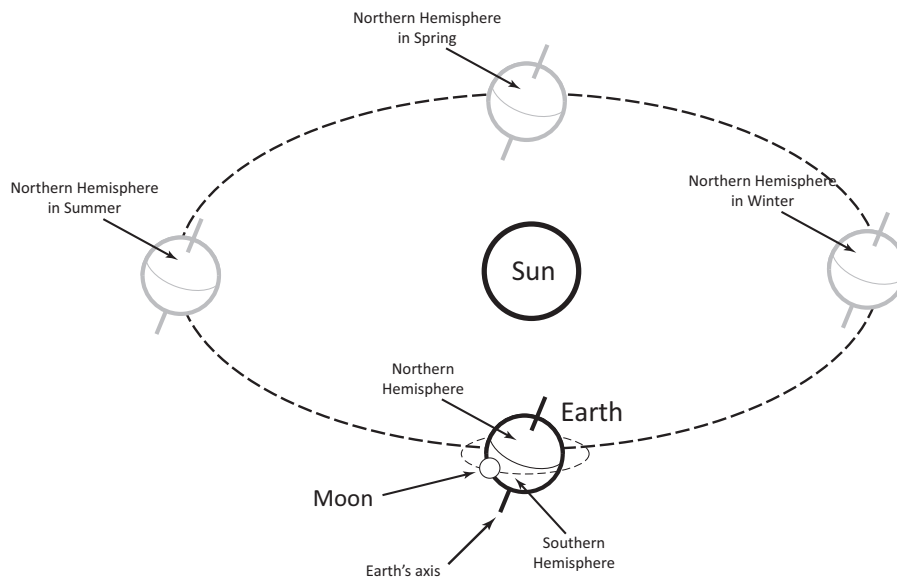


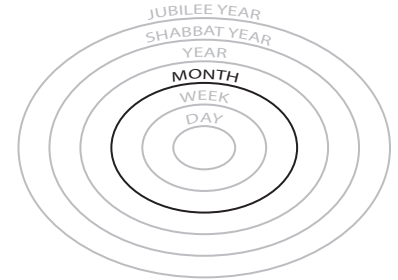
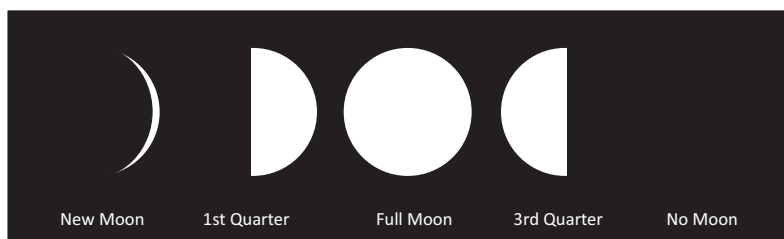
Chodesh (New Moon) – The Forgotten Moed

I. Calendars

- a. American calendar: “Gregorian,” most widely used in the world
 - i. Based on the “solar year”
 - ii. Astronomy Lesson #1
 1. The sun is at the center of our solar system
 2. The planets revolve around the sun
 3. 365 days – one solar year – the time it takes for the earth to go around the sun
 4. Earth revolution



- iii. Months are irrelevant / perform only a cosmetic function
- iv. “Month” derived from “moon”
- b. Lunar Cycle / Lunar Month
 - i. 29 ½ days to revolve once around the earth
 - ii. When we see the moon:
 1. Sun reflecting off the surface of the moon
 2. The earth casts a shadow on the moon surface
 - iii. Astronomy Lesson #2



- iv. Gregorian calendar contains only the remnants of a lunar calendar system; vastly different from a lunar calendar
- v. In order to understand Israel's calendar, we need to set aside our preconceived ideas of how calendars work.

II. Israel's Calendar

- a. When Does Israel's Calendar Begin?
 - i. Exodus 12—beginning of months
 - ii. Aviv: "in the ear" – Exodus 23:15, 34:18; Deut. 16:1
 - iii. 7th plague – Exodus 9:31 – state of the crops
 - iv. Israel's year begins in Springtime
- b. When does the month itself begin?
 - i. חֹדֶשׁ, chodesh—"month" (really, "new moon")
 - ii. חֲדָשׁ, chadash—"new"
- c. When is the moon considered "new"?
 - i. Astronomical new moon—invisible to the naked eye—"no moon"
 - ii. Historical witness—sighting of the first crescent
 - iii. Numbers 28:11—"at the beginning of your new moons"
 - 1. בְּרֵאשִׁי, b'rashei (beginning)—רֹאשׁ, rosh
 - 2. חֲדָשֵׁיכֶם, chadsheichem (moons)—חֹדֶשׁ, chodesh
 - iv. 1Samuel 20—David must have seen the new moon
 - v. Baby birth illustration
- d. Summary
 - i. Begins with the first new moon of Spring
 - ii. Beginnings of months determined by the actual sighting of the new moon (crescent)

III. The Modern Jewish Calendar

- a. Like Israel's Biblical calendar
- b. More about the lunar calendar
 - i. All months no more than 29 or 30 days
 - ii. Length of year based on lunar calendar
 - 1. 12 lunar months x 29.5 day average = 354 days
 - 2. 11 days short of a solar year annually
 - 3. i.e., 11 days x 3 years = 33 days short
 - iii. Israel's calendar is actually a hybrid: "luni-solar"
 - iv. Intercalation—adding a thirteenth month (as needed) to resync the calendar with the solar year
 - 1. Not commanded in Scripture; not forbidden either
 - 2. Scripture says when to start, but not when to stop
 - 3. Need to observe not just the moon, but the land (Exodus 9)
- c. Calculated to automatically include intercalated months ("leap-months")
- d. Problem: the Jewish calendar is "fixed"—no longer relies on observation of the new moon
 - i. Not in perfect sync with the moon
 - ii. Usually off by a day or two in either direction
- e. Manipulates lengths of certain months
- f. Begins in the 7th month, rather than the 1st month
- g. Other modifications from external influences

- h. In spite of these problems, I support the following of the traditional Jewish calendar over some kind of restoration to a calendar based on actual observance
 - i. We're not in Israel (that's the only moon that matters)
 - ii. Need a *reliable* Messianic Jewish community in Israel to take the lead in any kind of restoration of the calendar (Matthew 18:20, Yeshua gives Messianic Jews alone the halachic authority to do this)
 - iii. Unless and until this happens, solidarity with our Jewish people worldwide should take precedence

IV. Astronomy or Astrology?

- a. Genesis 1:14-16
 - i. Sun, moon, stars
 - ii. For signs, seasons, days, years
- b. Isaiah 47:13
 - i. Perversion of ADONAI's creation
 - ii. Looking to creation for answers, rather than the Creator
- c. Observing the heavens for time-keeping is not astrology—it's a fundamental restoration.

V. Scriptural Patterns / Traits

- a. Special sacrifices & offerings—Numbers 28:11, 14
- b. Grouped with mo'adiym (appointed times / holy days)
 - i. 2Chr. 2:4, 2Chr.8:13, 2Chr. 31:3, Ezra 3:5, Isaiah 1:13-14, Eze.45:17, Hosea 2:11
 - ii. Numbers 10:10—blowing of silver trumpets—assembly
- c. Significant Biblical events occurring on new moon
 - i. The tent of meeting erected (Exodus 40:2, 17)
 - ii. ADONAI speaks to Moshe in the tent of meeting (Numbers 1:1)
 - iii. Zik'ron T'ruah a.k.a. Rosh Hashanah (Numbers 29:1, Leviticus 23:24)
 - iv. Aaron dies on Mount Hor (Numbers 33:38)
 - v. Moshe summarizes the Torah for Israel in the eleventh month of last year of wandering (Deuteronomy 1:3)
 - vi. Ezekiel receives multiple prophesies (Eze.29:17, 30:20, 31:1, 32:1, 45:18)
 - vii. Haggai receives a prophetic word (Hag. 1:1)
 - viii. Ezra leaves Babylon (Ezra 7:9)
 - ix. Ezra arrives in Jerusalem (Ezra 7:9)
 - x. Under King Hezekiah—the priests begin consecration of the Temple (2Chr.29:17)
- b. Special link with Shabbat
 - i. 2Kings 4:18-23
 - 1. Revival or rebirth
 - 2. Resurrection power
 - ii. Amos 8:1-6 – sanctification
 - iii. Ezekiel
 - 1. Eze.43:1-4 – the glory of ADONAI comes into the Temple through the east gate
 - 2. Eze.44:1-3 – the east gate is to remain shut to all people

3. Eze.46:1-3 – gate of the inner court facing east
 - a. The prince (Messiah) worships at the threshold
 - i. שָׁחָה, *shachah*
 - ii. Bow down or prostrate oneself
 - b. The priests bring the prince's sacrifices
 - c. The people worship at the entrance
 - d. The gate is opened all day on the day of Shabbat, and the day of Chodesh
4. Themes – worship, holiness, presence of God
- iv. Isaiah 66:23 – worship for eternity

VI. Summary

- a. Close association with mo'adiym
- b. Significant events occurring on Chodesh
- c. Traits in common with Shabbat
 - i. Revival or rebirth (by way of resurrection power)
 - ii. Sanctification
 - iii. Worship
 - iv. Holiness
 - v. Being in the presence of God
 - vi. Overarching theme: *renewal*

VII. How Do We Do It? – Suggestions

- a. Take note of the cycle of the moon
- b. Learn what month you are in on Israel's calendar (and keep track of it)
- c. "Family Day"
- d. Prayer, Praise and Worship