

# The Position of the Moon in the Expanse

By Sha'ul bayn Yahukhenun ha Yahudah  
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The Way of the Most High

“Exalting belief in our Father, the Most High **יְהוָה** (YaHUAH), through His Turah, the 5 scrolls of M'shih (Moses).”

Website - <http://www.thewayofthemosthigh.ca>  
Email - [followyah@gmail.com](mailto:followyah@gmail.com)

This article is the result of a lot of consideration and struggle. It may be more of an encouragement based on our struggles than anything else. We have seen a lot of people get fed up with watching the moon and its economic hardship. Some settle for something more comfortable. We can't understand how people rationalize that though. How can you have a month that ignores the moon? How can you have a week, which is a division of a month, apart from the moon? Anyway, a friend named Troy first brought this subject of the position of the moon to us. Our family needed to consider the light of the moon, as well as the position of the moon, when attempting to tell time. Now it is our view that the position of the moon is as important as the light that is seen on it.

In our 8 years of observing the moon, catching on to concepts like conjunction, azimuth and all kinds of other terms that astronomy geeks use, we have found that the moon is pretty simple for the most part. You can do all the research on the motion of the sun and moon, and make things as complex and exhaustive as you want to make it. It will certainly make you more grounded. But these things come with time. The articles that we post on our website have been geared to the person with the short attention span. That pretty much includes all of us these days. But seriously, take your time. What I am saying is that these articles deal with subject matter that is ages old. Modern flesh has strayed far.

Don't be hasty to cast off others who disagree with you on the moon cycle or harvests of Scripture or other issues. Consider it. Study it. Take the time to pray and watch. It may be that there is a gem of truth hidden for you. Such has been our experience with subjects related in our articles. Most of the time it seemed far-fetched. Then it became clear.

Local book stores and supermarkets carry the Old Farmer's Almanac. This is often helpful for beginners. Then, as much as possible, try to take the time to watch the moon rise and watch it leave, along with its position in the expanse with regards to the sun's position, along with sunrise and the sun's going. That sounds so hard, doesn't it? It is. Our family went to the store and picked up an Old Farmer's Almanac and started to actually go and look at the moon for ourselves. We would measure the distance between the sun and moon and see when it would be probable to see the first crescent, signaling that the dark moon days or New Moon festival had ended, and that in the morning we go back to work.

There are sites that have calendars similar to our website, which report the New Moon crescent sightings and which lay out a Roman monthly calendar with festival days marked and moon cycle stuff within it. But have you seen the moon? Did you go out and measure the distance between the sun and moon in the last 7 days of the moon cycle? Did you thereby know when conjunction would occur, so that you would have an idea as to when the crescent would appear, signaling the end of the dark days and New Moon festival were over? That is how it works. At times it may be frustrating, and that is what this article is essentially about.

This explanation of our experience and new light on the positioning of the moon will take time. So get rid of the short attention span, take a breath of prayer, and if you have time... email us what you think.

On the 30th day of this 2nd moon cycle (5/24/2009), we went out to look for the crescent. At that time it was said that there would be a slim chance that North America and some other places may see the visible crescent WITH OPTICAL AID. In other

words, find yourself a nice planetarium to cheat by using a Hubble telescope or something similar. Needless to say, we did not see it with our eyes, as is the Scriptural mode of sighting the crescent. So we disappointedly went back home. Why? Well because we wanted to have it easy to accommodate our work schedule. There is one lesson you better learn real quick as you observe YaH's true calendar. It is HIS time. When you are waiting for the light to appear, you better be ready to wait, and change your work schedule accordingly. And that is extremely hard and often disappointing. The nature of the flesh to start worrying about a day's wages or otherwise kicks in. The nature of the flesh to wonder about job security and what your employer may think kicks in. But pray. As I prayed that night, I rested in the security of YaH and slept on it. Joy came in the morning.

As a friend of ours pointed out (3rd Moon Cycle, 1st Day – 5/25/2009 B'bayl/Roman date), this thing is not all about perfect lighting. In this day and age, we live in an image-oriented world where the photo has to have the perfect lighting, the suit has to be right, etc. In reality, our family does not believe in Roman togas or today's modern suit and tie. But that is beside the point. The point is that in our years of watching the moon, it is always far from perfect. Either the first Sh'bayt (Sabbath) (Sabbath) lines up with a perfect half moon, or it is off by a little here or a little there in terms of what we would expect to see. That is, if we strictly go by what is called a "quarter phase of the moon" by the so-called "experts." And we fear that far too often, like ourselves in times past, people are still using the terminology and methods of the "experts." Can we break this down for you any more simply?

What the experts say is a "100%" fully lit moon is simply what THEY are saying, because they think they are experts with their NASA and U.S. navy intelligence, tools, schematics and so forth. It has no bearing on how you should feel about the moon cycle and whether what you are doing is right. But often times I used to feel like that. I used to wonder why the second Sh'bayt (Sabbath) of the moon cycle doesn't say "100% full" on my Quickphase computer moon program when I can clearly see a full moon outside with my naked eye. We have to get out of these modes of thinking. Look at things with your eye. Look and measure when conjunction will occur. Don't pay so much attention to the experts and wanting things to be so "perfect" from their perspective... if that is what you have done at any time in the past or now. Then prepare for a "first quarter" Sh'bayt (Sabbath) that has a moon that looks like the light is a little over or under the half mark.

To conclude our thoughts on this matter, we normally expect to see the crescent for ourselves, to signal to us that New Moon festival is ended and we can go to work in the morning. But sometimes we go by the reports of other diligent witnesses in our time zone. And although we would normally expect to see a certain amount of illumination on the moon's face on the night before each Sh'bayt (Sabbath), signaling that Sh'bayt (Sabbath) is truly to be celebrated in the morning, yet sometimes we must look also to the position of the moon in the expanse. Is it directly overhead? Is it a third off to the right or to the left of center? In the same way, the first visible crescent that is seen at the beginning of the moon cycle is sometimes thicker than at other times. But we do not dispute that it is the first visible crescent, or its age. It simply is what it is.

I should also thank Troy here for his earlier contribution to getting my family on this proper understanding, although it wasn't understood and truly put into practice until quite some time later. Will you join us and the many that are beginning to truly have a

fullness of understanding the moon and its cycles? Will you communicate as a community of believers should? I pray this has been helpful. We ask for your prayers and interaction and patience.

Sh'loom (Peace),

Sha'ul