

## THE NEW MOONS

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Because the subject had come up concerning the New Moons and whether we should keep them just before I left Worldwide in late 1979, I was saying my prayer one morning and asked God to give us understanding on this subject. Immediately as I was asking it, this is the answer that flashed into my mind. "*The astrologers study the stars and planets movements for the purpose of prophesy, right? Astrology is a counterfeit of God's New Moons because by observing them, God intends to give us a deeper understanding of prophesy.*" Because of this answer to prayer, my interest was kindled to do a Bible study on the New Moons.

There is a general principle found in Rom 1:20 which says that we can understand God or the spiritual things by looking at things that are physical. "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead..." I heard a sermon once where the minister said, "The physical universe is the analogy. The spiritual is the reality." We already know, for example, that our physical birth process pictures the spiritual birth process into the Kingdom of God. Our physical marriage pictures the spiritual marriage to Christ, etc. So, remembering this, I asked, "What is the meaning of the moon? The moon is a physical thing, but as an analogy of something spiritual, what does it mean?"

In Gen. 37:9, Joseph dreamed a dream. "...behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me." In verse 10 this was interpreted by his father. "...his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?" The sun, then, was a type of father. The moon was a type of mother or woman. The stars represented his brothers. We already know that a woman is a type of the Church, so now we see that the moon is also a type of woman or church.

Notice how the physical moon fits the spiritual analogy. The moon does not generate any light at all. It merely reflects the light of the sun, just as we ought to reflect the light of our husband, Jesus Christ. Here are some scriptures showing this principle...

Jo 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Ps 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Mat 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

The moon is also responsible for the tides on the earth. It attracts the earth in obedience to the law of gravitation. The sun is vastly more massive than the moon but it lies at so great a distance that its tide raising influence is only 5/11 that of the moon. The moon attracts most strongly the side facing it, least the side furthest away from it. This difference in attractive force raises a tidal bulge which we know by its presence as high tide. When the attractive forces of the sun and

moon combine - at new and full moon, the bulge is greatest and what are called "spring tides" result. When these two forces oppose, the bulge is least and "neap tides" result, at first and third quarter moon. The earth rotates under the tidal bulge bringing to almost every shore two high tides and two low tides every lunar day of 24 hours 50 minutes. We might meditate as to the spiritual meaning of this gravitational pull of the moon on the oceans by comparing these scriptures...

Ge 1:10 And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the WATERS called he SEAS: and God saw that it was good.

Rev 17:15 And he saith unto me, The WATERS which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are PEOPLES, AND MULTITUDES, AND NATIONS, AND TONGUES.

Jo 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will DRAW all men unto me.

Isa 2:2 And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall FLOW unto it.

Isa 2:3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the HOUSE OF THE GOD OF JACOB; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

You see how these scriptures show the church's role in drawing mankind to Jesus Christ.

Another spiritual analogy we might draw has to do with the moon's cycle. Since the moon's cycle is a month and the moon is a type of woman, isn't it interesting that a woman has a monthly cycle in her body! Perhaps we can compare the moon's orbit around the earth to the menstrual cycle in women to understand the meaning of the law in Lev 15:19-33.

Lev 15:19 And if a woman have an issue, and her issue in her flesh be blood, she shall be put apart seven days: and whosoever toucheth her shall be unclean until the even.

Lev 15:20 And every thing that she lieth upon in her separation shall be unclean: every thing also that she sitteth upon shall be unclean.

Lev 15:21 And whosoever toucheth her bed shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even.

Lev 15:22 And whosoever toucheth any thing that she sat upon shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even.

Lev 15:23 And if it be on her bed, or on any thing whereon she sitteth, when he toucheth it, he shall be unclean until the even.

Lev 15:24 And if any man lie with her at all, and her flowers be upon him, he shall be unclean seven days; and all the bed whereon he lieth shall be unclean.

Lev 15:25 And if a woman have an issue of her blood many days out of the time of her separation, or if it run beyond the time of her separation; all the days of the issue of her uncleanness shall be as the days of her separation: she shall be unclean.

Lev 15:26 Every bed whereon she lieth all the days of her issue shall be unto her as the bed of her separation: and whatsoever she sitteth upon shall be unclean, as the uncleanness of her separation.

Lev 15:27 And whosoever toucheth those things shall be unclean, and shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even.

Lev 15:28 But if she be cleansed of her issue, then she shall number to herself seven days, and after that she shall be clean.

Lev 15:29 And on the eighth day she shall take unto her two turtles, or two young pigeons, and bring them unto the priest, to the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

Lev 15:30 And the priest shall offer the one for a sin offering, and the other for a burnt offering; and the priest shall make an atonement for her before the Lord for the issue of her uncleanness.

Lev 15:31 Thus shall ye separate the children of Israel from their uncleanness; that they die not in their uncleanness, when they defile my tabernacle that is among them.

Lev 15:32 This is the law of him that hath an issue, and of him whose seed goeth from him, and is defiled therewith;

Lev 15:33 And of her that is sick of her flowers, and of him that hath an issue, of the man, and of the woman, and of him that lieth with her that is unclean. What does menstruation represent spiritually?

Notice the following scriptures...

Lam 1:9 Her (Jerusalem's) filthiness is in her skirts; she remembereth not her last end; therefore she came down wonderfully: she had no comforter...

Jer 2:34 Also in thy skirts (House of Israel) is found the blood of the souls of the poor innocents: I have not found it by secret search, but upon all these.

Na 3:5 Behold, I am against thee (Nineveh), saith the Lord of hosts; and I will discover thy skirts upon thy face, and I will shew the nations thy nakedness, and the kingdoms thy shame.

Eze 36:17 Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own way and by their doings: their way was before me as the uncleanness of a removed woman.

Eze 36:18 Wherefore I poured my fury upon them for the blood that they had shed upon the land, and for their idols wherewith they had polluted it:

Notice that the menstrual flow represents the blood guiltiness of a nation and especially the house of Israel whereby they are to be put apart or "removed" out of God's sight.

If you think about the removal of a menstrous woman in Lev. 15 in relation to the whole world, remembering the scripture, "A day to God is like a thousand years" (2Pe 3:8), you see that the whole world has been, because of their blood guiltiness, separated from God the Father for a period of seven days (7000 years) and at the end of this time all mankind will be reunited with him. Rev. 21:3 "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth:...And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God."

The New Moon is the time when the moon is just beginning to come up out of its dark phase during which it reflected no light at all. Notice these scriptures concerning spiritual darkness...

Pr 4:19 The way of the wicked is as darkness; they know not at what they stumble.

Jo 3:21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

Eph 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light

Eph 5:9 For the fruit of the spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;

Eph 5:10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord

Eph 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather reprove them

Eph 5:12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret

Eph 5:13 But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light

Col 1:13 Giving thanks unto the Father which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light

Col 1:14 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.

1Pe 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light

1Jo 2:10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

1Jo 2:11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

The moon's brightness continues to increase until full moon at which time it reflects the most light. As an analogy, mid month is also the time when conception is most possible in women.

Eze 16:8 shows this: "Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swore unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord God, and thou becamest mine."

In Gen 1:14 we read where God made the lights in the heavens. "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:" Seven reasons or purposes are listed for these lights. We might better understand our purpose as a church as we meditate on these.

1. To divide the day from the night.

1Thes 5:5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

1Thes 5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

1Thes 5:7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

1Thes 5:8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

2. Signs

Isa 8:18 Behold, I and the children whom the Lord hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the Lord of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion.

Mat 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

It might be interesting in connection with these signs to study eclipses. An eclipse of the moon occurs only when the moon is full. At this time it has a faint coppery glow (which can resemble blood) This could picture the time of the martyrdom of the saints

Rev 6:12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

### 3. Seasons

Ps 104:19 He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down.

Ec 3:1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

4. Days (to keep track of time)

5. Years (to keep track of time)

6. To give light on the earth

Mt 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.

2Co 4:6 For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

7. To rule over the day and over the night

Rev 2:26 And he that overcometh and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

Rev 2:27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron: as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers, even as I received of my Father.

The keeping of the New Moons helps us to remember, because of the cycle of light and darkness, that as long as we are in the flesh, we need the grace, forgiveness, and the correction of God.

Ps 81:3, a command for the New Moons, says, "Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day. One of the meanings of the blowing of trumpets is to lift up our voices like trumpets showing our people their sins. As we keep the New Moons, then, let us pray that God will lighten all our darkness, remove all our blood guiltiness, and save us from all our sins so that we may come to our time of love which is the marriage of the church and the lamb.