

11th New Moon 2017

Happy Chanukah!



Please note ... this Rosh Chodesh marks the beginning of the **NINTH** month, according to the Biblical Hebrew calendar.

Dates to diarise¹:

DATES	EVENT
18 November	New Moon
26 November	First Quarter Moon
3 December	Full Moon
10 December	Last Quarter Moon
18 December	12 th New Moon

- **Chanukah (Feast of Dedication)**

- **Chanukah (the Feast of Dedication) is an eight-day festival, starting 12 December 2017 and ending 20 December 2017.**
- *Don't forget to align with the open window of this season, and download the anointing you need, in preparation for that which lies ahead, to withstand any upcoming trials and tribulations.*

¹ Information obtained from <http://www.planetarium.co.za/skystuff/moonphases2017.pdf>

New Moon prayers ...

Remember, the monthly New Moon prayers are **not to** be confused with astrology. The Scriptures clearly warn against any/all forms of astrology:

Deuteronomy 4:19 *“And when you look up to the sky and see the sun, the moon and the stars—all the heavenly array—do not be enticed into bowing down to them and worshipping things the LORD your GOD has apportioned to all the nations under heaven”.*

Deuteronomy 17:3 *“... and contrary to MY command has worshipped other gods, bowing down to them or to the sun or the moon or the stars of the sky.”*

Isaiah 47:13-15 *“All the counsel you have received has only worn you out! Let your astrologers come forward, those stargazers who make predictions month by month, let them save you from what is coming upon you. Surely they are like stubble; the fire will burn them up. They cannot even save themselves from the power of the flame. Here are no coals to warm anyone; here is no fire to sit by. That is all they can do for you—these you have labored with and trafficked with since childhood. Each of them goes on in his error; there is not one that can save you.”*

Jeremiah 10:1-2 *“Hear what the LORD says to you, O house of Israel. This is what the LORD says: “Do not learn the ways of the nations or be terrified by signs in the sky, though the nations are terrified by them”.*

Daniel 1:20 *“In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.”*

The New Moon prayers are to be used for PRAYER and warfare, as a guideline for prayer and intercession for the coming month, **as the Holy Spirit leads**. If you'd like more information on why we pray for the New Moon, we encourage you to read **“The Believer's Warfare In The Heavens”**, available for order from the office or for download from the website.

In the New Moon prayers, we will often refer to **“possessing the GATES”**.

For **more information** on this, please see the following link:

<http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=299>

This New Moon

We bring you all special greetings this season in the Name of our Risen Savior and KING Y'shua / Jesus, our Messiah, the KING of kings and the LORD of lords, who has called us out of darkness into His Marvelous Light!!

We rejoice because the kingdoms of this world belong to our Messiah and Master! Blessed be the Name of the Lord. He shall reign till and after all His enemies have been made His Footstool, even so shall it be, Amen (**Psalm 2, 110**).

November / December is generally a very loaded season. Remember also that we have entered into the so called “ember” months (**September, October, November, December**) which are characteristically assumed to be months of calamity, troubles, and woes in many circles.

1. The Hebrew Month of **BENJAMIN**

We are now entering the 12th lunar cycle of 2017. Recall that at the beginning of the lunar cycle that is now ending (month of Manasseh); we called on watchmen to arise as a united Joseph Company and as watchmen like the Gideon army to overthrow the workings of spiritual Midianites and Amalekites—harvest robbers.

Further, we were encouraged to pray for deliverance from the toils of our father's house as a Manasseh Company.

We need to continue to watch and pray in the remaining month of 2017. The Lord is looking to us to watch with Him over the nations and over His purposes. As we do so, He will take care of us and crown the year with His goodness for all who are faithful to watch and pray (**Psalm 65:11**)

This new month is the month of Benjamin. As you can recall, at the time of Benjamin's birth, his mother died. As she was dying, she named him 'son of my sorrow, (**Genesis 35: 16-19**):

“... but his father Jacob renamed him 'son of my right hand,' that is, 'a son that is very dear to me, set at my right hand for a blessing; a son who is the support of my old age, like the staff in my right hand.'

By changing Benjamin's name, Jacob stood in the gap and brought him out of the pit of sorrow into the place of favour and joy. As we prayed for deliverance from the toils of our fathers' houses in the ending month of Manasseh, let us pray for deliverance from the sorrows inherited through our mothers this month.

Let us pray asking our Heavenly Father to arise over us and remove the covering of doom and sorrow from our lives in Y'shua's (Jesus') Name, AMEN.

Also, let us pray like Nehemiah in this month (**Nehemiah 1**) for favor to receive resources that we need to repair the broken walls in our lives, families, communities, nations, the Church, etc.

Let us ask the LORD to raise Benjamites like Apostle Paul (**Philippians 3:5**) in our generation – apostles who are called and sent forth by the Revelation of Messiah Y’shua (Jesus Christ) (**Galatians 1:11-16**).

In order to enter into our GOD-given inheritance, the LORD is calling us to humble ourselves like Paul by allowing the LORD to teach us so that we:

- Can be delivered from our old nature,
- Put on our GOD-given nature,
- And glorify and serve GOD in our generation.

Ephesians 4:20-24 *“But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to GOD, in true righteousness and holiness.”*

Please pray (and if possible, fast) and ask the LORD to supernaturally DELETE: your old nature, old lifestyle, old sinful pleasures, the trauma of your past, self-pity, etc. Old sinful / iniquitous ways have the ability to clog up our spiritual being, preventing us from hearing from GOD or entering into His Divine Plans for us.

This month of Benjamin, pray that your Heavenly Father will set you free, blot out the handwritings that are against you with the Blood of the Lamb of God (**Colossians 2:14**) and give you a name that reflects your Heavenly inheritance.

Pray **Colossians 3:12**—to be dressed with the Spirit of the Messiah (a tender heart, mercy, kindness, gentleness, humility, patience, endurance, good temperance).

I pray that we, like Paul, might at the end of our journey here on earth say:
“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith”
(**2 Timothy 4:7**).

This is a month to ENTER INTO THE SUDDENLIES OF BENJAMIN:

- Suddenly, Benjamin’s name changed (**Genesis 35**)
- Suddenly, Benjamin received a five-fold portion (**Genesis 43:34**)
- Suddenly, Benjamin was reunited with Joseph his brother (**Genesis 45**)
- Suddenly, Esther became queen (tribe of Benjamin, Government / Intercessor, Book of Esther)
- Suddenly, Mordecai received the signet ring (tribe of Benjamin, Government / Intercessor, Book of Esther)
- Suddenly, Saul of Tarsus met Y’shua (Jesus) on the road to Damascus and was called to be an apostle (tribe of Benjamin- **Romans 11, Apostle—Book of Acts, Romans, Corinthians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians**, etc.)

Pray for your God-based alignments and connections. May YVHV El Shaddai bring us into a “Benjamin-ite” breakthrough as we seek Him closely this month.

2. Chanukah, Feast of Dedication

Long before our Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ) was born, a young ruler named Alexander the Great, ruled the entire ancient world. This period of time is referred to as "the Hellenistic period" (Greeks). When he died, four of his generals split up the kingdom.

The one that ended up with Israel was Antiochus IV. This new Ruler of Israel commanded everyone to convert to Hellenism (Greek Mythology) and the Greek values that he held. Many did, even many of the Jews of the land because they found it to be a very civilized way of life.

But, there were those Jews who held close to the Torah and GOD's Way of worship and refused to embrace Hellenism. In fact, Antiochus gave the Jews an ultimatum, to either give up their distinctive customs, such as worshipping on the Sabbath (Saturday), circumcision, and kosher laws, or die.

Antiochus desecrated the Holy Temple. He ordered the utensils, such as the Menorah, Altar, and Table to be defiled and torn down. Then to be certain that he had accomplished his job, he ordered a pig to be sacrificed on the holy altar. After doing all of that, he ordered that the Greek god Zeus be worshiped in the Temple.

When Antiochus heard that the people were murmuring and talking about revolt against him, he marched his troops to a town in the foothills called Modi'in. His plan was to erect a false god in the city and force the people to worship it. Modi'in was the home of a priest named Mattathias who had five sons.

He and his sons revolted and killed the soldiers and began the revolt against this evil ruler. One of Mattathias's sons was Judah, and he became the new leader and was quickly nicknamed "Maccabee" (the Hammer in Hebrew).

Maccabee and his associates defeated the Greeks and got rid of Antiochus.

The Maccabees now faced the task of restoring the Temple for worship to their Holy GOD. They cleansed the Temple and restored the furnishings. There was special attention given to the Menorah, for it symbolized the Light of GOD. They restored it and when they went to light it, they found there was a problem.

This Menorah could only be used with specially consecrated oil, and it took eight days to prepare such oil.

They found enough of this special oil to burn only one day. To celebrate the victory of the battle fought for their religious liberty, they decided to light the Menorah anyway and allow the Light of GOD to shine forth with its glory, even if but for a day. But GOD gave them a miracle, and the oil lasted eight days, until the new oil was made ready. So today we have the eight days of the Feast of Dedication "Chanukah". Even Y'shua celebrated this Feast! (John 10:22)

Prayer:

Bring repentance to the LORD concerning all manners of falsehood in your life, family, community, the Church, etc. Ask the LORD for forgiveness and mercy. Bring atonement by the Blood of Jesus Christ (**Psalm 51, Hebrews 9:12-14, etc**). Ask the LORD to judge false shepherds in the Church (**Jeremiah 23, Ezekiel 13, etc**).

Ask the LORD our Good Shepherd (**Psalm 23**) to dethrone the Shebnas, and enthrone the Eliakims (**Isaiah 22:15-25**). Throughout this season, let us proclaim (**Psalm 118:26, Matthew 21:9, 23:39**) to ask Y'shua (Jesus) to come and take up His Throne on earth.

Proclaim **Psalm 45:1-7** to honor Y'shua (Jesus), our righteous King.

The moon as a demonic planting field:

In **Isaiah 51:16**, we read about how God puts His Words in our mouths and how He plants the heavens and lays the foundations of the earth.

As we have mentioned in previous writings, in wiccan and occultic circles, the moon is used as a demonic planting space / field.

Seed planting begins in the new moon and continues in the first crescent moon (referred to as Diana's bow).

The first quarter moon phase (referred to as Half-moon) has a twofold function.

- i) **First**, it is a nurturing phase.
- ii) **Second**, it is used for fortification enchantments (we will elaborate on that shortly).

When used for nurturing, seeds which are planted earlier are watered with enchantments and rituals during the half moon.

If all goes well with planting and nurturing, by the full moon, a harvest of results will emerge.

The last quarter of the moon is used for pruning, uprooting all they don't want from their lives.

It is our responsibility to ensure that everything goes wrong with these planting & nurturing of evils & wickedness.

We are the ones that have the mandate of uprooting and destroying things contrary to God's Kingdom and not the camp of witches.

Listen to Prophet Jeremiah on matters as these:

Jeremiah 1:9-10 "Then the LORD put forth His Hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put My Words in thy mouth. See, I have this day set

thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.”

The last crescent moon (called Hecate's sickle) is used by witches as a souls-harvesting implement to kill.

Again, we encourage watchmen and women to watch and pray during the moon phases so that the enemies will not succeed in their agenda to abort God's plan and purposes for us, our families, communities, nations, continent and the Church.

Upcoming celestial events:

Remember to apply the Blood of the Lamb of GOD into the heavens (**Colossians 1:19**) and command the heavens to declare the Righteousness and Glory of GOD (**Psalms 97:6, Psalm 19:1-6**) during the following events:

- **Nov 18 : New moon** of the ninth month occurs at 11:43 UT
- **Nov 19 : New moon aligns with Antares**, the heart of the scorpion; proclaim Ps 91, esp. verse 13 pray:

No more wounding in my life! Lift up Yeshua who was wounded for our transgressions (Is 53). Ask for Yeshua's healing stripes. Receive the healing and comfort of Joseph and Benjamin.

- **Nov. 19 : 33 hour of the new moon** (: 20:43 UT)
- **Nov 19-21 : The crescent moon (so-called Diana's bow),**

Pray **2 Kings 13:15ff** and ask Elohim to put the bow in the heavens in the hand of His people to defeat the plans and purposes of spiritual invaders / robbers in the heavens and earth)

- **Nov 20-21 : The crescent moon is in alignment** with two planets—Mercury and Saturn
- **Nov 26 : First quarter moon**
- **Nov 27 : Mars** (the red planet) **aligns with the Spica** (the seed of heaven);

Pray for God's righteous plantings in your life / on earth

- **Nov 28 : Mercury and Saturn in celestial meeting** - (apply the Blood of Yeshua; pray for God's revelation of the time and season you are in)
- **Dec 1-2 : the Sun aligns with Antares, the heart of the scorpion;**

Proclaim Ps 91, esp. verse 13; pray: No more wounding in my life! Lift up Yeshua who was wounded for our transgressions (Is 53)

- **Dec 3 : Mercury begins its backward motion:**

Pray for divine reversals (**Is 44:25**)

- **Dec 3 : Full moon** (@ 15:48 UT,

Pray **Ps 81** especially vs. 5-7 asking for divine reversals and fullness of deliverance from slavery, jealousy, envy, conspiracy, sorrow, trauma just like Elohim delivered Joseph and Benjamin)

- **Dec 6 : Mercury and Saturn in celestial meeting again** - (apply the Blood of Yeshua;

Pray for God's revelation of the time and season you are in; remember Mercury is in backward movement – pray for divine reversals)

- **Dec 8 : the moon is in alignment with Regulus**, the King star

(**Rev 14:14** – Regulus is the brightest of the stars in the formation of a sickle in Leo)

- **Dec 10 : Last quarter moon**

- **Dec 12 : Moon aligns with Spica** (the seed of heaven);

Pray for God's righteous plantings in your life / on earth.

- **Dec 13 : Mercury and the Sun in special alignment**, which takes the planet in movement from the night sky to the morning sky where it joins Venus and Mars

(Pray **Luke 1** asking for divine visitation from Elohim). Remember Mercury is in backward movement – pray for divine reversals.

- **Dec 10-14 : Gemini (Heaven's Twins) meteor showers or shooting stars;**

Very strong meteors on the 14th (this month of Benjamin, pray for double/multiple portions: Jacob gave two portions to Joseph and Joseph gave 5 portions to Benjamin)

- **Dec 15 : Venus aligns with Mercury.**

Pray **Isaiah 44: 25** (because Mercury is in retrograde / backward movement).

- **Dec 14-17 : Last crescent moon** (so-called Hecate's sickle): pray **Rev 14:14ff**

- **Dec 17 : Last crescent moon aligns with Mercury and Venus.**

Pray **Isaiah 44: 24-26** (Mercury is still in retrograde/backward movement).

- **Dec. 18 : 12th New moon**

Prayer Points for the New Moon

1. Praise and worship Yahweh Elohim, the Almighty God, Creator of Heaven and earth, the Father of our Lord Jesus Who has mercifully given us the privilege to align ourselves with Him. Enter His gates with thanksgiving.
(Psalms. 8, 19, 100, 136, 148, etc.)
2. Declare the Lordship of Jesus Christ over all things (yourself, family, business/job, community, Church, principalities, powers, witchcraft spirit, water spirit, mountains, hills, winds, sun, moon, stars, planets, constellations, strongmen, satanic watchmen, etc.)
3. Bring repentance of **personal sins**, especially rebellion/disobedience, which is like the sin of witchcraft.
(Psalm 15, Psalm 19:12-14, etc.)

Old nature / sinful ways, lies, rebellion, hatred, anger, unforgiveness, jealousy, pride, anxiety, fear, prayerlessness, self-pity, etc.

Bring repentance of **family sins (Ephesians 5:21-25, 6:1-9, etc.)**.

Repent in behalf of the **Church (Isaiah 56:9-12 etc.)**.

Sleeping and slumbering, ignorance, injustice, hypocrisy, pride, disunity, sexual immorality, love of money, witchcraft, idolatry, etc. Ask the Lord to forgive us.

Repent in behalf of the **society (Deuteronomy 4:15-19, etc.)**.

Idolatry, the acceptance of the false worship religion of the children of the bondwoman, witchcraft, oppression, injustice, war, destruction of lives and properties, shedding of innocent blood through war and abortion, pride, greed, lawlessness, corruption, etc.

Ask the Lord for forgiveness and mercy. Bring atonement by the Blood of Jesus Christ
(Psalm 51, Hebrew 9:12-14, etc.)

4. Blow the trumpet to the Lord and ask Him to remember us against our enemies in spiritual or physical warfare (Numbers 10:9-10).

Apply the Blood of the Lamb of God on the moon to reconcile it to Yeshua
(Colossians 1: 20).

5. **Ask the Lord for mercy** and bring atonement by the Blood of Yeshua
(Ps 51, Heb 9:12-14, 1 John 1:7)

6. **Speak to the heavens with the Voice of the Blood of Yeshua** (Heb. 12:24) and deprogram every evil (mind control, spiritual slavery, backwardness, delay, wars, famine, poverty, diseases, lukewarmness, etc.) that the army of satan has programmed into the heavens during the new moons and the various heavenly alignments that have occurred in your life, family, nation etc.

Apply the Blood of Yeshua to blot out this evil handwriting **Col 2:14**. Ask the Lord to disarm the works of the army of satan over your life, nation, the Church, etc. **Col 2:15**

7. **Fasten the Blood of Yeshua** into the alignment of the Sun, moon, and Antares at the time of the new moon.

Let us blow the trumpet in the new Moon (**Ps. 81:1-3**) and ask the Lord to deliver us as He did deliver Joseph (**Ps 81:5-7a**).

Pray from **Is 60** that you, your family, nation, etc. will arise and shine out of any darkness programmed into the heavens.

8. **Pray that the sun and this new moon** will bear witness against the army of satan who stand opposed to the counsel of the Risen Messiah in matters pertaining to the Church, you, your family, business, community, etc. to judge Global occultism and Islamic fundamentalism this month of Benjamin.

Isaiah 61:2 "...proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn".

9. Ishmaelite / witchcraft:

Apply the Blood of Yeshua to cancel the satanic agreement between witchcraft / Ishmaelite spirit and the crescent moon (**Is 28:14-18**).

Use the Voice of the Blood of Yeshua to silence the enchantments, invocation, volume of words spoken 5 times a day into the heavens etc. by the army of satan during this new month (**Heb 12:24**).

Ask the Lord to visit all satanic altars in the heavens (the square and the compass of occultists, the pentagrams of witches, rolling stones, etc) with fury, anger and fire.

Let the Lord uproot and destroy them (**Is 64:1-4, Ps 144:5-6**, etc).

10. Gregorian Calendar

It is the 11th month and 11 stands for confusion judgement and chaos. There is a double edged-sword season ahead: the righteous will triumph in doing the works of righteousness and the wicked will be judged and experience chaos and confusion as they continue to do wickedly.

Rev 22:11-12 *"He that is unjust, let him be unjust still, and he that is filthy, let him be filthy still, and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me to give every man according as his work shall be."*

Bring judgment on as many as go on in rebellion and all manners of witchcraft:

Revelation 2:21-23, Isaiah 33: 10-12, Psalm 69:22-28, Isaiah 47, Micah 5:8-9, 10-15, Nahum 3, Exodus 22:18, etc.

Bring judgment on:

- ◆ The queen of heaven (**Isaiah 47**),
- ◆ Witchcraft spirit (**Micah 5:10-15, Psalm 69:22-28, Nahum 3, Exodus 22:18, Micah 3:6-7**, etc),
- ◆ Water spirits who stand opposed to Christ's agenda for us through the waters (**Isaiah 27:1, Ezekiel 29:2-5, 32:2-8, Zechariah 10:11**, etc.);
- ◆ Pray against idolatry (**Isaiah 19:1**, etc).

Pray that the shakings and the judgments will produce fruits of repentance in those who have not sold their souls to the devil.

11. With the Key of David, shut the heavens against all satanic watchmen (**Revelation 3:7**).

12. Pray for Israel. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; pray that the two sticks of Judah and Ephraim will become one (**Psalm 122, Ezekiel 37**).

13. Ask the Lord to continue to show mercy to His people. Speak to the heavens. Use the following scriptures to pray: **Psalm 19:1-6, Psalm 121, Deuteronomy 33:13-17, Deuteronomy 28:1-14**, etc.

14. Proclaim the kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ and He shall reign forever, Amen. (**Revelation 4, 5, 11:15**)

15. Sound the Shofar!

We are counting on you to mount the watchtowers with us in this strategic season.

God bless you!

May Yeshua our Chief Intercessor strengthen and encourage you with victory and breakthrough as you watch and pray.

Four reasons to blow the Shofar!



1. ***For the calling of the assemblies Numbers 10:2-4.***

This is therefore a season for GOD's saints to gather either as leadership or as groups in solemn assemblies unto the LORD to hear what the Spirit is saying unto the Body at this Appointed Time.

2. ***For the journeying of the camps Numbers 10:5-7.***

As Israel was compelled to keep moving forward in their journeying to their Land of Inheritance, so must we individually and collectively insist that in this period, there must be a moving forward in GOD's Purposes. Reject in this season every form of stagnation — spiritual, financial, material, as well as destiny and general fulfillment of GOD's Redemptive Purposes.

3. ***At the times of war to invite GOD into the battle, Numbers 10:9.***

As we pass through this so called ember seasons, we need to invite the LORD of Hosts as the LORD of the Battle into our personal and national battles as the Church in the nations, so that the LORD will remember us against the strong onslaught of the forces of satan and witchcraft.

4. ***At the times of our Feasts [solemn days] and start of new seasons, Numbers 10:10***

Psalm 20 "MAY THE LORD answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the GOD of Jacob set you up on high [and defend you]; 2 Send you help from the sanctuary and support, refresh, and strengthen you from Zion; 3 Remember all your offerings and accept your burnt sacrifice. Selah [pause, and think of that]! 4 May He grant you according to your heart's desire and fulfill all your plans. 5 We will [shout in] triumph at your salvation and victory, and in the name of our GOD we will set up our banners. May the LORD fulfill all your petitions. 6 Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven with the saving strength of His right hand. 7 Some trust in and boast of chariots and some of horses, but we will trust in and boast of the name of the LORD our GOD. 8 They are bowed down and fallen, but we are risen and stand upright. 9 O LORD, give victory; let the King answer us when we call."

 **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Pray that the Two Sticks of Judah and Ephraim will become ONE (Psalm 122, Ezekiel 37).**

- 🎧 Let us pray that the on-going shakings in the Middle East will draw Jews to their True Messiah, our KING Y'shua (Jesus).
- 🎧 Proclaim the kingdoms of this world have become the Kingdom of our LORD and His KING, Y'shua, shall rule forever, amen! (**Revelation 4, 5, 11:15**)
- 🎧 Thank Him for His Shalom. He has not given us the spirit of fear, but of love, power and a sound mind. Cover your mind with the Blood of the Lamb and keep looking to Y'shua (Jesus), the Author and Finisher of your faith.
- 🎧 Thank ABBA FATHER and bless His Name (**Psalms 105, 118**).
- 🎧 He is called Faithful and True (**Revelation 19:11**).

Shalom and GOD's Richest Blessings on you and your household as you watch and pray, SHALOM SHALOM!!

The ninth² Hebrew month ..."

*May You give us long life,
A life of peace — Shalom,
A life of goodness — Tovah,
A life of blessing — Bracha,
A life of sustenance — Parnassa,
A life of physical health — Hilutz Atzamot,
A life in which there is a fear of heaven and fear of sin
— Yirat Shamayim ve'Yirat Chet,
A life in which there is no humiliation — Ein Busha u'Chlimah,
A life of wealth and honor — Osher ve'Kavod,
A life in which we will have love of Torah and awe and reverence of GOD
— Ahavat Torah ve'Yirat HaShem,
A life in which Adonai, the LORD, fulfills our heartfelt requests for good.*

Amen.

Selah.

The cycle of the moon, with its waxing and waning, is symbolic of renewal. It is a constant illustration of the fact that, as we journey through life, we too experience continual growth and decline. The observance of Rosh Chodesh (the 'head' or beginning of each new month, signaled by the new moon) was the first commandment given to Israel as a newly formed nation (Exodus 12:2). Israel thus has a special identification with the moon.

It serves as a reminder that Israel's prominence may fade and seem to disappear but the nation will always re-emerge and grow to fullness, as does the moon.

For Israel, and those who stand with her, the sighting and blessing of the new moon is an event of inspiration and provides an opportune time for special prayer and intercession for Israel. Interestingly, the importance of the recognition of each Hebrew month is underscored by the fact that its observance was forbidden in Eretz Yisrael during the rule of the Syrian-Greek King Antiochus, and also during that of the Romans, together with the prohibitions against the study of Torah, keeping the Sabbath and circumcision.

Exodus 12:2 references the first month that was set in place by GOD to mark the deliverance from Egypt, "This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you."

² Taken from the mailing list of Keren Hannah Pryor - "Appointments With GOD" - www.jcstudies.com.

Notice that He says it is for you! The months are set in place for our benefit. It is as though our Father has stored a gift for us at the start of each new month – a fresh opportunity of renewal, to strengthen ourselves in our relationship with Him and in our service to Him.

A connection is made between Rosh Chodesh and the festivals in all three sections of the Hebrew Scriptures [the Tanakh], the Torah, the Prophets and the Writings [Torah, Nevi'im and Ketuvim].

- **Numbers 29:1**
- *“On the first day [New Moon] of the seventh month [Tishrei³ - Rosh HaShanah] you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not work at your occupations. It is a day for you to blow the trumpets...”*
- **Isaiah 66:23**
- *“From New Moon to New Moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me,” says the LORD.*
- **2 Chronicles 2:3**
- *“I am now about to build a house for the name of the LORD my GOD and dedicate it to him for offering fragrant incense before him, and for the regular offering of the rows of bread, and for burnt offerings morning and evening, on the Sabbaths and the New Moons and the Appointed Festivals of the LORD our GOD, as ordained forever for Israel.”*

Another similarity between Rosh Chodesh and the festivals, according to rabbinic tradition, is that it is permissible to fast on any day with the exception of Shabbat, Rosh Chodesh, Festival days and Chol Ha'Moed [the interim days of the weeks of Pesach and Sukkot].

The main differences between Rosh Chodesh and the Festivals are:

On Rosh Chodesh work is permitted as if it was an ordinary workday; unless, of course, it falls on a Shabbat or a Festival. However, due to the particular identification of women with the moon (for many reasons, e.g., the menstrual cycle) it was long a tradition that women refrained from working to whatever extent possible. In this generation, women are again discovering Rosh Chodesh and are creating ways to celebrate it together.

It is written in the Torah that we be joyful on the Festivals and celebrate with festive meals, but this is not the case with Rosh Chodesh. It is, nevertheless, considered a day of gladness and hope.

In synagogue services on Rosh Chodesh the Torah portion is read but the Haftarah (portion from the prophets) is not, as it is on Shabbat; a clear indication that it is a weekday.

A significant difference is that the Festivals are celebrated in a physically overt fashion. They are obviously different from ordinary week days; there is a transformation, an aura of

³ PLEASE NOTE Kanaan Ministries does not agree with the Babylonian names for the months - i.e. Nissan, Kislev, and so forth. We only use the Biblical names for the months. Please see the article: INFLUENCE OF BABYLON ON BIBLICAL FEASTS <http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=479>

holiness that encompasses these festive days. Rosh Chodesh, on the other hand, appears to be a regular weekday, with no special meals, dress or concrete actions taken. Like the shy moon, it quietly and softly comes and goes. This reticence, however, does not diminish its value and holiness. A renowned Torah teacher of this generation, Rabbi Yosef Dov Solovetichik, explains that Rosh Chodesh was celebrated more visibly in the times of the Temple. The Levites would sing and conduct the same ceremony as they did on the Festivals. Without the Temple, that external stimulus is lacking.

The word of the LORD came to Zechariah on the fourth day of the ninth month, which is Kislev (Zechariah 7:1).

The month of Kislev falls during the final days of Autumn. The surroundings are vibrant with the reds and golds of the season, but the days are shorter and the hours of darkness lengthen. The cold of Winter is beginning to set in. It is fitting, then, that the historical festival of Hanukkah is celebrated at this time of the year, always on 25th Kislev, for the hallmark of Hanukkah is the triumph of light over darkness.

In the second century BCE, the Syrian Greeks had invaded and were ruling over the land of Israel. The Greek ruler Antiochus IV forbade the Jews, on penalty of death, to observe Shabbat, to teach or study the Torah, to circumcise their sons or to follow the kosher food laws. The Holy Temple was taken over and desecrated, and the people of GOD now had to bow down to Caesar.

The harshness of the persecution eventually led to a revolt by a Hasmonean family, Mattit'yahu [Matthew] and his five sons. Led by one of the sons, Judah Maccabee, a small army of faithful Jews succeeded in overthrowing the large Greek army. They reclaimed control of the Temple and were able to purify it and dedicate it once more to worship of the One GOD of Israel. The word Hanukkah means dedication. It is recorded that only one jar of pure oil for the Menorah was found intact in the Sanctuary, enough for one day's lighting. It would take eight days to prepare fresh oil, but the Maccabees believed they should consecrate the Temple as soon as possible and they lit the menorah in faith. Miraculously, the oil continued to burn for the required eight days. The light of GOD had triumphed over the darkness of the enemy.

The Tribe of Benjamin"

"According to the order of the encampments [of the tribes of Israel around the Tabernacle in the wilderness], Tishrei corresponds to Ephraim, Cheshvan to Menashe [Manasseh] and Kislev to Binyamin [Benjamin] ..."

There is a special connection between the tribes of Benjamin, Judah and Levi as they are each associated with the Beit HaMikdash, the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch writes in his commentary that Benjamin merited having the Temple stand in his allocated portion of the Land for three reasons:

- He was the only one of Jacob's sons to be born in the Land of Israel.
- He was the only brother who did not take part in the sale of Joseph.
- He cared for his father Jacob in his old age.

These factors establish that Benjamin reflected the characteristics represented by the House of GOD. His Holy Temple was only built in the Land of Israel. It was intended to be a symbol of GOD's Presence – a place of His Divine Love that united His people as family in their love for Him and for one another. This love is expressed in the honoring of parents and in caring for the elderly and the weak.

The Temple was also partially situated on a strip of land in Judah's territory. Judah, after all, had inherited the kingship of the Davidic dynasty, and from his line would come the King of kings, Messiah, who at the end of days will reign from that very place.

The Levites and kohanim (priests) were included as they performed the worship and services in the Temple (Genesis 49:27). Zvi Ryzman points out that all three tribes displayed remarkable selfless devotion, to the extent that they would give their life to sanctify the Name of GOD.⁶ Their devotion ideally demonstrated the spirit of Hanukkah.

Levi was the tribe that immediately stepped forward at the incident of the Sin of the Golden Calf when Moses called out: "Whoever is for the LORD, join me!" (Exodus 32:26). It was Pinchas, of the tribe of Levi, who performed the zealous action necessary to end the plague on the Israelites and GOD conferred upon him a covenant of eternal priesthood (Numbers 25:13). The evidence of the "selfless devotion" of Benjamin is recorded above.

The commitment of Judah was displayed when he bravely and publicly admitted his wrongdoing in order to vindicate his daughter-in-law Tamar (Genesis 38:1-26).

One of Judah's descendants, Nachshon ben Aminadav, is considered to be the one who first stepped bravely into the waters of Yam Suf, the Sea of Reeds or the Red Sea, before they parted to allow the fleeing Israelites to pass through.

This month of Kislev, with its glowing Festival of Lights, Hanukkah, epitomizes dedication, wholehearted commitment, and devotion to GOD to the point of laying down one's life for His Name's sake, as did His Son and our Messiah, Yeshua. It is a perfect time to dedicate our lives afresh to our GOD and His Word, and to allow the Light of Messiah to shine more brightly through our lives to bring hope to those in darkness around us.

Highlighted points⁴ regarding the NINTH month:

Every Hebrew month is TRADITIONALLY linked with:

- A letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
- One of the Twelve Tribes of Israel.

The following points regarding this new month are based on these principles.

- Month of Benjamin, the only child born in the Land of Israel, so watch Israel and understand that everything that happens to Israel is a prophetic indicator of what is happening in the spirit to the Body of Messiah.
- A month to develop your warfare strategies; to have prophetic revelation of war strategies. Benjamin was the most gifted with the bow. *Genesis 49:27, "Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil."*
- A month to enter into new levels of trust and rest. We need to believe that we need to tap into what God commands (for example being thankful in all things), and make that a lifestyle. Be sure to "be thankful" for all the difficult situations you find yourself in. See *1 Thessalonians 5:18, "In everything give thanks ..."*
- The month of Hebrew letter, SAMEKH (it looks like a full circle). This means trust, confidence, support, and coming full circle. We are in season of developing trust and confidence. If you do not develop this, then you will find yourself going around the same old circle again.
- The latter rain starts in September (Feast of Tabernacles), so by now it should be a running river. The process of revelation is: ankle-deep, knee-deep, waist-deep, and then "swimmably-deep." (Ezekiel 47) GOD wants to carry us in the river so we don't just have to walk.

Shalom and blessings!

⁴ Chuck Pierce, "Glory of Zion", <http://gloryofzion.org/webstore/Scripts/prodView.asp?idproduct=981>

Introduction

Chanukah [sometimes spelled as “Hanukah”] is a Hebrew word that means "dedication".

This feast is celebrated in memory of the re-dedication of the Temple to the LORD, after the miraculous victory of the small Maccabee army over the mighty forces of the Greek ruler Antiochus Epiphanes.

According to many Biblical scholars, Chanukah is also the time that Y’shua [Jesus] the Messiah was conceived ... His Birth being nine months later during *Sukkot* [the Feast of Tabernacles].

When we celebrate Chanukah, we are declaring that we have turned from pagan, sun-god worship [Baal, Nimrod, Mithra, Tamuz, and so forth], to the worship of the One True GOD, YHVH. It is also a re-dedication of our own “temple” and lives back to Messiah!

Chanukah is not one of the Feasts of the LORD ... but it is a Biblical feast. It is referred to in a number of places in both the TaNaKh [Old Testament] and the Apostolic Writings [New Testament]. In John Chapter 10, we read that Y’shua [Jesus] visited the Temple during this feast [He was in Jerusalem during the winter feast of dedication, and visited the Temple]. Both Daniel and Zechariah describe prophetically the Chanukah story. But most important of all, we also have very significant End-Time and prophetic references to Chanukah in many places – such as in Matthew 24, Mark 13, 2 Thessalonians 2, and Revelation 13.

One of the main figures in the Chanukah story, Antiochus Epiphanes, is the clearest picture we have in the Bible of the coming anti-messiah [anti-christ]. Chanukah is the story of victory over apostasy and lawlessness. It is therefore very important for us today.

Y’shua [Jesus] honored this feast ... and the Book of Hebrews includes the people involved in the Chanukah story in its list of the “Heroes of Faith”.

Hebrews 11:33-38 “33 Who by [the help of] faith subdued kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promised blessings, closed the mouths of lions, 34 Extinguished the power of raging fire, escaped the devourings of the sword, out of frailty and weakness won strength and became stalwart, even mighty and resistless in battle, routing alien hosts. 35 [Some] women received again their dead by a resurrection. Others were tortured to death with clubs, refusing to accept release [offered on the terms of denying their faith], so that they might be resurrected to a better life. 36 Others had to suffer the trial of mocking and scourging and even chains and imprisonment.”

“37 They were stoned to death; they were lured with tempting offers [to renounce their faith]; they were sawn asunder; they were slaughtered by the sword; [while they were alive] they had to go about wrapped in the skins of sheep and goats, utterly destitute, oppressed, cruelly treated—38 [Men] of whom the world was not worthy—roaming over the desolate places and the mountains, and [living] in caves and caverns and holes of the earth.”

The Chanukah Story

Let's rewind and tell the story to Chanukah from the beginning. In 332 B.C., the armies of Alexander the Great defeated the Persian ruler Darius III at Issus. Only three years later, Alexander's swift armies had conquered the entire then-known world from Europe to India. His mentor was Aristotle, and Alexander used Greek culture to unify his vast Empire.

After a very short career, Alexander died at only thirty-three years of age, and his empire was divided between his four generals into four different kingdoms. Two of the superpowers – the Syrian and the Egyptian kingdoms referred to in Daniel Chapter 11 as the king of the North and the king of the South – became bitter rivals with little Israel constantly caught in the middle.

In 171 B.C., Antiochus IV ascended the throne in Syria [Daniel 11:21]. He was a very evil ruler, full of pride, and he took the name Antiochus Theos Epiphanes, or Antiochus Epiphanes, meaning "god manifest". He worked hard to "Hellenize" his subjects by forcing them to adopt the Greek culture and religion.

As a result, two parties developed in Israel:

- The first wanted to adapt to the Greek influence *while*,
- The second was committed to stay pure and faithful to the Covenant.



The current High Priest's own brother was among the Hellenists ... he even changed his name from Yeshua to the Greek name, *Jason*. By offering Antiochus a bribe, he received the Greeks' help to become High Priest instead of his brother. This so-named Jason eventually killed his brother.

The apostasy described in the Book of Daniel [11:32] was in full swing.

Daniel 11:32 "32 And such as violate the covenant he shall pervert and seduce with flatteries, but the people who know their GOD shall prove themselves strong and shall stand firm and do exploits [for GOD]."

The apostate Jason went on to build both a Greek gymnasium in Jerusalem – where the men performed nude according to Greek fashion – as well as a temple to the Greek god *Phallus*. Jason also enrolled the people of Jerusalem as citizens of Antioch, the capitol of Syria. However ... an even more fanatical Hellenist named Menelaus paid an even larger bribe to Antiochus to become High Priest instead of Jason.

Menelaus was not even of a priestly family, and in order to pay his promised bribe, he had to sell the golden vessels from the Temple. At this time, the ambitions of Antiochus Epiphanes had grown, and he set out to conquer the world and revive the entire empire of Alexander. Eventually Rome stopped him in his tracks, and in anger he began to turn against the Jewish people, destroying Jerusalem and killing thousands. What the Prophet Daniel had prophetically foretold almost four hundred years earlier was happening:

Daniel 11:30-31 “30 For the ships of Kittim [or Cyprus, in Roman hands] shall come against him; therefore he shall be grieved and discouraged and turn back [to Palestine] and carry out his rage and indignation against the holy covenant and GOD’s people, and he shall do his own pleasure; he shall even turn back and make common cause with those [Jews] who abandon the holy covenant [with GOD]. 31 And armed forces of his shall appear [in the holy land] and they shall pollute the sanctuary, the [spiritual] stronghold, and shall take away the continual [daily burnt offering]; and they shall set up [in the sanctuary] the abomination that astonishes and makes desolate [probably an altar to a pagan god].”

On the 15th day of the ninth month, 168 B.C., Antiochus Epiphanes erected a statue of Zeus – but with his own face – on top of the holy altar in the Temple. Ten days later – on the 25th day of the ninth month, the birthday of Zeus⁵ – he offered a pig on this altar.

Antiochus sprinkled its blood in the Holy of Holies, and poured out its broth over the Torah scrolls before he cut them to pieces and burnt them. The Holy Temple was converted to a shrine to Zeus!

Antiochus then went on to issue a death sentence over anyone who observed the Sabbath, kept the Biblical dietary laws, was circumcised, or even studied the Torah ... whole families were put to death. Babies were hung around their mothers' necks, and they were thrown from the walls of the cities as thousands became martyrs for their faith.

One of them said before he died, "It is good, being put to death by men, to look for hope from GOD to be raised up again by him ..." [2 Macc. 7:14].

The Deliverance

Eventually the deliverance began with one righteous and Godly father.

When Antiochus’s soldiers came to the little town of Modin, close to Jerusalem, they built another altar to Zeus. Then they assembled all the townspeople and ordered an old priest named Mattathias to sacrifice a pig on this altar. Mattathias refused. But an apostate priest stepped forward in his place in order to perform the abomination.

⁵ Today, this date is December 25th – Christmas Day. If one researches the history of Christmas, you will find its roots deep in paganism and sun-god worship. Many legends and religions speak of their pagan gods – such as Tamuz – being born on this date. If you are interested in learning more, please contact the office.

In rage, Mattathias grabbed the sword of the closest Syrian soldier and killed him. He then rushed forward and also killed the apostate priest upon the altar. In the commotion that followed, his five sons followed his example, and overpowered the other Syrian soldiers killing all of them. The people of the small town fled to the mountains to avoid Antiochus's revenge.

The revolt, however, spread.



The old priest Mattathias died of exhaustion and sickness after one year ... but Y'hudah [Judah] – one his five sons, who was nicknamed “the Maccabee” or “the Hammer” because of his military might – succeeded him and carried on with the fight against the Empire.

After three years of hard guerrilla warfare, the small band under Y'hudah [Judah] the Maccabee and his brothers was able to throw out the Syrian forces after two stunning victories in open battle.

Zechariah 9:13-15 “13 For I have bent Judah for Myself as My bow, filled the bow with Ephraim as My arrow, and will stir up your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and will make you [Israel] as the sword of a mighty man. 14 And the LORD shall be seen over them and His arrow shall go forth as the lightning, and the LORD GOD will blow the trumpet and will go forth in the windstorms of the south. 15 The LORD of hosts shall defend and protect them; and they shall devour and they shall tread on [their fallen enemies] as on slingstones [that have missed their aim], and they shall drink [of victory] and be noisy and turbulent as from wine and become full like bowls [used to catch the sacrificial blood], like the corners of the [sacrificial] altar.”

“A Great Miracle Happened There!”

After their victory, the band immediately set out for Jerusalem to restore the Temple. On the 25th day of the ninth month, 165 B.C. – exactly three years after the Temple had been defiled – Israel rededicated the altar to the LORD. However, there was only enough holy

oil for the menorah to last for one day ... but according to tradition, the oil miraculously lasted for eight days until new oil had been produced.

Whether this is true or not, the Most High had for sure done a great miracle ... the tiny Nation of Israel had overcome the superpower of the day, and gained an independence that lasted almost a hundred years. As the saying goes during Chanukah:

"*Nes gadol hayah sh'am*" ... a great miracle happened there [or "here" if you live in Israel].

The miraculous victory over the un-Godly forces of apostasy – through the Maccabees – gained religious freedom for the Jewish people until the Messiah was born. When He was carried into the Temple by His GOD-fearing parents to be presented before the LORD, the prophecy of Haggai was fulfilled:

Haggai 2:9 "9 The latter glory of this house [with its successor, to which Jesus came] shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts; and in this place will I give peace and prosperity, says the LORD of hosts."

Celebrate Chanukah Today

Why should believers celebrate this feast? Here are a few reasons:

- Chanukah is part of salvation history.

The miracles that happened during Chanukah made it possible for the Savior of the world to be born since Y'shua (Jesus) had to be born by GOD-fearing parents, living in obedience to the Torah. We certainly need to celebrate that.

Galatians 4:4 "4 But when the proper time had fully come, GOD sent His Son, born of a woman, born subject to [the regulations of] the Law,"

When the time of their purification – according to the Torah/Law of Moses – had been completed, Yosef [Joseph] and Miriam [Mary] took Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the LORD.

- Israel and the patriarchs are "our forefathers".

Shaul (Paul) calls Israel "our forefathers" in 1 Corinthians 10:1. Israel's history is also our history. We [the wild olive] have been grafted into GOD's Covenant People [the natural olive].

Romans 11:17 "17 But if some of the branches were broken off, while you, a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among them to share the richness [of the root and sap] of the olive tree,"

- Gentile believers are called to rejoice with GOD's people Israel.

Romans 15:10 "10 Again it is said, Rejoice (exult), O Gentiles, along with His [own] people;"

- Chanukah is prophetic for the End-Times.

Chanukah has very important prophetic lessons for us living in the End-Times. It is the story of victory over apostasy and lawlessness that will be repeated again in the last days.

- Chanukah is a time for re-dedication.

Each of us are the temples of the LORD, and we need to dedicate our lives to be ready for the Second Coming of the Messiah.

Ephesians 2:19-22 "19 Therefore you are no longer outsiders (exiles, migrants, and aliens, excluded from the rights of citizens), but you now share citizenship with the saints (GOD's own people, consecrated and set apart for Himself); and you belong to GOD's [own] household. 20 You are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus Himself the chief Cornerstone. 21 In Him the whole structure is joined (bound, welded) together harmoniously, and it continues to rise (grow, increase) into a holy temple in the LORD [a sanctuary dedicated, consecrated, and sacred to the presence of the LORD]. 22 In Him [and in fellowship with one another] you yourselves also are being built up [into this structure] with the rest, to form a fixed abode (dwelling place) of GOD in (by, through) the Spirit."

- Pray for the Remnant.

We need to remember Chanukah, and pray for a faithful Remnant again today in Israel.

This is what the LORD says:

Jeremiah 31:7 "7 For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and shout for the head of the nations [on account of the chosen people, Israel]. Proclaim, praise, and say, The LORD has saved His people, the remnant of Israel!"

- Pray the LORD will repeat the miracle of Chanukah again in Israel.

Zechariah 12:3, 6 "3 And in that day I will make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all peoples; all who lift it or burden themselves with it shall be sorely wounded. And all the nations of the earth shall come and gather together against it. 6 In that day will I make the chiefs of Judah like a big, blazing pot among [sticks of] wood and like a flaming torch among sheaves [of grain], and they shall devour all the peoples round about, on the right hand and on the left; and they of Jerusalem shall yet again dwell and sit securely in their own place, in Jerusalem."

- Celebrate the coming of the Messiah.

We can celebrate that the Word became Flesh inside of Miriam [Mary] at this time of year ... the True Light that gives Light to every man was coming into the world. It is so important that we stay faithful to the Word [Torah] of GOD and are guided by its Light in these last days! As David writes ...

Psalm 119:105 "105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Take a stand for Truth and celebrate Chanukah this year.

Pray for faithfulness to the Word of GOD in these last days!

Pray that many will forsake pagan traditions this year and return to the Hebraic Roots of our Faith!

Pray for a re-dedication of the spiritual Temple that the Messiah will return to!

WHAT AN AWESOME GOD WE SERVE!

Truly ...

Psalm 19:1-2 "THE HEAVENS declare the glory of GOD; and the firmament shows and proclaims His handiwork. 2 Day after day pours forth speech, and night after night shows forth knowledge."

We pray you and your family have a joyous and Light-filled Chanukah ... may YHVH's Light continue to shine upon you ... may you be blessed and rejoice in His Abounding Faithfulness and Love!

Shalom!

The Priestly Blessing ...

Numbers 6:24-26

“²⁴ The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: ²⁵ The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: ²⁶ The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”

The Priestly Blessing ...

Hebraic Translation⁶

"YHVH will kneel before you presenting gifts, and He will guard you with a hedge of protection, YHVH will illuminate the wholeness of His Being toward you, bringing order, and He will provide you with love, sustenance, and friendship, YHVH will lift up the wholeness of His Being and look upon you, and He will set in place all you need to be whole and complete."

⁶ Translation by Jeff A. Benner, for more information, please see http://www.ancient-hebrew.org/12_blessing.html