

The Moon: What It Governs

The moon governs the **monthly cycle**.

While the sun determines seasons and the yearly rhythm, the moon determines the structure of months.

What “Chodesh” Means

The Hebrew word for month is:

חֹדֶשׁ (Chodesh)

This word means:

- Month
- New moon
- Renewal

It comes from a root meaning “new” or “renewed.”

This shows that a biblical month begins with the renewal of the moon.

Exodus 12:2

“This month shall be the beginning of months...”

Psalms 104:19

“He appointed the moon for seasons (moedim).”

The moon is directly connected to appointed times.

The Lunar Cycle (29–30 Days)

The moon follows a repeating cycle.

From one new moon to the next is about:

29.5 days

That is why biblical months are:

- 29 days
- Or 30 days

This cycle repeats consistently.

You can observe it without technology.

Moon Phases Explained Simply

Here is the full cycle in order:

- New Moon – not visible
- Waxing Crescent – thin crescent growing
- First Quarter – half visible
- Waxing Gibbous – more than half growing
- Full Moon – fully illuminated
- Waning Gibbous – more than half shrinking
- Last Quarter – half visible again
- Waning Crescent – thin crescent shrinking

Then it returns to New Moon.

This cycle repeats every month.

Waxing vs Waning

Very simple rule (Northern Hemisphere):

Waxing = Growing light
Waning = Shrinking light

Waxing crescent:

- Visible after sunset
- Right side lit

Waning crescent:

- Visible before sunrise
- Left side lit

This helps you identify where you are in the month.

Conjunction vs Visible Crescent

Conjunction:

This is the astronomical moment when the moon aligns between earth and sun.
The moon is dark and invisible.

Visible Crescent:

This is the first time the thin crescent can actually be seen after sunset.

Many who observe biblically mark the new month at:

The first visible crescent.

Why?

Because Genesis 1:14 describes lights for signs visible markers.

Why Months Require Observation

Unlike the solar year (which follows seasons), the moon's cycle must be watched.

Deuteronomy 16:1

“Observe the month of Aviv...”

To observe means to watch carefully.

Without observing the moon:

- You cannot know when a new month begins
- You cannot correctly count feast days
- You cannot identify the 14th day (Passover)

Months depend on the renewal of the moon.

The sun determines seasons and the year.

The moon determines months.

Every feast day is tied to a numbered day of a month.

If you do not know when the month begins,
you cannot correctly identify the appointed times.

The moon renews itself each month.

That renewal marks the beginning of a new month.

The cycle lasts 29–30 days and must be observed.

The biblical calendar is lunar-month structured and solar-season aligned.