



August 19, 2022

Supermoon?

Warm hellos friends, brethren, co-workers, spiritual family, and scattered children of God from here on the Gulf Coast. My wife and I pray and hope this finds you doing well, and that again your week has been blessed.

Last Friday, August 12, I had another knee surgery, and it appears that God has blessed me and I am recovering quickly. I sincerely appreciate all of your prayers, and ask that they might continue as my goal is to be walking normally by the Feast of Tabernacles.

Also, last week, on Thursday, August 11, (the evening before my upcoming surgery) I witnessed a Sturgeon supermoon (August's full moon). A "supermoon" is a full moon that occurs when the moon is at perigee, its closest point to Earth in its orbit. This is what makes a supermoon bigger and brighter than other full moons.

The next full moon you and I will observe will be a "Harvest" moon on September 10, and then the following will be a "Hunter's" moon on the opening night of the Feast of Tabernacles. The autumn here in the Northern hemisphere is a beautiful time of year with the fall colors that emerge. That big full moon shining brightly indeed adds to the beauty of the setting.

I have always enjoyed God's gift to man that aluminates the sky during the night time hours.

Interestingly, the phrase "full moon" does not appear in the King James Version translation. Other translations do translate the Hebrew word *kece'* as "full moon" as we see in Psalm 81:3: "*Blow the trumpet at the time of the New Moon, at the full moon, on our solemn feast day.*" (NKJV)

Here is how the Authorized Version (or as some call it the Old King James version) translates this verse: "*Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time*

appointed, on our solemn feast day."

The phrase "in the time appointed" is translated from the Hebrew word kece' mentioned above. The Online Bible Hebrew Lexicon says the Hebrew word kece' (Strong's #03677) is "apparently from 03680" and is translated "appointed" two times. The Hebrew word kakah (Strong's #03680) refers to: 1) to cover, conceal, hide, and 2) (Niphal) to be covered"

This appears to indicate to me that the KJV translation makes the most sense. The shofar was sounded to announce the new moon and the beginning of the lunar month.

It was blown extensively on the appointed day of the Feast of Trumpets which took place on the first day of the seventh month. On the first day of the month the moon was covered and concealed by the shadow of the earth falling on it. The earth blocks the rays of the sun from shining on the moon at that time. The moment of zero illumination of the moon is technically called the lunar conjunction.

In Psalm 81:3 all refer to the new moon or the beginning of the lunar month. The Hebrew calendar system establishes the Molad (conjunction) of Tishri. Then the first day of the seventh month is established. All the other appointed times and festival dates are determined from this benchmark, including the first day of the first month. The first seven months alternate from 30 and 29 days in length. The first month Abib is 30 days in length and the next month is 29 days in length, etc.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread begins on the 15th day of the first month. The Feast of Tabernacles begins on the 15th day of the seventh month. Because of the 29-1/2 day lunar cycle, there is a full moon or nearly a full moon on the 15th day of the month. It is the benchmark of the first day of the seventh month that is the key to determining the festivals of Leviticus 23.

I mention this, because I realize that there are many viewpoints regarding the calendar to be used for establishing the festivals. Various calendar systems have been proposed. A good percentage of the churches of God have accepted the calendar system which has been used by the Jews for centuries and whose

calculations were made public c. 390 A.D. by the high priest of the Sanhedrin whose name was Hillel ben Judah. To me, unity is important, but we must also not lose sight as to why we are going to observe the Feast of Tabernacles.

There is a full moon illumination implied in Numbers 33:3 "*1 These are the journeys of the children of Israel . . . 3 They departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the day after the Passover the children of Israel went out with boldness in the sight of all the Egyptians.*"

We are also told that "*in the month of Abib the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt by night*" (Deut 16:1) During the night of Abib 15 the light of the full moon would illuminate the departing Israelites who were seen by the Egyptians. They departed at "*the going down of the sun*" (Deut 16:6). A memorable full moon experience!

As we count down the days to the Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and then the Feast of Tabernacles and Eighth Day/Last Great Day, let' be prepared to rejoice before our Lord! And when we see the beautiful full moon shine with its brightness wherever we are observing His Feast, we'll have a lot to be thankful for, inclusive of the beauty God has provided.

Arms up friends! Our prayers and thoughts are with you daily. Please do pray for us as well.



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