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Devorah's Date Tree

Honest Reporting and In-depth Studies
30+ Years Experience

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

Dear Friends,

We hope you had a nice Yom Teruah and want to send you an update regarding the crescent moon observation on Saturday, 12 September 2026.

To remind you, on 12 September 2026 the percentage of the moon's illumination was high, however the lag time was short, meaning that the crescent was very close to the bright horizon, making it a very difficult observation. That being said, we knew from past observations with similar stats, that the moon was far enough along in its cycle that it would be visible, if the horizon was relatively clear from atmospheric obstructions, the observer was looking in just the right place, and had very good vision.

Below is an updated list of positive observations from Israel on Saturday, 12 September 2026:

* Jerusalem (Gilo) at around 7:10pm by Yehosheva Rapuano and shortly thereafter by Tirzah Rapuano. Yehosheva stated “Wearing my glasses, I saw a line in the clouds. I removed my glasses and could still see it without visual aid. The cloud shifted and masked my view of it. A few minutes later the cloud dissipated and it appeared slightly below where I had seen it previously, but this time I could only see it with binoculars. Tirzah Rapuano stated “Looking with the naked eye, under the cloud I saw a slight sliver, a white very very dim line. When I looked away and looked back at it I could see it again. It looked like a crescent but very dim. A few minutes later I confirmed the sighting, seeing it clearly with binoculars I definitely saw the moon without any visual aid.” [A third person wasn’t unable to see the crescent (even with binoculars), despite looking where they were pointing.]
* Ma’ale Adumim by Roy Hoffman with binoculars at 6:48pm, with the naked eye at 6:54pm, he then followed the crescent until it started to set behind the mountains at 6:58pm. Roy stated “The Moon was very faint and difficult to see but I am sure that I saw it several times in the same position.”
* Two other people saw it with binoculars only.

In summation, it’s our understanding that the Biblical Month begins with the crescent moon, i.e. when the moon is far enough away from the sun that it can be visible to the naked eye from Israel, which it was on 12 September 2026 (the end of the 29th day), and therefore the beginning of the 7th month.

For those that asked about beginning the month the following evening (13 September 2026), the percentage of illumination that evening was 7.20%, which is extremely high, i.e. not the beginning of the lunar month.

There’s no photo of the crescent moon from Israel on 12 September 2026. However, at the top of this report is a photo taken by Yosheva Rapuano with a circle indicating approximately where he saw the crescent that evening.

On behalf of all of us who keep the Biblical Calendar, we want to thank everyone who looked for the crescent New Moon from Israel and sent us their observations.

2026 HOLIDAY DATES

According to the Biblical Calendar

1st Month Holidays		Scenario #2 *New Moon sighted on* ***20-March-2026***
1st Day Chag HaMatzot (1 Day Unleavened Bread)	*Moon too early in it's cycle.*	Apr 3 *sunset* - Apr 4 *sunset*
Yom HaNafat HaOmer (Wave Sheaf Day)		April 5, 2025
7th Day Chag HaMatzot (7 Day Unleavened Bread)		Apr 9 *sunset* - Apr 10 *sunset*
Chag HaShavuot (Feast of Weeks)		May 23 *sunset* - May 24 *sunset*

7th Month Holidays	Scenario #1 *New Moon sighted on* ***12-September-2026***	*Crescent Moon sighted on 12 September 2026.* ←
Yom Teruah (Day of Trumpets)	Sep 12 *sunset* - Sep 13 *sunset*	
Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	Sep 21 *sunset* - Sep 22 *sunset*	
1st Day of Chag HaSukkot (First Day Feast Booths)	Sep 26 *sunset* - Sep 27 *sunset*	
Shemini Atzeret (Eighth Day of Assembly)	Oct 3 *sunset* - Oct 4 *sunset*	

The Biblical Calendar is a luni-solar calendar (Gen 1:14). The Month begins with the crescent moon (i.e. when the moon becomes anew following the lunar phase of conjunction), which is why the beginning of the month is called "chodesh" (1 Samuel 20:5; Psalm 81:4[3]; Eziekiel 46:1), from the root ch.d.sh. meaning new. And the Year begins with the crescent moon after the Spring Equilux, which is why the first month of the year is called Chodesh HaAviv (month of the Aviv) (Ex 12:2, Ex 13:3-4, Ex 23:15, Ex 34:18, Dt 16:1), as that's when the barley crop is ready to be harvested.

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DEVORAH'S DATE TREE

Subscribe to our Patreon page to receive our newsletters via email, and our social media platforms, to receive them in your feed.

Send us your questions on 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. 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.