

The Eighth Month: Keep Watch!

By T.W. Tramm

LAST WEEK's new moon (November 9-10) marked the first day of the biblical month called Cheshvan.¹

Cheshvan is associated with the Flood as Noah and family boarded the ark on the 17th of the month and disembarked onto dry land a year later on the 27th (Gen. 7, 8).

Chronologically, Cheshvan is the eighth month. In Scripture, the number eight is associated with judgment, a new beginning, and resurrection:

- Eight people escaped the Flood via Noah's ark (1 Pet. 3:20).
- Noah was told to board the ark seven days before the flood waters came upon the earth on the eighth day (Gen. 7:1, 4, 7, 10).
- Biblical law requires that the firstborn be given to God on the eighth day (Ex. 22:29, 30).
- All Israelite males were to be circumcised on the eighth day (12:3). The removal and discarding of flesh foreshadows the spiritual circumcision, "the putting off of the body of the sins of the flesh," one undergoes upon entering into a relationship with Christ. Ultimately, circumcision points to the putting off of one's temporal flesh at the resurrection (Col. 2:11; 1 Cor. 15:52).
- Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week, the day after the Sabbath, which is of necessity the "eighth day."
- The Bible records eight individual resurrections: three in the Old Testament, three in the Gospels, and two in Acts 9 and 20.²

CHESHVAN IN TRADITION

- Significantly, Cheshvan is the only month that has no special commandments or religious duties (mitzvot) attached to it. Jews believe this is because the eighth month is reserved for the time of Messiah, who will inaugurate the Third Temple in Cheshvan.³
- In Jewish mysticism, each month is linked to a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Cheshvan is linked to the letter nun. The numeric value of the letter nun is 50. In Scripture, the number 50 is associated with the Jubilee, or year of redemption, and denotes fullness or completion.

- Cheshvan marks the beginning of the rainy season in Israel. If no precipitation has occurred by the 17th of the month, special prayers are added to the *Shemoneh Esrei* for rain.⁴ The rains beginning in Cheshvan have eschatological significance as Scripture compares Jesus' coming at the end of the age to the autumn rains: "His going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter [spring] and former [autumn] rain unto the earth" (Hos. 6:3).
- Noah's grandfather, Methuselah, died on Cheshvan 11. Tradition states that the Flood was originally intended to begin on this date, but in deference to the seven-day period of mourning that followed Methuselah's death, the Deluge was delayed until the 17th of Cheshvan.
- Cheshvan 11 is the day on which Rachel, Jacob's wife, died while giving birth to Benjamin. The sages find symbolic significance in this event pertaining to Israel's completed state in the Land: Rachel, who spent her entire life outside of Israel and passed away just as Jacob and his family entered the Holy Land, represents the Jewish people in exile. The son she gave birth to just before dying, Benjamin, was the last son of Jacob and the only son born in the Land of Israel, representing the completion of the Jewish Nation and their presence in the Land. Thus, Cheshvan is linked to the end of Israel's time of exile and their perfected state in the Promised Land. Moreover, just as Methuselah's death on Cheshvan 11 marked a turning point, or the start of a new era for Noah and the world, Rachel's death on the same date marked the start of a new era for Israel.⁵

TISHREI AND CHESHVAN

In Leviticus, God instructs Israel that the first day of the seventh month, Tishrei 1, is to be observed by sounding trumpets as a "memorial," or reminder (Lev. 23:23-25).⁶ One of the most well-known examples of the Lord remembering something in Scripture is in Genesis 8:1 where He remembers Noah and the animals floating in the ark and causes a wind to pass over the earth and the waters to recede. Likewise, in Genesis 19:29, when God destroys Sodom and Gomorrah, He remembers Abraham and saves his nephew Lot from the catastrophe that overthrows the cities where he lived. Thus, the memorial (reminder) blowing of trumpets on Tishrei 1 may signify the turning of the Lord's attention toward a particular individual or group at a time of judgment, as in the days of Noah.

With the connection between Tishrei 1, the Flood, and the eighth month in view, it's interesting to note that on Tishrei 1 this year, the US Stock Market suffered its worst one-day drop in eight months: a sudden plunge of over 800 points that wiped out an excess of 800 billion in wealth. It was also the worst one-day drop in the month of Tishrei since the 777 point drop on Tishrei 1, 2008.⁷

CONCLUSION

That the eighth month is connected by way of biblical type and tradition to judgment, death, resurrection, a new era, and Israel's completed state in the Promised Land makes it an apt time for some pivotal eschatological event to occur. That this year's eighth month coincides with Israel's prophetic 70th anniversary in the Land, final preparations of a Middle-East peace plan, and a host of other prophetic signs and circumstances, makes it an especially apt time.

So keep watch!

NOTES:

1. Most Jewish calendars have November 9-10 marking the first day of the 9th month, Kislev, in 2018. Based on the calendar-reckoning that says the new moon *after* the spring equinox is the first day of the year (Nisan 1), however, November 9-10 marks the first day of the eighth month, Cheshvan. For detailed explanation see the NOTES section here: [http://www.theseasonofreturn.com/THE_SEVENTH_MONTH - KEEP WATCH rev a.pdf](http://www.theseasonofreturn.com/THE_SEVENTH_MONTH_-_KEEP_WATCH_rev_a.pdf)

2. Individual resurrections in Scripture; plus more detail on the significance of the number eight: https://philologos.org/_eb-nis/eight.htm

3. The First Temple was completed by Solomon in Cheshvan; though, it was not inaugurated until the following Tishrei.

4. The Shemoneh Esrei is the central prayer of the Jewish liturgy consisting of 18 blessings.

5. Rachel and Benjamin in the month of Cheshvan: http://www.aish.com/il/hol/hm/The_Bitter_Month.html

6. The Hebrew word translated "memorial," *zikaron*, refers to a remembrance or reminder (Strong's 2146).

7. Tishrei 1 (October 10) Stock-Market plunge:

<https://www.cnbc.com/2018/10/10/us-markets-bond-yields-and-data-in-focus.html>

http://www.theseasonofreturn.com/OCTOBER_10_STOCK_PLUNGE.pdf

<https://www.cnbc.com/2018/10/11/reuters-america-global-markets-stocks-sell-off-slams-back-into-europe.html>