

# SUN & MOON TERMINOLOGY

## Sunrise

When the sun appears above the eastern horizon.  
Marks the start of daylight.

## Sunset

When the sun disappears below the western horizon.  
In biblical reckoning, this begins a new day (evening to evening).

Genesis 1 pattern: “Evening and morning...”

## Horizon

The line where the sky meets the earth.  
You must see the horizon clearly to observe moon phases properly.

## Equinox

Twice a year when day and night are about equal length.  
Spring equinox signals seasonal transition into spring.

## Solstice

The longest or shortest day of the year.  
Marks peak summer or peak winter.

## Solar Day

One full sunset to sunset cycle.

## Solar Year

One full cycle of seasons (about 365 days).  
Measured by the sun’s position and agricultural change.

# MOON TERMINOLOGY

## New Moon

The moon is dark and not visible.  
Occurs when the moon is between the earth and sun.

## Waxing Crescent

Thin crescent visible shortly after sunset.  
Right side lit (Northern Hemisphere).  
“Waxing” means growing.

## First Quarter

Half the moon appears lit.  
Seen afternoon to evening.

## Waxing Gibbous

More than half lit, still growing.

## Full Moon

Entire face illuminated.  
Rises at sunset.

## Waning Gibbous

More than half lit, but shrinking.

## Last Quarter

Half lit again, but decreasing.

## Waning Crescent

Thin crescent before sunrise.  
Left side lit (Northern Hemisphere).  
“Waning” means shrinking.

## Lunar Cycle

One full moon cycle (~29.5 days).  
From new moon to new moon.

## Conjunction

The astronomical moment when the moon aligns between earth and sun.  
Usually not visible.

## First Visible Crescent

The first time the moon can be seen after conjunction.  
Often used to mark the start of a new biblical month.

# Direction Terms (Important for Observation)

East

Where the sun rises.

West

Where the sun sets.

Simple rule:

- Waxing moon → seen after sunset in the west.
- Waning moon → seen before sunrise in the east.

# **Biblical Calendar Terms**

Moedim

Appointed times.

Chodesh

Month / new moon.

Aviv

Ripening stage of barley spring marker.