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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)



Devorah's Date Tree

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Dear Friends,

The New Moon has been sighted from Israel this evening, **Wednesday, 15 November 2023**, thus marking the beginning of the month.

The New Moon was sighted from:

- * Jerusalem at 5:07pm by Devorah Gordon, followed by Mihai, Chaya, and Gil Ashendorf
- * Tiberias at 4:42pm by Dennis Chkolnik

The photo at the top of this report was taken from our observation point in Jerusalem, this evening. If you look closely, you should be able to see the New Moon.

I would also like to take this opportunity to correct an erroneous statement that I saw last night, which stated "The moon would have been easy to sight if the skies had been clear."

It is not true that the moon would have been easy to see last night had the skies been clear. The ease of visibility to sight the moon last night (14 November 2023), barring atmospheric obstructions, was 0.0. Keep in mind that less than 0, means that the moon will only be visible

through optical aids, such as binoculars. In other words, it would have been nearly impossible to sight the moon last night, even under optimal conditions.

Perhaps the person who said the above statement, is under the misconception that if the moon's illumination is above 1%, then the crescent will be easily visible. While in actuality, one needs to take into account both the brightness of the moon, as well as the darkness of the sky, when trying to predict the probability of the moon being visible.

In any event, I don't think it's relevant whether the moon would have been seen had there been clear skies, as I believe the believe the Biblical Calendar is an observational calendar, not a calculated calendar. There are several reasons why I believe this, one of which is that it's impossible to predict with certainty whether the New Moon will be visible. Even the Rabbinic calendar, which is a calculated calendar, doesn't attempt to predict when the New Moon will be visible, but instead uses conjunction, for this very reason.

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, and all of you who are supporting this important effort from afar.

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).

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 reliable first-hand reports and important information regarding the Biblical Calendar.

If our New Moon and Barley Inspection reports 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

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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!

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