

Greetings friends!

Chodesh **9** is upon us!

Ecclesiastes 3:1 To every *thing there is* a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

The seasons do come and the seasons go, all according to their purpose upon the Earth. The Hebrews and still some today keep the Holy Days and other days of giving thanks to their Creator as the early pilgrims of the Americas too observed a time of Thanksgiving for their bounty.



First celebrated by the Plymouth Colony in 1621, this was the first Thanksgiving Day celebrated in America, and little by little, as new colonies settled the land, the custom of a yearly Thanksgiving spread throughout the country.

George Washington perfectly expressed the spirit of the day in his Thanksgiving Proclamation in 1789:

Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of the Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection, aid and favors ... Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the Beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country, and for all the great and variable favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

In 1864 President Lincoln issued the first presidential proclamation appointing Thanksgiving Day as a holiday on the fourth Thursday of November.



I recall from my youth the barns full of hay and feed for the animals this time of the year; as well as potatoes, carrots, turnips and other types of produce which would preserve well in that dry and cool environment. Among the bounty one could also find apples and onions, pumpkins and squash, herbs and roots stocks from flavorful plants and trees such as sassafras. This month's **Chodesh Report** contains some graphics which

may take you back to some of those memories of Thanksgiving, barns and white fields and slippery road trips, but first, **the data**.

The data:

On **November 25, 2003** about 6:00 PM Jerusalem, Israel should see a chodesh [new moon] with a 4.5% illumination. Around the globe that same day the chodesh should appear at about 6:00 PM -

Western USA time. The - day, - hours old chodesh should have about a 6.6% illumination by the time it gets to the Western States.

This chodesh **9** begins Biblical calendar month "nine". Why is it month **9** and not **8**? For answers to this question and more please see a helpful bible study titled [Calendar Studies - Abib](#). A complete booklet with answers to all your biblical calendar questions may be found at "[The Sacred Calendar Book](#)", <http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/sbs777/saccal/calbook/index.html>

Data this month is also from [Home Planet for Windows](#) software for Windows operating systems. This is a free software package and is available to you at: <http://www.fourmilab.ch/>

Actual new moon sightings list with the last 2-3 years dates can be seen at the monthly new moon chart at: Calendar Info <http://home.earthlink.net/~dwlacey/faq/calendar/nmcalchart.html>

Names of the Month

The Roman calendar month November:

From the Latin word nove meaning nine, which was the ninth month of the Roman calendar. November has 30 days. November became the eleventh month of the Julian Calendar year following the additions of July and August.

When you look at September, October, November and December, it seems as if the Romans couldn't count! But their year used to start in March. When Julius Caesar reorganised the calendar and made it start in January, he kept the old names, apart from one month, which he called after himself.

The Romans had special names for the first day in the month (the Kalends), the seventh day (the Nones) and the fifteenth (the Ides). The Kalends belonged to [Juno](#). The Ides belonged to [Jupiter](#).



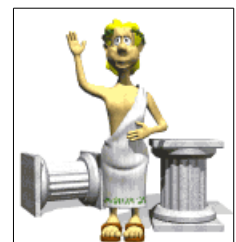
^{חֲדָשׁ} The Jewish calendar month

[Strong's Hebrew 2320](#) - **chodesh** kho'-desh from [2318](#); the new moon; by implication, a month:--month(-ly), new moon; and Abib means green ears of grain. The *biblical calendar* month is similar to the Jewish calendar moon [month] 9:



Months	Weather	Crops & activity
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Kislev (Nov/Dec)		Grain planting continues
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9 Chisleu	Nehemiah 1:1, Zech.7:1	The Hunter/ninth
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Gen 49:21 Naphtali is a hind let loose: he giveth ^(q) goodly words. ^(q) Overcoming more by fair words than by force. [GEN.]

 **KJV BiblicalCalendar- Chisleu/December 2003** 

Neh 1:1 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace,

Zec 7:1 And it came to pass in the fourth year of king Darius, *that* the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah in the fourth *day* of the ninth month, *even* in Chisleu;



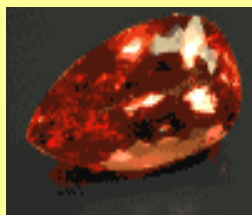
Note from the author: The differences of the traditional Hebrew calendar, the Biblical and the Roman calendars reveal much regarding the histories and customs of their respective authors. We today use the civil Roman calendar for our commerce and governments with almost global acceptance. However, for the Bible student it should be noted that there are several factions among each of the faiths thus the sometimes confusing and differing names of the months, seasons, beginning of years including sometimes even the [Holy Days](#).

For further reading see ["The Sacred Calendar Book"](#).

From Easton's Illustrated Bible Dictionary:

CHISLEU: the name adopted from the Babylonians by the Jews after the Captivity for the third civil, or ninth ecclesiastical, month (**Neh. 1:1; Zech. 7:1**). It corresponds nearly with the moon in November.

The birthstone for the month of **November** is the **topaz**, the color is **yellow**, the flower is **Chrysanthemum** - meaning **Optimism / Cheerfulness**.



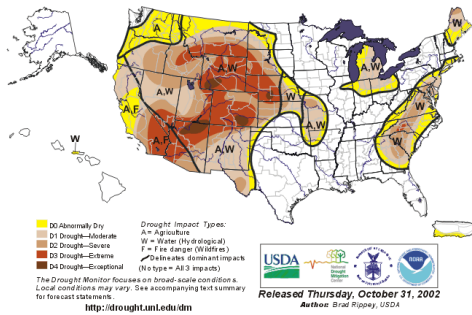
yellow



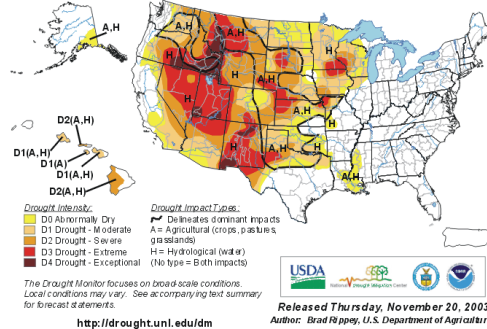
Drought Info:

Here is a graphic of the current drought as given from NOAA and the others whom comprise the Drought Monitor:

U.S. Drought Monitor October 29, 2002



U.S. Drought Monitor November 18, 2003



--- This Day in Christian History - November 25

2348 _BC_ According to Archbishop James Ussher's Old Testament chronology, the Great Deluge ("Noah's Flood") began on this date.

1742 In New York, David Brainerd, 24, was approved as a missionary to the New England Indians by the Scottish Society for the Propagating of Christian Knowledge (SPCK). Brainerd worked heroically from Apr 1743 to Nov 1746, before advancing tuberculosis forced him to relinquish his work. (He died in October 1747.)

1807 Anglican missionary Henry Martyn wrote in his journal: 'With thee, O my God, there is no disappointment; I shall never have to regret that I loved thee too well.'

1820 English poet and Oxford Movement leader John Keble, 28, penned the words to the hymn, "Sun of My Soul" ("Sun of my soul, Thou Savior dear, It is not night if Thou be near....").

1864 British Jewish statesman Benjamin Disraeli declared in a speech: 'Man is a being born to believe, and if no church comes forward with all the title deeds of truth, he will find altars and idols in his own heart and his own imagination.'

Source: **William D. Blake**. *Almanac of the Christian Church*, Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1987. Additional information supplied by the author. Contact via E-mail: [William D. Blake](mailto:William.D.Blake.pilgrimwb@aol.com). (pilgrimwb@aol.com)

--- Religious Observances November 25

Ang : Commemoration of James Otis Sargent Huntington

RC : St Catherine, patron of maidens/mechanics/philosophers

Luth : Commemoration of Isaac Watts, hymn writer



--- Holidays November 25

Note: Some Holidays are only applicable on a given "day of the week" Surinam : Independence Day (1975)

Mass : John F Kennedy Day (1963) - - - - - (Sunday)

Bern Switzerland : Onion Market Day-autumn festival - - - - - (Monday)

US : Thanksgiving - - - - - (Thursday)

Tips from the "The book of Knowledge" 1953 edition.

Q uestion: *How long do animals live?*

A nswer: Listed from shortest to longest:

Rabbit 5 years	Camel 40	Wren 3	Lark 18
Sheep 12	Lion 40	Thrush 10	Pigeon 20
Cat 13	Elephant 100	Robin 12	Canary 24
Dog 15	Whale 100	Blackbird 12	Peacock 24
Goat 15	Crocodile 300	Hen 14	Goose 50
Cow 25	Tortoise 350	Goldfinch 15	Crow 100
Pig 25		Partridge 15	Swan 100
Horse 30		Pheasant 15	Eagle 100

Well That Explains it!!

What causes an "ice cream headache"?

An **ice cream headache** is triggered by a sudden change in temperature that occurs in your mouth when you eat something cold.



On a hot day when you eat a snow cone, the cold crushed ice that touches the top of your mouth initiates a nerve reaction that swells blood vessels in your head.

The nerve center on the roof of your mouth overreacts to the cold temperature of the snow cone and tries to heat your brain. This swelling of blood vessels is what causes an ice cream headache, or what is more commonly known as "brain freeze" or "frozen brain syndrome."

Luckily the intense stabbing pain in your head usually lasts only for about 30-60 seconds.

I scream, you scream, we all scream ice cream HEADACHE! - 30% of the human population suffers from these excruciating headaches. The best way to avoid getting an ice cream headache is keep the chilled foods or beverages you eat on the side of your mouth, away from the roof of your mouth.

Fast Facts

The term "soda water" was coined in 1798.

The soda fountain was patented by Samuel Fahnestock in 1819, with the first bottled soda water

available in 1835.

The first ice-cream soda was sold in 1874 in the US.

The first cola-flavoured beverage was introduced in 1881.

Coca-Cola was invented in Atlanta, Georgia by Dr. John S. Pemberton in 1886.

Pepsi-Cola was invented by Caleb Bradham in 1890 as "Brad's Drink" as a digestive aid and energy booster. It was renamed as Pepsi-Cola in 1989.

In 1929, the Howdy Company introduced its "Bib-Label Lithiated Lemon-Lime Sodas," which became 7 Up. 7 Up was invented by Charles Leiper Grigg.

The first diet soft drink, called the "No-Cal Beverage" was launched in 1952.

Aluminum cans were introduced in 1957 and two years later the first diet cola was sold.

The pull-ring tab was invented in 1962 and the re-sealable top in 1965.

Plastic bottles were first used for soft drinks in 1970.

The Polyethylene Terephthalate bottle was introduced in 1973.

The stay-on tab was invented in 1974.

Signs in the lights of the heavens?

For current biblical calendar information please see the articles [Calendar Info](#) and [Calendar of the Saints II](#).

Further reading of "[The Sacred Calendar Book](#)" can also be seen at:

<http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/sbs777/saccal/calbook/index.html>

What are the harvest times in Israel?

[From SBS "[Calendar Book](#)" question 4.]

Answer

The agricultural year in Israel begins in the autumn (after the harvest festival of Tabernacles) with ploughing and sowing. Harvests in Israel begin in spring in the month of Adar (February/March).

The following harvest times in ancient Israel are obtained from the Readers Digest book entitled **Jesus and His Times**, pages 100-101.

Months	Weather	Crops & activity
Tishri (Sep/Oct)	First rains	Ploughing begins
Heshvan (Oct/Nov)		Ploughing / grain planting
Kislev (Nov/Dec)		Grain planting continues
Tebeth (Dec/Jan)	Main rains	
Sebat (Jan/Feb)		
Adar (Feb/Mar)	Spring rains	Almond in bloom / flax harvest
Abib (Mar/Apr)		Barley harvest begins
Zif (Apr/May)		Barley harvest completed
Sivan (May/June)	Dry season	Wheat harvest begins
Tamuz (Jun/Jul)		Wheat harvest completed / first figs
Ab (Jul/Aug)	Summer heat	Vintage (grape harvest) begins

From the above, one can see that the harvest season in ancient Israel began in Adar (Feb/March) and continued by stages into autumn. The barley harvest began in March-April: the first sheaf being cut and waived in the middle of Abib, which could be any time between 21st March and the middle of April. It is the same in modern Israel. Concerning the wheat and grape harvests, the **Westminster Dictionary of the Bible** says this:

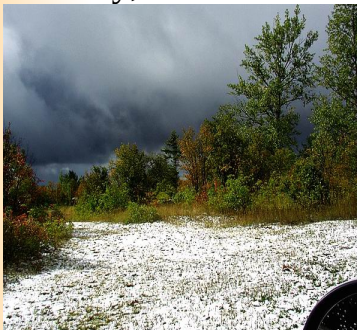
"In Palestine wheat was sown in November or December, after the rains began. The harvest was in April, May or June in Palestine varying according to the locality and the weather at the time." (page 635) "The vintage began in the middle of September and continued into October. It was a season of festivity. In the vineyards there were singing and joyful noise, and the treaders in the press kept time by shouting as they trod the grapes. (page 629)

These details concerning harvest times in Israel are vital when determining the start of a year in the sacred calendar and the sacred Festivals in it.

Scriptural Reading

Ecclesiastes 3:1 To every *thing* there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up *that which is planted*;
3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
5 A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
6 A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
7 A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
8 A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.
9 What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth?
10 I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it.
11 He hath made every *thing* beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.
12 I know that *there is* no good in them, but for *a man* to rejoice, and to do good in his life.
13 And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.

And finally, some late fall scenes ...



First snow.



Last of the harvest.



The barn on the trip to Grandma's house.

Thanksgiving Day

By Lydia Maria Child (1802 - 1880)

Over the river and through the wood,
To grandfather's house we go;
The horse knows the way
To carry the sleigh
Through the white and drifted snow.

Over the river and through the wood,
Oh, how the wind does blow!
It stings the toes
And bites the nose,
As over the ground we go.

Over the river and through the wood,
To have a first-rate play;
Hear the bells ring
"Ting-a-ling-ding!"
Hurrah for Thanksgiving Day!

Over the river and through the wood,
Trot fast, my dapple-gray!
Spring over the ground,
Like a hunting hound!
For this is Thanksgiving Day!

Over the river and through the wood,
And straight through the barnyard gate,
We seem to go
Extremely slow -
It's so hard to wait!

Over the river and through the wood,
Now grandmother's cap I spy!
Hurrah for the fun!
Is the pudding done?
Hurrah for the pumpkin pie!



- end -

A Recipe ... 'yup, pumpkin pie!



American Pumpkin Pie

Pastry:

2 Cups (5 dl) flour
1 tsp salt
2/3 Cup (125 g) shortening or
margarine
5 - 7 Tbsp cold water

Filling:

1½ Cups (3 dl) cooked, mashed
pumpkin
1 Cup (2 ½ dl) sugar
½ tsp salt
1½ tsp cinnamon
1 tsp ginger
½ tsp nutmeg
½ tsp cloves
4 eggs
2 Cups (5 dl) milk

Mix pastry (best in a food processor), roll out on lightly floured surface to about 1/8 inch thickness and transfer to 8- or 9-inch pie plate. For "scalloped edge" have pastry 3/4 inch (2 cm) over the rim; fold under and press edges between thumb and forefinger to make an attractive edge standing higher than the pie plate.

Mix filling (a food processor gives a very smooth mixture), adding ingredients in the order listed. Pour into unbaked pastry shell and bake at 400° F (200° C) 50 minutes or until a knife inserted halfway between center and outside comes out clean. Cool and serve with whipped cream or ice cream.



To contact the author or to comment please email: dwlacey@adelphia.net or visit one of the links listed below.

A friend in Christ,
David W. Lacey

To the Saints of the Churches of God web page: <http://users.adelphia.net/~dwlacey/>
Re-formatted:

YHWH, The Almighty God of Israel Is With Us!

See also:

The **Stewarton Bible School** web page: <http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/sbs777/>

A Voice in the Wilderness web page: <http://www.avoicethewilderness.org/>

MatanYah Learning Centre, South Africa: <http://mercury.spaceports.com/~matanyah/index>

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