

Rosh Chodesh: Kislev

- The 9th Month on the Hebrew Calendar

- Nehemiah 1:1-3 ~ Build
- Zechariah 7:1, 8-14
- Jeremiah 36:22-23 *Now the king sat in the winter house in the ninth month: and there was a fire on the hearth burning before him. And it came to pass, that when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, he cut it with the penknife, and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth.*
- **We have now entered the biblical month of Kislev** (כִּסְלֵוֹ in Hebrew), which is the ninth month of the biblical calendar, in the year of Ayin Zayin. This month is a vital point in the year that represents a time to dream again, a time to find rest in the one who never changes and a time to gain new strategies of war.
- The month of Kislev is the third month of the period of autumn, which comprises the three months of Tishrei, Cheshvan and Kislev. The three tribes corresponding to the months of autumn are Ephraim, Menashe and Benjamin; who in the desert encampment around the tabernacle were situated to the west. Their joint camp was known as the camp of Ephraim, who's name means "I shall be doubly fruitful". Every year we have access to a double portion as we align with the Lord during the autumn season.
- The month of Kislev is linked with the Hebrew letter Samech, which relates to Jesus as the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the one who is the same yesterday, today and forever. The letter Samech takes the form of a circle, which has no beginning or end. This reveals to us God's unchanging nature that allows us to put our trust in Him because in Him we find unchanging stability. The word Samech means to support from the sense of relying upon. Support and affirmation play a major role in how our identity develops. If we seek support from any other source than the one who knit us together our identity does not develop properly and we fall short of God's best for our lives.
- Kislev is also linked with the Tribe of Benjamin, who was Jacob's second son born to Rachel. When Benjamin was born his mother in her dying breath named him Benoni, which means son of sorrow. Jacob renamed him Benjamin, which means son of the right hand or son of strength. When Jacob blessed him he said, "**Benjamin shall ravin as a wolf: in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil.**" When Moses blessed him he said, "**The beloved of the LORD shall dwell in safety by him; and the LORD shall cover him all the day long, and he shall dwell between his shoulders.**" The sons of Benjamin were mighty warriors skilled with the bow revealing that this month is the time to gain new war strategies.
- **It's Time to Dream Again**
- The month of Kislev is known by ancient Hebrew scholars as the month of dreams. The Torah portions, which are the designated daily scripture readings read by the Jews all over the world, have read for centuries, read during the month of Kislev reveal most of the dreams mentioned in the first five books of the bible. In the five books of the Torah, we find ten explicit dreams, dreamed by seven dreamers, all in the Book of Genesis. The first dream of Abimelech, King of Gerar, appears in the Torah portion of Vayeira, which is read in the month of Chesvan. The other nine dreams appear in the Torah portions of Vayeitzei, Vayeishev, and Mikeitz, all read during this month. For centuries the people of God have adhered to the principle that one should "live with the times", relating to the weekly Torah portions. Accordingly this month is a



time to dream again.

■ **Find Rest in the One Who Never Changes**

■ *Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever. Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.* Hebrews 13:7-9

■ During this month we have the opportunity to be renewed in faith and enter into a new level of rest knowing that our God is able to supply our needs according to His riches and glory. When King David found himself excommunicated from the common wealth of Israel and running for his life after being anointed King he said, ***"In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness. Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for an house of defence to save me. For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me. Pull me out of the net that they have laid privily for me: for thou art my strength. Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth"***. The actions of others may have an effect on our quality of life but if we trust in the LORD we will find ourselves in the place of wholeness.

■ As in the life of David and Joseph and many others we read about in scripture there may be circumstances that seem to be keeping us from experiencing all that God has for us. It is the assignment of the enemy this year to make us feel as if God is holding out on us and that he has a better plan. We must guard ourselves from the idea that the grass is greener on the other side and jump ship because of adversity. If God is instructing you to make a change by all means make the change but if He has been silent in the midst of the storm then it is important to stand against the enemy. God has a plan this year to empower us to flourish in His courts but we must align with His way and be careful not to lean on our own understanding. As such there is grace to stand firm this month and find a new place of rest so we don't perish in the midst of change but find ourselves elevated above every circumstance!

■ **Gain New Strategies to Overcome the Enemy**

■ *Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.* Ephesians 6:14-16

■ This month is also linked with the tribe of Benjamin who were mighty warriors skilled with the bow. In relation to this understanding this month is the time to develop new strategies to overcome the enemy in days ahead. This is not the set time to go to war but it is the time we prepare for the battle ahead.

■ There are battles we will face in days ahead that we must fight both as individuals and as a unified troop. It is a good thing to call for prayer support but you have more authority to defeat the enemy in your personal life than anyone else. There will be times we come together as a corporate body and times we are more effective as individuals. The plan of the enemy will be to try to get us to remove our shield of faith this month and be exposed to his devices by getting us to go our own way rather than putting our trust in the LORD.

■ I decree that you will see the plans the enemy has to steal, kill and destroy your future. His devices will be exposed in dreams and night visions. I release the grace to stand against the enemy this month and days ahead as you hold fast the confession of your faith. I decree that any trust issues that have developed from failed relationships or hope deferred are healed in Jesus name. Arise to a new level of trust, move forward with your shield of faith and watch the LORD call you up to higher place!