**R996 Rumination for Feb. 25, 2024**

The **T**heme:**The New Moonand the Full Moon.**[berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext: *And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.*

The **T**hots:

Intro,: Yesterday the **C**hinese **C**hristians **C**elebrated their ***C****hap Goh Meh* or the **F**ifteenth Night

 of their New Year **F**estival. It was a **F**ull Moon night, also known as the Chinese Valentine’s Night.

The **N**ew Moon ushered in a **N**ew **M**onth and **F**ifteen days later it developed into the **F**ull Moon.

The **Ne**w **M**oon marks the beginning of a lunar cycle. This means that there's a **N**ew **M**oon about once a **M**onth

because the **M**oon takes about a **M**onth (29.5 days) to orbit Earth.

What does the Bible have to say about the Moon?

1. **The Rising of the Moon – its Creation.**
2. It was **G**reat – *And God made two great lights*… *the greater light to rule the day…* Gen. 1:16-19
3. **O**ne **G**overns the day and the **O**ther, the night – *and the lesser light to rule the night…* Gen. 1:16

*… He made the stars also…to divide the light from the darkness.*

* It was for **S**igns and **S**easons: Gen. 1:14

 *And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide ﻿the day from the night;*

 *and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:*

* *It shall be* ***S****tablished forever as ﻿the moon, And as a faithful ﻿witness in heaven. Selah.* Psa. 104:19
1. It was **G**ood – *and God saw that it was good.* Gen. 1:19
* Think of the **G**oodness of the Moon: Deut. 33:14

*And for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun, And for* ***the precious things ﻿put forth by the ﻿moon****,*

* Think of the **G**reatness brought forth by the Moon. Psa. 8:3, 4

*When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy ﻿fingers, The moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained;*

*What is man, that Thou art mindful of him? And ﻿the son of man, that Thou visitest him?*

1. **The Revising of the Month – the Change in the Calendar. Exo. 12:1, 2**
2. The **C**hange of the **C**alendar – the Seventh Month **C**onverted to the First Month for the Passover:

*And the Lord spake… This month* [Abib, the 7th month] *shall be unto you the beginning of months:*

*it shall be the first month of the year to you.*

1. The **P**assover **P**osted on the Tenth Day of the First Month of the New **C**alendar.

*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****, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when He smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people ﻿bowed the head and worshipped. And the children of Israel went away, and did as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron, so did they.*

1. When Jesus died on the Cross at **P**assover time, there was no sun nor moon in the darkness that **P**revailed.

*And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the ﻿earth until the ninth hour.*

*And ﻿the sun was darkened, and ﻿the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.* Lk. 23:44, 45

But the Veil in the Temple was rent in two from top to bottom signifying the way is now open to God’s presence. Heb. 10:19, 20

*Having therefore, brethren, ﻿boldness to enter into ﻿the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living ﻿way, which he hath ﻿consecrated for us, through ﻿the veil, that is to say, His flesh;*

1. **The Reinforced Guarantee of the New Moon. Psa. 89:34-37**
2. It **G**uarantees **G**od’s **C**ovenant with David. Psa. 89:34-37
3. The Lord God **S**wore… *My covenant will I not break, Nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. Once have I sworn by My holiness That I will not lie unto David*…
4. Regarding David’s **S**eed – *His seed shall endure for ever*
5. Regarding David’s **S**overeignty *– And his throne as the sun before Me*

 *It shall be established for ever* ***as ﻿the moon****, And as a faithful ﻿witness in heaven. Selah.*

1. It is the **G**uard and **G**uidance of **G**od’s **C**onstant Protection for His Own **P**eople. Psa. 121:1-8
2. The Psalmist’s **C**onfidence: *I will ﻿lift up mine eyes unto ﻿the hills, From whence cometh my help.*
3. The Psalmist’s **C**omfort:﻿ *My help cometh from the Lord, ﻿Which made heaven and earth.*
4. *He will not suffer ﻿thy foot to be moved: He that ﻿keepeth thee will not ﻿slumber.*
5. *Behold, He that ﻿keepeth Israel Shall neither ﻿﻿slumber nor sleep.*
6. The Psalmist’s **C**onstant **C**ompanion: *The Lord is thy ﻿keeper:*
7. *The Lord is thy ﻿shade ﻿upon thy right hand. ﻿The sun shall not ﻿smite thee by day,* ***Nor the moon by night****.*
8. *The Lord shall ﻿preserve thee from all evil: He shall ﻿﻿preserve thy soul.*
9. *The Lord shall ﻿preserve ﻿thy going out and thy coming in From this time forth, and even for evermore.*

As long as we **S**ee the Moon in the **S**ky, we rest assured that our **S**alvation in Christ, our **S**aviour, is Safe, **S**teadfast and **S**ure. Let us remember Him in the **S**upper He appointed for us to keep every **S**unday!

*Thy wealth the pow’r of thought transcends, ’Tis vast, immense, and all divine;*

*Thy empire, Lord, o’er worlds extends— The sun,* ***the moon****, the stars are Thine.*

*Yet, oh how marvelous the sight! I see Thee on a cross expire;*

*Thy Godhead veiled in sable night; And angels from the scene retire.* S. Stennett

**Reflections For the Week: R. 996**

1. **Is there any significance to a full moon in the Bible?**

Here is an article taken GotQuestions.org

from <https://www.gotquestions.org/full-moon-Bible.html>

which is relevant to our study of “*chap goh meh*” (the fifteenth night of the full moon) –

*The moon is one of the “great lights” that God made on the fourth day of creation (*[*Genesis 1:14–18*](https://www.bibleref.com/Genesis/1/Genesis-1-14.html)*). These great lights were to help mankind mark the passing of time and the rotation of the earth. Ancient cultures based their seasons, and even celebrations, upon the moon’s phases. We’ve heard much lately about “*[*blood moons*](https://www.gotquestions.org/blood-red-moon.html)*” as a sign that Jesus’ return is imminent, but does a full moon have any biblical significance?

Full moons are mentioned in a few places in Scripture, but not in ways that mark any particular significance.*[*New moons*](https://www.gotquestions.org/new-moon-Bible.html)*marked the beginning of months in the lunar-based Hebrew calendar and also signified when the Israelites were to bring sacrifices to the Lord (*[*Numbers 10:10*](https://www.bibleref.com/Numbers/10/Numbers-10-10.html)*;*[*28:11*](https://www.bibleref.com/Numbers/28/Numbers-28-11.html)*).*[*Psalm 81:3*](https://www.bibleref.com/Psalms/81/Psalm-81-3.html)*alludes to feasts of celebration held “when the moon is full.” The prophet Joel foretold that the sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD” (*[*Joel 2:31*](https://www.bibleref.com/Joel/2/Joel-2-31.html)*; cf.*[*Revelation 6:12*](https://www.bibleref.com/Revelation/6/Revelation-6-12.html)*).*[*Isaiah 30:26*](https://www.bibleref.com/Isaiah/30/Isaiah-30-26.html)*speaks of an unnaturally bright moon that will play a part when the Day of the Lord comes.

Human beings have a tendency to worship anything that seems greater than we are, and moon-worship (or moon goddess-worship) has been a historical problem. God warned us about this in*[*Deuteronomy 4:19*](https://www.bibleref.com/Deuteronomy/4/Deuteronomy-4-19.html)*: “When you look up to the sky and see the sun, the moon and the stars—all the heavenly array—do not be enticed into bowing down to them.” Some cultures have attributed divine qualities to the sun and moon and built altars to them and worshiped them. But the moon is a creation of God, just as the earth is, and not worthy of worship or praise. When we turn our focus from the Creator to the creation, we are guilty of idolatry (*[*Romans 1:25*](https://www.bibleref.com/Romans/1/Romans-1-25.html)*).

An important spiritual truth we can learn from the full moon is that, as bright and beautiful as a full moon appears, it has no brilliance of its own. It relies entirely upon the sun for its light. Without the sun, the moon is merely a hunk of dark rock. Likewise, we human beings have no light of our own. We were created in the image of God to reflect His brilliance and glory (*[*Genesis 1:27*](https://www.bibleref.com/Genesis/1/Genesis-1-27.html)*). When we are turned to face the majesty of Almighty God, when we surrender to Him and seek Him with all our hearts, we reflect His glory (*[*Matthew 5:14*](https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/5/Matthew-5-14.html)*). We were created to be reflectors of His light in this world (*[*John 1:4–5*](https://www.bibleref.com/John/1/John-1-4.html)*). When we shine in the glory of God, we are not to be worshiped, as the moon is not to be worshiped. We are to point people to Jesus by committing ourselves to reflect His light (*[*John 8:12*](https://www.bibleref.com/John/8/John-8-12.html)*).*

Read the above article again and REFLECT on the lessons you can learn from its reference to “the full moon” in the Bible? What are the lessons you can learn from the above? **REFLECT.**

1. The Chinese all over Malaysia celebrate “Chap Goh Meh” in a big way in their community. Apart from the firing of crackers to conclude the New Year Celebrations on this fifteenth night with a bang it is also a big event for the unmarried young adults to come out to celebrate the bright full moon with lovely maidens throwing mandarin oranges with their names written on them into the river or sea for potential partners to pick them up and establish contacts with each other. Will this be Love at first pick up?

Consider Divine Love which made God to send His Son from heaven down to earth to sacrifice His Sinless life for the Sinner to win the person to Him and Save him from a Sea of hell fire! Do you know of this Love? **REFLECT**.

**Points to Ponder:** *The Full Moon in the Sky Reflects God’s Full Love for all Mankind.*