

Using the Potential New Moon to Determine the Start of the Month

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First a caveat, If you're a pure scripturalist, you will have a hard time arguing any method used. There are no instructions in the books of the Bible on the rules to go by. One must go by the historical information and the books of "Oral Law" of the Rabbin. Karaites by their motto "Search well in the Scripture and do not rely on anyone's opinion" and other groups also, by their own definition as scripturalists cannot declare with certainty the correct method.

Anyone who observes the new moon for a couple of years will immediately see that every lunar month is either 29 or 30 days long. There is no such thing as a 28-day or 31-day month in Hebrew terminology or thought, Nehemia Gordon's own words. According to Karaite Korner if you do not use the April 8th sighting there is a slim chance for a 28 day 2nd Biblical month 2016.

Some will say well the Father could have easily cleared the clouds if he wanted us to spot the crescent. According to Chabbad.org, "On certain occasions, if the astronomical data required so, the Sanhedrin would establish Rosh Chodesh on the 30th day even in the absence of witnesses who saw the new moon. For example, suppose that the land of Israel was covered with clouds on the 30th night for several consecutive months. If the Sanhedrin would allow all these months to be malei, then several months down the line the new moon could appear on the 25th day of the month! The Sanhedrin always ensured that the new moon should never possibly appear on any night other than the 30th or 31st."

Now who are the witnesses? The group who has assembles themselves as the Sanhedrin have not yet officially designated groups of Zadiqs to be posted in various parts of Israel with the task of being credible witnesses and switch over to the observant calendar. When they do, we can all unite with them. For now we who don't live in Israel depend on a small amount of independent individuals and one or two small groups for testimony. The same goes for the barley but with the barley there is time to manage the conclusion by physically holding the evidence and easily see without obstruction so the educated witness is sufficient. The crescent is different.

One group, the Israeli New moon Society (INMS), merely do it as a hobby, sort of practicing. It does not affect their lives either way as they don't use it to declare their month because they are Orthodox Jews. Another group are the associates of Nehemia. In 2014 Nehemia reported Gadi Eidelheit and Joel Halevi spotted the new moon in Israel to declare the new year. Gadi claimed he was with several others who couldn't see it because they were "amateurs". Gadi also used a telescope to first sight it then used a camera zoom lens to photograph it. He supposedly was interrogated by INMS because in

one photo he posted on his Facebook page the horns were facing the wrong way. Joel Halevi used binoculars to first spot it, then took a photo of it and enlarged it.

In 2015 when the spotters were gearing up to try and sight the crescent to declare the new year, it was cloudy and drizzling in Israel. Nobody spotted it in Israel except Nehemia and Keith Johnson because they traveled to the southernmost point in Israel, a city named Eilat. Eilat is 200 miles south of Jerusalem. In temple times that would not be a distance that a witness could travel to make a report, especially in the case of Yom Teruah. Eilat is so far south that it was not even within the borders of the land of Palestine in the temple period.

Here we are in 2016. How much more pollution is there from industry, aircraft etc., has altered weather because of man's fiddling with the environment (chemtrails, etc.) – things that were not even in existence in ancient times.

We are commanded to “guard the month.” We have technically advanced to determine more than potential but absolute knowledge of the age of a new moon, and when it is already 12 hours old it is foolish to delay reporting it, especially in the case of a possible 28 day month the next cycle. We now have the use of the Electronic Witness where we can print out potential for a thousand years. When the new moon is borderline, like next month, we can use the sighted-defaulted method, but when we know it is a certain amount of hours old, especially with witnesses far east of Jerusalem, we should declare it.

This whole issue is a good preparation for when the Beast arises who I think will no doubt do just as the Romans did, and outlaw the sighting declaration by the Sanhedrin. We should all be prepared and be unified by using electronic witnesses when necessary to declare a known “potential” new moon.