

Thoughts on the New Moon services in the Bible

- This was a day when at the change of each Month when people in Israel would eat a special feast together (1 Samuel 20:5,18,24)
- It was also a day when people would go to worship or see the priests (in this case the discussion is about going to see Elisha) (2 Kings 4:23)
- This was considered a solemn feast day in Israel (Psalm 81:3)
- Sacrifices and offerings were made to God on this day (1 Chronicles 23:31)
- Ezekiel 46:1-12 describes the New Moon days better:
 - (v.1) On this day and on the weekly Sabbaths the gate of the inner court of the Sanctuary was open (facing the east).
 - (v.2) The gate was not shut until the evening.
 - (v.3) The people would worship by this door on the Sabbaths and on New Moons.
 - (v.4-6) Special burnt offerings were made on this day when the people gathered for worship.
 - (v.7-12) On these days the priest and people would enter and exit the Sanctuary courtyard by a different gate. Both the north and south gates were open. If you went in at one gate, you had to go out by the other gate.

Consider how this service (type) finds its meaning in Christ (anti-type):

- Jesus is our high priest. He is the one who “opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens” (Rev. 3:7). Jesus sets before his faithful people “an open door and no one can shut it” (v.8). For those who “overcome” he will make us to be a “pillar” in his temple and we will “go out no more” (v.12). We will stay in the temple with God forever. In other words, we shall be in the presence of God forevermore. He will be with us and be our God, and we will be with Him. (Rev. 21:3)
- As the old Hymn says, Jesus is the one who “opened the Life-gate that all may go in.” When you meet Jesus Christ face to face in repentance of sin, and you accept his offering you leave a completely changed person. You don’t go back out the same way you came in. (this is symbolized by the service of the two open gates during the new moon festival and offering).
- Also, Christ was offered on the Eve of the Sabbath. He died during that time, and rested in the grave on Sabbath. The special offerings made on the New moons and on the Sabbaths occurred in the mornings and in the Evenings.
- The Bible tells us that Christ wiped out the system of requirements for animal sacrifices which “were against us, which were contrary to us. And he has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”

(Colossians 2:14). "So, let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ" (Colossians 2:16,17).

- Paul makes amply clear his meaning here in Hebrews 10:1: "For the law, having a *shadow of good things to come*, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect."
- God did not have "pleasure" in Sacrifices and offerings "(which are offered according to the law)". So he "takes away the first that he may establish the second" "By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Hebrew 10:8-10). Jesus was nailed to the cross, and he took these things out of the way. He established the covenant system in His blood, not the blood of animals. (*Hebrews 9:16-28*).
- **Therefore:** The services which had to do with animal sacrifices on the New Moons and Sabbaths (both weekly and yearly) are no longer in effect. Neither is there any service of "foods and drinks, various washings, or fleshly ordinances" having to do with the earthly sanctuary that we should observe. These ordinances were only "imposed until the time of reformation" (Hebrews 9:9,10) (that is the time of Christ's offering on the Cross). Now, all our focus is on the "greater and more perfect tabernacle" which is in Heaven (Hebrews 9:11; 8:1,2).
- Paul summarizes his thoughts in Colossians 2:16,17, telling us the "body is of Christ", every service and feast of the Sanctuary was a "shadow of good things to come" (before the time of Christ's first revealing). **What can we learn then from the feasts of the New Moon and Sabbaths?** There was an offering made on each, and food was feasted upon gladly. Therefore, **we must remember to start every week** (as with the Sabbath) **and every month** (New moons) **fresh and new with Jesus Christ!** We should be rejoicing and feasting in Him at these times. In the sanctuary there was even a **daily** (continual offerings) and a **yearly** (day of Atonement) service with offerings (Hebrews 9:6,7). Therefore we must remember to always praise and thank him for each unit of time that He allows us to live. Our lives are held in His omnipotent hands. Praise and thank Him daily, weekly (as on the Sabbaths), monthly (as on the New moons), and yearly. Our lives consist in Him, "for in Him we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28). And by the blood of his sacrifice, we are saved.
- Even **in the New earth** we will come to worship God on the weekly Sabbaths and on the New Moons (new months) (Isaiah 66:22,23). These will be special times of thanksgiving, gratitude, and worship to God. Even now we are to observe the weekly Sabbaths which have been preserved from Creation and protected in the Ten Commandments. We would do well to express our gratefulness, praise, and worship to God for each month that he allows us too. However, there is not any special "ordinance," "food or drink," or "offerings" associated with these times since the cross of Jesus abolished the old system. Everything pertaining to sacrificial and ceremonial ordinances has met it's fulfillment in Christ. "The substance is of Christ" (Colossians 2:17).