

HARVEST INSPIRATION DISCOVERIES

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SHOULD WE KEEP THE NEW MOON FEASTS TODAY SUMMARY

Anciently, each feast day occurred at a specific time each year, and corresponded to the work of the high priest in either the first or the second apartment of the sanctuary. There was to be no feast day which overlapped onto another feast day (i.e. the feast of Tabernacles being celebrated during Passover), but each had their specific set period corresponding to the sanctuary service. Since Christ, our High Priest, has entered into the second apartment, or the most holy place, in the heavenly sanctuary, signaling that we are now in the antitypical day of Atonement, then for anyone to advocate that we should keep any other feast day during this antitypical day of Atonement, are seeking to overlap feast days. Thus they are actually denying that we are in the antitypical day of Atonement, and are declaring that Christ is no longer interceding in the most holy place! So today, there are to be no feast days celebrated while Christ is interceding in the most holy place during this antitypical day of Atonement! But after Christ's ministerial work is ended, and the antitypical day of Atonement is ended, and we are living on the new earth, there is recorded that we will resume keeping certain feast days-- such as the feast of the New Moon (see Isaiah 66:23).

Besides, we are in captivity and strangers in this world until Christ comes to free us and take us to heaven, and then give us the new earth after the wicked are forever destroyed by the cleansing fire of God. Anciently, the Jews could not keep the feasts while under captivity, but resumed after they were freed and in their promised land. The same today!

"During the captivity of the Jews, they could not be observed; but when the people were restored to their own land, the observance of these memorials was once more begun." Desire of Ages, p 447.

"Some in the church were still striving to mold Christianity after the old customs and ceremonies that were to pass away at the death of Christ...They saw that they had been held in bondage by the Jewish customs and traditions, and that the work of the gospel had been greatly hindered..."

Life of Paul, p 211

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- 1 - Nearly every Bible statement about the new moon feast mentions required blood sacrifices.
- 2 - There is no mention of the new moon prior to the time of Moses at Mount Sinai.
- 3 - There is no mention of it anywhere in the Pentateuch—the five books of Moses. It is not in Exodus, Numbers, or Deuteronomy, which tell us all the ordinances commanded by God through Moses.
- 4 - There is no mention of the new moon for nearly 450 years after the death of Moses! You will not find it in Joshua, the time of the judges, or even Samuel. Silent. All is silent, totally silent.
- 5 - Definite instructions are given for the feast days. But, aside from the one statement in Ezekiel 45:17, written hundreds of years after Moses, David, and Solomon, there are no instructions on how to keep the new moon feast.
- 6 - The first mention of this feast are three references to David fleeing from King Saul at the time of a personal new moon feast by Saul in the palace for his family and in-laws (*1 Samuel 20:5, 18, 24*).
- 7 - It is very strange that the first mention of the new moon feast as being required is also the only time that it is said to be commanded by God (*Psalms 81:3-5*). Yet this single mention is stated as part of a Hebrew lyrical poem, rather than being given as a direct Command of God.
- 8 - Ellen White's only mention of its importance in Old Testament times was a brief one-sentence comment, that "at the time of the new moon a sacred festival was celebrated in Israel" (*PP 654*). Her statement does not indicate that it was commanded by God, but only that it was a custom for the people to keep it. Nor does she (or the Bible) mention when this festival first came into existence.

- 9** - It was not until David was old and about to die, that he gave specifications for how the new moon feast was to be observed (*1 Chronicles 23:1-2, 6, 28-32*).
- 10** - Apparently, it was not until 20 years into Solomon's reign that the Temple was completed and the new moon feast was regularly kept (*2 Chronicles 2:1-5; with 8:1, 12-14*).
- 11** - Consistently, the feast was only kept by all the people at the Temple, and only when it was in existence. So, like the yearly feasts, one would need to worship at the Temple in order to properly observe it.
- 12** - In every single Old Testament mention of how the new moon festival was to be kept, the offering of blood sacrifices is always extremely important,—always.
- 13** - Three Old Testament passages predicted that the new moon feast would eventually be abolished (*Amos 8:4-7, 10; Isaiah 1:11-20; Hosea 2:9-13*).
- 14** - Then the abolition of the new moon feast occurred at the death of Christ; and the Apostle Paul did not speak well of it (*Colossians 2:13-18, 20-23*).
- 15** - Some may think they can keep it today, simply by omitting the animal sacrifices. But who among us dares to risk doing this—when God's Word commands us not to keep it at all.
- 16** - In God's inscrutable providence, it will be kept again in the earth made new as a joyous event (*Isaiah 66:22-23*). This may be understandable when we recall that, in this world, the new moon gathering of all the people was only to be done at the Temple.
- 17** - We have been warned: In this present life, we are not to keep the feast of the new moon—for we reject Christ's death for us if we try to do so (*Colossians 2:13-18, 20-23*).