



חֲדָשׁ

# “From one new moon to another”



## DO YOU NEED A NEW BEGINNING?

BY INGO SORKE, PHD

“It shall come to pass, *that from one new moon to another*, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD” (Isa 66:23).

**"At the time of the new moon a sacred festival was celebrated in Israel" (PP 654).**

### CREATION

*The Genesis Principle - Separation → Unification*

### THE ORIGIN OF TIME

**Separation:** 1:1 (heaven | earth) · 1:4 (light | darkness) · 1:5 (evening | morning) · 1:6 (water | firmament | water) · 1:10 (earth/land | H<sub>2</sub>O) · **1:14 (day | night = 1:18 light | darkness)** · 1:21, 24, 25 (“according to its kind” 6x) · 1:27 (male | female) · 2:2 (days 1-6 | 7th day) · 2:10-14 (1 river → 4 rivers) · 2:16-17 (every tree | tree of knowledge 🤩/😞) · 2:21-23 (Adam-rib → Eve = woman “out of man”) · 2:24 (father & mother | “joined to his wife ... one flesh”)

**Gen 1:14-18** “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.*”

### CONCEPT

חֲדָשׁ *hādāš new*

### STARTING OVER

**Examples:** the temple (2 Chron 24:4, 12, par. *h̄zq* pi. “to renovate”), an altar (2 Chron 15:8), and cities (Isa 61:4, par. *bnh* “to rebuild”) are renewed, i.e., reestablished; the monarchy is renewed (1 Sam 11:14). ... (Lam 5:21 “renew our days as of old”), **to renew life (Psa 51:12 [10], beside *br* “to create”;** cf. L. Kopf, VT 9 [1959]: 254f.); [God] is praised because he renews the face of the earth (Psa 104:30, beside *br*) and its youthfulness (Psa 103:5 hitp.). Job 10:17 (“to renew witnesses” = “repeatedly to produce new witnesses”) contrasts “new” with “already at hand” (adapted from TLOT).

**TWOT Dictionary:** חֲדָשׁ (*hadash*) New, new thing, fresh. חֹדֶשׁ (*hōdesh*) Month, monthly, new moon.

Although this word properly means “new moon,” it is commonly used as an equivalent to our word “month” because **the month began when the thin crescent of the new moon was first visible at sunset.** It was used along with the more rare חֹדֶשׁ, from חֲדָשׁ meaning “moon.” (→ 1 Kgs 6:1, 37, 38; 8:2 where the terms are used interchangeably. ... The Hebrew calendar used a lunar month fitted into a solar year. ... by adding an extra month approximately once every 3 years because it was about 11 days less than the solar year. **In early Israel the first of each month, or new moon, was determined by observation and proclaimed officially by the blowing of trumpets.** The month was considered to be 30 days (note Gen 7:11; cf. 8:3–4), unless the new moon was observed earlier. ...

*Early Israel Names:*

- ① **Abib** (Ex 13:4)
- ② **Ziv/Zin** (1 Kgs 6:1)
- ⑦ **Ethanim** (8:2)
- ⑧ **Bul** (6:38)

“God teaches that we should assemble in His house to cultivate the attributes of perfect love. This will fit the dwellers of earth for the mansions that Christ has gone to prepare for all who love Him. **There they will assemble in the sanctuary from Sabbath to Sabbath, from one new moon to another, to unite in loftiest strains of song, in praise and thanksgiving to Him who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb for ever and ever**” (6T 368.3 RH Oct. 24, 1899, par. 6).

Most often the months were designated by number. (→ 1 Chr 27:1–15: all twelve listed by number.) Later the Babylonian names were incorporated into Hebrew:

① **Nisan** (Neh 2:1) - spring, vernal equinox (Ex 12:2, 18).

③ **Sivan** (Est 8:9),

⑥ **Elul** (Neh 6:15)

⑨ **Kislev** (Zech 7:1)

10 **Tebeth** (Est 2:16)

11 **Shebat** (Sebat) (Zech 1:7)

12 **Adar** (Est 3:7).

“The trip from Whangaroa up the Bay and creek to Kaeo was an interesting one. The water of the Bay was as smooth as an inland lake. The night was perfect. The air was mild, and the **new moon** shone out sufficiently to give us an outline of the mountain scenery on either side” (RH May 30, 1893 par. 7)

**When חֲדָשׁ refers only to the beginning of the month, it is naturally translated “new moon,” which was a feast day. It is one of the “appointed feasts” and is listed with the Sabbath and the pilgrim feasts as involving burnt offerings (2 Chr 8:13 et al.), and is also characterized by the blowing of trumpets (Ps 81:3 [H 4]; Num 10:10).** Since it was a feast, David’s absence from Saul’s table at the new moon was especially noticeable (1 Sam 20:5f.).

*Bibliography:* Morgenstern, Julian, “The Three Calendars of Ancient Israel,” HUCA 1: 13–78. “Supplementary Studies in the Calendars of Ancient Israel,” HUCA 10:1–148. Wright, G. Ernest, “Israelite Daily Life,” BA 18.50–79. THAT, I, pp. 524–29. Carl Philip Weber

## CASES

“new moon”

SEARCH

- **Texts:** Num 10:10; 28:11–15; 1 Sam. 20:5, 18, 24; 2Kgs 4:23; 2 Chron 2:3; Ezra 3:4–5; Ps 81:3; Isa 66:23; Ezek 45:17; 46:1, 6; Am 8:5; Hos 2:11; Col 2:16
- **Amos 8:5** “When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit?”

👉 “... **At the commencement of the time of trouble, we were filled with the Holy Ghost as we went forth and proclaimed the Sabbath more fully**” (EW 33, 85, LDE 143, RH July 21, 1851, Art. B, par. 12) → Persecution!

“I was sixty-[two] years old yesterday. Our first snow storm came last evening. We have had only three days of sunshine during this winter. With the new moon came a change from clouds and fog and rain to clear sunshine, and last night the snow commenced falling” (Letter 30, 1889).

“Parents neglect their responsibility, and do not search for themselves to know what saith the Lord in regard to His holy law. Therefore they fail to teach their children to walk in the way of God’s precepts. “Sing aloud unto God our strength: make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob. Take a psalm, and bring hither the timbrel, the pleasant harp with psaltery. **Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day. For this was a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob.**” [Psalm 81:1–4.] (Lt34–1894).

“And the Sabbath, which God declares to be the sign of the loyalty of His people, is placed in the bosom of the Decalogue. Its sanctity reaches into eternity, **for God declares that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another,** His subjects shall come up to worship before Him in the earth made new” [Isaiah 66:23.] (Ms63–1897).

“The Lord pronounced His blessing upon all who keep holy the Sabbath day. His commandments are given to a thousand generations, and when that period is ended the redeemed host shall be in the city of God and observe the Sabbath there, **and especially come up to worship God from Sabbath to Sabbath and from one new moon to another** (Ms173–1897).

“My health has been very good for several weeks and for this blessing I feel more thankful than I can express, for there is so much to be done. We are having beautiful weather now. In midday it is somewhat warm, but mornings and evenings are very pleasant and beautiful. I have been out two evenings to the station to convey passengers to the trains and to receive them from the trains. **It is new moon, and how beautiful were the moon and the stars!** The atmosphere was soft, and the air fragrant (Lt145–1898).