

Watching, But Very Busy

Luke 12:35-48

Numbers 10:1-10

John 3:1-12



1 September 2024

Watching for the New Moon

- God gave the moon as a sign. (Genesis 1:14)
 - ★ The sun tells us what time it is.
 - ★ BUT the moon tells us what day it is!
 - ★ The Hebrew word for “seasons” is “*moedim*” carries with it the meaning “fixed time” or “appointment” or “appointed times.”
 - ★ In Leviticus 23 the LORD said, “Speak to the children of Israel (*), and say to them, ‘The feasts (*moed*) of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts (*moedim*)’.”
 - Each of God’s feasts had/has an “appointed time”.
 - Each of God’s feasts were to be celebrated IN JERUSALEM - God’s appointed place.
 - The moon marked God’s appointed times.
- God gave the new moon as a **shadow** of things to come.
 - Colossians 2:16-17; Galatians 4:8-11
- What is a **SHADOW**?
- When the SUN is at its HIGHEST point there is no more shadow!
- **WE** focus on the OBJECT – NOT the shadow! The shadow is GONE!
- What can the new moon in Scripture teach us? (Romans 15:4)
 - *Rosh Chodesh* - the beginning of each month.
 - ★ *Chodesh* comes from *chadesh*: “to be new; to renew; to make new”
 - ★ A prayer (announcing the new moon) made during the days of the new moon is called *molad* (*molad*: meaning birth)
 - ★ Traditionally, the Jews celebrated two days of the New Moon. It was a time to:
 - Reflect and give thanks for God’s faithfulness in the past month, and
 - To reflect and begin anew! Look to God to provide for them in the upcoming month.
- After two days of DARKNESS then a sliver of light! (Isaiah 9:2; 42:6-9; 60:1-3; Luke 1:79; Colossians 1:13; **1 Peter 2:9**; 2 Corinthians 4:4-6)

- The New Moon in Scripture:
 - Marked the beginning of the sacred year ushering in the spring feasts. (Exodus 12:1-2)
 - Waters dried up from the flood. (Genesis 8:13) A new beginning starts .
 - The Tabernacle was set up for the first time. (Exodus 40:2, 17)
 - Moses gives/repeats the Law to the new generation before they enter into the Promised Land. (Deuteronomy 1:1-3)
 - Trumpets were to be blowing on each New Moon! (Psalm 81:3; Numbers 10:10)
 - God specified the offering to be made on each New Moon. (Numbers 28:11-15)
 - The New Moon will be celebrated in the New Heavens and new earth! (Isaiah 66:22-23)
- The Seventh New Moon
 - A look at GOD's timetable. (See handout: 2024 Feasts)
 - Three times every year every male was to go to Jerusalem (God's appointed place) to celebrate God's appointed feasts. (**Deuteronomy 16:16**; Exodus 23:14-17; **34:22-24**)
 - This new moon marked the end of the summer.
 - This new moon marked the end of the harvest.
 - This new moon marked the Feast of Trumpets.
 - Like others, this new moon was marked by the blowing of trumpets. (Leviticus 23:24; Num. 10:10; 29:1)
 - It marked the end of GOD's calendar – GOD's dealing with men - marking the beginning of the Fall Feasts (appointed times).
 - From beginning to completion – (**Jeremiah 31:35-37**; Philipians 1:6)

The Harvest and the Seventh New Moon

- Harvest throughout Scripture
 - GOD bestowing fruitfulness as a reward for obedience to His ways and His Word. (Leviticus 26:3-4; Deuteronomy 28:4-5)
 - The blessed man (happy man) is one who meditates day and night on the Law of GOD and does it. He shall be like a tree that brings forth its fruit in season. (Psalm 1:1-3; Jeremiah 17:7-8)
 - Drought and famine symbolize unrepentant sin. (Psalm 32:3-4)
 - Jesus pointing to the *harvest* (souls). (Matthew 9:37-38)
 - Jesus speaks of His death bringing forth a harvest. (John 12:23-24)
 - Paul teaches about sowing and reaping. (2 Cor. 9:6; Gal. 6:7-8)
 - Being filled with the fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23)
 - Producing *much fruit* to glorify God. (John 15:8)
- The Harvest was a time of busyness. The **whole family** was to be working in the fields. (Proverbs 10:5; 20:4)
- There was a **set time** for the harvest. The harvest would end!
 - **Remember: Matthew 9:37-38 and add Jeremiah 8:20**

- The workers in the field worked as hard as they could, *but* they were always listening for the *trumpet blast* marking the end of the harvest!

The New Moon and Rebirth (John 3:1-8)

- Nicodemus (John 3:1-2)
 - A Jew: Descendent of God's chosen people.
 - Pharisee: Interpreter and Teacher of Scripture.
 - "*Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees*" Mat. 16:6-12; Luke 12:1
 - Ruler of the Jews - member of Sanhedrin.
 - One who came at night (v. 2; 7:50; 19:39)
 - Feast of Tabernacles incident: John 7:37-53
 - Burial of Jesus incident: John 19:39-41
 - Applications for *all* to heed:
 - ① Growing up in church is not enough.
 - ② Knowing Scripture is not enough.
 - ③ Being a leader in the church is not enough.
 - Nicodemus was *drawn* to Jesus by God. John 6:44; 65
(Divine appointment)
- Jesus Teaches the Teacher (John 3:3-9)
 - Notice Jesus' approach - direct.
 - To Nicodemus Jesus says, "You will not see heaven unless you *must* be born-again!" (vv. 3, 5)
 - Jesus emphasizes the importance to Nicodemus: "YOU must be born again!" (v. 7)
 - Being born of the flesh will not profit you unless you are born of the Spirit. (John 3:6; 6:63; 1 Cor. 2:14)
- **The Mystery of Salvation - like the wind** (John 3:8)
- You should know about these things - This is not a new concept! (vv. 10-12)
 - Nicodemus was a teacher.
 - He taught the very things Jesus was speaking about.
 - He came to Jesus and called Him, "Rabbi."
 - Conversion to Judaism: creating; newborns
 - Nicodemus was a member of the Sanhedrin.
 - He was responsible for announcing the New Moon.
 - Pagans (unbelievers) are brought out of the darkness of paganism into the light of God!
 - He saw the moon come out of darkness into light. (Isaiah 9:2; Isaiah 42:6-9; Isaiah 60:1-3; Luke 1:79; Colossians 1:13; Ephesians 5:8; 1 Peter 2:9)

Watchful, but Working (Luke 12:35-48)

- (v. 35) **BE READY! BE PREPARED! (ARE YOU?)**

- (v. 37) **BLESSED** are *those* who are found **watching!** (NASB: “on the alert”)
- “to watch” is *gregoreuo* {gray-gor-yoo'-o} and means “to expect”; “to observe”; “to guard”; “to watch”.
Seriousness of the word: “give strict attention to, be cautious, active”; “to take heed lest through remission and indolence some destructive calamity **suddenly** over take one”.
→ They have a place at the marriage feast of the Lamb! (Revelation 19:9)
- (vv. 38-40) This is a constant watching!
- (v. 42) Faithful and wise stewards!
- (v. 43) **BLESSED** is that **servant** whom his master finds **doing!** (PRESENT TENSE; ACTIVE VOICE; PARTICIPLE MOOD) (1 Corinthians 15:58)
- (v. 44) The REWARD. Meditate: Hebrews 6:11-12
- (vv. 45-48) The consequences of NOT WATCHING and DOING:
→ (v. 46) Cut in two!
→ (v. 46) Appointed with **unbelievers!**
→ (v. 47) Beaten with **many** stripes.
- ★ (v. 48) **MUCH is expected of those who have been given much!**
- **BUT** there is a “**crown of righteousness**” for those who “long” for His appearing.
(2 Timothy 4:8)

What Will Watching for the New Moon Teach Us?

- It will REMIND US to be **watching, praying, and doing.** (Mark 13:33; Luke 21:34-36)
- It will cause us to ask, “Have I truly been born again?” (John 3:1-8)
- It will remind us that we have been **called out of darkness** into marvelous light, because **GOD shined HIS light on us!** And now, we ought to walk in the light as Christ walked! (1 John 1:6-7; 2:6; 1 Thess 5:5; Eph 5:8)
- It will remind us that GOD has a plan and soon that plan will end.
- It will remind us that we must be *busy* in the harvest. (*doing*)
 - Bearing *much fruit* for the glory of God! (John 15:10)
 - Busy doing the work that God foreordained that we are suppose to be doing.
 - (1 Corinthians 15:58; Eph 2:10; James 2:14-26)
- It will remind us to that we are to be **watching!** (Luke 12:43)
 - Watching for our Lord’s soon return for His own. (Hebrews 9:28)
 - Watching and being sober about our lives. (Titus 2:11-15)
 - Watchful and serious in prayer. (1 Peter 4:7)
- It will teach us that we are *signs* for others to see. (Matthew 5:14-15)
- It will remind us that there is no light in ourselves. We are to reflect the light of “*the Sun of Righteousness.*” (Malachi 4:2; Ephesians 5:8)
- It will remind us that we fall short of GOD’s glory (Romans 3:23). The moon only reflects about 7% of the light shone on it.
- Our focus must be on the OBJECT and not the SHADOW. (Colossians 2:16-17)
- ★ Let us WATCH and be sober. (1 Thess 5:6; Matt 24:42; 1 Cor 16:13; Rev 3:1-6)