer, intercession, and petition that we bring, together with the sacrifice of laying down our will to His Commandments, causes the smoke to rise up to God's nostrils.

3. We bring an offering

The Princes / the fathers / leaders come before God to bring an offering.

We know what has happened this past 28 days, we don't know what lies ahead, but we do know that God is the Senior Partner in our Covenant and therefore we can give Him an offering of love.



Ezra 3:5 “5 And after that, the continual burnt offering, the offering at the New Moon, and at all the appointed feasts of the Lord, and **the offerings of everyone who made a freewill offering to the Lord.**

4. We reconcile with one another

It is time to reconcile with one another. One of the greatest needs today, is that we should recognize when we have hurt / harmed someone else, make restitution, ask forgiveness and walk in love with one another.

The worldly spirit of Greco-Roman thinking of superiority / slavery / submission leads to pride and a separation of people.



Nehemiah 10:33 “33 For the showbread; for the continual cereal offerings and **burnt offerings**; [for the offerings on] **the Sabbaths, the New Moons, the set feasts**; for the holy things, for **the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel**; and for all the work of the house of our God.

2 Chronicles 31:3 “3 King Hezekiah's personal contribution was for the burnt offerings: [those] of morning and evening, **for the Sabbaths, for the New Moons, and for the appointed feasts**, as written in the Law of the Lord.

Isaiah 1:13 “13 **Bring no more offerings of vanity** (emptiness, falsity, vainglory, and futility); [your hollow offering of] incense is an abomination to Me; **the New Moons and Sabbaths**, the calling of assemblies, I cannot endure—[it is] iniquity and profanation, even the solemn meeting.

5. We have a huge party

It is a time of great joy. Every festival put in place by God was designed as a meeting time of specific importance. In the physical domain we celebrate worldly interactions.

However as we do so, our actions, attitudes, prayers, praise, study, etc. rises up to God in the same way as the angels on Jacobs ladder. God, in the spiritual realm, opens our eyes to see a vision of His world, thereby leaving us with the sustenance for our journey until the next meeting.

Hosea tells a time when our intimacy will removed because of our rebellion and the judgment of bondage that other will have over us until we return to God's ways.

Hosea 2:11 "11 I will also cause **to cease all her mirth**, her feastmaking, her New Moons, her Sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts and appointed festive assemblies.

Psalm 100:2 "2 Serve the **Lord with gladness!** Come before His presence with singing!

6. We blow the Shofar

The Shofar is a symbol of the promise of God to Abraham – it is the sign of God Covenantal goodness. The ram died so that Isaac could live. The Lamb of God died on the Cross so that you and I can live.



The sound of the Shofar – is therefore also the sound of the Blood of Atonement.

The New Moon Appointed Time, calls us to blow the shofar, so that the sound of Yeshua's victory can resonate into the physical domain where you live, but also into the Heavenlies.

Psalm 81:3 "3 **Blow the trumpet at the New Moon**, at the full moon, on our feast day.

If we are truly watchmen of the walls, we will seek to build a wall with a strong foundation of commitment, Word study and prayer. When we then rise up to join the battle in the spiritual war over our city / land / continent we will be standing on the brink of a miracle.

When Deborah blew the shofar, God released a storm. This flood caused the enemies / chariots to get stuck in the mud.

7. We honor our Covenantal promises

God placed inside of mankind a yearning to search for his Maker. Unfortunately we often look to the physical – the tangible things as evidence, simply because they are there / or “real”.

God therefore gave this promise – a Messianic prophecy. He (God) will reign forever and that we (mankind) can use the very existence of the moon as a **sign**, until it no longer exists.

Psalm 72:5-7 “5 So that they **may revere and fear You while the sun and moon endure**, throughout all generations.

6 May he [Solomon as a type of King David’s greater Son] be like rain that comes down upon the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

7 In His [Christ’s] days shall the [uncompromisingly] righteous flourish and peace abound till there is a moon no longer.

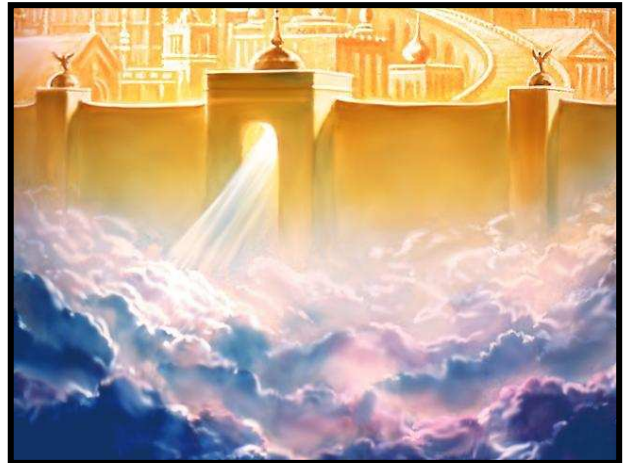
Psalm 89:33-37 “33 Nevertheless, My loving-kindness will I not break off from him, nor allow My faithfulness to fail [to lie and be false to him].

34 My covenant will I not break or profane, nor alter the thing that is gone out of My lips.

35 Once [for all] **have I sworn by My holiness**, which cannot be violated; I will not lie to David:

36 His Offspring shall endure forever, and his throne [shall continue] as the sun before Me.

37 It shall be **established forever as the moon, the faithful witness in the heavens**. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]!



God then goes on to tell us in the Book of Revelation that the moon will only cease to exist when the Messiah Himself provides all of the light that we require.

Revelation 21:23 “23 And the city has no need of the sun nor of the moon to give light to it, for the splendor and radiance (glory) of God illuminate it, and the Lamb is its lamp.

Isaiah 60:19-20 “19 The sun shall no more be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you, **but the Lord shall be to you an everlasting light**, and your God your glory and your beauty.

20 Your sun shall no more go down, nor shall your moon withdraw itself, for the Lord shall be your everlasting light, and the days of your mourning shall be ended.

Not only can we look at the moon as a sign of God's faithfulness – i.e. a means to build up our trust and confidence that He will be there for us, **but He promises us that the very existence of the moon and its continuing reflection of light is the measure of His mercy to us. His mercy endures forever!!**

Psalm 136:9 *“9 The moon and stars to rule by night, for His mercy and loving-kindness endure forever;*

Moreover the evidence of the New Moon is a reflection / flag / beacon waving / signaling to us that God has kept His promise to send a Messiah to this earth.

Yeshua (Son of David) came to earth and will return again at the Second Coming.

Psalm 89:34 *“34 My covenant will I not break or profane, nor alter the thing that is gone out of My lips.*

Psalm 89:37 *“37 It shall be established forever as the moon, the faithful witness in the heavens. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]!*

God's Covenantal promise to protect and provide for the Israelites / Bride of Messiah is evidenced in other examples of Divine intervention.

JOSHUA GOES TO WAR

We read of the story where the **Amorites decide to go to war against Joshua.**

The Israelites go to battle with the knowledge that God promises full deliverance.

Joshua 10:8 *“8 And the Lord said to Joshua, **Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hand; there shall not a man of them stand before you.***



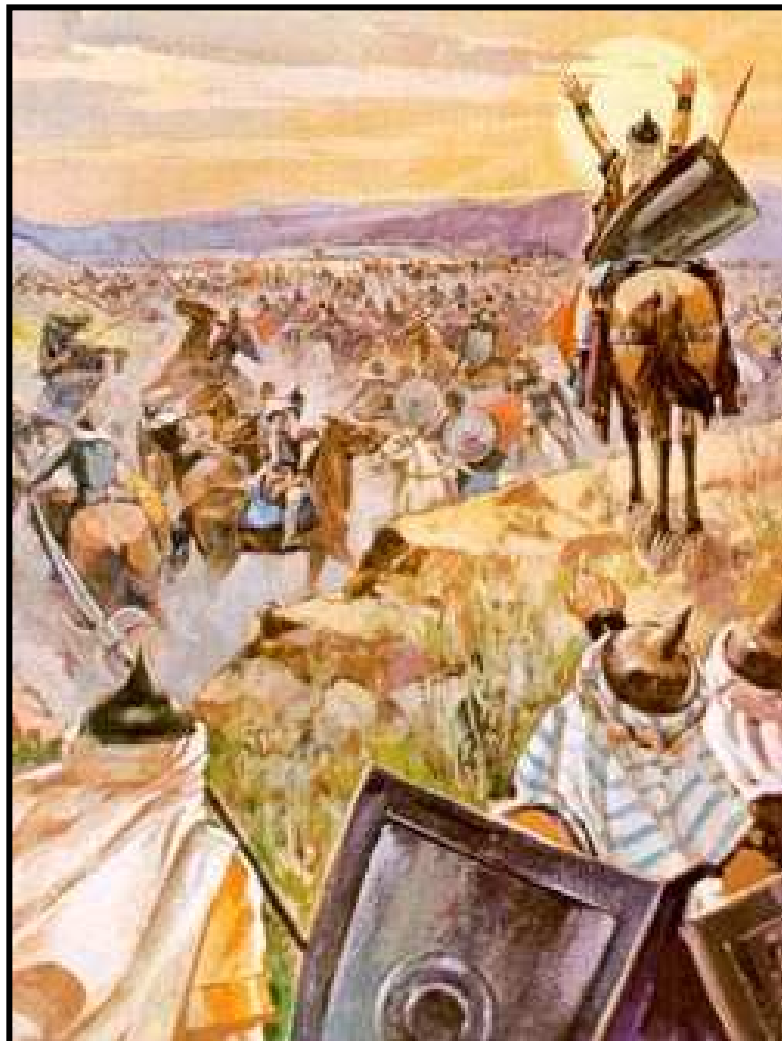
However the battle continues for the whole day and it appears as if they will not achieve the full victory that day. Joshua asks God to speak into the heavenlies, to the sun and moon and to **command time** to stand still so that the Israelites could complete their job.

God does this.

Joshua 10:12-14 “12 Then Joshua spoke to the Lord on the day when the Lord gave the Amorites over to the Israelites, and he said in the sight of Israel, **Sun, be silent and stand still at Gibeon, and you, moon, in the Valley of Ajalon!**

13 **And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed,** until the nation took vengeance upon their enemies. Is not this written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of the heavens and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day.

14 There was no day like it before or since, when the Lord heeded the voice of a man. For the Lord fought for Israel.



Just as God set in place the principle of a Covenant, as He role-modeled and showed us how to live the commitment, we as mankind are required to follow suit.

1. David keeps this covenant with Jonathan –

1 Samuel 20:5 “**5 David said to Jonathan, Tomorrow is the New Moon [festival], and I should not fail to sit at the table with the king; but let me go, that I may hide myself in the field till the third day at evening.**
18 Then Jonathan said to David, Tomorrow is the New Moon festival; and you will be missed, for your seat will be empty.
24 So David hid himself in the field, and when the New Moon [festival] came, the king sat down to eat food.



2. The commitment to a pure marriage between a husband and wife.
3. A believer’s walk with God is a Covenant. We are called to walk in obedience, our will submitted to God’s purposes (not legalism).

The Torah tells us that the remnant will keep God’s Commandments, including these Appointed Times (Feasts).

Many men (often ardent church goers) will ridicule you for keeping the Feasts. Paul tells us not to let men judge you for keeping God’s Commandments – these things that we do are a shadow or pattern reflecting the Messiah and the attributes of God.

Colossians 2:16 “**16 Therefore let no one sit in judgment on you in matters of food and drink, or with regard to a feast day or a New Moon or a Sabbath.**

GOD DESPISES A FALSE HEART

Mankind, it is said, is a creature of habit; habit can become a ritual without meaning. These acts of nature become legalism, a bondage, and a heavy yoke on those who are forced to take part.

Sometimes this type of ritual is kept up as a pretense for one or other reason. Man's heart is however not there, and behind the scene, often hidden from his fellowman but clearly discerned by God, man gives his heart to idols, sin and other acts of abomination – such are the people of Sodom.

God tells us that these rituals have no value – in fact He despises them.

Isaiah 1:10-15 “10 Hear [O Jerusalem] the word of the Lord, **you rulers or judges of [another] Sodom!** Give ear to the law and the teaching of our God, you people of [another] Gomorrah!

11 To **what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me** [unless they are the offering of the heart]? says the Lord. I have had enough of the burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts [without obedience]; and I do not delight in the blood of bulls or of lambs or of he-goats [without righteousness].

12 When you come to appear before Me, who requires of you that your [unholy feet] trample My courts?

13 **Bring no more offerings of vanity** (emptiness, falsity, vainglory, and futility); [your hollow offering of] incense is an abomination to Me; **the New Moons and Sabbaths**, the calling of assemblies, I cannot endure—[it is] iniquity and profanation, even the solemn meeting.

14 Your New Moon festivals and your [hypocritical] appointed feasts My soul hates. They are an oppressive burden to Me; I am weary of bearing them.

15 **And when you spread forth your hands [in prayer, imploring help], I will hide My eyes from you;** even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood!

The consequence of this is God's wrath and judgment.

Isaiah 13:9 “9 Behold, **the day of the Lord is coming!**—fierce, with wrath and **raging anger**—to make the land and the [whole] earth a desolation and to destroy out of it its sinners.

10 **For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be darkened at its rising and the moon will not shed its light.**

Isaiah 24:23 “23 **Then the moon will be confounded and the sun ashamed**, when [they compare their ineffectual fire to the light of] the Lord of hosts, Who will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and before His elders will show forth His glory.

THE PROPHETIC SIGNIFICANCE OF ROSH HODESH (NEW MOON)

Those who chose to declare the Lordship of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Yeshua the Messiah and the Holy Spirit in their lives, will submit their will to God and began to walk in obedience to His Commandments.



We will hear (“Sh’ma”) and do (“asah”) His word.

Our lives therefore experience a change in the pattern of our daily walk. We no longer follow the world set pattern but rather that of the God of Israel, namely:

- new calendar
- new schedule of Feasts
- new role of discipleship
- etc.

The world walks in step to the calendar based on the sun – and has 365 $\frac{1}{4}$ days per annum.

We now start to follow the **lunar calendar** and our month **starts** with the New Moon. All of the “Feasts” are timed to begin at one of the phases of the moon.

The New Moon is when the small sliver of white appears and the rest of the moon is in darkness.

The path that the moon follows every month, from this tiny part of light all the way to the full moon when there is the maximum amount of light in the physical, is a pattern which will be replicated in the spiritual.

Hebrews 8:5 *“5 [But these offer] **service [merely] as a pattern and as a foreshadowing** of [what has its true existence and reality in] the heavenly sanctuary. For when Moses was about to erect the tabernacle, he was warned by God, saying, See to it that you make it all [exactly] according to the copy (the model) which was shown to you on the mountain.*”

God creates light out of darkness.

Genesis 1:2-3 *“2 The earth was without form and an empty waste, and **darkness was upon the face** of the very great deep. **The Spirit of God was moving (hovering, brooding) over the face of the waters.**
3 And God said, **Let there be light; and there was light.**”*

God is showing us that light will always displace darkness, will bring clarity and sight in the place of murkiness, and vision / purpose in the place of a place / time of chaos.

Isaiah 60:2 “2 For behold, **darkness shall cover the earth**, and dense darkness [all] peoples, **but the Lord shall arise upon you [O Jerusalem], and His glory shall be seen on you.**

Later in Genesis God teaches us another principle, namely the sequence of what constitutes a day. He defines time as “it was evening and it was day”.

Genesis 1:5 “5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

We are called to grow from Glory to Glory.

2 Corinthians 3:18 “18 And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] **as in a mirror the glory of the Lord**, are constantly being **transfigured** into His very own image **in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another**; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit.

This is the spiritual side of the physical manifestation of the Moon.

We all start off in the darkness of this world under the rulership of Satan. At some point in time we chose to “return” to God and in the process His Light / the Life of the Messiah flows into our spirit man.

This is a picture of the New Moon. The sound of the shofar declares the rising of the New Moon and in our case of the new birth.

Yeshua has poured His Blood out on the Altar in Heaven and therefore we can confidentially stand before God.



Hebrews 9:24 “24 For Christ (the Messiah) **has not entered into a sanctuary made with [human] hands**, only a copy and pattern and type of the true one, **but [He has entered] into heaven itself, now to appear in the [very] presence of God on our behalf.**

As we transform our lives to align with the will and plan of God, as we renew our minds through the study of the Torah and as our physical body submits to a life of obedience to God’s Will and Commandments we can also say that our light (a reflection of the Light of the Messiah) becomes fuller and more intensive in strength.

We are the Bride of Messiah – as such we will **always reflect His glory** and His Light.

We, the reborn, stand in the inner court – this is where we get more and more light.

Ezekiel 10:3-4 “3 Now the cherubim stood on the south side of the house when the man went in; and the cloud [the Shekinah] filled **the inner court**.
4 Then the glory of the Lord mounted up from the cherubim to stand over the threshold of the [Lord’s] house; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court **was full of the brightness of the Lord’s glory**.”



FOR A COMPLETE STUDY ON HOW TO DO WARFARE IN THE HEAVENLIES PLEASE SEE:

“THE BELIEVER’S WARFARE IN THE HEAVENLIES”,

AVAILABLE FROM KANAAN MINISTRIES.