

Learn the results of this evening's new moon observation!

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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 appointed times, and for days and years. (Gen 1:14)

New Moon Observation

24 December 2022

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DEVORAH'S DATE TREE

The most reliable and respected New Moon and Barley Inspection reports from Israel

Dear Friends,

We just got back from looking for the New Moon, and at the time of this writing, we are not aware of any positive naked eye sightings from this evening's observation on 24 December 2022. As this was the end of the 29th day of the month, if you don't hear back from us that a positive report came in later, the month will begin at sunset tomorrow evening, 25 December 2022, by default.

The photo at the top of this report was taken from our observation point in Jerusalem this evening, however as we didn't see the moon, the moon is not in the photo. For more information about the implications of not seeing the New Moon at the end of the 29th day, see the FAQ below.

On behalf of all of us who keep the Biblical Calendar, we wish to thank everyone who looked for the new moon from Israel this evening, despite the weather, and all of you who are supporting this important effort from afar.

If reliable first-hand New Moon and Barley Inspection reports are of value to you, please consider [supporting](#) our efforts. Together we can restore the Biblical Calendar!

Chodesh Tov! Make it a great month!

Devorah Gordon
Jerusalem, Israel

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do we know a month can't be more than 30 days?

First of all, today with our sophisticated equipment and complex math, we know that from our perspective here on Earth, it takes the Moon 29.530587981 days to revolve around the Earth. That means the crescent New Moon will either be visible at the end of the 29th day, or at the end of the 30th day of the month (barring atmospheric obstructions). It seems that even in Biblical Times, they knew that a month can't be more than 30 days, as we see David say to Yehonatan "tomorrow is the new moon" (1 Samuel 20:5). How did David know the following day was the New Moon? Presumably, the New Moon wasn't sighted at the end of the 29th day, and so he knew the next day would be the beginning of the month by default.

Is it possible we didn't see the New Moon because of atmospheric obstructions?

It's important to understand that the crescent New Moon is always there at the end of the 29th day of the month. The only question is whether the conditions are favorable enough for it to be sighted with the naked eye (this is why we don't condone the use of magnifying equipment to spot the New Moon). The conditions which determine whether the crescent New Moon will be visible to the naked eye include: the percentage of the moon's illumination, the time between sunset and moonset, and atmospheric obstructions (such as haze, clouds, sandstorms, etc.). Does it matter whether we didn't see the crescent New Moon because of low stats, or atmospheric obstructions? No, it doesn't. In order to declare the new month, either the New Moon must be sighted with the naked eye, or 30 days must have passed since the beginning of the previous month. This is the criteria we use, as it's our understanding that this is the criteria the ancient Israelites would have used to declare the new month, as they would have had no way to know whether the New Moon "should" have been visible were it not for atmospheric obstructions. Even with today's calculations, we can't always be sure whether the crescent New Moon would have been visible, were it not for atmospheric obstructions.

Does this mean we could end up with a 28 Day Month?

If the new moon is not sighted at the end of the 29th day, and therefore we begin the month at the end of the 30th day, on very rare occasions the following New Moon may be visible 28 days later. When this happens, we know that the New Moon would have been visible the previous month were it not for atmospheric obstructions, and what we would have had is two 29-day months, one after the other. It's important to understand, that it doesn't mean that a mistake was made. The Creator didn't make

a mistake by obstructing the New Moon with the hope that we would use sophisticated calculations to try and speculate whether the New Moon would have been seen were it not for the atmospheric obstructions. No, that's e the stats were too low or because of atmospheric obstructions (aka "Acts of God"). Fortunately, that's not the way the Biblical Calendar works, as even today, we can't always be sure whether the crescent New Moon would have been visible, were it not for atmospheric obstructions. In fact, there are probably other months when we are not beginning the month at the end of the 29th day due to atmospheric obstructions, but we only know this to be the case when we happen to end up with a 28-day month.

Does the New Moon have to be sighted in Israel?

The Biblical Calendar, the holy days, and all the commandments, were given for us to live by them in the Land of Israel (Dt 6:1). In fact, you would get very skewed results if you try tried to establish the Biblical Calendar based on signs (Gen 1:14) outside of the Israel. For example, the year begins when the barley is harvested, so if someone lived in a place where there was both a Spring and Winter barley harvest (there are places like that), they would have extremely short years. Or if someone in Australia began the year when the barley became ripe there, they would be celebrating Chag HaMatzot (Feast of Unleavened Bread) when it was Fall in Israel, which makes no sense, because there is only one Chag HaMatzot, and it's based on when the barley ripens in Israel, around Spring. Likewise, if one were to begin the month when the New Moon was seen for example in the United States, they could end up celebrating the holy days on the wrong day, because the percentage of the moon's illumination, and the time between sunset and moonset, is constantly growing at this stage in its cycle, and so by the time the moon makes it to the United States, it may be visible there, even though it wasn't visible in Israel, but that would be irrelevant, as the holidays are on set days which are determined by the New Moon being visible in Israel.

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Devorah's Date Tree organizes New Moon Observations and Barley Inspections in the Land of Israel. This important effort is headed by Devorah Gordon, who has been living in Israel, and looking for the crescent New Moon, and participating in Barley Inspections, for over 25 years. Today, our reports reach countless people

around the world and are considered the most reliable and respected New Moon and Barley Inspection reports from the Holy Land. If reliable New Moon and Barley Inspection reports from Israel are of value to you, please consider supporting our efforts. We could really use your help to restore the Biblical Calendar.

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