

The Jewish Calendar

The Jews used two kinds of calendars:

Civil Calendar—official calendar of kings, childbirth, and contracts.

Sacred Calendar—from which festivals were computed.

NAMES OF MONTHS	CORRESPONDS WITH	NO. OF DAYS	MONTH OF SACRED YEAR
TISHRI	Sept.—Oct.	30 days	7th
HESHVAN	Oct.—Nov.	29 or 30	8th
CHISLEV	Nov.—Dec.	29 or 30	9th
TEBETH	Dec.—Jan.	29	10th
SHEBAT	Jan.—Feb.	30	11th
ADAR	Feb.—Mar.	29 or 30	12th
NISAN	Mar.—Apr.	30	1st
IYAR	Apr.—May	29	2nd
SIVAN	May—June	30	3rd
TAMMUZ	June—July	29	4th
AB	July—Aug.	30	5th
*ELUL	Aug.—Sept.	29	6th

*Hebrew months were alternately 30 and 29 days long. Their year, shorter than ours, had 354 days. Therefore, about every three years (7 times in 19 years) an extra 29-day month, VEADAR, was added between ADAR and NISAN.

Jewish Feasts

Feast of	Month on Jewish Calendar	Day	Corresponding Month	References
Passover	Nisan	14	Mar.—Apr.	Ex. 12:1–14; Matt. 26:17–20
*Unleavened Bread	Nisan	15–21	Mar.—Apr.	Ex. 12:15–20
Firstfruits	Nisan or Sivan	16 6	Mar.—Apr. May—June	Lev. 23:9–14; Num. 28:26
*Pentecost (Harvest or Weeks)	Sivan	6 (50 days after barley harvest)	May—June	Deut. 16:9–12; Acts 2:1
Trumpets, <i>Rosh Hashanah</i>	Tishri	1, 2	Sept.—Oct.	Num. 29:1–6
Day of Atonement, <i>Yom Kippur</i>	Tishri	10	Sept.—Oct.	Lev. 23:26–32; Heb. 9:7
*Tabernacles (Booths or Ingathering) <i>Sukkot</i>	Tishri	15–22	Sept.—Oct.	Neh. 8:13–18; John 7:2
Dedication (Lights), <i>Hanukkah</i>	Chislev	25 (8 days)	Nov.—Dec.	John 10:22
Purim (Lots)	Adar	14, 15	Feb.—Mar.	Esth. 9:18–32

*The three major feasts for which all males of Israel were required to travel to the Temple in Jerusalem. (Ex. 23:14–19).