BUILDING A KINGDOM

A man and his house: twelve moons in the laws, statutes and commandments of Yahawah, the God of Israel.

"And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation."
Exodus 19:6



A TWELVE-MOON FIRST YEAR

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"Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. … And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers."

Malachi 4:4–6

For _____

From _____

How this year is kept

The year begins in Abib. “This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you” (Exodus 12:2). The first moon of this book is the moon of the Exodus, in the spring. A man may begin his reading at any season, but the year itself is reckoned from Abib, and the moons are counted from there, not from January.

Every moon opens with the new moon. The first day of each moon is a day of gathering and blowing of trumpets (Numbers 10:10; Psalm 81:3). In this book it is the day a man opens the new part, reads the teaching aloud in his house, and sets the month’s practice before his family.

Every week is anchored by the Sabbath. From sundown on the sixth day to sundown on the seventh, no work, for the man or for anyone under his roof: “thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates” (Exodus 20:10). Whatever moon it is, the Sabbath is kept. It is the rhythm under everything else in this book.

Every day carries prayer and study. Prayer when a man rises and prayer before he lies down. Study daily, precept upon precept (Isaiah 28:10). The teachers of Israel commonly set a newcomer four chapters a day in the King James Bible, with the Apocrypha, and this book assumes that pace. A man who keeps it will have read through the whole counsel of God more than once in his first year.

Every part of the book has the same five pieces:

- **The Teaching**, what this moon’s foundation is, and why it stands where it stands in the year.
- **The Precepts**, the Scripture itself, gathered by topic, to be read aloud and studied through the moon.
- **The Order of the Moon**, what the house actually does, week by week and day by day.
- **Teach Your House**, the piece for the children, for “thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children” (Deuteronomy 6:7).
- **At the Moon’s End**, three questions a man answers honestly, before himself and before God, and the mark of the moon: what now stands in his house that did not stand there when the moon began.

The tribe of the moon stands at the head of each part. Read that tribe's blessing (Genesis 49; Deuteronomy 33) during its moon, learn its place on the chart of the twelve tribes, and teach it to the house. By the last moon, the whole house of Israel has been named under your roof.

The coins of the moons. Each moon carries a coin, struck with the sign of its tribe: the Lion of Judah, the Wolf of Benjamin, and so through all twelve. The coin is given at the moon's end, when the reckoning questions have been answered honestly, and not before. It is not a prize for talent, and it is never bought back or taken away. It is the mark of the moon in metal: this month was kept. A man who finishes the year holds the whole house of Israel in his hands, twelve coins, one for every tribe he has learned and every practice he has kept, and when Abib comes again he has something real to put into the hand of the next man he teaches.

FIRST MOON · ABIB · TRIBE OF THE MOON: JUDAH

Repentance and Identity

In this moon: Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and Firstfruits

THE TEACHING

The year of Israel begins with a deliverance and a question: who are you? Before a man can keep the commandments, he must know that they were given to him, that they belong to his fathers, and that his fathers lost them. Repentance is the turning. A man acknowledges that he is an Israelite, scattered among the nations under the curses written in Deuteronomy 28, curses that fell on this people for one reason: "because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee." The curses are a grief, but they are also a sign. Moses said they would stand "for a sign and for a wonder" upon this people forever, and it is by that sign that a scattered people can be identified in the earth. Identity is not pride. It is evidence, and it is the ground repentance stands on: sin is the transgression of the law (1 John 3:4), and a man cannot turn from what he will not name.

It is fitting that this moon carries Passover. The first thing the delivered people were commanded to keep was a meal in their houses, lamb and unleavened bread, eaten with their loins girded, and a story told to their children at the table. The year begins the same way in your house: the feast kept, the story told, the house marked.

> *"And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments… that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth."* **Deuteronomy 28:1**
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> *"And they shall be upon thee for a sign and for a wonder, and upon thy seed for ever."* **Deuteronomy 28:46**
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> *"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."* **1 John 3:4**
>
> *"And thou shalt shew thy son in that day, saying, This is done because of that which the LORD did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt."* **Exodus 13:8**

THE ORDER OF THE MOON

- Open the moon at the new moon by reading Deuteronomy 28 aloud in the house, the blessings and the curses together. Let the house hear who it is.
- Prepare for Passover from the start of the moon. On the fourteenth day, keep the Passover in the evening with unleavened bread and bitter herbs, as it is written (Exodus 12).
- Keep the seven days of Unleavened Bread: no leaven in the house. Make the search for leaven a work the whole house does together, corners and cupboards, before the feast begins.
- Begin the daily order this moon, if it is not already begun: prayer morning and night, and the daily chapters.
- Study Judah this moon: the blessing of Genesis 49:8–12, the tribe of the kings, and the tribe the chart assigns to African Americans.

TEACH YOUR HOUSE

The Passover table is the first classroom in Israel, and the lesson is built into the feast itself: “And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service? That ye shall say, It is the sacrifice of the LORD’s passover” (Exodus 12:26–27). Tell the Exodus as your own family’s story, because that is what the Scripture calls it. A child who has heard the story at his father’s table, over the bread his father blessed, carries it differently than a child who read it in a book.

At the moon’s end, answer honestly:

1. Can you say who you are, and show it from the Scripture, sign and wonder alike?

2. Did your house eat the Passover, and did your children hear the story from your own mouth?

3. What have you turned from, by name, in this first moon?

The mark of the moon: the house has kept its first feast, and the story has been told at your table.

The coin of this moon: the Lion of Judah.