

WOC INTERNATIONAL

2021 New Moon 4 - June 11, 2021

Rosh Chodesh Tammuz (5781)

Review

What have we covered so far regarding our duties on our road to fulfilling destiny?

Tammuz - 1st Month of Summer, 4th month of ecclesiastical year and 10th month of civil year

Human history is about HIS-story: the redemptive love of a personal God of time and space

Who chose to reveal Himself via the nation of Israel, His metaphorical "firstborn son"

To prepare the world for the arrival of His actual firstborn Son, mankind's Messiah

But His metaphorical "firstborn son," chose to follow an idolatrous route instead

This month is about a "delivered" Israel, creating a memorial for their disobedience

To never forget the name of the false god they were judged for serving, Tammuz

Who was Tammuz? - A Babylonian _____ deity who typified the wheat life cycle

In Israel, wheat becomes ripe in early Summer when the wheat plant dies

Leaving behind a viable seed that can be planted after the winter rains

Have moistened the ground enough for the new wheat crop to rise out of it

Ancient Sumerians believed this cycle of summer death & winter rebirth _____

The death of the god of Tammuz in early summer, along with...

1 - His leaving behind the life-giving food that sustained the world and

2 - His resurrection in the Winter and restart of the cycle again

Ancient Sumerians viewed him as the "_____" god (Shamash or Dumuzid), Ishtar's consort

And marked the decline in daylight with his 6-day "funeral" at the start of summer solstice

Ancient Sumerians also viewed Tammuz as a "_____" god and believed

He was the source of material prosperity, healthy flocks, and plentiful crops in life

Why are the particulars of these Sumerian pagan beliefs & practices important to believers?

Some of the idolatrous _____ they practiced then, are what we practice now

Notice what's taking place in the Temple in the vision Yahweh gave Ezekiel

Ezek 8:14-15 "He brought me to the entrance of the north gate to Adonai's house; and there before me were women weeping for Tammuz. 15 "Human being," he asked me, "have you seen this? You will see practices even more disgusting than these." CJB

What were these women doing in Yahweh's Temple? - Lamenting Tammuz's death

What should they have been doing? - Crying and repenting unto Yahweh!

Notes

Important fact to know about the month of Tammuz

Jewish tradition considers this month the saddest month on the calendar for several reasons

But there were some high moments during this month as well

On Tammuz 3, Yahweh stopped the sun and moon at _____ request for 36 hours

Josh 10:12-13 “Then, on the day Adonai handed over the Emori to the people of Isra’el, Y’hoshua spoke to Adonai; in the sight of Isra’el he said, “Sun, stand motionless over Giv’on! Moon, you too, over Ayalon Valley!” 13 So the sun stood still and the moon stayed put, till Isra’el took vengeance on their enemies. This is written in the book of Yashar. The sun stood still in the sky and was in no rush to set for nearly a whole day” CJB

Important facts to know about Reuben (the son of Jacob) this month

Reuben was 1st of Jacob’s son via Leah (1st overall) and his name comes from the root “to see”

Gen 29:32 “Le’ah conceived and gave birth to a son, whom she named Re’uven [see, a son!], for she said, “It is because Adonai has seen how humiliated I have been, but now my husband will love me.”

While Reuben’s symbol was a human head (as he was the first-born and head of the family)

Fear, anger, and ambition ultimately caused him to lose his _____ to Joseph’s sons

1 Chron 5:1 “The sons of Re’uven the firstborn of Isra’el — he was the firstborn, but because he defiled his father’s bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Yosef the son of Isra’el, though not in such a way as for him to be regarded in the genealogy as the firstborn.” CJB

Important facts to know about Reuben (the tribe of Israel) this month

Location - Reuben camped on the S side with Gad & Simeon & was part of the 2nd Group to march

The Reubenites and Gadites were _____ tribes like their forefathers

Which is why Moses initially objected to their request to settle in land east of the Jordan River

How could they think about rest while their brethren were still fighting for their land?

He felt they were discouraging the others from taking the land God had given them

This is also why Deborah had little good to say about the tribe of Reuben

Judges 5:15-16 “The princes of Yissakhar were with D’vorah, Yissakhar, along with Barak; into the valley they rushed forth behind him. Among the divisions of Re’uven they made great resolutions in their hearts. 16 But why did you stay at the pens for the sheep, and listen to the shepherd’s flute playing for the flocks? Concerning the divisions of Re’uven there were great searchings of heart.”

Her statement was an accusation for their failure to participate in the war against Sisera

What 3 practical wisdom lessons can we discern from our study of the tribe of Reuben?

1st Practical Lesson - Dangers of _____

Reuben maliciously slept with Bilhah after Rachel’s death; tradition says she was asleep

Notes

Why? - He knew Jacob would show _____ to Rachel's sons, not Leah or her sons

So, he tried to usurp Jacob's authority and take his position after Rachel's death

Gen 35:19, 22 "So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Efrat (that is, Beit-Lechem) ... 22 It was while Isra'el was living in that land that Re'uven went and slept with Bilhah his father's concubine, and Isra'el heard about it." CJB

Those who dabble in sin like Reuben did, wound everyone and create unending lifelines

Along with a loss of reputation and inability to influence others for good

2nd Practical Lesson - Dangers of _____ yourself from the brethren

Severed from the others by the Jordan valley, Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh

Refused to worship & fellowship with their brethren, and their self-imposed alienation

Led them to stay home, erect their own altar, and plant the seeds of a new religion

What generational effect did this religious secession and idolatrous worship have on them?

They were one of the 1st tribes to go into exile, 200 years before Nebuchadnezzar

3rd Practical Lesson - Dangers of thinking initial placement means _____ placement

After starting strong, Reuben eventually lost his place of preeminence as prophesied

And there's no mention of this tribe in the New Testament tribe outside Rev 7:5

Conclusion

What do natural cooperation, harmony, hopeful service & good fruit, have to do with Tammuz?

These items protect my soul from the decay of _____ personal religion

Reality - Idolatrous Sumerian religion existed long before Nebuchadnezzar captured Israel

We make the mistake of thinking Israel was exposed to this religion at their capture

But Abraham was the son of a Sumerian _____ & his ancestors served these gods

Josh 24:2 "Y'hoshua said to all the people, "This is what Adonai the God of Isra'el says: 'In antiquity your ancestors lived on the other side of the [Euphrates] River — Terach the father of Avraham and Nachor — and they served other gods." CJB

And these "other gods" were being worshipped in ancient Babel before they arrived

Gen 10:8-10 "Kush fathered Nimrod, who was the first powerful ruler on earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before Adonai — this is why people say, "Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before Adonai." 10 His kingdom began with Bavel, Erekh, Akkad and Kalneh, in the land of Shin'ar." CJB

Reality - My personal religion existed long before my covenant rebirth via the Spirit

And the idolatry undergirding my religion, is still causing decay in my soul (B, E, I)

Notes

Why is good fruit able to keep my personal religion from making “Reuben like” decisions?

The soft heart in my spirit, which is the basis of my cooperation, harmony, and hopeful service

Implants _____ seeds of character and godly consistency in my soul

What happens when I lack this character & godly consistency? - I try to _____ for my sin

What was Reuben’s great sin? - He slept with his father’s concubine after Rachel’s death

Gen 49:3-4 “Re’uven, you are my firstborn, my strength, the firstfruits of my manhood. 4 Though superior in vigor and power you are unstable as water, so your superiority will end, because you climbed into your father’s bed and defiled it – he climbed onto my concubine’s couch!” CJB

Notice Reuben trying to save Jacob’s favored son, Joseph (even though he didn’t like him)

In his absence, Judah convinced the others to sell Joseph (Gen 35:23–30)

Gen 37:21-22 “But when Re’uven heard this, he saved him from being destroyed by them. He said, “We shouldn’t take his life. 22 Don’t shed blood,” Re’uven added. “Throw him into this cistern here in the wilds, but don’t lay hands on him yourselves.” He intended to rescue him from them later and restore him to his father.” CJB

Reuben knew, however, there would come a day of _____ for their actions

Gen 42:22 “Re’uven answered them, “Didn’t I tell you, ‘Don’t wrong the boy’? But you wouldn’t hear of it. Now comes the reckoning for his blood!” CJB

Note Reuben’s weak character & inconsistency - He told them not to wrong Joseph

Yet Scripture never says he apologized or tried to atone for what he did to Jacob

Notice Reuben doing the same thing with Jacob’s other favored son, Benjamin

Yet this time, Reuben offered to personally guard Benjamin

Gen 42:37 “Re’uven said to his father, “If I don’t bring him back to you, you can kill my own two sons! Put him in my care; I will return him to you.” CJB

What happens when I possess this strength of character and godly consistency in my soul?

1st - I place my trust in 3 immutable realities

Yeshua is my _____; not the Jesus my personal religion created (e.g. Tammuz)

Yeshua delivered me from the curse of my personal sin

Via the offering of His life to break this curse, as the seed of the Woman

Yeshua _____ me to live my faith openly, authentically, and fearlessly

As His bride and ambassador to the world

2nd - I repent of my sin to Him, rather than try to make up for my sins myself

What Time is it? - Time to let the Spirit empower me as His ambassador to the world

Notes