

❖ SEASONS OF THE MOON ❖

The Month of Cheshvan

Cheshvan 5756 / October - November 1995

THIS MONTH'S SIGN AKRAV/SCORPIO

The month of *Cheshvan*, is also called *MarCheshvan*, or 'bitter' *Cheshvan*. One reason for the 'bitterness' of *Cheshvan*:

Out of all the months of the year, *Cheshvan* alone has no Yom Tov, no festival of its own. Really, there should have been a festival to inaugurate the First Temple, which *Shlomo Hamelech* (King Solomon) completed during *Cheshvan*, after seven years building. However, Hashem did not command its inauguration until the following Tishrei - twelve months later. But *Cheshvan* will eventually lose its bitterness, because it is in the month of *Cheshvan* that the third, and final, *Beis HaMikdash* (Temple) will be inaugurated.

In a way, *Cheshvan* is a parable for the whole history of the Jewish People. When we look at our history, it seems fraught with bitterness, rejection and hardship. But in the end, the bitter bite of the scorpion will be transformed to the greatest sweetness, when all the nations will come to realize who the Jewish People are and who they have always been.

A SMALL LOAN OF FAITH..

People often ask me - how can you be so sure that there will be a third Temple? After all, the second one has been in ruins for nearly two thousand years! - What does your bank manager do when you ask him for a loan? - He gets out your file and he sees that the previous times he gave you credit, you always paid back on time. You are a model customer! (Aren't you?) So he signs your loan application with a smile. I tell people it's the same between us and Hashem. Everything that the Torah predicted has happened. So when Hashem asks us, as it were, for a **small loan of faith**, that eventually *Mashiach* will come and the Temple will be rebuilt, we look at His 'credit rating' and we see that He is a 'model customer'! Have a good month!

Rabbi Yaakov Asher Sinclair

A CLOCK WHICH IS OUT OF THIS WORLD...

The Cesium and Rubidium atomic clocks at the

U.S. Naval Observatory Time Center are accurate to one second in 300,000 years. But three thousand years ago, Moses, had no such time-piece. However, somehow Moshe knew the exact length of the lunar month - 29.53059

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Eventually the bitter bite of the scorpion will be transformed to the greatest sweetness...



A CLOCK WHICH IS OUT OF THIS WORLD...

(Continued from other side)

days - an accuracy which was literally **out of this**

world! In the reference work *Astronomy and Astrophysics* (Loudolt Bornstein Group vol. a Sec 2.2.4 Sprigr, Berlin 1965) the precise length of the lunar month is listed as 29.530589 days! How did Moses have a figure so accurate that it took science three thousand years to come to the same number? That number was given to Moses by Hashem and was passed down from Moses to Hillel II, the last prince of the House of David. When Hillel II sanctified

all the new moons from his day until the the final redemption, he had to know the exact length of the

lunar month to within a fraction of a second, for even a small error would, over millennia, amount to a visible error.

This was in fact the case with the calendar of Julius Caesar, which by the year 1582 had wandered so far that Pope Gregory XIII erased 10 days from the calendar, with the result that the day after the 4th October 1582 was called the 16th October! There have been approximately 41,000 new moons since the time of Moses, but from Mount Sinai onward, the secret of the exact length of the lunar month has always been known to the Jewish People,

because Moshe Rabbeinu had a clock that was literally **'out of this world'...**

IMMAH RACHEL WEEP

The eleventh of Cheshvan is the *yartzeit* (Yiddish - lit. 'year's time'), the anniversary of the passing away of 'Immah' Rachel - mother of the Jewish People. The place of her grave has been known through the ages, to be on the Bethlehem road, a few miles south of Jerusalem.

Immah Rachel weeps
 She stands on the Bethlehem Road
 and cries
 for her children
 Refusing to be consoled
 Long lines, destined for Babylon
 - exile on the Bethlehem Road.

Refrain your voice from weeping and
 your eyes from tears, for the children
 shall return to their boundary said
 Hashem.

Immah Rachel weep again
 for us -
 for how long may we
 come to pour out our hearts to Our
 Master
 here
 where you cried for your children,
 on the Bethlehem road
 cry for us.
 Immah Rachel weep.

SOURCES : *THIS MONTH'S SIGN* - Bnei Yissaschar, *Sefer HaTodah*;
A SMALL LOAN OF FAITH... - Rabbi Nota Schiller;
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SEASONS OF THE MOON is written by Rabbi Yaakov Asher Sinclair and edited by Rabbi Moshe Newman.

Designed by Y.A. Sinclair and Kevin Berman

Published by Ohr Somayach/Tanenbaum College, 22 Shimon HaTzadik Street, Jerusalem, Israel.

tel: +972-2-810-315; fax: +972-2-810-890; E-mail: ohr@jer1.co.il

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