

EIGHTH New Moon 2016¹



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

Dates to diarize:

- New Moon,
 - 2 August, 20:44 UT
- First Quarter Moon,
 - 10 August, 18:21 UT
- Full Moon,
 - 18 August, 09:26 UT
- Last Quarter Moon,
 - 25 August, 03:41 UT
- Next New Moon,
 - 1 September, 09:03 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 Heavlies**", 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 greetings this 8th New moon of this year 2016. We trust the LORD of perfection will perfect many things that concern your lives and nations as we watch with Him our High priest in the place of strategic prayer and warfare this season.

Northern Hemisphere

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the summer is a time when kings go to battles, **2 Samuel 23:13**. As such, summer battles are throne battles and battles for controlling people and their GOD-given inheritance. This harvest season, we must worship at the Throne of Ancient of Days and the Lamb (**Daniel 7:9-14, Revelation 4-5**). As we do that, we will be strengthened to arise and overthrow through the Blood of Y'shua (Jesus), every throne of wickedness (spiritual or physical) set up by the adversary in attempt to rule over our lives and affairs (**Revelation 12:11-12**).

Month of Simeon

The month of Av is also the month of Simeon, the second son of Jacob. His mother, Leah named him Simeon, saying — “Because GOD has heard that I am unloved, He has given me this one also.”

Simeon, a hot-blooded youth, often reacted quickly and physically, especially when paired with his brother Levi. When their sister Dinah was kidnaped and raped by the prince of Shechem, Simeon and Levi, stirred up by righteous anger, killed the men of the city, ignoring the fact that Dina's other brothers had already convinced the residents of Shechem to circumcise themselves, and live in peace with Jacob's family (**Genesis 34**).

By circumcising themselves, the men of Shechem had become covenant-brothers of Jacob and his family, and to murder them was to repeat the sin of Cain. Just as Cain was exiled from the land near Eden into a place of wandering, so Jacob cursed Simeon and Levi to be scattered in Israel (**Genesis 49:5-7**).

Consequently, instead of being a strong tribe, Simeon became the weakest tribe (fewest in population) in Israel (**Numbers 26:12-14**). When the Land was divided among the different tribes, Simeon somehow had no lot given him — but as the allotment of Judah was too large for that tribe, Simeon was allowed to occupy a portion of the inheritance of Judah (**Joshua 19:1,9**). He and his descendants stayed close to Judah his brother (**Judges 1**).

The lessons to be learned here for purposes of prayer this month are as follows:

- Simeon was a man of war, fearless and intolerant of sin, which are virtuous attributes. But he had no self-control, and thus acted in the flesh. The Bible says “he that ruleth his spirit is greater than he that taketh a city” (**Proverbs 16:32**), but “he that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls” (**Proverbs 25:28**).
- Let us repent of all manners of anger expressed in the flesh, which have resulted in sin (“be you angry, and sin not” **Ephesians 4:26**) — ask for forgiveness and cleansing by the Blood of the Lamb of GOD.
- Simeon stayed with Judah, who was also a fearless man of war (**Genesis 49:8-9, Numbers 24:8-9**), but was different because he acted based on the Voice of GOD (for example, **Judges 1:1-3**). Simeon’s association with Judah incorporated him into the Will of Yahweh and caused him to have an inheritance (**Judges 1:17**). This can be likened to our redemption by Y’shua (Jesus), our savior, the Lion of Judah and the Lamb who prevailed to redeem us for all curse and gave us an inheritance in the Kingdom of GOD (Revelation 5). Let us offer abundant sacrifice of praise to the Author of our salvation this month. Let us continue to abide in HIM, being confident of this very thing, that He which has begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” (**Philippians 1:6**).
- Simeon’s Redemption as seen in the New Testament ... as we read in **Revelation 7:7**, one twelfth of the one hundred and forty-four thousand will enter the City of GOD bearing Simeon’s name. This clearly demonstrates the redeeming Power of GOD. Y’shua (Jesus) is the only One born of woman that is sinless. He alone of all the family of Adam will throughout eternity have an uncovered life record. No part of His Record will be covered. But our life record, marred by sin, will be covered by Messiah’s Righteousness. The Blood of Messiah can cleanse from sin of the deepest dye, and even murderers can enter heaven — not as murderers, but as pardoned sinners! “For though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (**Isaiah 1:18**).
- In conclusion, this month of Simeon is a month to celebrate Y’shua (Jesus), the Lion of Judah, the Root of David, Who has prevailed for all of us. He is our King and the Lamb of GOD Who has taken away our sins and the wages of sin, which is death. Let us join the hosts of heaven to worship Him as in **Revelation 7:9-17**.

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:

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

- ✓ New Moon, **2 August, 20:44 UTC.**
- ✓ 33rd hour of the Moon. When the New Moon is 33 hours precisely, it can be seen with the eye as a thin sliver crescent moon. At this point, the wicked engage in satanic numerology, exploiting the number 33 in 33-degree-based occult enchantments into the moon. This is a powerful global enchantment fashioned to counter the outcome of the 33 years ministry of our King Y'shua (Jesus) Messiah on earth.
 - ➔ We should counter this satanic onslaught on the work of redemption by enforcing the truth that at 33 years, Y'shua (Jesus) was lifted up through the cross in order to draw all men to Himself. The success of this enchantment especially in countering the work of the Kingdom of God is a major source of strength in occultism. The Body of Messiah must stop that by proclaiming 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**). 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.
- **August 2 - 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.
- **August 11, 12 - Perseids Meteor Shower.**
 - The Perseids is one of the best meteor showers to observe, producing up to 60 meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by comet Swift-Tuttle, which was discovered in 1862. The Perseids are famous for producing a large number of bright meteors. The shower runs annually from July 17 to August 24. It peaks this year on the night of August 11 and the morning of August 12.
 - The waxing gibbous moon will set shortly after midnight, leaving fairly dark skies for should be an excellent early morning show.

- Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Perseus, but can appear anywhere in the sky.
- **August 16 - Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation.**
- The planet Mercury reaches greatest eastern elongation of 27.4 degrees from the Sun. This is the best time to view Mercury since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the evening sky. Look for the planet low in the western sky just after sunset.
- **August 18 - 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 09:26 UTC. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Sturgeon Moon because the large sturgeon fish of the Great Lakes and other major lakes were more easily caught at this time of year. This moon has also been known as the Green Corn Moon and the Grain Moon.
- **August 25 - Last quarter moon**
- **August 27 - Conjunction of Venus and Jupiter.**
- A spectacular conjunction of Venus and Jupiter will be visible in the evening sky. The two bright planets will be extremely close, appearing only 0.06 degrees apart. Look for this impressive pairing in the western sky just after sunset.
- **September 1 - 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 09:03 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.

Lammas

In this month of new beginnings, all over the world, witches are having another demonic sabbat called **Lammas** and/or **Lughnasadh**, the cross-quarter day **halfway** between the summer/winter solstice and the fall/spring equinox.

Lammas — “Loaf Mass” or “Lamb Mass” — marks the middle of summer and the beginning of the harvest. It is the first of three harvest festivals and is usually associated with ripening grain. It heralds the coming of autumn. This harvest is used to kill in order to amass blood for healing and renewal of satanic strength.

The crucial themes of the demonic Lammas gatherings are:

- Possessing the **gate** of the New Moon leading to the month of August by witches to ensure that the moon is enchanted maximally for their benefit. The Church should overthrow these gatekeepers by possessing the gates of this eighth New Moon by prayer force.
- Healing of wounds from spiritual battles of the past year.
 - **Exodus 22:18** “18 You shall not allow a woman to live who practices sorcery.
- Renewal of strength with blood. Why should we allow that when the LORD says:
 - **Isaiah 48:22** “22 There is no peace, says the LORD, for the wicked.”
- Proclaiming bondage and captivity for followers of Messiah Y’shua (Jesus Christ), as in the days of Peter and Emperor Nero. This is contrary to our destiny.
- All these demonic desires are to be given maximum force from the New Moon to the full moon.
- On the day of the New Moon and during the solar eclipse, the **book of shadows** will be brought forth for **darkness shadow and crisis sorcery**. Please pray against all manners of shadows and darkness.

Proclaim these scriptures to judge the host of hell: **Nahum 3, Isaiah 47, Micah 3:6-7, Micah 5:10-15, Psalm 69: 22-28, Isaiah 44:24-26, Exodus 22:18.**

As you can see from the foregoing, this is a time to watch and pray so that the enemy will not catch us unawares. The JOY of being rooted and grounded in the KING Y’shua (Jesus Christ) is that the Word says that we belong to a Kingdom that cannot be shaken, the Kingdom of Y’shua (Jesus) the Messiah, which cannot be moved — Hallelujah!

Let us sound the shofar continuously at this time. Thank GOD for His Promise to grant us a Mighty 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**).

Let’s PRAY:

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 (**Psalm 8, 19, 100, 136,148**). Rejoice in YHVH our KING for His Faithfulness and Loving-kindness!
- 🕊 (**Psalm 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 (**Psalm 15, Psalm 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 (**Psalm 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, Psalm 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 (**Psalms 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 (**Psalms 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 (**Psalms 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 Adonai Y'shua, the Chief Intercessor, bless you as you pray with the strength of EL Gibor (the Almighty GOD) and knowledge this season. SHALOM 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.

22 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 9th of Av (**13 August**).

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 name of the eleventh month on the Jewish calendar, Av, literally means “father.” It is customary to add the name Menachem, which means “comforter” or “consoler” — so Menachem Av. Av is the month in which both Temples were destroyed and many other tragedies occurred in Jewish history. At this time, it is easy for us to feel deserted, lost and alone, yet we are taught that our Father in heaven is there to comfort and console us.

Av on one hand has a “low point” of the Jewish calendar — the 9th of Av, the day of the sin of the spies and the destruction of both the first and second Temples in Jerusalem. On the other hand, it also incorporates a “high point”: the 15th of Av, a day designated for finding one’s predestined soulmate, is considered one of the happiest days on the Jewish calendar.

May we speedily merit the ultimate redemption, when days of sorrow will be turned to days of joy, and we will celebrate once again in our holy Temple in Jerusalem.

The Month of Av — אב חדש⁴

On the [Biblical calendar](#), the *fifth* month of the year (counting from [Nisan](#)) is called Av (אב) in Jewish tradition. The month of Av is traditionally regarded as the most tragic in the Jewish calendar. On the first day of this month, Aaron (the first High Priest of Israel) died ([Num. 33:38](#)), and later both of the Holy Temples were destroyed on the ninth of Av.

The ninth of Av (i.e., [Tishah B'Av](#)) is the lowest point of a three week period of mourning that began with the fast of the [17th of Tammuz](#) (undertaken to recall the first breach in the walls of Jerusalem by the Babylonians before the First Temple was destroyed). During this period, weddings and parties are forbidden. It is a time for solemn reflection and mourning for Israel. The Temple itself was destroyed three weeks later, on the Ninth of Av.

The Three Weeks of Sorrow

As mentioned above, the [Fast of Tammuz](#) marks the beginning of the "Three Weeks of Sorrow," a 21 day period of national mourning which is completed on [Tishah B'Av](#). The Mishnah further associates the fast of Tammuz as the "Fast of the Fourth Month," mentioned by the prophet Zechariah ([Zech. 8:19](#)). The purpose of this fast is to instill a sense of *teshuvah* (repentance) by recalling specific tragedies that befell the Jewish people because of idolatry.

The period between the fourth and fifth months is a somber time of reflection for many Orthodox Jews.

⁴ Taken from http://www.hebrew4christians.com/Holidays/Rosh_Chodesh/Av/av.html

The three weeks from Tammuz 17 to the Av 9 is called *bein ha-Metzarim* (בֵּין הַמְצָרִים) — "between the straights" (based on Lamentations 1:3) ... a period of time during which many calamities befell the Jewish people. Since both Temples were destroyed during this period (i.e., between the 4th and 5th months), the sages established this extended period as a time of mourning for the Jewish people.

Typically marriages are not held during this period, and many Jews deliberately refrain from ostensibly pleasurable activities, such as listening to music, dancing, taking vacations, and sometimes even shaving! In fact, most Orthodox Jews will refrain from any activity that might require the recitation of the Shehecheyanu blessing.

In short, the Three Weeks of Sorrow is a time for reflection and mourning over the destruction of the Temple and therefore constitutes a time of corporate reflection intended to lead Israel to *teshuvah* (repentance).

Menachem Av

The period immediately *following* Tishah B'Av and continuing through the month of Elul is called the "seven weeks of comfort" (*shiva d'nechemta*: שִׁבְעָה דְנַחֲמָתָא). The Haftarah for each week during this period foretells of the glorious future of the Jewish People. Because of this, some Jews use the name "Av" through the Tishah B'Av and afterwards use the name "Menachem Av" (i.e., the Comforter of Av).

In synagogue services the Haftarot (readings from the *Nevi'im*, or prophets) are usually connected with the Torah reading for each week, but beginning with the [Three Weeks of Sorrow](#) until after the Fall High Holidays, these readings change. First are three haftarot of punishment (leading up to [Tishah B'Av](#)), then seven of comfort (for the seven weeks until [Rosh Hashanah](#)), and finally one of repentance (on Shabbat Shuvah, the Sabbath before [Yom Kippur](#)).

The last two portions of the Book of Numbers ([Mattot](#) and [Masei](#)) are always read during the "Three Weeks of Sorrow." The sages say these readings were selected at this time to ultimately *comfort* us as we look forward to the "apportioning of the land" — i.e., the ultimate fulfillment of GOD's Promises to us. Indeed, the month of Av — despite the sorrow of the loss of the Temple — is sometimes called *Menachem Av* — the "Comfort of the Father" (אָב). One day the lamentations of our present state of exile will come to an end.

Menachem Av may also mean the "comfort of Aleph-Bet" (אָב). The Prophet Jeremiah, who witnessed the destruction of the Temple, later wrote the scroll of Lamentations to commemorate this tragic time. The form of Lamentations is an *acrostic* based on the letters of the Hebrew Aleph Bet (like Psalm 25, 34, 37, 119, Prov. 31, etc.). The scroll has five sections (*perekim*). The verses of the first two chapters and the last two chapters all are written in alphabetical order (א,ב,ג).

The middle chapter, however, writes its verses using a *triple* Aleph Bet ordering, i.e., "Aleph, Aleph, Aleph," "Bet, Bet, Bet," "Gimel, Gimel, Gimel," and so on. As you can see, the very order of the [Hebrew Alphabet](#) is part of the revelation of the LORD GOD of Israel Himself!

The low point of the Three Weeks of Sorrow is expressed during the 25-hour fast day of [Tishah B'Av](#), when the Scroll of Lamentations (אֵיכָה) is chanted during the evening service at synagogue. This is usually followed by a series of liturgical lamentations called *Kinnot* (קִינּוֹת) which are also recited alphabetically (*Bava Batra 14b*). As I've said before, Tishah B'Av is the saddest day of the Jewish calendar.

But it is not a sadness without a comfort ... The Sabbath immediately following Tishah B'Av is called **שבת נחמו** (Shabbat Nachamu — the "Sabbath of Comfort"), based on the Haftarah reading (Isaiah 40:1-27) that begins: **נְחַמוּ עַמִּי** — *Nachamu, Nachamu ami* — "be comforted, be comforted, my people ..." The sages state that the word *nachamu* is repeated to offer consolation for each of the Temples that were destroyed.

Since the Book of Deuteronomy is *mishneh Torah* — a "retelling of Torah," it can be said that the Torah — from a narrative point of view — ends with the reading of these final portions from Numbers, and by extension, with *the yearning for Zion*. And so it is to this day. We await the return of our Mashiach Yeshua while we live in exile here on earth. And even though the Temple of the LORD is spiritually present in the Person of the resurrected Messiah, it *will be* made fully manifest in the days to come: first in the Millennial Kingdom (after Yeshua's Second Coming), and later still in *olam habah* (the world to come) as the eternal community of those redeemed by the Lamb of GOD (Rev. 21:22-23). So for those of us who hold faith in Yeshua as Messiah, our mourning for the Temple is really mourning for the Presence of our Beloved Savior.

May He come quickly, and in our days ...

Why was the Temple Destroyed?⁵

Sinat Chinam and Tishah B'Av

Tishah B'Av remembers the destruction of the two Holy Temples of Judaism. According to the Talmud (Yoma 9b), the first Temple was destroyed (586 BC) because of the sins of idolatry, immorality, and bloodshed, but the Second Temple was destroyed (70 AD) because of what the sages call "baseless hatred." This baseless hatred (called *sinat chinam*) is considered a more serious offence than the earlier sins that led to the destruction of the First Temple: It took 70 years to rebuild the First Temple, but Jews are still waiting to rebuild the Second Temple, even after more than 1,900 years ...

- Why was the first Sanctuary destroyed? Because of three [evil] things which prevailed there: idolatry, immorality, bloodshed. But why was the second Sanctuary destroyed, seeing that in its time they were occupying themselves with Torah, [observance of] precepts, and the practice of charity? Because therein prevailed hatred without cause. That teaches you that groundless hatred is considered as of even gravity with the three sins of idolatry, immorality, and bloodshed together. (Talmud: Yoma 9b)

Though *sinat chinam* (שִׂנְאֵת חִנָּם) is often translated as "baseless hatred," it literally means "hatred of [their] *grace* (חֵן, *chen*)." In essence, then, *sinat chinam* is the rejection of GOD's Grace. But since Yeshua is the embodiment of all of GOD's Grace ([John 1:17](#), etc.), *sinat chinam* is a rejection of His ministry ... Is it any wonder, then, that the Mashiach foretold the destruction of the Second Temple based on Israel's rejection of Him ([Matt. 24:2](#))?

Recall the context, *chaverim*. During His "triumphal entry" into Jerusalem ([Matt. 21:1-11](#)), Yeshua was greeted by the cries of Jewish Passover pilgrims: "Hosanna!" This word is actually the phrase "hoshiah na" (הוֹשִׁיעָה נָא), meaning "please save" or "save now." The Jewish pilgrims were singing [Psalm 118:25-26](#) and applying it to the greater Son of David, Yeshua, who had come:

Matthew notes that *hoshiah na* was addressed to Yeshua Himself, "to the [greater] son of David" (לְבֶן-דָּוִד), thereby indicating that the Messianic Hope was presented to Israel ([Matt. 21:9](#)). For a flickering moment the proper praise was given to Yeshua as Mashiach *ben David*, though of course He had come to them as Mashiach *ben Yosef*, their Suffering Servant, the One of whom the prophet Isaiah clearly [foretold](#).

Immediately after his "triumphal entry," Yeshua went directly to the Temple and drove out all who sold there, overturning the tables of the "money changers" and the seats of those who sold pigeons ([Matt. 21:12](#)). After this the blind and the lame were able to enter the Temple — and Yeshua healed them.

⁵ Taken from http://www.hebrew4christians.com/Holidays/Summer_Holidays/Tishah_B_Av/Sinat_Chinam/sinat_chinam.html

Despite performing miraculous works of healing in the Temple that day — including opening the eyes of the blind and causing the disabled to walk — the *kohanim* (chief priests) and *soferim* (scribes) were "indignant" at His actions and therefore sought to put Him to death ([Mark 11:18](#)).

In the evening Yeshua left the Temple for Bethany, the home town of Mary, Martha and Lazarus, where He stayed the night. The following morning He walked back to Jerusalem, and being hungry, saw a fig tree along the way. When He saw that the fig tree was without any fruit, Yeshua pronounced these words: "May no fruit ever come from you again!" And the fig tree withered at once ([Matt. 21:18-19](#)).

He then returned to the Temple where he was once again accosted by the religious establishment who questioned his authority. Yeshua turned the tables on his accusers by giving them a dilemma to solve: the baptism of John: was it from GOD or from man? Unwilling to answer him, Yeshua then prophesied the parable of the two sons ([Matt. 21:28-32](#)), indicating that despite their supposed status as the "good sons" of Israel, even tax collectors and prostitutes would enter the Kingdom of GOD before them. He went on to say that "the kingdom of GOD will be taken away from them and given to a people producing its fruits" ([Matt. 21:43](#)).

The Pharisees and the Sadducees then attempted to "entangle him in his talk" and sent their disciples to him to pose tricky questions. Yeshua, however, exposed their "baseless hatred" — their *sinat chinam* — and confounded them all (see [Matt. 22](#)). Beginning in Matthew 23, Yeshua then began his denunciation of the "scribes and the Pharisees," pointing out their hypocrisy and their unclean motives. **תְּנִיפִים אַךְ־אֹי לְכֶם סוֹפְרִים וּפְרוֹשִׁים** (*akh-oy lachem soferim u'perushim, chanafim*): "Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! ([Matt. 23:13-ff](#)).

After Yeshua ended his denunciation, he lamented for Jerusalem:

*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! See, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD' (**בְּרוּךְ הוּא**) (**בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה**). - Matt. 23:37-39*

After this, Yeshua left the Temple for good and never looked back. In [Matthew 24](#) Yeshua's disciples made a last-ditch appeal for Jewish tradition and ceremony by pointing out the glory of the Second Temple. "Look at these beautiful buildings of the Temple, Lord ..." It was then that Yeshua pronounced judgment on the Temple and the Levitical system, predicted the Roman destruction of the Temple, and so on ([Matt. 24:1-2](#)).

This was apparently *unfathomable* to the disciples, who apparently still considered Yeshua to be a "reformer" of Temple Judaism, perhaps the one who would restore it so that the Kingdom of GOD would be finally manifest upon the earth. Yeshua went on to explain the signs of the End of the Age (אֲחֵרֵית הַיָּמִים) that would precede the promised Days of Messiah (יְמֵי הַמָּשִׁיחַ), otherwise known as the Messianic Kingdom. He foretold that one day praise would rightly be given to Him as Israel's True King, but only after the travail of the coming Great Tribulation upon the earth. Only after the Jewish people cry out to Him as their LORD ([Matt. 23:39](#)) would the Kingdom of GOD be established in Zion.

Please note that there were actually TWO separate cleansings of the Temple recorded in the New Testament. The earlier cleansing is described in [John 2:13-22](#) and the later one is described in (both) [Mark 11:15-19](#) and [Matthew 21:1-16](#). In Mark's account of the second cleansing, Yeshua actually stopped the "carrying of the ritual vessels" — meaning He LITERALLY stopped the Temple sacrifices of Israel. Mark 11:16 states: "And he would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the Temple":

*And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves; And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple. And he taught, saying unto them, *Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves. And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because all the people was astonished at his doctrine. And when even was come, he went out of the city.**

Yeshua certainly knew the Temple and its supposed beauty. He razed it because Israel forsook His greater sacrifice. The Jewish sages had it half right. It was indeed because of *sinat chinam* that the Second Temple was destroyed, but this was most clearly revealed in the rejection of Yeshua as Israel's King and Savior ...

The fifth⁶ 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.

There are a number of interesting and paradoxical details to note regarding the Hebrew month of Av.

1. The name of the month literally means “**a father**”. We see an example in **Psalm 103:13**, K'rachem av al banim... “As a father is merciful to his children, so has YHVH shown mercy to those who fear Him.” We can rest in the knowledge that our lives are in the Hands of a Loving and Faithful Father who has us securely in His care.

2. On the other hand, the 9th of Av — Tisha b'Av — is a day of deep mourning and fasting, which marks the destruction of both the First and Second Temples as well as the tragic exile of the majority of GOD's people from the Land.

Tisha b'Av also commemorates the many persecutions and pogroms, Crusades and Inquisitions perpetrated against the Jews throughout the centuries that followed.

⁶ Taken from the mailing list of Keren Hannah Pryor - “*Appointments With GOD*” - www.jcstudies.com.

Interestingly, the ninth of Av always falls on the same day of the week as the first day of Passover of the same year. And yet, Passover is a festival of freedom and redemption while Tisha b'Av commemorates bondage and destruction.

We can deduce that the matzah and bitter herbs of Passover, as well as representing the remembrance of slavery in Egypt, are also a reminder of the long and bitter exile from the Land of Israel.

It is only due to our Father's great **MERCY** that the Jewish people have endured and survived much torment and persecution in foreign lands. In recent generations, GOD's people have heard the sound of His great trumpet, shofar, calling them back to His Land where they belong. Tisha b'Av, however, is still observed with mourning and fasting for the full Redemption has not yet come and Israel continues to suffer unrelenting and egregious attacks from the enemy. Nonetheless, the hope has been fulfilled and in that we rejoice. Through all the long years of exile, at the conclusion of every Passover Seder the prayer of hope has been proclaimed: Le'Shana ha'ba'ah b'Yerushalayim! "**Next year in Jerusalem!**" What added joy we experience as we now can say in Israel, "This year in Jerusalem!"

3. Although the first half of the month is marked with sadness, the second half is brightened with joy. The fifteenth of Av — Tu b'Av — was celebrated as a joyous festival hundreds of years before the First Temple was built.

An account in the Book of Judges relates how certain men of the tribe of Benjamin, which was situated in the Jerusalem area, had committed acts of rape and murder against members of the other tribes. In response, the tribes gathered together and attacked and destroyed the small tribe of Benjamin. Only 600 men escaped the battle and fled to the cliffs of Rimmon, which are situated northeast of Jerusalem.

Later the tribes repented of the severity of their action and they made peace with the Benjaminites. Realizing that the men now needed to find wives in order to build up the tribe once again, they advised them to go to Shiloh, where the Tabernacle with the Ark of the Covenant was housed, to attend the celebration of an annual agricultural feast. They advised, "Go and hide in the vineyards and watch; if the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance in the dances, then come out of the vineyards and seize each man his wife from the daughters of Shiloh, and return to the land of Benjamin (**Judges 21:20-21**).

It was the celebration of Tu b'Av, a grape harvest, and the time the white squill blooms all over Israel. The tall tapered stems, covered with small white flowers, stand out brightly against the yellow and brown fields at the end of a long, hot summer. They are a clear season marker, for Tu b'Av signals the summer solstice and there is a subtle change as the days begin to shorten and clouds start to appear in the sky, announcing the approaching rains of winter.

The virgin maidens, to reflect the blossoming white squills, would don white dresses and dance in the vineyards of Shiloh, and wedding matches were made. To this day the fifteenth of Av is celebrated in Israel as “Sweetheart’s Day”!

4. The actual date of death of only one person is recorded in the Torah, that of Aaron, the brother of Moses. We read that forty years after the Israelites left Egypt, the LORD called Aaron to Mount Hor and he died there “...in the fifth month on the first of the month” (**Numbers 33:38**) — the first of Av. Aaron, the High Priest, was deeply loved by the people and this was an occasion of deep mourning. The sadness of Aaron’s death in the same month seems fused with the mourning of the destruction of the Temples.

Av, Shimon and Judgment

In keeping with the initial sadness of the month is the fact that the tribe of **Shimon (Simeon)**, associated with Av, is the only tribe that was not blessed by Jacob on his deathbed or later by Moses. Jacob denounces both Shimon and Levi for their rage and murderous attack on the town of Shechem to avenge the rape of their sister Dinah (**Genesis 49:5-7**). Levi was redeemed and blessed by Moses, but Shimon forfeited this blessing due to the tribe’s flagrant immoral conduct with the foreign women at Shittim (**Numbers 25:1-6, 17**). Later, once established in the Land, this behavior also cost the tribe the privilege of ever having a judge of Israel appointed from their ranks.

Ironically, in Jewish commentary it is considered that all Shimon’s deeds were motivated by a standard of strict justice. He judged others and easily found them guilty. It is considered that it was he who “sentenced” his brother Joseph and threw him in the pit (**Genesis 37:19-20**). This is highlighted when the brothers first appear before Joseph, now Viceroy of Egypt and Shimon is the only one he keeps behind as a hostage. Also, in judging Shechem guilty, Shimon instigated the retaliation and attack in angry vengeance. Although he may have had a keen sense of justice, it is this trait of anger that precludes Shimon and his tribe from producing a true judge in Israel.

Anger will always distort any fair and balanced judgment. Anger also prevents a person from truly rejoicing in one’s service and worship of the LORD, and eventually can cause one to become isolated from other people. **Justice, to be true, must be tempered with mercy** and weighed from a basis of trust and joy in the LORD. We can therefore appreciate the wisdom of Jacob when he cannot bless the judgmental anger of this tribe and he says: “I will separate them within Jacob, and I will disperse them in Israel” (**Genesis 49:7**). Their hope lay in mingling with the other tribes in order that their anger might be diffused and they might learn to interact with others in peace and to serve the LORD with joy!

The month of Av ultimately represents the **balance of elements** we deal with constantly on our journey through life — sadness and joy, justice and mercy, anger and grace, discord and unity, what is hidden and what is revealed. Undergirding it all is the knowledge that our Father, in His abundant love and mercy towards us, is in control and He is preparing the way before us.

He is bringing us to full Redemption, when, as foretold by the prophet Isaiah, “death will be swallowed up forever and the reproach of His people He will take away from all the earth” (25:8). His Kingdom will be established in the earth and the dwelling of GOD will rest in Jerusalem and He will be with those who are His, and “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away” (**Revelation 21:4**).

Thus Av celebrates the constant truth of new life in the One who is the Source of all life. Interestingly, in rabbinic literature Tisha b’Av, the day of great mourning, is the date reckoned to be the birth date of the Messiah — the Savior-King who brings new life. We can indeed rejoice in “the Lamb in the midst of the throne” who is our Shepherd and who guides us to “springs of living water” that bring mercy, grace, hope and truth (**Revelation 7:17**).

Highlighted points⁷ regarding the FIFTH month:

Every Hebrew month is TRADITIONALLY linked with:

- A letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
- A controlling limb/organ in your body.
- A development of “threes”.

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

The month of Simeon — means to hear, to be concerned. Simeon messed up, but GOD has a great inheritance and destiny for you. However, when there is instability in a bloodline, you need to develop spiritual discipline because the demons will come in and try to use our iniquitous patterns to pull us back. When we agree with Satan’s iniquitous plan, it will then get rooted in us.

Pray, ***“LORD, I am not unstable, neither will I mess up like Simeon (who chose revenge/unforgiveness). I ask for spiritual discipline to not agree with demons about myself. Rather, I choose to believe You LORD and what you say about me. I want Your Patterns to be rooted in me. I ask that all iniquitous patterns be exposed in my life and uprooted.”*** (NOTE: True/Godly/tested prophecies that you have received are an excellent source for revealing your true identity and inheritance.)

Pray ***“LORD, I don’t want to be just a hearer but a doer. Help me do what You have told me to do, not just “think” about it.”***

The month of **predestined connections** — This means GOD has connections preordained for you that will really help you move ahead.

Pray, ***“Thank You LORD for the many new connections You have for me. Thank You I will meet those without trying, but just by walking with You.”***

Pray, ***“LORD, I ask for good changes around me. Because we carry the Holy Spirit and the Presence of GOD, we must expect that we can change the spiritual climate from anything negative to one of hope, peace, faith, and joy.”***

This is the time to make the right shift into what GOD has for you. Become and stay excited about the destiny GOD has for you. This is true faith, and “faith” is what pleases GOD.

⁷ 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/>

The month of the **Hebrew letter TET**, which resembles the **womb**; means that good things will be **birthed**. It's exciting to know though that GOD is causing things to be birthed for us, things that will help us advance into our destiny.

The month the lion roars — when the people of GOD roar, it creates a prophetic covering. It unlocks what is above you. Pray, ***“Let there be in me the roaring of praise that unlocks what needs to be unlocked.”***

Ask the LORD to destroy the old foundations and structures that are hindering you from advancing.

The month where the earth begins to contract — watch for earthquakes — the “secret of the pregnancy” begins to move into the earth realm (i.e. pregnancy shows). **Matthew 24:8** *“All this is but the beginning [the early pains] of the birth pangs [of the intolerable anguish]”*.

The month that means there is an iniquity which must not continue.

Pray, ***“LORD, show me my iniquities, so they can be ended.”*** Declare, ***“LORD, I am changing for the better. Thank You that by the Holy Spirit I can change.”***

The kingdom advances through **partnership**. Be very aware and supportive of the partnerships GOD has given you.

Pray, ***“Thank You for new level of discernment. Let this increase so I do not oppose Your Counsel or Advice. Let there be no resisting of Your leading of me.”***

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 Translation⁸

"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."

⁸ Translation by Jeff A. Benner, for more information, please see http://www.ancient-hebrew.org/12_blessing.html