



RESOURCE

Parashah: Noach = Rest, Comfort
Gen 6:9-11:32; Isa 54:1-55:13; 1 Pet 3:13-22; Matt 24:37-39

TITLE: MOON PHASES USED IN A LUNISOLAR (LUNAR SOLAR) CALENDAR

WHAT IS THIS?



This is a picture of a full moon, which is how the moon looks when we can see one whole side of it at night. The moon waxes and wanes over the space of a month, and at night we can see a portion of it. The portion we see gets progressively larger for awhile until the moon is full and then gets progressively smaller for awhile until it is dark. When the moon is full it can provide quite a bit of light so that it is pretty safe to move around outside. This is important for several biblical events, such as the exodus out of Egypt. Moon phases are introduced in this parashah because months are mentioned several times in it and most Jewish and Messianic Torah keepers follow a calendar based on the moon's activity that is correlated to the sun's activity. Since each new moon is the beginning of a month in this view, a statement like "the seventh new moon" can give us an important time marker.

PRACTICE

MOON PHASES FROM EARTH'S PERSPECTIVE + BRIEF EXPLANATIONS

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New moon, according to some. Moon is completely in shadow and cannot be seen. One must watch for the first sliver of the moon to know when it is a Rosh Chodesh.



Waxing crescent: first sliver after conjunction; some think this is a new moon. Others think new moon is when you cannot see the moon at all because it is fully dark.



Waxing crescent



First quarter



Waxing gibbous



Full moon



Waning gibbous



Third quarter



Waning crescent



Back to dark again