



January – February 2017 | Tevet – Shevat – Adar 5777

# NEW LIGHT NEWS

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## A TIMELY YEAR OF STRANGE CONVERGENCES

Last year was a strange one. Several holidays and seasons coincided, but perhaps it's inappropriate to say these alignments were coincidental; it might be preferable to say that 2016 was *uniquely ordered*.

To start, 2016 was a leap year on both the Gregorian and Jewish calendars. Whereas a leap year on the Gregorian calendar adds February 29th, a leap year on the Jewish calendar adds another month of Adar, giving us Adar I and Adar II. Two Adars bring two Purims. Good Friday fell on the second and "major" Purim, in Adar II, especially interesting considering the Purim background of John 18–20, which connection was thoroughly expounded for us in Dr. Patrice's paper, *Esther Redux* \*.

For the second year in a row, the first night of Passover was on a Shabbat, which is in itself a unique occurrence. Also on a Shabbat was Yom HaAliyah, the commemoration of Yeshua's ascension from the Mount of Olives to take his place on his heavenly throne. And with the first night of Passover being on a Shabbat, Shavuot arrived on the day after a Shabbat seven weeks later. Shavuot itself is a harbinger of the Messianic Age that Shabbat pictures, when the king is seated on his throne, and the reign of G-d brings about perfection and peace to all life on the earth, again harkening back to Yom HaAliyah, the ascension of the king.

Shavuot again is especially important because of the role of the Spirit of G-d on a very special Shavuot immediately after Yeshua's Ascension, which is given in the events of Acts 2, the initiation of the Renewed Covenant and the giving of the Spirit of G-d to Yeshua's followers. The backdrop for Acts chapter 2 is Joel chapter 2, which is a messianic picture in and of itself.

Tisha B'Av, the Fast of the Ninth of Av, was instead the Tenth of Av in 2016. This is because it too fell on a Sabbath, when fasting is forbidden, so it was bumped over to make way for the Sabbath. And as Tisha B'Av always yields to Shabbat, it will again yield to that age of eternal Shabbat, the Messianic Age, wherein there is neither mourning nor fasting.

Christmas Eve fell on the first night of Hanukkah, which happens only about three times a century. This particular convergence happened just as it did originally, 2,020 years ago. And on the second night of Hanukkah, Christmas Day, we bade farewell to Shabbat with havdalah, and as part of that sendoff we sang *Eliyahu Hanavi*, urging Elijah the Prophet to return swiftly with *Mashiach ben David*, with Messiah, son of David. So during the very commemoration of Yeshua's first arrival on earth as a baby, we sang for his return as reigning king.

And the year closed on a high note, since New Year's Eve was the final night of Hanukkah (again brought in by havdalah), when the menorah was at its brightest and the holiday at its most joyous. Not all years will align with so much meaning, but last year should remind us to pay attention throughout every year. Our G-d's love for us is demonstrated in the events which the holidays commemorate, and if we don't pay attention we might miss out. May this new year be one of light and joy for you and yours!

\*an academic paper available for purchase at [menorahministries.com](http://menorahministries.com)

– Matt Lilly, with Rabbi John Fischer

The enclosed envelope is for your convenience, or use the PayPal button that is located on our reworked web site. Please click on [www.ohrchadash.org](http://www.ohrchadash.org).

## January 2017 / Tevet – Shevat 5777

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 / 3 Tevet	2 / 4 Tevet	3 / 5 Tevet	4 / 6 Tevet	5 / 7 Tevet	6 / 8 Tevet Shabbat Service, 8 PM	7 / 9 Tevet Parashat Vayigash Shabbat Morning Service, 10 AM
8 / 10 Tevet	9 / 11 Tevet	10 / 12 Tevet	11 / 13 Tevet	12 / 14 Tevet	13 / 15 Tevet Shabbat Service, 8 PM	14 / 16 Tevet Parashat Vayechi
15 / 17 Tevet	16 / 18 Tevet	17 / 19 Tevet	18 / 20 Tevet	19 / 21 Tevet	20 / 22 Tevet Shabbat Service, 8 PM	21 / 23 Tevet Parashat Shemot  HAVDALAH & GAME NIGHT
22 / 24 Tevet	23 / 25 Tevet	24 / 26 Tevet	25 / 27 Tevet	26 / 28 Tevet	27 / 29 Tevet Shabbat Service, 8 PM	28 / 1 Shevat Parashat Vaera Rosh Chodesh Shevat
29 / 2 Shevat	30 / 3 Shevat	31 / 4 Shevat	<p><b>MISS A SERVICE?</b>                      You can watch videos of our services here: <a href="http://vimeo.com/ohrchadash">vimeo.com/ohrchadash</a>                      Audio recordings of the sermon are sent out every week. Send us an email at <a href="mailto:OhrChadashOffice@aol.com">OhrChadashOffice@aol.com</a> to be added to the list!</p>			

## February 2017 / Shevat – Adar 5777

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 / 5 Shevat	2 / 6 Shevat	3 / 7 Shevat Shabbat Service, 8PM	4 / 8 Shevat Parashat Bo Shabbat Morning Service, 10 AM
5 / 9 Shevat	6 / 10 Shevat	7 / 11 Shevat	8 / 12 Shevat	9 / 13 Shevat	10 / 14 Shevat Shabbat Service, 8 PM	11 / 15 Shevat Parashat Beshalach Tu B'Shevat
12 / 16 Shevat	13 / 17 Shevat	14 / 18 Shevat	15 / 19 Shevat	16 / 20 Shevat	17 / 21 Shevat Shabbat Service, 8 PM	18 / 22 Shevat Parashat Yitro
19 / 23 Shevat	20 / 24 Shevat	21 / 25 Shevat	22 / 26 Shevat	23 / 27 Shevat	24 / 28 Shevat Shabbat Service, 8 PM	25 / 29 Shevat Parashat Mishpatim
26 / 30 Shevat Rosh Chodesh Adar, 1st Day	27 / 1 Adar Rosh Chodesh Adar, 2nd Day	28 / 2 Adar	1 March / 3 Adar	2 March / 4 Adar	3 March / 5 Adar Shabbat Service, 8PM	4 March / 6 Adar Parashat Terumah Shabbat Morning Service, 10 AM