

#2 THE HEART AND HOW TO CELEBRATE YOM TERUAH

Shalom to all our Feast Attendees: **PREPARE FOR THE FEAST!!**

Hello! Welcome to our second email aimed at helping you better understand what the Feast of Yom Teruah is about. Thank-you for taking the time to read, watch or do what we suggest in these “study guides” so that you can come a little prepared for the Feast!

Yom Teruah Fact #2: It is a Mo’ed

MO’EDIM = SEASONS = APPOINTMENTS

Genesis 1:14 says that Yahweh Elohim created the sun, moon and stars for seasons. Of course, when we see the word seasons we think of Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. But if we look at the Hebrew text (what Genesis was originally written in) we can clearly see that the word seasons is actually the word mo’edim. Strong’s Concordance: #4150.

And mo’edim is the Hebrew word for appointments or appointed days. Mo’ed is singular referring to a single Feast. While mo’edim is plural, referring to all Yahweh’s Feasts.

So what Yahweh was actually saying in Genesis 1:14 is that he created the sun, moon and stars so that we could find his appointments, his Holy Days or holidays. How cool is that?

Yom Teruah is a Mo’ed or Appointment.

Prepare Lesson #2: Read

The 7th New Moon from the top of the parking garage during Yom Teruah Banquet ‘14 at BSU
Today, you are going to read some Scriptures so get your Bible (if you have Strong’s Concordance, you might want that, too)!

So, When is Yom Teruah?

“...On the first day of _
the seventh month_ you are to have a day of rest...” (Lev. 23:24-25; Num. 29:1-6)

The Scriptures tell us that Yom Teruah falls on the first day of the 7th month.

Part of celebrating this Feast and entering into it is knowing when it occurs. It is really important to be able to find the first day of the seventh month or you will miss out on this Feast. To celebrate it when we want to, or according to a man-made or pre-flood calendar would be no better than honoring Shabbat on a day other than what he ordained (Sunday); or celebrating the Messiah’s birthday on a day that is convenient for us (Dec.25).

There is a simple, knowable, perfect and unchangeable way to reckon the Feasts (calendar). Let me show you how simple Yahweh's instructions are. He makes it clear that the first day of the month occurs when the sliver of the new moon is sighted.

How do I know this? There are many ways. Here is our full study on the New Moon if you want lots to read. But for the purpose of this Yom Teruah Study I will mention 2 ways:

1 - "Month" and "New Moon" in the Scriptures mean exactly the same thing

It is primarily in the meaning of the word for month that we know how to find the first day of the month. Simply put, the Hebrew word for month and new moon are interchangeable. In fact, Nehemia Gordon a leading Hebrew Linguist scholar at the Hebrew University in Israel says, "The primary meaning of Hodesh (month) is actually "New Moon" or "New Moon Day" and it is only by extension that it came to mean "month", that is, the period between one New Moon and the next."

Encyclopaedia Judaica, Vol. 12, p. 1039 says, "Originally, the New Moon was not fixed by astronomical calculation, but was solemnly proclaimed after witnesses had testified to the reappearance of the crescent of the moon.... The switchover from watching for the first visible crescent to calculating conjunctions (equinox) to determine the month's beginning came with Hillel II's calendar revisions in the 4th century C.E. "By the middle of the fourth century, the sages had established a permanent calendar and the public proclamation of the New Moon was discontinued" (Ibid).

There is more that you can find in our study link...like what Philo (a contemporary of Yahshua) wrote about how they were finding the head of the months during Yahshua's day etc.

But for now, it is just important that you know that the Hebrew word for new moon or month is chodesh. And now whenever you see the word "month" in the Scriptures you can transliterate it to be "new moon." Study it for yourself: 2320 Strongs. I like to use this quick online inner-liner Bible, BibleHub to see what the original words mean.

2 - We are commanded o actually "observe" the New Month

We also see that the Scripture says that we are to observe the new moon. It would be a little hard to obey this command if there wasn't something to actually observe.

The head of the months are to be observed.

Deut.16:1 says, "Observe (8104. shamar, a verb) the month of Aviv and celebrate the Passover of Yahweh your Elohim, because in the month of Aviv he brought you out of Egypt by night." (Ex.13:4; Ex.23:15)

In this text the word observe is the Hebrew word shamar and it can mean to look narrowly for, search or to watch (No. 8104 in Strong's).

The Holladay Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon defines observe as watching in the sense of looking. Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words includes the definitions "mark, watchman, wait, watch, look narrowly."

We see that we are commanded to observe the new moons (months), starting with the First New Moon. It's wonderful that Yahweh gave the First Month a name, "the Month of Aviv". This command to observe the Month of Aviv sets a precedent to observe all the months through out the year. And we find them through observation

(observing when the sliver appears.

So, finding Yom Teruah is easy!

Any child or illiterate shepherd in the field can find this Feast: just count 7 New Moons from the 1st one (that's another story on how to find that 1st one) and there you have it! A special mo'ed the Creator wants us to show up for!

Yom Teruah is a Date Day with the Creator!

The mo'edim are super cool and are like appointments that Yahweh has pre-arranged for us to meet with him every year. Each mo'ed has deep meaning and is on a particular subject that he wants to talk about each year around that time. These are kinda like "date-days" with Papa! :-) You don't want to miss them!

Observing is Fun!

Finding the first day of the month is so fun for our family. Straining our eyes to see it. Rejoicing when we do see it! Blowing the shofar. Having a special dinner.....

Taught in the Wilderness

When we lived outside in a tipi for 4 years (another story) Papa taught us how important the moon is. We got a real life education in the importance of moonlight. In society now, we don't actually need the moon. We have the grid. We have a switch in the room to turn the light on for us. But when we experienced being off the grid for those 4 years we grew to love and depend on the moon at night. Our favorite time was when the moon was full in the middle of the month, because (if there was no clouds) the moon lit up our path to the fridge, the bathtub, to the woodshed and the chicken coupe. It lit up the woods and made it not so scary. We could even make moon-shadows. This is one very practical reason Yahweh's pilgrimage Feasts (3 of the 7) are in the middle of the month. So that the ancient travelers would have light to journey by. Along with all the other reasons for establishing the moon for mo'edim, Yahweh was being practical, too!

Pretty simple, huh?

If you haven't been paying attention to the phases of the moon, you should. It's really wonderful.

So, after reading the Scriptures that command us to celebrate Yom Teruah and learning how to find this Feast...

1. What does the word seasons in the Creation Story of Genesis mean?
2. What is the Hebrew definition of the word "observe?"
3. Is Yom Teruah an annual Feast?
4. When is it?

Yom Teruah Trivia #2

"Teruah" means to shout in Hebrew. (Strong's 8643)