

SEVENTH New Moon 2016¹



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

Dates to diarize:

- New Moon,
 - 4 July, 11:01 UT
- First Quarter Moon,
 - 12 July, 0:52 UT
- Full Moon,
 - 19 July, 22:56 UT
- Last Quarter Moon,
 - 26 July, 23:00 UT
- Next New Moon,
 - 2 August, 20:44 UT

¹ Please note ... this moon prayer has been edited and revised from the monthly emails sent out by Steve Olumuyiwa [steve@stremco.com]. We thank him for his emails and contribution ... and his heart to keep watch on the walls!

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:

- *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 worshiping things the LORD your GOD has apportioned to all the nations under heaven (**Deuteronomy 4:19**).*
- *... and contrary to my command has worshiped other gods, bowing down to them or to the sun or the moon or the stars of the sky (**Deuteronomy 17:3**).*
- *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 (**Isaiah 47:13-15**).*
- *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" (**Jeremiah 10:1-2**).*
- *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 (**Daniel 1:20**).*

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.

Grace, Mercy, Love and Peace continue to be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of GOD and of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ) our Sovereign and Savior, as we bring you seasonal greetings in that same Wonderful Name of Adonai Y'shua, Melech Y'Israel (Lord Jesus, the King of Israel) — the soon coming King of the nations (Revelation 19:16).

In this season of the troubling of the nations with so many Islamic scourges, we need more than ever before to remember the Word of our GOD concerning Ishmael:

Genesis 16:11-12 *“11 And the Angel of the Lord continued, See now, you are with child and shall bear a son, and shall call his name Ishmael [God hears], because the Lord has heard and paid attention to your affliction. 12 And he [Ishmael] will be as a wild ass among men; **his hand will be against every man and every man’s hand against him, and he will live to the east and on the borders of all his kinsmen.**”*

We have come to the seasons of the wildness of Ishmael where his terror-hand is against everyman, and where he has become the trouble of the NATIONS. We need to pray for the second half of this profound Scripture. It is also time for every man’s hand to come against him.

We need to ask that the LORD indeed open the eyes of America, and the affluent nations of West, as well as the UN, so that they will unite the hand of everyman against the Ishmaelite tyranny and harassment of these seasons.

As the nations of the earth continue to shake, let us pray that He will fill His House with GLORY. Remember that He said in **Haggai 2:6-10**, that while He shakes the nations, He will fill HIS HOUSE with GLORY. We are His HOUSE/ Body. May you receive the Glory of His Visitation this season as you continue to watch and pray for His Will to be done and for His Kingdom to come speedily—Amen.

We want to reiterate again here, that our newsletters are not meant to magnify satan and his demonic forces. Our position is that as the Church of Y’shua Messiah (Christ Jesus), we stand stronger and in more superior position to the already defeated forces of satan (Hebrews 2:13-14).

Our aim with these letters is to help you understand why you need to live holy, and know how to watch unto prayer. We therefore fully commend you to the grace of our victorious KING, Y’shua Messiah (Jesus Christ), as you read through the information included in this report.

The Month of Tammuz

Among the Jewish people, this is the month of Tammuz — a month of wrestling through fasting and lamentation to remember the calamities that have befallen the Jewish people in the past and to pray for the help of the Most High GOD.

The month of Tammuz is also the month of Reuben, the first son of Jacob, who wrestled with the paradoxes of life through the uneasy relationship between his father and mother Leah. He sinned by having sexual interaction with his father’s concubine, Bilhah (Genesis 35:22), and was cursed by Jacob (Genesis 49:4).

However, there are indications that he repented, for example, he did not support the desire of his jealous brothers to kill Joseph in Genesis 37:21-22. Like Y'shua (Jesus), our Good Shepherd, Reuben did not want any of his brothers to perish.

His redemption from the curse is evident by Moses' prophetic word in Deuteronomy 33:6, *"Let Reuben live, and not die; and let not his men be few."*

As we wrestle over various issues this month, we must wrestle with knowledge. Our Mighty GOD—EL GIBBOR—will surely back us up so that we are victorious in all ways. As you wrestle in prayer and intercession, please pray that all who have gone astray through sin (Isaiah 53:6) will now return to Y'shua (Jesus), the Bishop and Shepherd of their souls:

1 Peter 2:25 *"25 For you were going astray like [so many] sheep, but now you have come back to the Shepherd and Guardian (the Bishop) of your souls."*

Pray **Psalm 23** over your life and family for the LORD our Shepherd is very near His people this month. Pray for the intervention of the Good Shepherd in the nations, especially nations that are terrorized by Islamic insurgence (Iraq, Syria, Nigeria and other states of Africa, and so forth). Pray for the peace of Jerusalem (**Psalm 122**).

Upcoming celestial² 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 (Psalm 97:6, Psalm 19:1-6) during the following events:

- ✓ **New Moon, 4 July, 11:01 UT**
- ✓ **33rd hour of the Moon.** Proclaim the death of Y'shua (Jesus) (Hebrews 2:14-15) to nullify all 33rd degree enchantments and sorceries. Command the moon to declare the righteousness and glory of the LORD, Psalm 97:6 and 19:1.
- ✓ **First crescent Moon.** In esoteric circles, the first crescent moon is called "Diana's Bow" and is invoked to shoot moon arrows for causing death to amass blood for healing and renewal. Ask the LORD to break the bows of the wicked in the heavens. Ask the LORD to rescue you and be your covering (Psalm 18, especially verses 19-34).
- ✓ **Last crescent Moon**, so-called "Hecate's Sickle":
 - ➔ Proclaim **Revelation 14:14** to break any evil bow or sickle programmed to shoot arrows of sickness and death ... INSTEAD, lift up Y'shua (Jesus), our KING Who sits on the white cloud with a sharpened sickle in His Hand (**Revelation 14:14**).

² Taken from <http://www.seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy-calendar-2015.html> and Steve Olumuyiwa's monthly New Moon report.

- ➔ Ask Y'shua (Jesus) to visit His enemies with His Special Righteous Sickle.
- ➔ Declare **Hebrews 2:14-15** and proclaim the defeat of satan and his hosts.
- **July 4 - New Moon.**
 - The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This phase occurs at 11:01 UTC. This is the best time of the month to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters because there is no moonlight to interfere.
 - Juno at Jupiter. NASA's Juno spacecraft is scheduled to arrive at Jupiter after a five year journey. Launched on August 5, 2011, Juno will be inserted into a polar orbit around the giant planet on or around July 4, 2016. From this orbit the spacecraft will study Jupiter's atmosphere and magnetic field. Juno will remain in orbit until October 2017, when the spacecraft will be de-orbited to crash into Jupiter.
- **July 19 - Full Moon.**
 - The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This phase occurs at 22:57 UTC. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Buck Moon because the male buck deer would begin to grow their new antlers at this time of year. This moon has also been known as the Full Thunder Moon and the Full Hay Moon.
- **July 28, 29-Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower.**
 - The Delta Aquarids is an average shower that can produce up to 20 meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by debris left behind by comets Marsden and Kracht. The shower runs annually from July 12 to August 23. It peaks this year on the night of July 28 and morning of July 29. The second quarter moon will block most of the fainter meteors this year but if you are patient you should still be able to catch quite a few good ones. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Aquarius, but can appear anywhere in the sky.
- **July 16 - New Moon.**
 - The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This phase occurs at 20:44 UTC. This is the best time of the month to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters because there is no moonlight to interfere.

How do we pray this summer/winter?

Please organize all night prayer meetings to possess the gates of the times highlighted in this report. Pray also during the set times for the events. Remember, scripturally speaking, the summer is a time for harvest, battles and watching and praying!

As we watch and pray this New Moon, we will be empowered to fight a good fight of faith.

Remember **2 Corinthians 10:4-5** — *“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in GOD for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of GOD, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ”*. Following are the prayer points for this month, which we encourage you to pray, as led by the Holy Spirit.

- The New Moon is called “Dark Moon” by witches. For them, it is a season for shadow and darkness programming. This programming is carried out using the book of shadows. Apply the Blood of Y’shua (Jesus) to blot out the handwriting of ordinances recorded against you, your family, business, nation, and so forth, using this dangerous book (**Colossians 2:14**).
- 🕊️ Give thanks/praise to YHVH, the KING of all seasons for the transition. Enter His Gates with thanksgiving (**Psalms 8, 19, 100, 136, 148**). Rejoice in YHVH our KING for His Faithfulness and Loving-kindness!
- 🕊️ (**Psalms 24, Isaiah 26:3**) Possess the gate of New Moon, the summer/winter solstice, full moon, lunar eclipse, and all transactions that shall occur in this season. Redeem all with the Blood of Y’shua (**Colossians 1:20**). Let us uproot every corrupt seed of the devil from gates of time and season (**Jeremiah 1:10**).
- 🕊️ Declare the Kingship of Y’shua (Jesus), our Messiah, over all things (yourself, family, business/job, community, Church, Africa, principalities, powers, witchcraft spirits, water spirits, mountains, hills, winds, sun, moon, stars, planets, constellations, strongmen, satanic watchmen, and so forth).
- 🕊️ Bring repentance of personal sins, especially rebellion/disobedience, which is like the sin of witchcraft (**Psalms 15, Psalms 19:12-14**).
- 🕊️ Bring repentance for family sins (**Ephesians 5:21-25, 6:1-9**), also repent on behalf of the Body of Messiah. Repent especially for our sleeping and slumbering (**Isaiah 56:9-12**), which has caused the enemy to bring demonic celebrations into the Church with such labels as “Saint John the Baptist Day” (**Isaiah 56:9-12**).
- 🕊️ Repent on behalf of the society (**Deuteronomy 4:15-19**).
- 🕊️ Ask YHVH GOD for forgiveness and mercy. Bring atonement by the Blood of Y’shua Messiah (**Psalms 51, Hebrews 9:12-14**). Invite the Holy Spirit to come and fill you, your household, and so forth.
- 🕊️ Blow the shofar to YHVH our KING in this new season, and ask Him to remember us against our enemies in spiritual or physical warfare (**Numbers 10:9-10, Psalms 81:3**).
- 🕊️ Ask the LORD of Hosts to release His Wind into the mulberry trees in the realm of the spirit to release a marching forward sound for the army

of heaven to come down and help us in this season (**2 Samuel 5: 22-25**).

- 🔊 Apply the Blood of Y'shua (Jesus) on the sun and moon. Exercise spiritual legislation to blot out the voices of satan's hosts from the heavens with respect to their invocations, mantras, rituals, and incantations, which they do at this time (**Revelation 12:11, Colossians 2:14-15**).
- 🔊 Command the heavens and all creation to reject/vomit all satanic rituals and sacrifices.
- 🔊 Disconnect the army of satan from the heavens and proclaim Y'SHUA AS THE WAY (**John 14:6**) to the heavens. All contrary ways are blocked and cut off.
- 🔊 Let us ask the Lamb with Seven Horns and Seven Eyes and Seven-Fold Spirit of YHVH GOD (**Revelation 5**) to seal off the ley-lines and ley-routes of the army of satan, cutting off their astral horses and chariots (**Micah 5:10-15**). Some ley-lines are set up by burying space-like bottles in the ground. Some are set up by engraving the pyramid and a circle into the earth. Others are set up using the square and the compass. Let us command the earth to vomit these evil tokens (**Jeremiah 22:29**). Let us ask YHVH GOD of Hosts to send His Almighty Rod to shatter the demonic tokens buried in the earth into pieces.
- 🔊 Let us ask YHVH of Hosts to cut off all **Babylonian sorcery, arrow and liver sorcery**, at the parting of the roads (**Ezekiel 21: 21**).
- 🔊 Let us apply the Blood of the Lamb on all paths around us to turn them into paths of righteousness (**Psalms 23:3**) which the devil and his agents cannot trespass.
- 🔊 Ask our Messiah to use His Sickle to break the sickle of Hecate and the bow of Diana in the heavens (**Revelation 14:14**).
- 🔊 Command the heavens to declare the Glory of YHVH GOD (**Psalms 19:1-6**). Announce to the false gods of the nations that the gods who have not created the heavens and the earth will perish (**Jeremiah 10:11**).
- 🔊 Shut the heavens with the Key of David against all satanic watchmen; shut the covens and esoteric centers with the Key of David against witches and occultists (**Revelations 3:7-8**).
- 🔊 Use your priestly authority to break all satanic covenants which your family, the ancients, satanic prince, satanic watchmen, politicians, religious leaders, occultists, and so forth, have over you life, family, business/job, community, state, nation, Africa, the Church, and so forth (**1 Peter 2:9, Isaiah 28:14-18**).
- 🔊 Renounce the invocation made around coven circles. Cancel the sorcery invoked using the four elements: wind, fire, earth and water.
- 🔊 Command these elements to rebel against witches and wizards. Proclaim **Jeremiah 10:11**.
- 🔊 Command the elements to praise YHVH GOD, the Creator of Heaven

and earth (**Genesis 1, Psalm 148**).

- 🔊 Renounce and cancel the negative dance and energies around coven circles. Apply the Blood of KING Y'shua (Jesus) to blot out the circles, the astral projections and medi-focusing.
- 🔊 Renounce and cancel every satanic dance/activity that produces death (Matthew 14: 6-9) in your life, family, state, nation, Church, and so forth. Renounce and cancel the tokens of operation and tools of power used by witches at this time: **red, orange and black candles, magical herbs and oils for strength, incense, crystal stones, moonstone and sunstone for vision, sandalwood, mirrors, knots, ink, sand, toys, 13 inch cords, double edged knives, drums, rattles, black clothes, stolen umbilical cords, pine cones, and so forth.**
- 🔊 Ask YHVH GOD to frustrate these tokens (**Isaiah 44:24-25**). There shall be no vision for the army of satan.

Micah 3:6-7 "6 Therefore it shall be night to you, so that you shall have no vision; yes, it shall be dark to you without divination. And the sun shall go down over the false prophets, and the day shall be black over them. 7 And the seers shall be put to shame and the diviners shall blush and be confounded; yes, they shall all cover their lips, for there is no answer from GOD."

- 🔊 **Use Isaiah 47, Jeremiah 46:11-24, and Ezekiel 13:17-23** to pray against the activities of water spirits, witches and the queen of heaven. They must come down from their throne and sit in silence and darkness in Y'shua's (Jesus') Name.
- 🔊 Pray against witchcraft agenda to amass blood for healing and renewal. Let us tell witches and other sorcerers that they cannot be healed during the season (**Nahum 2 and 3**) because the LORD says there is no healing of their wounds. They cannot renew their strength either because it is only by waiting on YHVH GOD that one's strength is renewed (**Isaiah 40:31**).
- 🔊 Let us pray that the human blood which they want to use to renew their strength will become a snare and a trap for them (**Psalm 69:22-25**).
- 🔊 Summer time is a time to pluck and gather fruit, therefore, it is the time of fruitfulness in our lives (**2 Samuel 16:1-2, Jeremiah 40:10, 12**). Let us pray that the LORD will help us to reap a bumper harvest in all aspects of our lives (**Deuteronomy 28:1-14**).
- 🔊 Pray:

Isaiah 65:21-22 "21 They shall build houses and inhabit them, and they shall plant vineyards and eat the fruit of them. 22 They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat [the fruit]. For as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, and My chosen and elect shall long make use of and enjoy the work of their hands."

- 🔊 Let us pray that LORD will cause us to reap in joy all that we have sown in tears (**Psalm 126**).

- 🔊 Receive the following promises: **Deuteronomy 33:13-17, Psalm 121, Deuteronomy 28:1-14, Revelation 21:7.**
- 🔊 Apply the Blood of Y'shua (Jesus) on your mind, your pineal gland, spinal cord, and umbilical cord. Reject all forms of mind control by satan and his agents. Renew your mind daily by reading and meditating on the Word of GOD.
- 🔊 Pray for mass repentance, revival, salvation, righteousness, holiness, mercy; pray that the agenda of witchcraft, occultism, idolatry and new age to rob us of our blessing be overturned; pray for the emergence of Christian-servant rulers/leaders, favor, grace, wisdom, understanding, economic abundance, grace to watch and pray without ceasing, victorious Christian life, jubilee victory, and so forth.
- 🔊 Let us sound the shofar continuously at this time. Thank GOD for His Promise to grant us His Almighty Voice in the heavens (**Isaiah 51:16**). Thank Him for His Grace, Love, Mercy and Favor. Thank GOD for creating the sun to rule the day and the moon to rule the night. Thank GOD for creating the heavenly elements for signs and seasons (**Psalm 136, Genesis 1**).

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).
- 🕊️ 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 (**Psalm 105, 118**).
- 🕊️ He is called Faithful and True (**Revelation 19:11**).

May our GOD galvanize you with fresh zeal as you seek Him in this Shavuot/Pentecost season. May you find fresh grace in this fifth lunar month, SHALOM!!

The following two sections include traditional Jewish commentary and thoughts on the upcoming new month ...

PLEASE NOTE! There are MANY Jewish traditions — including those for celebrating the Feasts, the New Moons/months, as well as many other celebrations and customs ...

While there is NO problem in using the traditions — MANY of them are beautiful and can be used as guidelines for Feasts/celebrations — it is IMPORTANT that we keep in mind they are only *TRADITIONS*, and not *GOD-Given Instructions*.

We encourage everyone to FIRST study the Scriptures, to know/understand the Instructions the FATHER has given us ...

Interestingly, often times you'll find that the Scriptures give very little instruction as to HOW to celebrate or keep the Feasts (as in the case of Shabbat, where there are only a few direct instructions given) — this causes us to truly worship in Spirit AND Truth ...

To study the Scriptures for the TRUTH (Instructions), and then to be led by the SPIRIT in how the *Father* would like us to celebrate/keep His Appointed Times ... this results in us having to develop and walk in **RELATIONSHIP** with our Father, which is His very Heart ... the reason mankind was created in the first place — to walk in **FELLOWSHIP** with GOD, as back in the Garden ...

So, if there are traditions you find helpful — again, there is no problem in using the traditions ... we simply encourage everyone to research these traditions out (their history, origin, and meaning), and TEST them against Scriptures.

We need to be AWARE of and AVOID those traditions (including *BOTH* the Jewish and Constantine/"Christian" traditions/customs) that go AGAINST the Father's Instructions ...

Keep in mind, this was OFTEN the argument Y'shua had with the Pharisees and religious leaders in the New Testament, where their traditions were going against and nullifying the *Father's* Instructions (Mark 7:1-13 for example) ...

Be encouraged! As you learn to discern and differentiate between what is MAN-MADE tradition, and MAN-MADE customs/doctrines ... you discover that the Father's Yoke truly is LIGHT and EASY ...

That His Instructions are a BLESSING!

The month of Tammuz, the 17th of Tammuz, and the “Dire Straits” ...

The month of Tammuz is certainly an important time for GOD’s People! Below are some of the things that happened during this month:

- On the 1st of Tammuz, the twelve spies (Numbers Chapter 13-15, the Torah portion of “Sh’lach Lecha”) entered the Promised Land to spy out the Land and Its inhabitants. They saw that the Land was good, truly flowing with milk and honey ... but that the inhabitants were strong and mighty — how were they going to conquer these people and possess the Land?
- The ten spies returned with a bad report, despising the Land, and doubting that GOD would be faithful to His Promise — that Israel would be victorious, and would possess the Land ... He promised them the victory!
- During this month ... whose words/report are we going to believe? Choose to stand in faith upon GOD and His Word!
- It was during the month of Tammuz that the people became restless and impatient waiting for Moses to return from Mount Sinai ... they ask Aaron to make them a golden calf (Exodus 32) — this is idolatry.
- During this month ... are we guarding against idolatry in our own lives?
- It was on the 17th of Tammuz that Moses came down from Mount Sinai, and seeing the people worshipping the golden calf, broke the Two Tablets.

As GOD's People, we are called to be ALERT and watching the times and season, and to be on our knees in PRAYER. We must be hearing from YHVH GOD and drawing closer to Him. It is only by knowing Him and being HIDDEN in Messiah, that we will endure.

Eve of **22 July - 23 July** (17th of Tammuz according to the Jewish calendar) marks the beginning of what is called the "Dire Straits". This is a three week time of prayer and fasting for the nation of Israel and GOD's People, ending on the **13 August** (9 Av).

The 17th of Tammuz is a fast day for observant Jews (this is the fast of the fourth month in Zechariah 8:19) commemorating the breaching of the walls of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. The period between this day and the 9th of Av, when the Temple was destroyed, has come to be called "Bein HaMetzarim" or in English, "Between The [Dire] Straits". This name comes from Lamentations 1:3.

Throughout history, this period of three weeks has been crucial and DIRE for the nation of Israel and GOD's People. It is during this time that both Temples were destroyed and that much calamities have befallen the Jewish people. The **9th of Av** is particularly an important date during this period.

During this period of the "Dire Straits", many observant Jewish people lessen the extent of their rejoicing. They don't³:

- Conduct weddings.
- Play musical instruments or listen to music.
- Recite the *Shehecheyanu* blessing.
- Blessed are you, Lord, our God, king of the universe who has kept us alive, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this season (Amen)
- Because of this, they do not wear new clothing
- They do not eat fruit which they have not yet eaten this season so that they will not be required to recite *Shehecheyanu*.
- They do not get a haircut or shave.

However, all the laws of mourning are suspended on Shabbat. The fast days are postponed until Sunday, and the Shabbat is joyously celebrated. Why is all mourning suspended on Shabbat? We believe that every Shabbat constitutes a foretaste of the Messianic Era. As such, on Shabbat we only focus on the positive elements of life and the Jews also do so for the positive elements of this period. Jews believe that with the coming of the Messiah they will understand that all the suffering was necessary in order to reach the ultimate good. The prophet Jeremiah foretold that Messiah would transform their sorrowful days into days of joy "*I will turn their mourning into joy and will comfort them and make them rejoice from their sorrow*" (Jeremiah 31:12).

The Three Weeks should be a time of increased Torah study and giving of charity. During this period they spend extra time contemplating the less-than-perfect state the world is in now and what they can do to improve it by increasing in deeds of goodness and kindness.

The Three Weeks should be a time of increased Torah study and giving of charity, in keeping with the verse Isaiah 1:27 "*Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.*" Particularly, they are encouraged time and again the study of those portions of Torah that deal with the building of the Holy Temple.

³ Section taken from the email newsletter of Mark Biltz of *El Shaddai Ministries*, <http://www.elshaddaiministries.us/>

It is our generation in particular, that stands on the threshold of redemption, that should study with the awareness that these promises will be even more practical in the near future! There is more to the Three Weeks than fasting and lamentation. The prophet describes the fasts as "days of goodwill before GOD", days of opportunity to take advantage of the failings of the past as the inspiration for a renewed and even deeper bond with GOD. A sense of purification accompanies the fasting, a celebration of redemption overshadows the mourning, and a current of joy supersedes the sadness.

It is indeed a time calling for especial watchfulness over Israel and the Jews in the nations — pray for Israel and the peace of Jerusalem!

Please note too, that as the Wild Olive (the "church") is supported by the Root, the Natural Olive, this time is crucial for us as well. We have been grafted in.

Below are highlighted-extracts of an email article from "The Elijah Prayer Army" by Lars and Harriet Enarson, www.thewatchman.org ...

- Pray for the nation of Israel and GOD's People, that they be protected from evil seeking occasion to be release during these three weeks.
- Pray that the veil be lifted over the eyes of the Jews ... that they see and recognize their Messiah.
- Pray Psalm 118:5.

Psalm 118:5 *"5 Out of my distress I called upon the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free and in a large place."*

- Pray that Israel, the people, be brought into the wilderness, the fullness that GOD as for them, and to survive the narrows She must traverse until then (Matthew 7:14). Y'shua came that His People might come into fullness of JOY (John 15:11; 16:24).
- Pray for Israel, the Land, to come into the wilderness which GOD has ordained. At present it is too narrow to adequately nurture the Jews GOD has brought from the nations thus far, and She is under constant pressure from the nations to become narrower still (Isaiah 54:2-3).
- Pray for South Africa. Pray for our nation's relations with Israel.
- Pray for America. Pray for GOD's Remnant in America.
- Pray for the saints of YHVH GOD, for His Remnant.
- Currently there is turmoil in the whole world — wars, rumors of war, scarcity of food, inflation, earthquakes, floods, fires, the oil spill, and so on. Pray that these shakings will cause GOD's People to return to and draw strength from our King and Father, to know Him deeper ... and that these will pave way for the unsaved to receive the Good News of Y'shua so that they can be incorporated into a Kingdom that cannot be moved.

Hebrews 12:28-29 "28 Let us therefore, receiving a kingdom that is firm and stable and cannot be shaken, offer to God pleasing service and acceptable worship, with modesty and pious care and godly fear and awe; 29 For our God [is indeed] a consuming fire."

- Pray for increased intercession for Israel during "The Time between Dire Straights"!

2 Samuel 24:25 "David built an altar to the LORD there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the LORD answered prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped."

- Pray for Israel like Moses prayed!

Exodus 32:11-14 "But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. 'O LORD,' he said, 'why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.'" Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened."

- Pray that the armies of heaven will be released to fight the battle against the Gog and Magog coalition that is now forming!

Exodus 18:11-12 "Praise be to the LORD, who rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians and of Pharaoh, and who rescued the people from the hand of the Egyptians. Now I know that the LORD is greater than all other gods, for he did this to those who had treated Israel arrogantly."

- Pray for Prime Minister Netanyahu to stand strong and united against US and international threats, pressures and enticements in the peace negotiations!

Zechariah 12:8-9 "On that day the LORD will shield those who live in Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the Angel of the LORD going before them. On that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem."

- Pray for the Jewish people begin to seek their GOD and the Messiah!

Hosea 3:5 "Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days."

The fourth⁴ 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 Tribes of Israel journeyed through the wilderness in a specific formation. When they camped, the Tabernacle was erected in the center with the priestly tribe of Levi situated around it. The other tribes were divided into four groups of three that encamped on each side.

As we have seen, when examining the order of the tribes in connection with the twelve months of the year, the group that led the formation each time they set out was comprised of Judah, Issachar and Zebulun. They were situated on the East side of the Tabernacle. The next group, to the South, is made up of Reuben, corresponding with Tammuz, this month, and Simon (next month, Av) and Gad (the month of Elul).

The emblem on the standard of the tribe of Reuben is the rising sun. This possibly signifies that he was the first-born, and with him the family and ultimately the tribes of Israel had their beginning. The rising sun is also a sign of redemption; the dawn of new life, restoration and beauty.

⁴ Taken from the mailing list of Keren Hannah Pryor - "Appointments With GOD" - www.jcstudies.com.

Through the family of Jacob and the nation of Israel, the Messiah would be born, and the light and beauty of the God of Israel would shine forth in His Anointed to be “the Light of the world”.

The matriarch Leah named her first son Reuven, which means “See, a son!” She describes her reason for choosing this name: “Because GOD has seen my humiliation” (Genesis 29:32). Leah was painfully aware that she was Jacob’s wife through the deceptive manipulation of her father, and that Jacob’s true love was her sister Rachel, now his second wife.

Leah is the first to conceive and bear a son, and she sees this as a vindication and a gift from GOD. He had seen her distress and had honored her with Jacob’s first-born. Rabbinic literature thus associates the month of Tammuz with the sense of sight, or vision (re’iyah).

Leah’s second son, Shimon, is so named: “Because GOD has heard (she’miyah) that I am unloved” (Genesis 29:33). Thus, the month of Av that follows Tammuz is associated with the sense of hearing.

The Sin of the Eyes

The two older brothers, Reuben and Simon, fathered strong and influential tribes. Once they had arrived at its borders, Moses sent a leader from each tribe to spy out the Promised Land. The representatives from Reuben and Simon are listed first; before Caleb, who is third on the list and Joshua, who is fifth. The twelve spies were in Canaan for forty days, including the month of Tammuz. Regrettably, they sinned through their sense of sight as they viewed everything negatively and then carried a distorted vision of the Land back to the waiting Israelites.

As the leader, Reuben’s representative was undoubtedly a large influence in this perversion of vision. Interestingly, the Torah portion of Korach, (Numbers 16:1- 18:32), is commonly read during Tammuz. Apparently the leader of Reuben had sided with Korach in his rebellion against Moses. Korach, a cousin of Moses and Aaron, had seen himself as equally entitled and equipped to lead the new nation and therefore had tried to overthrow them and to assume leadership.

Korach & Co. were punished by GOD and swallowed up into the dust of the earth. They had not seen that it was GOD Himself who was the leader of His people, and only He was entitled to appoint those who would lead and teach them.

The following portion, also read during Tammuz, is Chukkat (Numbers 19:1-22:1), where we find the dramatic incident of the invasion of poisonous snakes into the camp. It appears that this is a response to the ongoing complaints of the Israelites to Moses regarding their boring diet of manna and the lack of water.

Offering an antidote to the snakebites, God instructs Moses to make "... a fiery [serpent] and place it on a pole, and it will be that anyone who was bitten will look at it and live" (Numbers 21:8).

We know that GOD does not use magic charms, rather, as the dying people would need to consciously raise their eyes to look at the serpent, it would trigger a process of interpretation in their minds that should lead to repentance. They would see a representation of the cause of their pain and impending death and should realize that it was a consequence of their sin of ingratitude towards God. He had been guarding them all along and now had removed His hand of protection.

They owed Him their very lives. They had lost sight of the fact that He protected them and provided for their needs day after day, and they had become bitter and complaining. Now, in His mercy, they had the opportunity to "see" and repent! We can consider this wilderness account in the bigger picture of redemption in Y'shua. How much more should all sinners repent when they see Messiah, the Anointed Son of GOD, as our representative, lifted up on a stake carrying the sin of the world with its poison that leads to death? If one but looks up and "sees" and comes to repentance, one's life is spared and restored.

We learn from these accounts that what we see with our "mind's eye" is even more important than our physical vision. The understanding of our heart is far deeper and will affect all we see with our eyes. It is our inner vision that directs us to pursue the things of GOD rather than to stray after worldly pursuits and the pleasures designed to attract the eye! The strongest "antidote" to the poisonous effects of the sinful and un-Godly ways of the world is GOD's Word, given for that purpose. May our eyes constantly be occupied with the treasure of His Word of Truth and Life; and may our hearts continually be filled with unbounded gratitude and praise to our Father in heaven for the good and bountiful gifts He bestows!

Highlighted points⁵ regarding the **FOURTH** month:

Every Hebrew month is TRADITIONALLY linked with:

- A letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
- A constellation sign (the stars), Psalm 119:1-3 says that the heavens declare the Glory of GOD. If we don't get into GOD's Way of understanding the future, you will fall into either an occult way or your own way, called humanism. Everyone has some kind of system that they align with (even if it is their own system).
- One of the Twelve Tribes of Israel.

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

This is the Month of Reuben — He lost his inheritance as firstborn.

Genesis 49:3-4 describes Reuben:

- Beginning of power,
- Excellence and dignity,
- But unstable as water.

Reuben did not excel because of issues that he never solved. Reuben had great promise/potential that was never fulfilled. He never dealt with either his lack of immaturity in leadership matters, nor with the sexual issues, nor with his anger.

Therefore pray and ask the LORD to show your “issues” and that you can deal with them.

This is a month to see and establish the brilliance of your righteousness — We need to counteract all negative influences through a walk of obedience in developing the Fruit of the Holy Spirit and presenting this as a first fruit offering in praise.

- Isaiah 58:8
- Psalms 112:4
- Daniel 12:3

⁵ Taken from the materials of “*Glory of Zion*”. For more information, see the book “*A Time To Advance*” as well as the CD/DVD series “*Positioned For Advancement*”, from <http://gloryofzion.org/>

We can reflect the light from the lamp of God by walking in obedience to God's Commandments or there is the strong possibility that we CAN develop a golden calf—as various forms of idolatry kick in our lives:

- Moses' face glowed after being with the LORD. Or,
- People worshipped the calf (Exodus 32:1).

This is either A month to accept your calling or speak an evil report — people fall into negativity because they do not understand their Godly calling.

This is the month of the letter CHET, which is connected to light radiating from your eyes.— Y'shua's Eyes were like flames of fire.

This month is linked with constellation of the CRAB: If you do not allow yourself to be vulnerable, you WILL become hardened and cannot enter into next level of growth. Ask the LORD to remove any hardness from you.

This is A month to guard your heart (what you feel and think) and your eyes (what you allow yourself to see (Deuteronomy 11:26, 30:15-19).

A month of right hand — the aligning covenant (Song of Songs 5:2-12) —a month to remember our covenants. Affirm the relationships you are to keep. Let GOD lead and align you with new relationships.

Shalom and blessings!!

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