



Photo: Dennis Chkolnik

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Devorah's Date Tree

Restoring the Biblical Calendar and Keeping the Holy Days in their Appointed Times

Dear Friends,

The 11th Biblical Month has begun!

The crescent moon was sighted from Israel on 20 January 2026:

- * Jordan Valley 5:18pm by Camp Ephraim
- * Tiberias at 5:11pm by Dennis Chkolnik
- * Kiryat Ata 5:26pm by Ephraim Amnon
- * Zevulun Valley at 5:20pm by Yoel Halevi and son

[The moon was still too close to the sun (following conjunction), for it to be visible by the naked eye from the Land of Israel, at the end of the 29th day (19 January 2026).]

To remind you, the Biblical Month is based on the lunar cycle and begins with the crescent moon in the Land of Israel.

We know the Biblical Month begins with the crescent moon, because the Hebrew word for the beginning of the Biblical Month is “chodesh” (1 Samuel 20:5; Psalm 81:4[3]; Ezekiel 46:1), which is derived from the root ch.d.sh., meaning “new”. This is the Hebrew word for the beginning of the Biblical Month, because the moon (the lessor LIGHT Gen 1:14-17), becomes “anew” following the lunar phase of conjunction (when the moon isn’t visible).

And we know the Biblical Calendar is to be set according to the signs (Gen 1:14) in The Land (Dt 6:1, Dt 11:8-9, Dt 30:5), because the moadim (appointed times) are set holy days (Lev 23:4) to be observed as a nation, in the place the Creator placed His name (Ex 23:17, Ex 34:23, Dt 16:15-16, 1 Kings 11:36, Zech 14:16), not everyone celebrating on different days.

As days in the Biblical Calendar begin at sunset, i.e. the end of the agricultural day (Gen 1:5,8,13,19,23,31), the Biblical Month begins with the sighting of the crescent moon in Israel. **The beginning of the Biblical Month is a celebratory day (Hosea 2:11)**, and was traditionally commemorated by blowing the shofar (Num 10:10; Psalm 81:4[3]), enjoying a festive meal (1 Samuel 20:5, 24), and worshiping at the Beit HaMikdash (Temple) (Isaiah 66:23; Ezekiel 46:1-3) with a special sacrifice (Num 28:11-15; 2Chronicles 2:3; Ezra 3:4-5, Ezekiel 45:17, Ezekiel 46:6).

On behalf of all of us who keep the Biblical Calendar, we want to thank everyone who looked for the crescent moon from Israel this evening, and shared their observations in a timely manner, so they could

be included in this report.

And for those that asked, the weekly sabbath isn't determined by the lunar cycle, rather by the daily cycle, as we're commanded to observe the sabbath every seventh day (Gen 2:2-3, Ex 16:26; Ex 20:8-11; Ex 23:12; Ex 31:12-17; Ex 34:21; Ex 35:2; Lev 23:3; Ez 46:1). And we know Saturday is the seventh day, because we have an unbroken tradition of observing Shabbat on that day. As days in the Biblical Calendar begin at sunset (i.e. the end of the agricultural day) (Gen 1:5,8,13,19,23,31), Shabbat begins every Friday at sunset and ends on Saturday at sunset. [Remember, the adjustments the Rabbinites made to the Biblical Calendar are detailed in their writings, and they didn't change the day of Shabbat.]

Subscribe to our [newsletter](#) and [social media](#) platforms, to receive important Biblical Calendar information, as soon as we publish it.

[Send us](#) any questions you may have regarding the Biblical Calendar, and we'll do our best to try and answer them 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.

We could really use your prayers and support to provide in-depth studies on the Biblical Calendar, reliable New Moon Observations, and honest Barley Inspections. Contributions (Ex 25:2) can be made easily and in any currency via [Paypal](#) (no need for an account), [Patreon](#), or sending a Wire Transfer (contact us for details in your currency).

Together we can restore the Biblical Calendar!

Devorah Gordon
Jerusalem, Israel

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Devorah's Date Tree (Judges 4:4-5) is committed to restoring the Biblical Calendar, by providing in-depth Bible Studies, reliable New Moon Observations, and honest Barley Inspections. This important effort is headed by Devorah Gordon, who has been living in Israel and working on restoring the Biblical Calendar, for over 25 years. We are honored that the information we share, is considered the most reliable source for keeping the Biblical Calendar, and a blessing to countless people around the world. Thank you for partnering with us to restore the Biblical Calendar.
