

THE NEW MOON/MONTH OF THE AVIV BARLEY IS THE TRUE BIBLICAL HEBREW NEW YEAR AND WHY THAT IS IMPORTANT!

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The NEW MOON/MONTH when THE BARLEY IS AVIV IN ISRAEL are the ONLY TWO DETERMINING FACTORS GIVEN BY YEHOVAH IN THE WRITTEN TORAH for starting the Biblical Hebrew New Year, the beginning of the New Moons/Months! That makes the true Biblical Hebrew Calendar, not a purely lunar calendar, not a lunar/solar calendar, definitely not a solar calendar, but a

LUNAR/SOLAR/AGRICULTURAL CALENDAR!

THIS IS YEHOVAH'S SIMPLE BIBLICAL CALENDAR FROM MY RESEARCH:

THE NEW MOON/MONTH WHEN THE BARLEY IS AVIV IN ISRAEL IS THE BEGINNING OF YEHOVAH'S BIBLICAL NEW YEAR AND EVERY OTHER NEW MOON/MONTH AFTERWARD IS PURELY LUNAR AND COUNTED BY NUMBER (USUALLY 12 BUT 13 SOME YEARS) UNTIL THE NEXT NEW MOON WHEN THE BARLEY IS AVIV IN ISRAEL!! THE FEAST DATES ARE COUNTED FROM THE FIRST DAY OF THE NEW MOONS, JUST AS THE WRITTEN TORAH GIVES SPECIFIC INSTRUCTION.

SIMPLE!!!

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT???

It seems that the true Biblical Hebrew Calendar will need to actually be restored in the Land of Israel before the Messiah returns. That is because there has to be a Temple and Temple Service by the Levitical Priesthood restored that is acceptable to Yehovah Elohim, WHICH MEANS THE BIBLICAL CALENDAR HAS TO BE ACCURATE, in order for the end-time prophecies to take place. The fact that the 2nd Temple Priesthood did use the true Biblical Hebrew Calendar is encouraging... that the restored Levitical Priesthood will as well! There has to be a Holy Place that is acceptable to Yehovah, before "The Beast – the evil King of the North – The Little Horn" stops the Daily Sacrifice by the Levitical Priesthood and comes to defile it with the Abomination that causes Desolation at the time of the end (Daniel 8:9-19, 23-27; Daniel 9:27; Daniel 11:29- 12:13; Matthew 24:15)...until the King Messiah returns from His seat at the Right Hand of Yehovah Elohim in Heaven to carry out the Wrath of Yehovah Elohim on the wicked and bring the final victory to Israel (Psalm 110, Daniel 7:9-14, Matthew 24:1-44)!!!

It is important to note that YEHOSHUA ONLY UPHELD THE FIVE BOOKS OF MOSES THAT MOSES WROTE WITH THE WORDS DICTATED BY YEHOVAH, THE WRITTEN TORAH, [CALLING THEM COLLECTIVELY "MOSES" MANY TIMES] and THE HEBREW PROPHETS and THE PSALMS [Matthew 5:17-18, Matthew 8:4, Matthew 19:8, John 5:45-46, John 7:19,22, Luke 16:29-31, Luke 24:27, Luke 24:44, and more]. He never even referred to, much less upheld, the supposed Book of Enoch or Book of Jubilees, which speak of a solar calendar that many people are adopting today, although the Essenes,

who seem to have authored, were around in Yehoshua's time. Some of the scriptures that show Yehoshua upheld "MOSES" are listed below:

[Matthew 5:17 KJV] 17 Think not that I am come to destroy THE LAW....

[Matthew 8:4 KJV] 4 And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

[Matthew 19:7-9 KJV] 7 They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? 8 He saith unto them, Moses [THE WRITTEN TORAH] because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except [it be] for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

[Luke 16:29, 31 KJV] 29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. ... 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

[Luke 20:28 KJV] 28 Saying, Master, Moses wrote unto us, If any man's brother die, having a wife, and he die without children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother.

[Luke 24:27, 44 KJV] 27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. ... 44 And he said unto them, These [are] the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written IN THE LAW OF MOSES, AND [IN] THE PROPHETS, AND [IN] THE PSALMS, concerning me.

[John 5:45-47 KJV] 45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: THERE IS [ONE] THAT ACCUSETH YOU, [EVEN] MOSES, IN WHOM YE TRUST. 46 For had ye believed MOSES, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. 47 But if ye believe not HIS WRITINGS [THE WRITTEN TORAH], how shall ye believe my words?

IN ALL OF THE GOSPELS, YEHOSHUA NEVER CAME AGAINST THE LEGITIMACY OF THE PRIESTHOOD IN JERUSALEM NOR THE TIMING OF THE CALENDAR THEY WERE KEEPING. The Gospel of Luke tells us that Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, Yehoshua's uncle, was a priest serving in the Temple in the course of AbiYah (Luke 1). Yehoshuah's parents started out by taking Him to the Temple to be presented to Yehovah as the first-born son and offered the sacrifice that the Torah commanded, when Miriam's days of purification were ended (Luke 2:22-24). Then, when He was twelve years old, they also took Him with them to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Passover, obviously in line with the timing that was kept by the Priesthood (Luke 2:41-50). To me, all this means that even though there were issues with the Priesthood at the time, it was recognized as legitimate to Yehovah and they must have been keeping the correct Biblical calendar according to the Written Torah at that time. Yehoshua also did NOT uphold the oral torah that was being formed by the Pharisees of his day. So, if they had any ideas of a different calendar, and it seemed they did, it was not upheld by Yehoshua. (See more discussion on the Calendar used during Second Temple times on pages 13-14.)

All of this is important to understand this important truth: The Written Torah of Moses is the only place where we find YEHOVAH'S Biblical Calendar commandments that were to be used ever since Israel left Egypt!

Let's begin with the word "AVIV"...

In Biblical Hebrew, AVIV is an agricultural term used **ONLY FOR BARLEY! IT IS A PARTICULAR STAGE OF RIPENESS OF BARLEY**. In Modern Hebrew, the word "Aviv" only means "spring," but in Biblical Hebrew it has always meant the stage of ripeness of barley where it can be eaten parched and will be harvestable a two to three weeks later ("Biblical Calendar Video – NehemiasWall.com" You Tube channel – Nehemia Gordon.) The passage below shows this means the barley in Egypt was **RIPE ENOUGH TO SHATTER** when the hail plague Yehovah sent hit it. The ripeness of wheat is not a factor because it is specifically said to ripen later.

[Exodus 9:25, 31-32 KJV] 25 And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt all that [was] in the field, both man and beast; and the hail smote every herb of the field, and brake every tree of the field. ... 31 **And the flax and the barley was smitten: for the barley [was] in the ear [the literal Hebrew word is "the barley was AVIV"], and the flax [was] bolled [the literal Hebrew word is "the flax was GIVOL" – which means it had the corolla of flowers].** 32 But the wheat and the rie were not smitten: for they [were] not grown up (AFILOT).

The following scriptures show that YEHOVAH set the AVIV BARLEY IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL as the criteria to determine the first month of the Hebrew year, **PRECISELY BECAUSE THAT WAS THE MONTH THAT YEHOVAH BROUGHT ISRAEL OUT OF EGYPT. That is the only reason He gives. Here are a few places He states His reason:**

1) [Exodus 12:1-2 KJV] 1 **And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, 2 THIS MONTH [shall be] unto you the beginning of months: it [shall be] **THE FIRST MONTH OF THE YEAR TO YOU.****

2) [Exodus 13:4 KJV] 4 **This day came ye out in the month ABIB.**

Exodus 13:4 Hebrew Masoretic Text **הַיּוֹם אֲתֵם יֹצְאִים בַּחֹדֶשׁ הָאֲבִיב:**

"Chodesh Ha'aviv" – the New Moon/Month of the Aviv (Barley)

"Chodesh," Strong's Concordance #H2320, literally is a masculine noun translated as **"New Moon" or "Month"** in the Tanach. KJV translates Strong's H2320 in the following manner: [month](#) (254x), [new moon](#) (20x), [monthly](#) (1x), [another](#) (1x).

"CHODESH" IS A MASCULINE NOUN DERIVED FROM THE ROOT VERB "CHADASH." KJV translates **"Chadash,"** Strong's H2318, in the following manner: [renew](#) (7x), [repair](#) (3x) (1 Samuel 11:14/ 2 Chronicles 15:8; 24:4; 24:12/Job10:17/Psalms 51:12; 103:5; 104:30/Isaiah 61:4/Lamentations 5:21). One example is:

[Psalm 103:5 KJV] 5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good [things; so that] thy youth is RENEWED[H2318] like the eagle's.

Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon gives this info about "CHADASH". Notice it is used in the Bible in the Piel Binyan, meaning "TO RENEW: RESTORE, REPAIR":

H2318

חָדַשׁ unused in Kal, TO BE NEW. Arab. حدث to be new, recent. IV. to produce something new; but Conj. III. IV. also to *polish* a sword. Etymologists have well observed that its primary sense is that of cutting or polishing, see Dissertt. Lugd., p. 936. It is of the same family as חָרַר, חָרַק, and the signification of *newness* appears to proceed from that of a sharp polished splendid sword; comp. 2 Sa. 21:16; Aram. חָרַת.

PIEL to *renew*, 1 Sam. 11:14; Job 10:17; Psal. 51:12, especially to *repair* or *restore* buildings or towns, Isa. 61:4; 2 Ch. 15:8; 24:4.

HITHPAEL, to *renew oneself*, Ps. 103:5. Hence—

Therefore, my opinion is, that the word "CHODESH" is used to show that when the moon is "SEEN AS RENEWED," that is the "New Moon " because it is "Renewed." This is the day the "new month" starts. AS WE WILL EXPLORE LATER IN THIS ARTICLE, THERE IS ALSO ANOTHER HEBREW WORD USED FOR BOTH MOON AND MONTH (YAREACH) USED VERY FREQUENTLY IN THE TANACH, SO IT IS UNDISPUTABLE THAT THE WORD MONTH IS RELATED TO THE MOON! However, the word Yehovah uses here, "Chodesh," signifies that it is when the moon is "New," renewed like a sharp, polished splendid sword according to Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon! That so obviously means when the Crescent is visible, that is the correct day to start the month!

Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon states this about the word "Chodesh":

H2320

חֹדֶשׁ m. [suff. חֹדָשׁוֹ, plur. חֳדָשִׁים] *the new moon, the day of the new moon*, the calends of a lunar month which was a festival of the ancient Hebrews, Num. 29:6; 1 Sam. 20:5; 18:24; Ex. 19:1, בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁלִישִׁי “on the third calends” (the third new moon), i. e. the first of the third lunar month. Hos. 5:7, עֲתָה יֹאכְלֵם חֹדֶשׁ “now shall a new moon devour them,” i. e. they shall be destroyed at the time of the new moon.

(2) a lunar *month*, beginning at the new moon. Gen. 8:5; Ex. 13:5, etc. חֹדֶשׁ יָמִים the period of a month (see יָמִים). Gen. 29:14; Nu. 11:20, 21.

(3) [*Hodesh*], pr. n. f., 1 Ch. 8:9.

NOW TO CONTINUE LOOKING AT THE REST OF THE VERSES WHERE YEHOVAH COMMANDS THE USE OF THE “NEW MOON/MONTH OF THE AVIV (BARLEY) – AND WHY!!!

3) [Exodus 23:15 KJV] 15 Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, **in the time appointed of the month ABIB; FOR IN IT THOU CAMEST OUT FROM EGYPT:** and none shall appear before me empty:)

4) [Exodus 34:18 KJV] 18 The feast of unleavened bread shalt thou keep. Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread, as I commanded thee, **in the time of the month ABIB: FOR IN THE MONTH ABIB THOU CAMEST OUT FROM EGYPT.**

5) [Deuteronomy 16:1 KJV] 1 **Observe the month of ABIB**, and keep the passover unto the LORD thy God: **FOR IN THE MONTH OF ABIB THE LORD THY GOD BROUGHT THEE FORTH OUT OF EGYPT BY NIGHT.**

(IT IS WORTH MENTIONING THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE BARLEY HARVEST IN ISRAEL PER SOLAR CYCLE, SINCE SOME AREAS OF THE WORLD HAVE MORE THAN ONE...)

The “Why?” question seems to be answered definitively by Yehovah Himself... the Month of the Aviv is simply a commemoration of the time of the year that He brought them out of Egypt! THIS IS VERY MUCH LIKE THE COMMANDMENT OF THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD BEING A COMMEMORATION OF THE FACT THAT ISRAEL HAD TO LEAVE EGYPT SO HURRIEDLY THAT NIGHT THAT THEY DID NOT HAVE TIME FOR THE BREAD TO RISE!!!:

[Exodus 12:33-34 KJV] 33 And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste; for they said, We [be] all dead [men]. 34 And the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneadingtroughs being bound up in their clothes upon their shoulders.

[Deuteronomy 16:1-4 KJV] 1 Observe the month of Abib, and keep the passover unto the LORD thy God: for in the month of Abib the LORD thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt by night. 2 Thou shalt

therefore sacrifice the passover unto the LORD thy God, of the flock and the herd, in the place which the LORD shall choose to place his name there. 3 Thou shalt eat no leavened bread with it; SEVEN DAYS SHALT THOU EAT UNLEAVENED BREAD THEREWITH, [EVEN] THE BREAD OF AFFLICTION; FOR THOU CAMEST FORTH OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT IN HASTE: THAT THOU MAYEST REMEMBER THE DAY WHEN THOU CAMEST FORTH OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT ALL THE DAYS OF THY LIFE. 4 And there shall be no leavened bread seen with thee in all thy coast seven days; neither shall there [any thing] of the flesh, which thou sacrificedst the first day at even, remain all night until the morning.

SO DEUTERONOMY 16:3 ABSOLUTELY CONFIRMS WHY YEHOVAH COMMANDED THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD! IT IS A REMEMBRANCE!

IN THE SAME WAY, IN THE SAME PASSAGE, DEUTERONOMY 16:1 ALSO CONFIRMS WHY YEHOVAH COMMANDED THE MONTH OF AVIV TO BE OBSERVED! IT IS A REMEMBRANCE!

JUST AS ANOTHER CONFIRMATION, THE PASSOVER SACRIFICE COMMANDMENT ITSELF TO BE KEPT IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL WAS ALSO A REMEMBRANCE OF THE FIRST PASSOVER IN EGYPT (EXODUS 12:27)

IN FACT, EVEN THE VERY SABBATH COMMANDMENT, GIVEN FIRST IN EXODUS 16 WITHOUT EXPLANATION, WAS REITERATED IN EXODUS 20:8-11 WITH THE EXPLANATION THAT IT WAS INSTITUTED AS A REMEMBRANCE OF YEHOVAH'S CREATION OF THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH IN JUST SIX DAYS AND HIS RESTING, ACTUALLY CEASING ("SHABBATING"), ON THE SEVENTH DAY (Genesis 2:1-3)!

YEHOVAH CERTAINLY HAS A PATTERN OF ESTABLISHING "REMEMBRANCES"!

IT SEEMS VERY REASONABLE, THEN, TO ASSUME THAT THE ONLY REASON THE MONTH OF THE AVIV BARLEY STARTS THE BIBLICAL NEW YEAR IS SIMPLY A REMEMBRANCE OF THE TIME OF YEAR YEHOVAH BROUGHT THE ISRAELITES OUT OF EGYPT, AS HE STATES IN MANY PLACES!

NOTE: IF YEHOVAH HAD WANTED ANY OTHER DETERMINING FACTORS, SUCH AS THE FOUR EQUINOXES/SOLSTICES OF THE SUN, WHICH ARE OF BABYLONIAN ORIGIN, TO BE PART OF CALCULATING HIS CALENDAR, HE WOULD HAVE SAID SO!!

For example, where does Yehovah say anything about the Vernal Equinox in the Tanach/the Hebrew Bible being a determiner of the New Year???

THESE EQUINOXES/SOLSTICES ARE USED BY THE SOLAR CALENDAR IN THE BOOK OF ENOCH/JUBILEES. CONVERSELY, THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO MENTION ANYWHERE IN THE HEBREW BIBLE OF ANY EQUINOXES OR SOLSTICES AT ALL! THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER, AS EVEN THE JEWISH CALENDAR OF HILLEL II IN USE TODAY UTILIZES EQUINOXES AND SOLSTICES OF THE SUN THAT ARE NEVER MENTIONED IN THE TANACH AT ALL! THERE IS NOT EVEN A WORD IN THE HEBREW LANGUAGE FOR "EQUINOX" OR "SOLSTICE." Although some people point to the word "tequphah" to mean "equinox" (Exodus 34:22, I Samuel 1:20, II Chronicles 24:23, and Psalm 19:1-6 are the four times in the Tanach that this word is used), there is nothing in these four verses that provide any specific,

definitive relationship between the equinox and the timing of the annual Holy Days. THE WORD “TEQUPHAH” AS USED IN THESE VERSES DO NOT EVEN APPEAR TO DEFINE SPECIFIC DATES, BUT THE EQUINOXES ARE VERY SPECIFIC DATES in time. Below, you will see that the context of the use of “tequphah” in Psalm 19:6 is clearly in reference to the DAILY CIRCUIT OF THE SUN, not to the sun’s annual relationship with the earth!

[Psalm 19:1-6 KJV] 1 [[To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.]] The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. 2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. 3 [There is] no speech nor language, [where] their voice is not heard. 4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, 5 Which [is] as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, [and] rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. 6 His going forth [is] from the end of the heaven, and his circuit (tequphah) unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

PHILO, THE FIRST CENTURY JEWISH HISTORIAN WHO WAS CONTEMPORARY WITH YEHOSHUA HAMASHIACH, ALTHOUGH HE HAS AN AFFECTION FOR THE EQUINOXES, STILL STATES THAT THE TRUE TORAH INSTRUCTION GIVEN BY MOSES FOR DETERMINING THE BIBLICAL NEW YEAR WAS ONLY BY THE AGRICULTURAL COMMANDMENT, NOT THE VERNAL EQUINOX:

“(222) MOSES PUTS DOWN THE BEGINNING OF THE VERNAL EQUINOX AS THE FIRST MONTH OF THE YEAR, ATTRIBUTING THE CHIEF HONOUR, NOT AS SOME PERSONS DO TO THE PERIODICAL REVOLUTIONS OF THE YEAR IN REGARD OF TIME, BUT RATHER TO THE GRACES AND BEAUTIES OF NATURE WHICH IT HAS CAUSED TO SHINE UPON MEN; for it is through the bounty of nature that the seeds which are sown to produce the necessary food of mankind are brought to perfection. And the fruit of trees in their prime, which is second in importance only to the necessary crops, is engendered by the same power, and as being second in importance it also ripens late; for we always find in nature that those things which are not very necessary are second to those which are indispensable. (223) Now wheat and barley are among the things which are very necessary; as, likewise, are all the other species of food, without which it is impossible to live. But oil, and wine, and almonds are not among necessities, since men often live without them to the very extremity of old age, extending their life over a number of years. (224) Accordingly, in this month, about the fourteenth day of the month, when the orb of the moon is usually about to become full, the public universal feast of the passover is celebrated, which in the Chaldaic language is called pascha;...” (Philo, “On the Life of Moses II”, Chapter XLI, part 222-224, emphasis added)

DR. NEHEMIA GORDON WROTE IN A KARAITE KORNER NEWSLETTER IN FEBRUARY 2011 THAT ADDRESSES THE QUESTION THAT MANY HAD THAT YEAR (AND STILL HAVE) ABOUT WHETHER THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD CAN BE OBSERVED BEFORE THE VERNAL EQUINOX:

“Some people object that the true indicator for the beginning of the Biblical year should not be the Aviv barley but the VERNAL EQUINOX, THE DAY WHICH MARKS THE BEGINNING OF SPRING. THEY BASE THIS ON AN ANACHRONISM in the rabbinical interpretation of the biblical Hebrew word Tekufah (“circuit”). An anachronism is erroneously placing something from a later time period into an earlier one. For example, speaking about

telephones in Ancient Rome is an anachronism. Interpreting the Biblical Hebrew word “Tekufah” as “equinox”, a meaning it never had in Tanakh times, is an anachronism.

“...If we are really required to use the vernal equinox for the biblical calendar, then which equinox? The problem is that there was no reliable way to calculate the timing of the Vernal Equinox in antiquity. Today modern astronomers have worked out with a high degree of accuracy the exact timing of the Vernal Equinox. The prerequisite for determining the true equinox was discovering the exact length of the solar year. According to modern astronomers a solar year is 365 days 5 hours 48 minutes 46 seconds and this year the equinox falls out on March 20, 2011 11:21pm UTC. Easy, right? Not so fast. The true value of the solar year was not known until modern times.

“Fear not, say advocates of the equinox, Moses had secret astronomical knowledge learned at the court of Pharaoh. This secret knowledge supposedly included the exact calculation to work out the true timing of the Vernal Equinox. If Moses had this secret knowledge it was unfortunately unknown to later Jews. The early Rabbis mention the Vernal Equinox but they did not have a way of reliably calculating it because they did not know the true length of the solar year.

“There were actually two contradictory opinions about the length of the solar year and both were wrong. According to Rabbi Samuel the solar year was 365 days 6 hours whereas Rabbi Ada reckoned the solar year to be 365 days 5 hours 55 minutes 25.4 seconds. The difference between these two values may sound trivial but they result in the Vernal Equinox falling out on different days, neither of which is the correct day! For example, this year the Equinox of Samuel falls out on April 8, 2011 whereas the Equinox of Ada in March 28, 2011. The true Vernal Equinox in Jerusalem time comes out to March 21, 2011 at 1:21 am – 7 days before the Equinox of Ada and 18 days before the Equinox of Samuel. Which one of these three values did Moses supposedly use: the Equinox of Ada, the Equinox of Samuel, or the true astronomical value only worked out in modern times? If this knowledge was known to Moses then why was it unknown to every other ancient civilization including the Jews? **DID GOD REALLY INTEND FOR US TO WAIT FOR THE ADVENT OF MODERN ASTRONOMY TO KNOW THE TRUE TIMING OF THE BIBLICAL FEASTS? OR DID HE SET OUT A SIMPLE SYSTEM THAT ANCIENT ISRAELITE FARMERS COULD EASILY FOLLOW BY LOOKING AT THEIR CROPS AS THEY GREW IN THE FIELDS? IT SEEMS TO ME THIS IS WHAT THE CREATOR WAS TALKING ABOUT WHEN HE SAID: ‘OBSERVE THE MONTH OF THE AVIV’ IN DEUTERONOMY 16:1. NO NEED FOR SECRET ASTRONOMICAL KNOWLEDGE; JUST A SIMPLE WAY TO TRACK THE SOLAR CYCLE RELEVANT TO AN ANCIENT FARMING SOCIETY.**

“To make matters even more interesting, the Vernal Equinox is calculated today as a moment in time, not as a day. As already mentioned, this year the Vernal Equinox will be March 21, 2011 at 1:21am Israel time. In the Hebrew reckoning, the day begins at sunset and this is well after sunset presumably making March 20 at sunset until March 21 at sunset the day of the Vernal Equinox. But not so fast with this either! The ancients defined the equinox as the day on which daytime and nighttime were of equal length, as we can see from the following quotation from the Jerusalem Talmud (Berachot 2c 1:1): ‘On both the Vernal Equinox and Autumnal Equinox the day and the night are equal.’ So when would that be for observers in the Land of Israel?

Considering that they did not have accurate clocks in ancient times, this would be no small feat to figure out, which is why both Samuel and Ada got it wrong. If you look at TimeandDate.com for the day on which the daytime and nighttime are equal in Jerusalem you get a surprising result: March 17! On March 17 there will be 12h 00m 41s of daytime and 11h 59m 19s of nighttime. So is the “Biblical” equinox March 17 based on day lengths in Jerusalem? Or March 21 based on modern astronomy? Or March 28 or April 8 based on the ancient values of the year according to Samuel and Ada? Check the Jerusalem day lengths in March 2011 for yourself: <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/astronomy.html?n=110&month=3&year=2011&obj=sun&afl=11&day=1>

“The ancients could theoretically have used the falling of shadows over the period of a year to figure out the timing of the equinox and then after a number of years correlated this to the rising of the sun at a fixed point on the horizon. This is what was presumably done at Stonehenge and similar sites. However, this would not bring them the correct day based on the equal length of days and night and the values of Samuel and Ada prove they did not use this method for the calendar.

“Now just for fun, let’s look at the ancient Pharisee use of the equinox. The rabbis believed in determining the beginning of the year based on three factors of which the Aviv was considered the most important but not the only one. The other two were the Vernal Equinox and the ripening of unspecified ‘fruits of the trees’ (Babylonian Talmud, Sanhedrin 11b). **What the rabbis looked at when it came to the equinox was that the 16th of Nissan would fall on or after the Vernal Equinox. If it didn’t, then they added a 13th month, Adar Bet (Rosh Hashanah 21a). The problem is there are four different ways to calculate the Vernal Equinox:**

“Equinox acc. to equal daytime and nighttime: March 17

Equinox of Ada: March 28

Equinox of Samuel: April 8

Equinox acc. to modern astronomy: March 21

“If the Aviv is found on March 6, it would make the 16th of Nissan on March 22, too early for Ada and Samuel but perfect timing based on modern astronomy and the day with equal daytime and nighttime. **THE ANCIENT PHARISEES USED THE EQUINOX OF SAMUEL FOR THIS PURPOSE AND THIS WAS LATER INCORPORATED INTO THE HILLEL II CALENDAR.** This is why the modern rabbinical calendar has a leap year this year, based on the incorrect value that places the equinox on April 8.

Nehemia Gordon

Jerusalem, Israel” (Gordon, “Karaites Korner Newsletter #497 – Equinox Shmequinox”, emphasis added)

Returning to the problems with the Enoch Calendar (also mistakenly beginning to be called the “Zadok Calendar”), **The Book of Jubilees has a DIFFERENT CREATION ACCOUNT than the Hebrew Masoretic Text of Genesis to justify its use of equinoxes of the sun. JUBILEES MAGNIFIES THE SUN and adds to The Written Torah and changes it by adding roles to the sun and denying the roles of the Moon in determining the months and the Feasts!**

JUBILEES 2:7-8: 7)And on the fourth day He made the sun and moon and stars and placed them in the firmament of heaven that they should shine over the earth and to rule over day and night and to divide between night and day and between darkness and light. 8) And GOD established the SUN AS A GREAT SIGN OVER THE EARTH AND FOR DAYS AND FOR SABBATHS AND FOR MONTHS AND FOR FESTIVALS AND FOR YEARS AND FOR JUBILEES AND FOR ALL SEASONS OF THE YEARS.” (Schodde, *The Book of Jubilees translated from the Ethiopic*, Chapter II. Verses 7-8)

THE BOOK OF GENESIS in the Written Torah (in the Hebrew Masoretic text and in the Greek Septuagint) DOES NOT SAY THE SUN was given for Sabbaths, Months, the Festivals (Feasts), etc. as the Book of Jubilees proclaims!!! Both the Hebrew Masoretic Text and the Septuagint state, concerning the TWO GREAT LIGHTS, both the sun and the moon, “LET THEM BE FOR SIGNS - Strongs Concordance Greek #4592 is the word “SEMEION,” in the Greek Septuagint, translating to the English noun “SIGNS” (Greek noun, Accusative Plural - Neuter).

[Genesis 1:14-19 KJV] 14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let THEM be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: 15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. 16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: [he made] the stars also. 17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, 18 And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that [it was] good. 19 And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

IN FACT, PSALM 104:19 KJV TELLS US ABSOLUTELY THAT THE MOON WAS GIVEN AS THE SIGN FOR THE FEASTS/FESTIVALS!

[PSALM 104:19 KJV] [Psalm 104:19 KJV] 19 HE APPOINTED THE MOON (“YAREACH”) FOR SEASONS (“MOADIYM” which means APPOINTED TIMES, i.e. FEASTS/FESTIVALS); the sun knoweth his going down.

PSALM 104:19 even tells us the sun’s role: “the SUN (“shemesh”) knoweth HIS SETTING (“M’VO’O”)” speaks of SUNSET.

HEBREW MASORETIC TEXT PSALM 104:19:

מְבוֹאוֹ יָדַעַתְּ שֶׁמֶשׁ לְמוֹעֲדִים יָרַח עֲשָׂה

SO, THE SUN WAS GIVEN FOR DETERMINING DAYS! SUNSET DOES MARK THE END OF ONE DAY AND THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT!!! (... Evening to evening was the first Day according to Genesis 1:5). Sunrise does not mark the beginning of a day, sunset does! HENCE, THE ONLY SIGN OF THE SUN IN DETERMINING THE BIBLICAL CALENDAR IS THE BEGINNING AND THE END OF DAYS BY ITS SUNSET!

THIS IS THE ONLY REAL REASON I BELIEVE TO CALL THE BIBLICAL HEBREW CALENDAR BY THIS TITLE: A LUNAR/SOLAR/AGRICULTURAL CALENDAR!

SO, PSALM 104:19 DISPROVES THE VALIDITY OF THE BOOK OF JUBILEES!!! Since Jubilees 2:8 states this emphatically:

8) And **GOD ESTABLISHED THE SUN AS A GREAT SIGN OVER THE EARTH AND FOR DAYS AND FOR SABBATHS AND FOR MONTHS AND FOR FESTIVALS AND FOR YEARS AND FOR JUBILEES AND FOR ALL SEASONS OF THE YEARS.**" (Schodde, *The Book of Jubilees translated from the Ethiopic*, Chapter II. Verses 7-8)

THE ONLY THING TRUE ABOUT THIS PASSAGE FROM JUBILEES IS THAT WE ARE TOLD IN THE HEBREW MASORETIC TEXT OF THE WRITTEN TORAH AND THE REST OF THE TANACH THAT THE SUN WAS GIVEN TO RULE OVER THE DAY! THE VERY FACT THAT THE BOOK OF JUBILEES TRANSLATED FROM THE ETHIOPIC EXALTS THE SUN AND ADDS ROLES TO THE SUN IS WHAT MADE THE "JUBILEES" SUSPECT TO ME IN THE FIRST PLACE...

IN FACT, WE NEED TO REMEMBER, HOW MUCH YEHOVAH DETESTS SUN WORSHIP...

[Ezekiel 8:15-16 KJV] 15 Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen [this], O son of man? turn thee yet again, [and] thou shalt see greater ABOMINATIONS than these. 16 And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, [were] about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and THEY WORSHIPPED THE SUN TOWARD THE EAST.

THE PAGAN RELIGIONS THAT WORSHIPPED THE SUN DID SO ON THE SOLSTICES AND EQUINOXES OF THE SUN!!! Just consider what happens even today at STONEHENGE EVERY VERNAL EQUINOX!!! Thousands of Druids, witches, warlocks, New Age believers, and other occultists come together to WORSHIP THE SUN! They raise their hands to welcome the sunrise and fires are lit to honor the rising sun!

It is worth noting that Babylon is termed "**THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS**"(IDOLATERS) in the Prophetic Book of Revelation!

[Revelation 17:3-5 KJV] 3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: 5 And upon her forehead [was] a name written, **MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**

That totally agrees with the original prophecy of Isaiah 47 which makes it clear that **the actual Babylonians/Chaldeans** are the people **Yehovah is condemning for being "astrologers," "star-gazers" and "monthly prognosticators"**! I believe the condemnation of **"their sorceries (witchcraft)" and "their enchantments"** are related to equinoxes and solstices, **AS IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT WICCA USES THE EQUINOXES/SOLSTICES, AS WELL AS THE ZODIAC, IN THEIR WITCHCRAFT!!!**

[Isaiah 47:1-15 KJV] 1 Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin **DAUGHTER OF BABYLON**, sit on the ground: [there is] no throne, **O DAUGHTER OF THE CHALDEANS**: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate. 2 Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover the thigh, pass over the rivers. 3 Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy

shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet [thee as] a man. 4 **[As for] our redeemer, the LORD of hosts [is] his name, the Holy One of Israel.** 5 **Sit thou silent, and get thee into darkness, O DAUGHTER OF THE CHALDEANS: for THOU SHALT NO MORE BE CALLED, THE LADY OF KINGDOMS.** 6 I was wroth with my people, I have polluted mine inheritance, and given them into thine hand: thou didst shew them no mercy; upon the ancient hast thou very heavily laid thy yoke. 7 And thou saidst, I shall be a lady for ever: [so] that thou didst not lay these [things] to thy heart, neither didst remember the latter end of it. 8 Therefore hear now this, [thou that art] given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I [am], and none else beside me; I shall not sit [as] a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children: 9 But these two [things] shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection **for the multitude of THY SORCERIES (WITCHCRAFT), [and] for the great abundance of THINE ENCHANTMENTS.** 10 For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I [am], and none else beside me. 11 Therefore shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off: and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, [which] thou shalt not know. 12 **STAND NOW WITH THINE ENCHANTMENTS, AND WITH THE MULTITUDE OF THY SORCERIES, WHEREIN THOU HAST LABOURED FROM THY YOUTH;** if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail. 13 Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now **THE ASTROLOGERS ("HOV'REY SHAMAYIM" – DIVIDERS OF THE HEAVENS), THE STARGAZERS ("HACHOZIYM BACOCHAVIYM"), THE MONTHLY PROGNOSTICATORS,** stand up, and save thee from [these things] that shall come upon thee. 14 Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: [there shall] not [be] a coal to warm at, [nor] fire to sit before it. 15 Thus shall they be unto thee with whom thou hast laboured, [even] thy merchants, from thy youth: they shall wander every one to his quarter; none shall save thee.

So, as the Mother of Harlots (Idolatry), EVEN IDOLATRY USING ASTROLOGY, STARGAZING, AND HOROSCOPES, Babylon spread her harlotry throughout the earth! We will see that Egypt obviously received it and just renamed their gods and goddesses, as did other kingdoms! We do know that Babylon was one of the first areas/cities built after the Flood, according to the Hebrew Torah:

[Genesis 10:1, 6-10 KJV] 1 Now these [are] the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth: and unto them were sons born after the flood. ... 6 And the sons of Ham; Cush, and Mizraim, and Phut, and Canaan. 7 And the sons of Cush; Seba, and Havilah, and Sabtah, and Raamah, and Sabtecha: and the sons of Raamah; Sheba, and Dedan. 8 And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD. 10 And the beginning of his kingdom was BABEL, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

[Genesis 11:1-9 KJV] 1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. 2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. 3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. 4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top [may reach] unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. 5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the

children of men builded. 6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people [is] one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. 7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. 8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. 9 Therefore is the name of it called BABEL; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

"THE OLDEST UNDISPUTED EVIDENCE OF THE USE OF ASTROLOGY AS AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF KNOWLEDGE IS THEREFORE ATTRIBUTED TO THE RECORDS OF THE FIRST DYNASTY OF MESOPOTAMIA (1950-1651 BCE)." ("Astrology," Wikipedia.org, accessed 1/4/2023, emphasis added). It very well may have started there much before that, even during the time of the Tower of Babel recorded in Genesis 11, in my opinion...

Again, every verse that is in the Bible concerning the Hebrew New Year that Yehovah prescribes for Israel states that this month of the Aviv was chosen by Yehovah PURELY BECAUSE IT DISTINGUISHES THE MONTH THAT HE BROUGHT THEM OUT FROM THE LAND OF EGYPT!! That is the only reason Yehovah gives! THE MONTH OF AVIV BARLEY WAS NOT GIVEN TO BE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR BECAUSE IT WAS RELATED TO ANYTHING ASTROLOGICAL AT ALL!

Heathens created calendars with its **EQUINOXES AND SOLSTICES OF THE SUN AND THE ZODIAC**, which originated in Babylon, the Mother of Harlots, even according to many encyclopedias, etc. **They did this for agricultural/fertility purposes and worshipped the sun and the stars (naming them other [false] gods and goddesses) from which they believed they were blessed with a good harvest and fertility.**

It is beyond the scope of this article to research how things progressed from the time that Israel was delivered by Yehovah from Egypt all the way to the Second Temple.

However, during the Second Temple times, my understanding is that there were three factions in Israel who argued over the timing of the Calendar/Feasts: 1) the Pharisees, who had an oral torah to which they gave equal authority as the Written Torah and (later) wrote the Mishnah and the Talmud. It is evident, from the quotes below, that they subscribed to a lunar/solar calendar, probably adopted while exiled in Babylon; 2) the Essenes, who wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls, and had a purely solar calendar which they considered to be the original ancient way to track time, not using the New Moon or Aviv Barley as determiners at all as Yehovah had commanded and 3) the Sadducees, who made up the Temple Priesthood, who only used the Written Torah and did not follow the Oral Torah of the Pharisees. The good news is that the Sadducees were in charge of the Temple, and, although not without their issues, seems to have at least followed the Biblical lunar/solar/agricultural calendar from the Written Torah. My research shows that this method was in use throughout the period of the Second Temple (516 BCE– 68 CE). It seems the Sanhedrin took this over for about three centuries after the Temple's destruction, until the calculated rabbinic Hillel II calendar was implemented in 359 CE (He obviously believed this was necessary because the persecutions of the Jews under the Roman Emperor Constantius [337-361 CE] were becoming more and more severe...)

According to the online Jewish Encyclopedia:

**** “In the times of the Second Temple, it appears from the Mishnah (R. H. i. 7) that the priests had a court to which witnesses came and reported. This function was afterward taken over by the civil court (see B. Zuckermann, “Materialien zur Entwicklung der Altjüdischen Zeitrechnung im Talmud,” Breslau, 1882). (<https://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/3920-calendar-history-of>, accessed 5/22/2023).

THIS MEANS THAT THE PRIESTS, WHICH WERE SADDUCEES, HAD THE CONTROL OVER THE CALENDAR DURING THE SECOND TEMPLE TIMES!!! THEIR COURT USED THE WITNESSES OF THE CRESCENT NEW MOON’S APPEARANCE AND THE AVIV BARLEY TO DETERMINE THE NEW YEAR!!!

IT WAS ONLY AFTERWARD THAT THE SANHEDRIN TOOK THIS OVER. There is controversy over what parties made up the Sanhedrin, but many sources say that it was made up of both Pharisees and Sadducees.

At some point, possibly during the earlier Babylonian exile, at least some of the Jews, who later became the Pharisees/Rabbis, had adopted the equinoxes and solstices. The Talmud explains their extremely complicated process for determining the “Jewish” calendar. It became a Lunar/Solar calendar. A few short proofs are below:

“As said, the four seasons in the Jewish year are called tekufot (plural of tekufah). More exactly, it is the beginning of each of the four seasons, according to common opinion, the middle beginning, which is called t’kufa (literally ‘circuit’), from קוּף related with נָקַף, ‘turn around,’ the tekufah Nisan denotes **the mean sun at the vernal equinoctial point**, Tammuz denotes it at **the summer solstitial point**, Tishri at the **autumnal equinoctial point**, and Tevet at **the winter solstitial point**.” (Encyclopaedia Judaica, “Calendar” article, p. 356, accessed from “Month of the Aviv”, ARoodAwakening.tv/biblical-hebrew-calendar)

“Rabbi Yosei says: The year must be intercalated only if twenty-one days of Tishri will pass before **the fall equinox**. The Gemara explains: And both exposed the same verse to get to their respective opinions: And the Feast of Harvest in the change of the year (Exodus 34:11). Both interpret the verse in the sense that the Feast of Harvest, that refers to the middle days of Sukkot, must take place during the season of Tishri, meaning, in the fall. An elder, rabbi Yehudah, holds that we demand every Feast to take place in the new season, **after the equinox**. And an elder, rabbi Yosei, holds that we only require that part of the Feast, even one day, takes place in the new season, therefore the year must be intercalated only if **the equinox** occurs in the twenty second day of Tishri or later.” (Treaty Sanhedrin 13a:1, accessed from “Month of Aviv, ARoodAwakening.tv/biblical-hebrew-calendar).

“In the month of Xanthicus, which we call Nisan and is the beginning of our year, on the fourteenth day of the lunar month, WHEN THE SUN IS IN ARIES, (because in this month we were freed from slavery under the Egyptians), the law ordered that every year we should kill that sacrifice that I told you before that we killed when we left Egypt, and which was called Passover...” (Flavius Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, Book III, Chapter 10, paragraph 5, accessed from “Month of The Aviv,” ARoodAwakening.tv/biblical-hebrew-calendar, emphasis added)

None of this is Biblical (although the Jewish historian Josephus, even as he speaks of the pagan constellation Aries, at least confirms that the months were Lunar)!!!

YEHOVAH HAS AN EXTREMELY SIMPLE CALENDAR...SUMMER AND WINTER ARE THE ONLY TWO SEASONS EVEN MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE (Genesis 39:22 and more) AND THERE ARE NO ASTRAL FORMULAS GIVEN (EQUINOXES/SOLSTICES) FOR CALCULATING THEM!!!:

“Looking at the climate in the Land of Israel gives us a clue. THE BIBLE MENTIONS TWO SEASONS. ‘While the Earth remains, seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, SUMMER AND WINTER...shall not cease’ (Gen. 8:22). ‘You have fixed the boundaries of the earth; you have made SUMMER AND WINTER’ (Ps. 74:17). ‘On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem...it shall continue IN SUMMER AS IN WINTER’ (Zech. 14:8). Here, in a few short weeks the long, hot summer turns into a cold and rainy winter. Six months later, after a few balmy weeks comes the hot, dry season again.” (“Knowing Our Hebrew Roots,” CMJ ISRAEL, News and Views, Oct-Dec 2021, Issue I, emphasis added)”

THIS IS YEHOVAH’S SIMPLE BIBLICAL CALENDAR FROM MY RESEARCH:

THE NEW MOON/MONTH WHEN THE BARLEY IS AVIV IN ISRAEL IS THE BEGINNING OF YEHOVAH’S BIBLICAL NEW YEAR AND EVERY OTHER NEW MOON/MONTH AFTERWARD IS PURELY LUNAR AND COUNTED BY NUMBER (USUALLY 12 BUT 13 SOME YEARS)... UNTIL THE NEXT NEW MOON WHEN THE BARLEY IS AVIV IN ISRAEL!! THE FEAST DATES ARE COUNTED FROM THE FIRST DAY OF THE NEW MOONS, JUST AS THE WRITTEN TORAH GIVES SPECIFIC INSTRUCTION.

SIMPLE!!!

In fact, Jehovah states that all of His Torah commands are NOT TOO DIFFICULT for His people to simply read or hear, understand, and do!!!:

[Deuteronomy 30:8-14 KJV] 8 And thou shalt return and obey the voice of the LORD, and do all his commandments which I command thee this day. 9 And the LORD thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for the LORD will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers: 10 If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, [and] if thou turn unto the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul. 11 FOR THIS COMMANDMENT WHICH I COMMAND THEE THIS DAY, IT [IS] NOT HIDDEN FROM THEE, NEITHER [IS] IT FAR OFF. 12 IT [IS] NOT IN HEAVEN, THAT THOU SHOULDEST SAY, WHO SHALL GO UP FOR US TO HEAVEN, AND BRING IT UNTO US, THAT WE MAY HEAR IT, AND DO IT? 13 NEITHER [IS] IT BEYOND THE SEA, THAT THOU SHOULDEST SAY, WHO SHALL GO OVER THE SEA FOR US, AND BRING IT UNTO US, THAT WE MAY HEAR IT, AND DO IT? 14 BUT THE WORD [IS] VERY NIGH UNTO THEE, IN THY MOUTH, AND IN THY HEART, THAT THOU MAYEST DO IT.

So, how do we possibly get back to this SIMPLE TRUE HEBREW BIBLICAL CALENDAR???

Devorah's Date Tree organizes New Moon Observations and Barley Inspections in the Land of Israel! This important effort is headed by Devorah Gordon, who has been living in Israel, and looking for the crescent New Moon, and participating in Barley Inspections, for over 25 years. Today, her reports reach countless people around the world and are considered the most reliable and respected New Moon and Barely Inspection reports from the Holy Land. She also has written some very good information on how this is to be determined in her emails/facebook posts. (I have seen some other individuals and possibly groups that may be doing New Moon Observations and Barley Inspections in Israel as well, but I know that Devorah Gordon was trained under Dr. Nehemia Gordon, whom I have quoted profusely in this article. He carried out these observations and inspections for many years himself and reported in his website at the time, Karaite-Korner.org)

The following information was titled **“What is Aviv Barley”** in the email Devorah sent February 22, 2022(emphasis added):

“Dear Friends,

As we are preparing to head out to inspect the development of the barley next week, I thought this would be a good time to review what is Aviv Barley.

Aviv is the stage in which the grain is developed, has started to turn lighter in color, and the kernels have lost almost all of its moisture. This means that Aviv is ripe enough that it can be harvested, parched, and eaten.

We know these are the characteristics of Aviv, because it says in Exodus 9:31-32 that the BARLEY WAS DESTROYED by the plague of hail, because it was AVIV, whereas the WHEAT WAS NOT DESTROYED, because it was AFILLOT (dark).

The description in the above passage between of Aviv and Afilot is key to understanding what Aviv is, so let's unpack it starting with Afilot. Afilot (dark) refers to the grain still being dark in color, i.e. dark green, meaning it still has a lot of moisture and therefore was not destroyed by the hail. Whereas the barley was Aviv, meaning that in contrast to the wheat, it had already started to turn lighter in color, which means it had lost almost all of its moisture, and therefore was susceptible to the hail.

Because Aviv is developed kernels that simply have a little bit of moisture left in them, they would harvest the Aviv Barley, parch it with fire to remove that last bit of moisture, and then eaten it. This is referred to in the Tanach as Aviv Kalui (Parched Aviv), or sometimes simply as Kalui or Kali (Lev 2:14, Lev 23:14, Joshua 5:11, Rut 2:14, 1Sam 17:17, 1 Samuel 25:18, 2Sam 17,28).

Although I mentioned that Aviv Barley has started to turn lighter in color, we cannot simply determine whether the barley is Aviv by its color, as this can be deceptive. Instead, when we inspect the fields, we always squeeze the kernels to see how much moisture is still in the seed, in order to determine its stage of development. If we squeeze the kernel and don't feel anything, this is what we call the “cotton stage”, meaning the kernel is empty, aside for what looks like a tiny cotton ball. If we squeeze the kernel and the seed shoots out like a slimy worm, this it is what we call the “worm stage” and it means the seed has not finished developing.

However, if we squeeze the kernel and the seed doesn't shoot out, this is Aviv, as it is not

coming out because almost all of its moisture is gone and when the grain is parched at this stage, we are left with nice firm kernels.

In order to determine whether this upcoming month is Chodesh HaAviv, i.e. the beginning of the new year, we are planning on inspecting the barley next week. We would like to be able to inspect the barley from the North of the country down to the South, however this will be a costly endeavor and your prayers and support would be greatly appreciated.

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Please note that because wild volunteer barley matures very quickly in its later stages, we inspect the barley as close to the new moon as possible, in order to provide a comprehensive survey of the fields just prior to the New Moon observation, this means that we may not be able to send out the report until just before we leave to look for the New Moon on March 3, 2022.

If reliable New Moon and Barley Inspection reports from Israel are of value to you, please support our efforts. We could really use your help to restore the Biblical Calendar.

May Yehovah bless you and be with you always!

Devorah Gordon

Jerusalem, Israel

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Devorah's Date Tree organizes interfaith New Moon Observations and Barley Inspections in the Land of Israel. This important effort is headed by Devorah Gordon, who has been living in Israel and looking for the New Moon and participating in Barley Inspections for over 25 years. Today, Devorah's reports reach countless people around the world and are considered the most reliable and respected New Moon and Barley Inspection Reports from the Holy Land.

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The following is from the email from Devorah titled **“We Need Harvestable Fields by Yom HaNafat HaOmer”** dated February 25, 2022 (emphasis added):

“Dear Friends,

As we are preparing to head out to inspect the development of the barley fields next week, I thought this would be a good time to explain why it is that we inspect the barley throughout the Land, as opposed to in Jerusalem.

The answer lies in (Dt 16:9) which states, “count seven weeks, from when the sickle commences on the standing grain”.

As you probably know, the above verse is referring to the counting of the seven weeks from **Yom HaNafat HaOmer (The Day of the Wave Sheaf Offering)** to Shavout (Feast of Weeks). The verse refers to Yom HaNafat HaOmer as “when the sickle commences on the standing grain”, because Yom HaNafat HaOmer is when the harvest begins in the Land, i.e. when the first fields are ready for harvest.

All the fields in the Land will not be ready for harvest on Yom HaNafat HaOmer, because different regions of the country have different climates, and so the barley will ripen at different times. However, because the priest brings the wave sheaf offering of the first harvestable fields, everyone will be able to eat from their produce when their fields become ready for harvest (Lev 23:14).

Why is Yom HaNafat HaOmer not based on the fields in Jerusalem? Well, I suspect this may be because Jerusalem is one of the cooler regions of the country, and so it is one of the last regions the barley ripens. This means that if Yom HaNafat HaOmer were based on the fields in Jerusalem, the rest of the country would have to wait for the Jerusalem fields to catch up, before they could eat their produce (Lev 23:14). Also, if the year began based on the fields in Jerusalem, this could result in us dwelling in our sukkot (booths) in the rainy season.

Even when the Children of Israel crossed into Israel, they ate of the produce of the fields in Gilgal, on the morrow after the Passover (Joshua 5:10-12), and the barley in that region ripens about a month before there would be harvestable barley in Jerusalem.

So because Yom HaNafat HaOmer is when the earliest fields in the Land are harvestable, we inspect the fields in the regions in which the barley is likely to ripen first, to determine when to begin the new year.

In order to determine whether this upcoming month is the beginning of the new year, we are planning on inspecting the barley just prior to the upcoming New Moon Observation, which means the Barley

Inspection Report should be ready on March 3, 2022. Please pray for our safety and guidance and consider being a part of this important mission by supporting it.

If reliable New Moon and Barley Inspection reports from Israel are of value to you, please [support](#) our efforts. We could really use your help to restore the Biblical Calendar.

May Yehovah bless you and be with you always!

Devorah Gordon
Jerusalem, Israel”

The following is part of Devorah’s email titled “**DO WE NEED AVIV BARLEY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FIRST MONTH**” sent on March 6, 2022(emphasis added):

“Dear Friends,

We want to thank you for all your kind words thanking us for inspecting the barley fields and providing a clear report of our findings. We also want to thank you for all the great questions you sent us and would like to take this opportunity to try and answer some of them.

Do we need to have Aviv Barley at the beginning of the first month?

It doesn't state how developed the barley fields need to be at the beginning of the first month, however we do know that the first month is called Chodesh HaAviv (Month of the Aviv) (Ex 13:3-4, Ex 23:15, Ex 34:18, Dt 16:1) and that the earliest fields in the Land need to be harvestable, meaning Aviv, by Yom HaNafat HaOmer (The Day of the Wave Sheaf Offering) (Lev 23:10, Dt 16:9, Joshua 5:10-12).

Opinion #1 - Chodesh HaAviv (Month of the Aviv), means the month in which there is a significant amount of Aviv Barley by the BEGINNING of the month. This ensures we will have harvestable fields by Yom HaNafat HaOmer and gives the fields which develop later, a chance to be more in sync with the holidays which are intended to take place around the harvests.

Opinion #2 - Chodesh HaAviv (Month of the Aviv), means the month in which the barley BECOMES Aviv. It doesn’t matter what the fields look like at the beginning of the month, what is important is that the earliest fields are harvestable by Yom HaNafat HaOmer and the farmers would know by the beginning of the month (maybe even from when the barley beings to sprout), in which month the earliest fields will be harvestable....”

NOTE: MY PERSONAL BELIEF IS THAT OPINION #1 IS THE CORRECT ONE. THIS IS BECAUSE WHEN THE COMMAND OF HOW TO DETERMINE THE NEW YEAR WAS GIVEN TO ISRAEL, THEY WERE STILL IN EGYPT. THERE WAS NO COMMAND, AS OF YET, TO MAKE THE YOM HANAFOT OFFERING. TO ME, THAT MEANS THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD THAT, IN ORDER FOR THEM TO DECLARE THE NEW MOON OF THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR, THE BARLEY WOULD NEED TO ALREADY BE AVIV IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL, JUST AS IT ALREADY WAS IN EGYPT DURING THE EARLIER HAIL PLAGUE (EXODUS 9:13-35), BEFORE YEHOVAH EVEN GAVE THE COMMANDMENT CONCERNING HOW TO DETERMINE THE NEW YEAR (EXODUS 12:1). THE COMMAND FOR YOM HANAFAT HAOMER CAME LATER IN LEVITICUS 23:9-16 WHILE ISRAEL WAS IN THE DESERT, SOME TIME AFTER THE SECOND YEAR AFTER THEIR EXODUS ... (EXODUS 40:17).

This is from the email titled **“WE NEED HARVESTABLE FIELDS BY YOM HANAFAT HAOMER”** on March 15, 2022 (emphasis added):

“Dear Friends,

As we are in the midst of preparing for another Barley Inspection next week, I thought this would be a good time to share with you, why we must have harvestable fields **by Yom HaNafat HaOmer (The Day of the Wave Sheaf Offering).**

Let’s begin with the fact that we are commanded to begin the year with Chodesh HaAviv, which is the month in which we have Aviv fields, as that is when we were taken out of Egypt (Ex 9:31, Ex 13:4, Ex 23:15, Ex 34:18, Nu 33:3, Dt 16:1).

We also know that we are supposed to have harvestable fields by Yom HaNafat HaOmer, by the fact that Yom HaNafat HaOmer is described as being around the time of the harvest (Dt. 16:9), the Omer which is waved on Yom HaNafat HaOmer is taken from said harvest (Lev 23:10), and we are told that we may not eat from the harvest (which we just reaped) until the Omer is brought (Lev 23:14).

We also have anecdotal evidence that we should have harvestable fields by Yom HaNafat HaOmer, by the fact that the Children of Israel ate parched grain and unleavened bread from the produce of the land on the “morrow after the Passover”, in fact there was enough harvestable grain to feed the nation and so the manna ceased (Joshua 5:10-12).

Does Dt 16:9 mean that we can’t harvest before Yom HaNafat HaOmer?

Dt. 16:9 refers to Yom HaNafat HaOmer as “when the sickle commences on the standing grain”, because it is around this time when the harvest begins in the Land, but it is not a prohibition from harvesting before Yom HaNafat HaOmer. In fact, because we need to have harvestable fields by Yom HaNafat HaOmer, and those fields need to be harvested when they become ripe, there is no prohibition from harvesting when needed, however we are instructed not to eat from the harvest until the Omer offering is brought (Lev 23:14).”

At this point, I would like to quote from Dr. Nehemia Gordon, a Karaite Jewish scholar who is well versed in the Biblical calendar according to the Written Torah. His article entitled "AVIV BARLEY IN THE BIBLICAL CALENDAR," I believe, sums up the whole discussion concerning the true Biblical calendar and the aviv barley's role in determining it. This is a quote of the entire article:

"Biblical Leap Years

THE BIBLICAL YEAR BEGINS WITH THE FIRST NEW MOON AFTER THE BARLEY IN ISRAEL REACHES THE STAGE IN ITS RIPENESS CALLED AVIV. The period between one year and the next is either 12 or 13 lunar months. Because of this, it is important to check the state of the Barley crops at the end of the 12th month. If the barley is Aviv at this time, then the following New Moon is Hodesh Ha-Aviv ("New Moon of the Aviv"). If the barley is still immature, we must wait another month and then check the barley again at the end of the 13th month.

"By convention, a 12-month year is referred to as a Regular Year while a 13th month year is referred to as a Leap Year. This should not be confused with Leap Years in the Gregorian (Christian) Calendar, which involve the "intercalation" (addition) of a single day (Feb. 29). In contrast, the Biblical Leap Year involves the intercalation of an entire lunar month ("Thirteenth Month", also called "Adar Bet"). In general, it can only be determined whether a year is a Leap Year a few days before the end of the 12th Month.

"Where is Aviv Mentioned in the Hebrew Bible?

"The story of the Exodus relates "This day you are going out in the the month of the Aviv." (Ex 13:4).

"To commemorate that we left Egypt in the month of the Aviv, we are instructed to bring the Passover sacrifice and celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Chag HaMatzot) at this time of year. In Dt 16:1 we are commanded:

"'Keep the month of the Aviv and make the Passover (sacrifice) to Yehovah your God at night, because in the month of the Aviv, Yehovah your God took you out of Egypt.'"

"Similarly, we are commanded in Ex 23:15,

"'You will keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread; seven days you will eat unleavened bread, as I have commanded you, at the time of the month of the Aviv, because in it you went out of Egypt.'"

"The same is commanded in Ex 34:18,

"'You will keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread; seven days you will eat unleavened bread, as have I commanded you, at the time of the month of the Aviv, because in the month of the Aviv you went out of Egypt.'"

"What is Aviv?

"Aviv indicates a stage in the development of the barley crops. This is clear from Ex 9:31-32 which describes the devastation caused by the plague of hail:

"And the flax and the barley were smitten, because the barley was Aviv and the flax was Giv'ol. And the wheat and the spelt were not smitten because they were dark (Afilot)'

"The above passage relates that the barley crops were destroyed by the hail while the wheat and spelt were not damaged. To understand the reason for this we must look at how grain develops. When grains are early in their development they are flexible and have a dark green color. As they become ripe they take on a light yellowish hue and become more brittle. The reason that the barley was destroyed and the wheat was not is that the barley had reached the stage in its development called Aviv and as a result had become brittle enough to be damaged by the hail. In contrast, the wheat and spelt were still early enough in their development, at a stage when they were flexible and not susceptible to being damaged by hail. The description of the wheat and spelt as "dark" (Afilot) indicates that they were still in the stage when they were deep green and had not yet begun to lighten into the light yellowish hue which characterizes ripe grains. In contrast, the barley had reached the stage of Aviv at which time it was no longer "dark" and at this point it probably had begun to develop golden streaks.

"Parched Aviv

"We know from several passages that barley which is in the state of Aviv has not completely ripened, but has ripened enough so that its seeds can be eaten parched in fire. Parched barley was a commonly eaten food in ancient Israel and is mentioned in numerous passages in the Hebrew Bible as either "Aviv parched (Kalui) in fire" (Lev 2,14) or in the abbreviated form "parched (Kalui/ Kali)" (Lev 23:14; Jos 5:11; 1Sam 17:17; 1 Samuel 25:18; 2 Samuel 17:28; Ruth 2:14).

"While still early in its development, barley has not yet produced large enough and firm enough seeds to produce food through parching. This early in its development, when the "head" has just come out of the shaft, the seeds are not substantial enough to produce any food. At a later stage, the seeds have grown in size and have filled with liquid. At this point the seeds will shrivel up when parched and will only produce empty skins. Over time the liquid is replaced with dry material and when enough dry material has amassed the seeds will be able to yield "barley parched in fire".

"Aviv and the Harvest

"The month of the Aviv is the month which commences after the barley has reached the stage of Aviv. 2-3 weeks after the beginning of the month the barley has moved beyond the stage of Aviv and is ready to be brought as the "wave-sheaf offering" (Hanafat HaOmer). The "wave-sheaf offering" is a sacrifice brought from the first stalks cut in the harvest and is brought on the Sunday which falls out during Passover (Chag HaMatzot). This is described in Lev 23:10-11,

"When you come to the land which I give you, and harvest its harvest, you will bring the sheaf of the beginning of your harvest to the priest. And he will wave the sheaf before Yehovah so you will be accepted; on the morrow after the Sabbath the priest will wave it.'

"From this it is clear that the barley, which was Aviv at the beginning of the month, has become harvest-ready 15-21 days later (i.e by the Sunday during Passover). Therefore, the month of the

Aviv can not begin unless the barley has reached a stage where it will be harvest-ready 2-3 weeks later.

"That the barley must be harvest-ready 2-3 weeks into the month of the Aviv is also clear from Dt 16:9 which states:

"From when the sickle commences on the standing grain you will begin to count seven weeks'

"From Lev 23:15 we know that the seven weeks between Passover (Chag Hamatzot) and Pentecost (Shavuot) begin on the day when the wave-sheaf offering is brought (i.e. the Sunday which falls out during Passover):

"And you shall count from the morrow after the Sabbath, from the day you bring the sheaf of waving; they will be seven complete Sabbaths.'

"Therefore, the "sickle commences on the standing grain" on the Sunday during Passover, i.e. 2-3 weeks after the beginning of the month of the Aviv. If the barley is not developed enough so that it will be ready for the sickle 2-3 weeks later, then the month of the Aviv can not begin and we must wait till the following month.

"It should be noted that not all the barley ripens in the Land of Israel at the same time. The wave-sheaf offering is a national sacrifice brought from the first fields to become harvest-ready. However, the first-fruit offerings brought by individual farmers can vary in ripeness anywhere from "Aviv parched in fire" to fully ripe grain which may be brought "crushed" or "coarsely ground". This is what is meant in Lev 2:14,

"And when you bring a first-fruit offering to Yehovah; you shall bring your first-fruit offering as AVIV parched in fire or crushed CARMEL' (Carmel is grain which has hardened beyond Aviv to the point where it can be "crushed" or "coarsely ground").

"All of the above passages have been translated directly from the Hebrew and it is worth noting that the King James translators seem to have only understood the various Hebrew agricultural terms very poorly. In Lev 2:14 they translated Carmel as "full ears" and "Aviv" as "green ears" whereas in Lev 23:14 they translated Carmel as "green ears"!

"In summation, barley which is in the state of Aviv has 3 characteristics:

- 1. It is brittle enough to be destroyed by hail and has begun to lighten in color (it is not "dark").**
- 2. The seeds have produced enough dry material so it can be eaten parched.**
- 3. It has developed enough so that it will be harvest-ready 2-3 weeks later."**
(<https://www.nehemiaswall.com/aviv-barley-in-the-biblical-calendar>, posted on February 24, 2016, emphasis added, accessed 2/1/2023)

SO, NOW, LET US DISCUSS FURTHER HOW TO DETERMINE THE NEW MOON/NEW MONTH.

“ORIGINALLY, THE RENEWED MOON WAS NOT FIXED BY ASTRONOMICAL CALCULATIONS, BUT IT WAS JUST PROCLAIMED AFTER THE WITNESSES HAD DECLARED THE REAPPEARING OF THE CRESCENT OF THE MOON...” (Jewish Encyclopedia quote, accessed by “Month of the Aviv,” ARoodAwakening.tv/biblical-hebrew-calendar)

“ORIGINALLY, THERE WAS NO FIXED CALENDAR. THERE WAS NO WAY TO DETERMINE IN ADVANCE THE EXACT DAY OF A FEAST TO COME... BECAUSE THERE WAS NO WAY TO DETERMINE IN ADVANCE WHEN THE MONTH WOULD BEGIN... In the 4th century, the sage Hillel II foresaw the dissolution of the Sanhedrin, and understood that we would not be able to follow a calendar based on the Sanhedrin. Thus Hillel and his rabbinical court established the perpetual calendar that is followed today. WHEN HILLEL ESTABLISHED THE PERPETUAL CALENDAR, HE SANCTIFIED EACH ROSH HODESH UNTIL MASHIACH (MESSIAH) COMES AND REESTABLISHES THE SANHEDRIN.” (Chabad.org quote, accessed by “Month of the Aviv,” ARoodAwakening.tv/biblical-hebrew-calendar)

However, Devorah Gordon, of Devorah’s Date Tree, further explains **HOW TO DETERMINE THE NEW MOON TODAY**. I participated in one of these New Moon observations with her and an interfaith group in Jerusalem, Israel in September 2022, which was an awesome experience, especially as this was the New Moon that signified the seventh month, marking the dates of Yom Teruah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot! This is a very concise explanation she recently gave in an email to subscribers December 21, 2022, “**Upcoming New Moon Observation – 24 December 2022**” (emphasis added):

“If you have a question regarding the Biblical Calendar, send it to us and we’ll do our best to try and answer it.

Biblical Months are Lunar Months

Months in the Biblical Calendar are lunar moon. This is evident by the word “YAREACH”, which means MOON (Psalm 136:9, Jeremiah 31:35), ALSO BEING USED TO REFER TO A MONTH (Ex 2:2, 1 Kings 6:37, Job 3:6, Job 7:3, Job 29:2, Job 39:2, Zechariah 11:8).

The Month Begin with the Crescent

Months in the Biblical Calendar begin when the New Moon becomes visible again after conjunction, which is why the beginning of the month is called “chodesh”, which comes from the root ch.d.sh., which means “new” (1 Samuel 20:5;24 Psalm 81:4[3]; Ezekiel 46:1). **Seeing the moon “anew” after conjunction is the sign the month has begun** (Gen 1:14).

Looking for the New Moon at the end of the 29th Day

From our perspective here on Earth, it takes the moon 29.5 days to make its revolution, which means the New Moon will either be visible at the end of the 29th day, or at the end of the 30th

day, of the previous month, which is why we look for the New Moon at the end of the 29th day.”

Now, let’s consider the word “Yerach.”

“YERACH” is Strong’s Concordance number Hebrew 3391 and is defined as follows:

יָרַח yerach, yeh'-rakh; from an unused root of uncertain significance; a **lunation**, i.e. **month**:—**month, moon.**

It is used **thirteen times** in the Western Leningrad Codex. **MOST OF THESE VERSES USE THIS WORD WITH ITS UNDISPUTED MEANING OF MONTH ACCORDING TO THE CONTEXT OF THE VERSES! BUT NOTICE PARTICULARLY DEUTERONOMY 33:14 AND ISAIAH 60:20 WHERE ITS MEANING OF MOON IS ALSO UNDISPUTED ACCORDING TO THE CONTEXT OF THE VERSES!**

[Exodus 2:2 KJV] 2 And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he [was a] goodly [child], she hid him three **MONTHS**.**[H3391]**

[Deuteronomy 21:13 KJV] 13 And she shall put the raiment of her captivity from off her, and shall remain in thine house, and bewail her father and her mother a full month:**[H3391]** and after that thou shalt go in unto her, and be her husband, and she shall be thy wife.

[Deuteronomy 33:14 KJV] 14 And for the precious fruits [brought forth] by the sun, and for the precious things put forth by the MOON,[H3391]****

[1 Kings 6:37-38 KJV] 37 In the fourth year was the foundation of the house of the LORD laid, in the month**[H3391]** Zif: 38 And in the eleventh year, in the **MONTH****[H3391]** Bul, which [is] the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it. So was he seven years in building it.

[1 Kings 8:2 KJV] 2 And all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto king Solomon at the feast in the **month****[H3391]** Ethanim, which [is] the seventh month.

[2 Kings 15:13 KJV] 13 Shallum the son of Jabesh began to reign in the nine and thirtieth year of Uzziah king of Judah; and he reigned a full **MONTH****[H3391]** in Samaria.

[Job 3:6 KJV] 6 As [for] that night, let darkness seize upon it; let it not be joined unto the days of the year, let it not come into the number of the **MONTHS**.**[H3391]**

[Job 7:3 KJV] 3 So am I made to possess **MONTHS****[H3391]** of vanity, and wearisome nights are appointed to me.

[Job 29:2 KJV] 2 Oh that I were as [in] **MONTHS****[H3391]** past, as [in] the days [when] God preserved me;

[Job 39:2 KJV] 2 Canst thou number the **MONTHS[H3391]** [that] they fulfil? or knowest thou the time when they bring forth?

[Isaiah 60:20 KJV] 20 Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy MOON[H3391] withdraw itself: for the LORD shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.

[Zechariah 11:8 KJV] 8 Three shepherds also I cut off in one **MONTH;**[H3391] and my soul lothed them, and their soul also abhorred me.

Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon as accessed by the Blue Letter Bible online (www.blueletterbible.org) on December 22, 2022 defines H3391 below as:

H3391

יָרַח m. (comp. Lehrs. p. 512, note 11); pl. יָרָחִים
const. יָרָחִי.

(1) *a month*, which amongst the Hebrews was lunar, (compare Germ. *Monat* and *Monat*, Gr. *μήνη* and *μήν*, a month), i. q. יָרֵךְ, but a rarer word, and one used by the older writers (Ex. 2:2), and by poets (Deut. 33:14; Job 3:6; 7:3; 29:2; 39:2; Zech. 11:8); see however 1 Ki. 6:37, 38; 8:2.

(2) [*Jerah*], a people and region of Arabia, of the race of the Joktanites, Gen. 10:26; Bochart (Phaleg. ii. 19) remarks, not unsuitably, that this name is Hebrew, but a translation from an Arabic name of the same signification. On this assumed ground he understands this people to be the *Alilæi*, living near the Red Sea in a district where gold is found (Agatharchides c. 49, Strabo xvi. p. 277); their true name he conjectures to have been *بنی هلال* children of the moon, so called from the worship of the moon, or *Alilat* (Herodot. iii. 8). As to a tribe bearing this name, near Mecca, see Niebuhr in *Descr. of Arabia*, p. 270. A more probable opinion, however, is that of J. D. Michaëlis in *Spicileg.* ii. p. 60, understanding this to be *the coast of the moon* (غَب القمر) and *the mountain of the moon* (جبل القمر), near Hadramaut; for יָרַח Gen. loc. cit. is joined with the country of Hadramaut.

NOTICE THAT GESENIUS ALSO DEFINES THIS HEBREW WORD (H3391 – “YERACH”) AS BOTH MONTH AND MOON!

NOW LET US LOOK AT THE WORD “YAREACH” H3394.

Strong's #3394 is FROM THE SAME ROOT AS THE ABOVE #3391 (THAT DEFINITELY MEANS MOON AND MONTH ACCORDING TO THE CONTEXT OF THE VERSES) and is used for MOON 26 times! In fact, the only difference is in the vowels:

H3394

יָרֵחַ yârêach, yaw-ray'-akh; **FROM THE SAME AS H3391**; THE MOON:—**MOON**. Yrechow. See H3405.

This is the word that is used in Psalm 136:9 and Jeremiah 31:35 that Devorah Gordon references and is translated definitively as **MOON**:

[Psalm 136:9 KJV] 9 The **MOON**[H3394] and stars to rule by night: for his mercy [endureth] for ever.

[Jeremiah 31:35 KJV] 35 Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, [and] the ordinances of the **MOON**[H3394] and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts [is] his name:

GESENIUS' HEBREW-CHALDEE LEXICON as accessed by the Blue Letter Bible online (www.blueletterbible.org) on December 22, 2022, defines "**YAREACH**" as:

H3394

יָרֵחַ m. THE MOON; a word prob. primitive [but see above], Gen. 37:9; Deu. 4:19; Josh. 10:12, 13; Ps. 72:5, לְפָנֵי יָרֵחַ "before the moon," i. e. as long as the moon shall shine.

(Interestingly, the word for "MOON" and "MONTH" in the GREEK SEPTUAGINT are the same as well! Strong's# G3375 – "MEN" is translated as "MOON" in Deuteronomy 33:14 and as "MONTH" in Deuteronomy 21:13!)

Devorah states the following in her email "**The Biblical Month is not the Conjunction**" written on October 2, 2022(emphasis added) which describes the New Moon I was able to view with her and others in Jerusalem:

"In the Biblical Calendar, a month begins when the Crescent New Moon becomes visible. How do we know this? Well, because the Biblical word for the beginning of the month is "chodesh" (1 Samuel 20:5; Ezekiel 46:1). And you don't need to know much Hebrew to see that the word "chodesh", clearly comes from the root ch.d.sh., which means "new". AND THE ONLY THING THAT IS NEW ABOUT THE MOON, IS WHEN THE CRESCENT BECOMES VISIBLE AGAIN.

The only reason I can think of, that someone might think the month begins with conjunction, is that they were influenced by the Rabbinic Hillel II Calendar, **which begins the 7th month based on conjunction (and then does some adjustments)**.

But it's important to understand that the Rabbinites know that the Biblical month begins with the visibility of the crescent new moon, just look at the Talmud, and the Muslims know this as well. The only reason the Hillel II Calendar begins the 7th month based on conjunction, is because the Hillel II Calendar was created when they were in Exile, and therefore had no way of knowing when the crescent New Moon was visible in Israel, and so they decided to create a fixed calendar.

Why did the Rabbinic Hillel II Calendar choose to begin the 7th month based on conjunction, as opposed to potential visibility of the crescent New Moon? Well, because if they were to try and predict the visibility of the crescent New Moon, there could be a group that disagreed with that prediction, which could lead to division, and then the Rabbinites could lose power over the people. But if they started the 7th month based on conjunction, no one could dispute it, because it's a straightforward calculation.

So what verse do non-Rabbinites, who start the month with conjunction bring as evidence? Psalm 4[3], which says "Sound the ram's horn at the New Moon, and when the moon is full, on the day of our festival. [NIV]"

So someone who begins the month at conjunction, would have sound the ram's horn on September 26, 2022 at 12:54am in Israel, and then again on the full moon which will be October 9, 2022 at 11:54pm in Israel, or I assume they wait until the following evening, but I actually have no idea.

Now, someone who begins the month when the crescent new moon becomes visible, would have sounded the ram's horn on September 27, 2022 in the evening, and then again at the beginning Chag HaSukkot, which would be October 11, 2022 in the evening.

So, assuming the people who start the month with conjunction, do in fact wait until the following evening, we are only talking about a difference of day. And if you look up at the moon on October 11, 2022 in the evening, I don't think the difference will be that noticeable, which is why I think the verse called it "full moon", even though technically, it's a little past "full moon".

I also think the Psalm 4[3] argument is a weak one, because I don't think the ancient Israelites knew how to calculate for conjunction (Dt 30:11). IN FACT, I WOULD BE SURPRISED IF THE AVERAGE PERSON, WHO BELIEVES THE MONTH BEGINS WITH CONJUNCTION, KNOWS HOW TO DO THESE COMPUTATIONS. I think it's much more reasonable to assume that the ancient Israelites would just look up, see the crescent new moon, and know it was the beginning of the month, and at the beginning of Chag HaSukkot, they would look up, and notice how full the moon looked."

Before leaving the subject of the New Moon, I must note a few facts that could have changed things since the earliest Biblical times, if it ever were simply 12 months of 30 days each totaling 360 days. The orbits of the Sun and the Moon are not exactly without changes through history!:

First, during the time of Joshua, Son of Nun, when Israel was finally coming into the Promised Land, the Bible describes a miracle where Yehovah caused the sun to stand still an entire day! The moon stayed as well!:

[Joshua 10:7-15 KJV] 7 So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he, and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valour. 8 And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee. 9 Joshua therefore came unto them suddenly, [and] went up from Gilgal all night. 10 And the LORD discomfited them before Israel, and slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and chased them along the way that goeth up to Bethhoron, and smote them to Azekah, and unto Makkedah. 11 And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, [and] were in the going down to Bethhoron, that the LORD cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died: [they were] more which died with hailstones than [they] whom the children of Israel slew with the sword. 12 **Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. 13 AND THE SUN STOOD STILL, AND THE MOON STAYED, UNTIL THE PEOPLE HAD AVENGED THEMSELVES UPON THEIR ENEMIES. [Is] not this written in the book of Jasher? SO THE SUN STOOD STILL IN THE MIDST OF HEAVEN, AND HASTED NOT TO GO DOWN ABOUT A WHOLE DAY. 14 And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the LORD fought for Israel. 15 And Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, unto the camp to Gilgal.**

Second, King Hezekiah (son of Ahaz, and the 13th successor of King David) lived late 8th and early 7th centuries BCE when Hezekiah's sign took place in Isaiah 38:1-8; 2 Kings 20:1-11; 2 Chronicles 32:2.

YeHoVaH moved the shadow backwards on the sundial 10 degrees. I have heard (but have no documentation) that this changed the month from 30 days each month to 29.53059 days (29 days, 12 hours, 44 minutes, 2.8 seconds) each month. This could have changed the calendar from 12 months (360 days per year) to 12.3682 months (365.2422 days per year). Therefore, I have heard, since the time of Hezekiah, each month has had either 29 or 30 days.

Just recently, Devorah Gordon posted another email that addresses the number of days in a month. This information was included in the email posted on December 24, 2022, titled **“New Moon Report – 24 December 2022,”**(emphasis added) when the moon was not sighted at the end of the 29th day:

“FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do we know a month can’t be more than 30 days?

First of all, today with our sophisticated equipment and complex math, we know that from our perspective here on Earth, **it takes the Moon 29.530587981 days to revolve around the Earth. That means the crescent New Moon will either be visible at the end of the 29th day, or at the end of the 30th day of the month (barring atmospheric obstructions). IT SEEMS THAT EVEN IN BIBLICAL TIMES, THEY KNEW THAT A MONTH CAN’T BE MORE THAN 30 DAYS, AS WE SEE DAVID SAY TO YEHONATAN “TOMORROW IS THE NEW MOON” (1 SAMUEL 20:5). HOW DID DAVID KNOW THE FOLLOWING DAY WAS THE NEW MOON? PRESUMABLY, THE NEW MOON WASN’T SIGHTED AT THE END OF THE 29TH DAY, AND SO HE KNEW THE NEXT DAY WOULD BE THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTH BY DEFAULT.**

Is it possible we didn’t see the New Moon because of atmospheric obstructions?

It’s important to understand that the crescent New Moon is always there at the end of the 29th day of the month. The only question is whether the conditions are favorable enough for it to be sighted with the naked eye (this is why we don’t condone the use of magnifying equipment to spot the New Moon). The conditions which determine whether the crescent New Moon will be visible to the naked eye include: the percentage of the moon’s illumination, the time between sunset and moonset, and atmospheric obstructions (such as haze, clouds, sandstorms, etc.). Does it matter whether we didn’t see the crescent New Moon because of low stats, or atmospheric obstructions? No, it doesn’t. **In order to declare the new month, either the New Moon must be sighted with the naked eye, or 30 days must have passed since the beginning of the previous month. This is the criteria we use, as it’s our understanding that this is the criteria the ancient Israelites would have used to declare the new month, as they would have had no way to know whether the New Moon “should” have been visible were it not for atmospheric obstructions. Even with today’s calculations, we can’t always be sure whether the crescent New Moon would have been visible, were it not for atmospheric obstructions.**

Does this mean we could end up with a 28 Day Month?

If the new moon is not sighted at the end of the 29th day, and therefore we begin the month at the end of the 30th day, on very rare occasions the following New Moon may be visible 28 days later. When this happens, we know that the New Moon would have been visible the previous month were it not for atmospheric obstructions, and what we would have had is two 29-day months, one after the other. It’s important to understand, that it doesn’t mean that a mistake was made. The Creator didn’t make a mistake by obstructing the New Moon with the hope that we would use sophisticated calculations to try and speculate whether the New Moon would have been seen were it not for the atmospheric obstructions. No, that’s e the stats were too low or **because of atmospheric obstructions (aka “Acts of God”).** Fortunately, that’s not the way the Biblical Calendar works, as even today, we can’t always be sure whether the crescent New Moon would have been visible, were it not for atmospheric obstructions. In fact, there are

probably other months when we are not beginning the month at the end of the 29th day due to atmospheric obstructions, but we only know this to be the case when we happen to end up with a 28-day month.

Does the New Moon have to be sighted in Israel?

The Biblical Calendar, the holy days, and all the commandments, were given for us to live by them in the Land of Israel (Dt 6:1). In fact, you would get very skewed results if you try tried to establish the Biblical Calendar based on signs (Gen 1:14) outside of the Israel. For example, the year begins when the barley is harvested, so if someone lived in a place where there was both a Spring and Winter barley harvest (there are places like that), they would have extremely short years. Or if someone in Australia began the year when the barley became ripe there, they would be celebrating Chag HaMatzot (Feast of Unleavened Bread) when it was Fall in Israel, which makes no sense, because there is only one Chag HaMatzot, and it's based on when the barley ripens in Israel, around Spring. Likewise, if one were to begin the month when the New Moon was seen for example in the United States, they could end up celebrating the holy days on the wrong day, because the percentage of the moon's illumination, and the time between sunset and moonset, is constantly growing at this stage in its cycle, and so by the time the moon makes it to the United States, it may be visible there, even though it wasn't visible in Israel, but that would be irrelevant, as the holidays are on set days which are determined by the New Moon being visible in Israel."

DR. NEHEMIA GORDON CLARIFIES THE TERM "NEW MOON" THIS WAY:

"Many people are disoriented by the inaccurate use in modern languages of the term 'New Moon.' Modern astronomers adopted this unusual term, which had always been associated with the first visible "nail," and used it to refer to the conjunction (when the Moon passes between the Earth and the Sun, at which point it is not visible.) Astronomers soon understood the inaccurate use of 'New Moon' to refer to the conjunction that would lead to confusion; therefore scientists, to be more exact, now distinguish between 'Astronomical New Moon' and 'Crescent New Moon.' The 'astronomical' New Moon means as the term is used by astronomers; that is, conjunction. In contrast, 'Crescent New Moon' uses the term with THE ORIGINAL MEANING OF THE FIRST VISIBLE FINGERNAIL." ("Crescent New Moon versus Astronomical New Moon", Nehemia Gordon, accessed from "Month of the Aviv," ARoodAwakening.tv/biblical-hebrew-calendar, emphasis added)

Dr. Nehemia Gordon offers another interesting view about the admonition by Yehovah to Israel about when to start their New Year:

"...Jono: "Yehovah spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt saying, 'This shall be your beginning of the months.'" This is significant as well, isn't it? Because if I remember correctly...

Nehemia: It's one of the three T's, Johnson!

Keith: We're going to slow down here, Jono. I'm not going to let you read this too much, because this is really important.

Jono: THE YEAR OF THE EGYPTIANS HAD ALREADY BEGUN. And I think, if I remember correctly, the way they calculated the year was **the astronomical event, the sighting of the star on the horizon with an agricultural event, the flooding of the Nile.** But Yehovah is correcting them. He's saying, "Now, this is what we're going to do. This is a different thing."

Nehemia: RISING OF SIRIUS, WHICH IS A STAR.

Keith: When is that, Nehemia?

Nehemia: It's an event that happens once a year. They would actually go and observe it. And **THEY WOULD OBSERVE SIRIUS RISING**, if I'm not mistaken, just before sunrise. They call it the **HELIACAL RISING**. That would indicate to them that the earth has reached that point in its orbit. They thought it was the sun reaching that point in its orbit around the earth. That's what they thought.

Jono: Did you recall what time of the year that happens?

Nehemia: Not off the top of my head, no. **It happens once a solar year...**

(a portion from transcript of "Bo" parashah, (Exodus 10:1-13:16), "Original Torah Pearls," Nehemiaswall.com, accessed 12/23/2022. I recommend reading or listening to the entire Parashah as there is much more discussion of the calendar.)

What I noticed here is that Nehemia Gordon makes the case that the Israelites are instructed by Yehovah to change the beginning of their year **FROM WHAT THEY HAD BEEN UNDER FOR APPROXIMATELY 400 YEARS IN THE LAND OF EGYPT, WHICH WAS BASED ON IDOLATROUS GODDESS WORSHIP (SOPDET/GODDESS OF SIRIUS).**

"Even as early as the 1st Dynasty (/hdyn1.htm), she was known as 'the bringer of the new year and the Nile flood'. When Sirius appeared in the sky each year, the Nile (egypt-info/magazine-mag05012001-magf4a.htm) generally started to flood and bring fertility to the land. The ancient Egyptians connected the two events, and so Sopdet took on the aspects of a goddess of not only the star and of the inundation (/featurestories/nile.htm), but of the fertility that came to the land of Egypt with the flood. The flood and the rising of Sirius also marked the ancient Egyptian New Year and so she also was thought of as a goddess of the New Year." ("**Sopdet, Goddess of Sirius, new Year and the Inundation**," Tour Egypt, <http://www.touregypt.net/featurestories/sopdet.htm>, accessed 12/24/2022.)

Yehovah seems to be taking His people AWAY FROM these astronomical calculations as their calendar! According to Nehemia, Yehovah was **NOT** telling them to change from some other correct way of counting the months and new year that He had set up earlier... Nehemia does not say this, but **IT DOES MAKE ONE WONDER IF YEHOVAH WAS RESETTING THEM BACK TO HIS ORIGINAL CORRECT WAY OF COUNTING TIME...**

The time period that the heat and energy of THE SUN causes the barley and other crops to ripen (which we have called "spring", although only winter and summer is spoken of in the Bible) seems

reasonable for the beginning of a year. However, that does not matter. The original way of counting time could have been something completely different...

THE ONLY IMPORTANT THING IS THAT YEHOVAH COMMANDED ISRAEL TO START COUNTING TIME THIS WAY AFTER HE DELIVERED THEM FROM EGYPT IN THE NEW MOON/MONTH OF THE AVIV BARLEY AND HE HASN'T COMMANDED ANYTHING DIFFERENT SINCE THEN!!!

As stated previously, the calculated, rabbinic Hillel II calendar using lunar conjunction was implemented in 359 CE out of necessity, as Israel was living in the Diaspora and the Sanhedrin was shortly disbanded. **HOWEVER, SINCE JUDAH HAS RETURNED TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL, WE CAN AGAIN SEARCH FOR AVIV BARLEY TO BEGIN THE YEAR AND SIGHT THE NEW MOON TO BEGIN THE MONTH**, thanks to the efforts of Michael Rood, Dr. Nehemia Gordon, and Devorah Gordon, as well as others in the Land! There is actually an **ISRAELI NEW MOON SOCIETY** that sights the New Moon every month, but they will not start using it unless/until a Sanhedrin makes a ruling to use it. I am told they state that when the Messiah comes, they know that this Biblical Calendar will be restored. **HOWEVER, WE CAN PERSONALLY OBSERVE IT NOW, AS I HAVE FOR TWENTY YEARS.**

AGAIN, WHY IS THIS EVEN IMPORTANT???

It seems that the true Biblical Hebrew Calendar will need to actually be restored in the Land of Israel before the Messiah returns. That is because there has to be a Temple and Temple Service by the Levitical Priesthood restored that is acceptable to Yehovah Elohim, WHICH MEANS THE BIBLICAL CALENDAR HAS TO BE ACCURATE, in order for the end-time prophecies to take place. The fact that the 2nd Temple Priesthood did use the true Biblical Hebrew Calendar is encouraging... that the restored Levitical Priesthood will as well! There has to be a Holy Place that is acceptable to Yehovah, before “The Beast – the evil King of the North – The Little Horn” stops the Daily Sacrifice by the Levitical Priesthood and comes to defile it with the Abomination that causes Desolation at the time of the end (Daniel 8:9-19, 23-27; Daniel 9:27; Daniel 11:29- 12:13; Matthew 24:15)...until the King Messiah returns from His seat at the Right Hand of Yehovah Elohim in Heaven to carry out the Wrath of Yehovah Elohim on the wicked and bring the final victory to Israel (Psalm 110, Daniel 7:9-14, Matthew 24:1-44)!!!

Michael Rood calls this the Astronomically and Agriculturally Corrected Biblical Hebrew Calendar and **offers every month free a copy of the current month calendar at <https://aroodawakening.tv/biblical-hebrew-calendar>**. (The current month calendar he offers is based purely on the New Moon, not on solstices, equinoxes, or the zodiac, and the New Year determination is based purely on the New Moon of the Aviv Barley in Israel). **There is a pdf on this website titled “The Month of the Aviv” that I have quoted from in this article. I do not agree with every point made in this document, as it makes a case to justify the equinoxes, solstices, and the zodiac by the heathens in their calendars, even as it correctly declares that the true Biblical Hebrew calendar is based solely on the New Moon/Month of the Aviv Barley. However, it is filled with a great deal of information so that I do recommend reading it.**

To conclude, consider carefully these scriptures:

[Proverbs 24:12 KJV] 12 If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider [it]? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth [not] he know [it]? AND SHALL [NOT] HE RENDER TO [EVERY] MAN ACCORDING TO HIS WORKS?

[Jeremiah 17:10 KJV] 10 I the LORD (YEHOVAH) search the heart, [I] try the reins, EVEN TO GIVE EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS WAYS, [AND] ACCORDING TO THE FRUIT OF HIS DOINGS.

AS EACH OF US IS RESPONSIBLE TO YEHOVAH ELOHIM INDIVIDUALLY FOR OUR OWN ACTIONS, MAY WE EACH BE OBEDIENT TO HIS WRITTEN TORAH TO THE BEST OF OUR UNDERSTANDING, EVEN CONCERNING HIS TRUE BIBLICAL HEBREW CALENDAR!

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RECOMMENDED READING/VIEWING:

ISRAELI NEW MOON SOCIETY - Listen to or read transcript of **“Hebrew Voices #7 – Orthodox Jew Who Sights the New Moon”** posted November 11, 2015 on nehemiaswall.com. Interview of Nehemia Gordon with Dr. Roy Hoffman. “Dr Roy Hoffman was born in 1963 in London, UK. As a child, he had a strong interest in science and technology and benefited from the beginnings of the microcomputer revolution. He went on to study Chemistry at University and because of his attraction to mathematics and computing went into physical chemistry for his PhD. Seeking to experience a more spiritual relationship with his faith, he applied for work in Israel, and accepted a post-doc position at Hebrew University. He is the founder of the **Israeli New Moon Society**. In Jerusalem, he met Channa who became his wife. Today, they have five children: Jonathan, Rina, Akiva, Sara, and Na’ama.”

From Show Notes:

LunaCal Software

<http://sites.google.com/site/moonsoc/software>

“Month of Aviv.” ARoodAwakening.tv/biblical-hebrew-calendar. **NOTE: I do not agree with any of the astrological information contained in this article (equinoxes, solstices, zodiac information).**

Nehemiaswall.com – other Biblical Calendar articles, etc.

YOUTUBE.COM – Nehemia Gordon channel – **“Biblical Calendar Video – NehemiasWall.com”**

This is a You Tube video recorded about ten years ago by Nehemia with **so much valuable information** and pictures of barley in its different stages of ripeness, especially the Aviv stage, that he just reposted it (although he says you may not recognize him!).