

# A New Moon to Remember

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When addressing the attack by Japan on Pearl Harbor during the Second World War, President Roosevelt stated the following: "*Yesterday, December 7, 1941 – a date which will live in infamy – the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.*" Little could this President have known that the attack on Pearl Harbor would be dwarfed by a future cataclysm so devastating to our planet that it will be remembered from one New Moon to another for a thousand years. Because Almighty God foreknew this, He established New Moon observance as a "memorial" commemorating this ultimate consequence of mankind's lawless/sinful behavior. In concert with this, He also instituted the Passover as a "memorial", or reminder, that the elimination of sin and its serious consequences required the death of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

For those living during the First Covenant period, killing a lamb on the Passover foreshadowed the Lamb of God (Jesus Christ; cf. Jn. 1:29. 36) who would die in order to provide forgiveness of sin, for those who repent, which is a prerequisite for reconciliation with Almighty God (Heb. 9:22 cf. Acts 2:38). This important truth was to be remembered annually on the evening of the fourteenth day that followed the first New Moon of the year. Now that Christ has fulfilled what the Passover lamb represented (cf. Mt. 5:17), God's faithful and obedient servants during the Second Covenant are reminded of Christ's sacrifice when they "*eat the New Testament Passover*" at its appointed time each year (cf. Mt. 26:26-30; Jn. 13:1-15; Jn. 6:48-58).

Although the moon is a physical object, it can be used metaphorically to reflect spiritual truths and attributes. For instance, the moon is associated with faithfulness toward Almighty God.

*It (God's covenant with King David) shall be established forever like **the moon**, even like **the faithful witness in the sky** (Psa. 89:37; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).*

A faithful witness does not lie. Therefore, although the moon waxes and wanes as it proceeds through its monthly cycle, it always reflects the will of Almighty God figuratively speaking.

***A faithful witness does not lie**, but a false witness will utter lies (Prov. 14:5; emphasis added).*

Because Jesus Christ does not lie, he is referred to as "the faithful witness",

*.....**Jesus Christ, the faithful witness**, the firstborn from the dead.... (Rev. 1:5a; emphasis added).*

*But now you (religious leaders) seek to kill me (Christ), **a man who has told you the truth** which I heard from (The) God.... (Jn. 8:40a; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

In contrast, to Christ's truthful teachings, this world has been absorbing the lies of a powerful, and unfaithful, spirit-being for thousands of years (cf. Jn. 8:44; Rev. 12:9). Consequently, he cannot be compared to the moon. However, because he is described as "the god of this world" (cf. 2Cor. 4:4; Jn. 12:31b; 14:30; 16:11), he can have a

darkening effect upon the moon, figuratively speaking. Thankfully, this darkening or deception ceases when the New Moon conjunction ends, and the moon's light is again reflected upon the Earth,

.....**turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in me..** (Ac. 26:18b; cf. Mt. 4:16; Lk. 1:79; 22:53; Jn. 1:5; 3:19; 2Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:11; 6:12; Col. 1:13)

So, there are two aspects associated with the end of the moon's cycle. First there is complete darkness, which is then followed by increasing light. And, because God focuses on positive things, each New Moon pictures the hope of a new beginning as the light of His truth grows exponentially. The Apostle Paul used this language to describe the newness of life that follows repentance of sin,

*Therefore, we were buried with him (Christ) through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory (power) of the Father, even so **we also should walk in newness of life*** (Rom. 6:4; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The gradual darkening of the Moon can be compared to various deceptions that Satan uses in his attempt to thwart God's plan of salvation. He uses these deceptions to steal what does not belong to him, but he will be caught suddenly "as a thief in the darkness of a New Moon" when Christ returns,

*But the day of the Lord will come as a **thief in the night**....* (2Pet. 3:10a; cf. Mt. 24:43; emphasis added).

*Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by **the door** (referring to Christ: cf. Jn. 10:7, 9), but climbs up some other way, **the same is a thief and a robber*** (Jn. 10:1; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Because the majority of mankind has accepted the corrupt value system of Satan, they will succumb to his last great deceptions that will culminate on a New Moon,

*They (mankind) have dealt treacherously with the Lord, for they have begotten pagan children. **Now a New Moon shall devour them and their heritage*** (Hos. 7:7; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

The prophet Amos compares the darkness of a New Moon with horrific conditions on earth at the time of Christ's return,

***Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it?*** (Amos 5:20; emphasis added).

In the nation of ancient Israel, a trumpet was blown on every New Moon. Among other things, the blowing of a trumpet was associated with important announcements, including a "call to arms" (cf. 1Cor. 14:8),

***Blow the trumpet at the time of the New Moon, on our solemn feast day*** (Psa. 81:3; emphasis added).

So, it is no coincidence that a trumpet is blown in association with Christ's return because scripture indicates this will occur on a New Moon,

*And **he** (Christ) **will send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and***

they will gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other (Mt. 24:31; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

*In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trumpet.** For **the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we** (the elect) **shall be changed** (1Cor. 15:52; Ed. note in Parenthesis; emphasis added).*

*For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and **with the trumpet of God.** And the dead in Christ will rise first (1Thes. 4:16; emphasis added).*

In an Old Testament riddle, Christ is pictured traveling on a journey and then returning to his wife on a New Moon, Metaphorically speaking, Christ's wife is the faithful and obedient Church of God, or house of God (cf. 2Cor.11:2; 2Cor. 5:1),

*For my husband is not at home; **he has gone on a long journey** (cf. 2Cor. 11:2);<sup>20</sup> A bag of money he hath taken in his hand. **At the day of the New Moon he cometh to his house** (Prov. 7:19-20; YLT98; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

A similar scenario is also described in the New Testament,

*Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower (cf. Jn. 15:1-2). And he leased it to vinedressers and **went into a far country.**<sup>34</sup> Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants, that they might receive its fruit.<sup>35</sup> And the*

*vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another.<sup>36</sup> Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them.<sup>37</sup> Then last of all he sent his son to them (the husband of the wife mentioned in Prov. 7:19), saying, 'They will respect my son.'<sup>38</sup> But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.'<sup>39</sup> And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him.<sup>40</sup> Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes (on a New Moon), what will he do to those vinedressers?<sup>41</sup> They said to him (Christ), "**He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.**" (Mt. 21:33-41; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

According to Christ's words, no one in heaven or Earth will know which New Moon his Father will have him return on, or the exact time of day or night,

*But of that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son (Christ), but only the Father.<sup>33</sup> Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.<sup>34</sup> It is like **a man going to a far country,** who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeepers to watch.<sup>35</sup> Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming – in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning –<sup>36</sup> lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping (Mk. 13:32-38; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

There is an interesting aspect to observing the New Moon as a Holy Day because it is not built into the weekly cycle like the seventh day Sabbath. Therefore, if observers are not paying close attention, a New Moon can come and go suddenly without them being aware. This suddenness is one of the main themes in Christ's parable regarding the wise and foolish virgins, half of whom were ill-prepared for his return,

*Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming (Mt. 25:13).*

Therefore, the majority of mankind will be conducting their business as usual at the time of Christ's return, and totally unprepared for his sudden arrival,

*For as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. <sup>38</sup> For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be (Mt. 24:37-39).*

Those who pay close attention to the timing of a New Moon, and then observe it as they would any of God's other Holy Days, will be better prepared for Christ's return; regardless which New Moon it is. Therefore, like the memorial aspect of the Passover, keeping each New Moon is a reminder of Christ's future return. And, after Christ has returned and bound Satan for a thousand years (cf. Rev. 20:1-3), all mankind will observe each New Moon as a memorial, or constant reminder, that Christ returned on a New Moon to save this planet from utter destruction, and then restore his Father's law and commandments universally.

This memorial aspect, combined with the blowing of trumpets, is emphasized during the New Moon of the seventh month each year,

*Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a **memorial of blowing trumpets**, a holy convocation' (Lev. 23:24; emphasis added)*

*"For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me," says the Lord, "So shall your descendants and your name remain. <sup>23</sup> And it shall come to pass that **from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me,**" says the Lord (Isa. 66:22-23; emphasis added).*

This universal observance of each New Moon will remind everyone of the consequences associated with sinful conduct that led to a great tribulation on the scale of Noah's flood,

*For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. <sup>22</sup> And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened (Mt. 24:21-22).*

If there are no 'elect' obeying God's law and commandments at the time of this future tribulation, then God would allow our planet and everyone on it to be destroyed. This principle is confirmed and explained in Genesis 18:20-32. However, if some people are still observing each New Moon, as well as other God-ordained laws, commandments, and Holy Days, mankind's survival will be ensured at Christ's return.

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