

The NW Church felt the following articles add valuable proof to our calendar beliefs.

#### Karaite Korner Newsletter #111

- ◆ One of our readers asked me what the chances were that the moon would be visible from Israel on Saturday night September 7, 2002. The answer to this question is that there is a 0% chance of the moon being visible from Israel. On Saturday night the moon will have a lagtime of 35 minutes and an illumination of 00.62%. As a rule of thumb astronomers say that no moon is ever visible with less than 1% illumination. Astronomers also say that this may slightly vary from latitude to latitude and that the most accurate way to know is for each location to build up a large database of observations and based on these determine when the moon will and will not be visible. Well, we have been building up our database of new moon observations in the Land of Israel since the late 1980s. We even have scattered observations going back to the 1940s. This means our database now contains over 150 new moon sightings just from the Land of Israel. We interpret the database using the methods recommended by the top scientists in the world. What this entails is building a graph with Lagtime and Illumination (or ALT and DAZ) on which we map every positive observation (we saw the moon) and every negative observation under ideal conditions (we didn't see the moon and there were no clouds). The graph gives us a line of minimum conditions for potential visibility. Under the line the moon is not visible. If an upcoming observation is close to the line of minimum visibility we call this a "borderline" moon. Every month and every year the graph gets more and more accurate. The Rabbanites have even taken an interest in our graph, explaining that when the Sanhedrin is re-established they will use it to determine whether a witness is telling the truth or not. If the Karaite graph shows that the moon is not visible, the Sanhedrin will reject the witness testimony. Well, we Karaites are not waiting for any Rabbanite Sanhedrin. We will live the Torah here and now to the best of our ability. It is not beyond the sea or in heaven that we need to wait for someone to bring it to us. It is in our hearts and in our mouths. Whatever tools the Creator puts at our disposal we will use to do whatever we can to live by the perfect and sweet word of our Father (Isaiah 64:7).

With over 150 observations under our belt we have never seen a moon with .62% or even anything near that. Indeed, no truthful observer in all of human history has ever reported seeing a moon like this from anywhere on the planet earth. Our "most extreme" observation was Yom Teruah two years ago which fell out on Thursday September 28, 2000. That month we knew the moon would be borderline in the extreme with an illumination of 1.04% and a lagtime of 44 minutes. We honestly did not know if the moon would be seen and this is what we told people. We sent an expedition of 10 witnesses down to the southern port city of Eilat which has the cleanest air in the Land. The Expeditionary Force stopped on a mountaintop outside Eilat which overlooked a desolate valley which we would later discover is called "The Valley of the Moon". Looking out over the Valley of the Moon, three of our ten observers were able to sight the new moon. The fact that only three of the observers were able to see the moon proves that this really was the borderline of minimal visibility. It also turns out this was one of the top 5 observations in recorded scientific history and so far a record in the Land of Israel. If the September 2000 observation was "borderline" than the upcoming Saturday night September 7, 2002 impossible. Barring clouds the moon will certainly be visible on Sunday night September 8, 2002 with a Lag of 73 minutes and Illumination 3.72%.

#### Karaite Korner Newsletter #112

##### New Moon or No-Moon?

In our last newsletter we explained how Karaites follow the Biblical practice of beginning each

month with the sighting of the new moon. This is also explained great detail with numerous biblical citations in our article at:

[http://www.karaite-korner.org/new\\_moon.shtml](http://www.karaite-korner.org/new_moon.shtml)

However, we want to make it clear that we do not begin the months based on these computer programs. Karaites rely on "30th day observation". This is explained in a previous newsletter at:

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/karaite\\_korner\\_news/message/73](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/karaite_korner_news/message/73)

Needless to say the moon was not seen on Saturday September 7, 2002 from Israel, despite the valiant attempt at some of our observers to sight it. We have received reports that the moon was sighted from the USA on Saturday night.

Some of the USA observers asked how it could be seen with only 00.62% illumination. The answer is that 00.62% illumination was for ISRAEL on Saturday night, not the USA (as stated in the previous e-mail). Over time the moon's illumination gradually increases. By the time the sun set over Tucson the moon had 1.52% illumination and 50 minutes lag which should be easily visible. So no surprise that the moon was seen in the USA. But then again it is NOT written, "For the Torah shall go forth from Arizona" nor is America called "the place that YHWH chose to put his name forever" (2Ki 21:7; 2Chr 30:8; 33:4).

Recently we received some questions from adherents of the "No-Moon" calendar. The No-Mooners are non-Karaites who base their calendar on astronomical conjunction, the split second when the moon passes between the earth and the sun. During this split second the moon is not visible from earth. So this isn't a "new moon", its a "no-moon"! The "no-moon" is basically a variation on the Rabbanite Hillel II calendar. The No-Mooners try to justify their diversion from Torah by arguing that this calendar is "ancient". They also claim that Ps 81:4 [KJV:3] refers to the pilgrimages-feasts as being on the "full moon". If the pilgrimage feast is on the full moon, reason the No-Mooners, the beginning of the month must be on a no-moon. One of the more bizarre arguments of the No-Mooners is that the No-Moon calendar brings "unity" because it is available to people outside Israel who don't have computers. Here were my responses to the questions posed by the No-Mooners:

- ◆ (See our article 'Passover Uncovered' under 'Calendar' on THIS web site.)
- ◆ The evidence from the Hebrew Scriptures is that the month begins with the "Hodesh" which means "new moon". There is nothing "new" about conjunction (when the moon passes between the sun and earth). Today we know that 50% of the moon is ALWAYS illuminated. Indeed, the portion of the moon that faces the earth is ALWAYS illuminated, even during conjunction. For example, this last month, the moon had 00.19% illumination at the moment of conjunction. So none of the moon's light actually "renews" in outer space. The only thing that does renew is its visibility from earth! You can invent all the anachronisms you want about ancient astrological calculations, but at the end of the day there is nothing NEW about conjunction.
- ◆ How would the ancient Israelites have distinguished between the day on which the split second of astronomical opposition occurs and the day before or the day after? Again, we have to assume these "secret" calculations for which there is no textual or historical evidence in the period of Moses. On the contrary, it is an undisputed fact among historians that the only ones in possession of such calculations in ancient times (and these only at a relatively late period) were astrologers. These folks are condemned to eternal fire in Isa 47:13-14! Why aren't they praised by Isaiah if this is the secret knowledge necessary for the calendar?

