

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

18 July 2023

Photo: Copyright © 2023 Roy Hoffman, All rights reserved.

More Information
on the two sightings
from last night!

Read the Report



25+ Years Experience
New Moon Observers Across Israel
Thorough Barley Inspections

Devorah's Date Tree

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

Dear Friends,

As we mentioned in our New Moon report, it was an extremely difficult observation last night (18 July 2023). The moon had an illumination of 0.91%, a lag time of 53 minutes, and there was a lot of haze on the horizon.

The low stats have understandably left some skeptical about whether the moon could have actually been seen last night by the naked eye from Israel, and so I would like to take this opportunity to provide a little more information regarding the two reports we received.

1. Noa Ben Gad (Guenther) stated that she saw the New Moon from Jerusalem (French Hill) with her naked eye from 8:25pm-8:26pm. Noa said she spotted the New Moon WITHOUT the assistance of optical aids and looked away and was able to spot it again. She pointed out the moon to her father, who wasn't sure whether he was in fact seeing the moon, so he took his camera, zoomed in, and confirmed that it was in fact the moon Noa was seeing. In the excitement of the moment, he neglected to take a photo. While I don't know Noa personally, I have had the pleasure of spending a fair amount of time with her father and two brothers on several occasions. They are very upstanding people, and the family is well respected by people I trust. Noa has a lot of experience looking for the New Moon and is typically the first

one to sight the New Moon out of her family. I asked Dr. Roy Hoffman of the Israeli New Moon Society, if he would reach out to Noa and her father, to learn more about their observation and share with me his impression. Roy shared with me their conversation and told me that he believes Noa and her father's testimonies.

2. David Shlomovitz first spotted the moon from Otniel using binoculars. He then removed the binoculars and saw the moon with his naked eye from 8:18pm to 8:21pm. He mentioned that had he not first spotted the moon through the binoculars, and therefore knew that was the moon, he does believe he would have been able to see it with his naked eye. Once again Dr. Roy Hoffman of the Israeli New Moon Society, reached out to David to learn more about his observation. Roy shared with me their conversation and told me that he believes David's testimony. Roy also reached out to the current head of the Israeli New Moon Society, who confirmed that David is a considered a highly reliable observer.

Neither of the two observers took a picture of the moon, however that's not a big deal. A picture is not a witness, as the camera magnifies and adds contrast. We also know that the moon was visible last night by many people through binoculars, so a picture taken by observers would not add much to the conversation.

I also think it's worth mentioning that there have been a couple of other instances in history of people sighting the New Moon with their naked eye under extremely low conditions. There is a long standing, though somewhat doubtful record, of two British housemaids who said they saw the moon 14 hours and 45 minutes after conjunction, in the year 1916. There is also another account (this one thought to be more reliable), by Stephen James O'Meara, who says he saw the New Moon with his naked eye in May 1990, just 15 hours and 32 minutes after conjunction. From the report of two witnesses last night, the moon was first visible by the naked eye at around 8:20pm, which is 22 hours and 49 minutes after conjunction.

I think it's possible that the two witnesses saw an extremely weak New Moon last night, especially since they have shown to have above average visual performance, when it comes to sighting the New Moon in the past, and they were looking from advantageous locations.

Last night's observation does however raise a question in my mind, as to whether we should begin the month based on those who may have exceptional eyesight, or whether the intention is that we are supposed to begin the month when the average observer is able to sight the New Moon (mind you more people may be able to sight the moon under low conditions, as we train more observers).

Whether you decide to begin the month last night (18 July 2023), which was the end of the 29th day of the month, or tonight (19 July 2023), that is up to you, and it will have no effect on

when we go out to look for the New Moon next month.

I know I say this every month, but I really do mean it, on behalf of all of us who keep the Biblical Calendar, we wish to thank everyone who looked for the New Moon from Israel last night, and all of you who are supporting this important effort from afar.

Special thanks to Noa and David for sharing their observations in a timely manner and for cooperating with the interview Dr. Roy Hoffman conducted with them first thing this morning. And thank you Dr. Roy Hoffman, for the immense amount of knowledge you have shared with us over the years and for working so closely with us this month, in particular.

The photo at the top of this report was taken by Roy Hoffman, through his binoculars (25x100) from Gush Etzion last night (18 July 2023).

As days in the Biblical Calendar are from sunset to sunset, Rosh Chodesh (the first day of the month), begins when the New Moon has been sighted, and continues until sunset the following day. Rosh Chodesh a celebratory day (Num 10:10; Hosea 2:11), which was traditionally commemorated by blowing the shofar (Num 10:10; Psalm 81:4[3]), having a festive meal (1 Samuel 20:5, 24), and worshiping at the Beit HaMikdash (Temple) (Isaiah 66:23; Ezekiel 46:3) with a special sacrifice (Num 28:11-15; 2Chronicles 2:3; Ezra 3:4-5, Ezekiel 45:17, Ezekiel 46:6).

2023

7th MONTH HOLIDAY DATES

According to the Biblical Calendar

<i>If you began the Year on 23-March-2023</i>	Scenario #1 <i>New Moon sighted on 16-September-2023</i>	Scenario #2 <i>New Moon sighted on 17-September-2023</i>
Yom Teruah (Day of Shouting)	<i>sunset Sept 16 - sunset Sept 17</i>	<i>sunset Sept 17 - sunset Sept 18</i>
Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	<i>sunset Sept 25 - sunset Sept 26</i>	<i>sunset Sept 26 - sunset Sept 27</i>
1 st Day of Chag HaSukkot (First Day Feast Booths)	<i>sunset Sept 30 - sunset Oct 1</i>	<i>sunset Oct 1 - sunset Oct 2</i>
Shemini Atzeret (Eighth Day of Assembly)	<i>sunset Oct 7 - sunset Oct 8</i>	<i>sunset Oct 8 - sunset Oct 9</i>
<i>If you began the Year on 21-April-2023</i>	Scenario #3 <i>New Moon sighted on 15-October-2023</i>	Scenario #4 <i>New Moon sighted on 16-October-2023</i>
Yom Teruah (Day of Shouting)	<i>sunset Oct 15 - sunset Oct 16</i>	<i>sunset Oct 16 - sunset Oct 17</i>
Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	<i>sunset Oct 24 - sunset Oct 25</i>	<i>sunset Oct 25 - sunset Oct 26</i>
1 st Day of Chag HaSukkot (First Day Feast Booths)	<i>sunset Oct 29 - sunset Oct 30</i>	<i>sunset Oct 30 - sunset Oct 31</i>
Shemini Atzeret (Eighth Day of Assembly)	<i>sunset Nov 5 - sunset Nov 6</i>	<i>sunset Nov 6 - sunset Nov 7</i>

The dates above are based on the understanding that the year begins with the ripening of the barley crop, and the month begins with the crescent New Moon being sighted, in the Land of Israel. It should also be noted that it will be impossible to sight the moon on October 15, 2023, as it will only have an illumination of 0.66% and a lag time of 22 minutes.

If reliable New Moon reports, thorough Barley Inspection, and in-depth explanations are of value to you, please partner with us to restore the Biblical Calendar. We could really use your support to carry out this important work. Contributions can be made via Paypal <https://bit.ly/3QSSXZ2>, Patreon <https://www.patreon.com/datetree>, or by sending a Check to Devorah's Date Tree, POB 4263, Jerusalem 9104201, ISRAEL.

DEVORAH'S DATE TREE

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

If you have a question regarding the Biblical Calendar, feel free to [send it to us](#) and we'll do our best to try and answer it in a future newsletter. All of our answers are based on relevant

Biblical verses, what we've seen in the Land over the past few decades, and much study and prayer.

[Subscribe](#) to our e-mail list and social media platforms, to ensure you receive our first-hand New Moon and Barley Inspection Reports, and important information regarding the Biblical Calendar.

If our reliable New Moon reports, thorough Barley Inspection, and in-depth explanations, are of value to you, please partner with us to restore the Biblical Calendar. We could really use your support to carry out this important work. Contributions can be made via [PayPal](#), [Patreon](#), or by sending a [Check](#) to Devorah's Date Tree, POB 4263, Jerusalem 9104201, ISRAEL.

Chodesh Tov! Make it a great month!

Devorah Gordon
Jerusalem, Israel

Copyright © 2017-2023 Devorah Gordon, All rights reserved.



Forward



Share



Tweet

DEVORAH'S DATE TREE

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 first-hand New Moon and Barley Inspection reports from Israel are of value to you, please support our efforts to restore the Biblical Calendar. Contributions can be made via [PayPal](#), [Patreon](#), or by sending a [check](#) to Devorah's Date Tree, POB 7816, Jerusalem 9107801, ISRAEL.. Together we can restore the Biblical Calendar!

Together we can restore the Biblical Calendar

[Support Devorah's Date Tree](#)

Receive Future Newsletters via Email



Copyright © 2017-2023 Devorah Gordon, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe](#)