

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 CIVIL YEAR	MONTH OF SACRED YEAR	
TISHRI	Sept.–Oct.	30 days	1st	7th	<p>The Jewish day was from sunset to sunset, in 8 equal parts:</p> <p>FIRST WATCH SUNSET TO 9 P.M. SECOND WATCH 9 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT THIRD WATCH MIDNIGHT TO 3 A.M. FOURTH WATCH 3 A.M. TO SUNRISE</p> <hr/> <p>FIRST WATCH SUNRISE TO 9 A.M. SECOND WATCH 9 A.M. TO NOON THIRD WATCH NOON TO 3 P.M. FOURTH WATCH 3 P.M. TO SUNSET</p>
HESHVAN	Oct.–Nov.	29 or 30	2nd	8th	
CHISLEV	Nov.–Dec.	29 or 30	3rd	9th	
TEBETH	Dec.–Jan.	29	4th	10th	
SHEBAT	Jan.–Feb.	30	5th	11th	
ADAR	Feb.–Mar.	29 or 30	6th	12th	
NISAN	Mar.–Apr.	30	7th	1st	
IYAR	Apr.–May	29	8th	2nd	
SIVAN	May–June	30	9th	3rd	
TAMMUZ	June–July	29	10th	4th	
AB	July–Aug.	30	11th	5th	
*ELUL	Aug.–Sept.	29	12th	6th	

*Hebrew months were alternately 30 and 29 days long. Their year, shorter than ours, had 354 days. Therefore, about every 3 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 (Unleavened Bread)	Nisan	14–21	Mar.–Apr.	Ex. 12:43—13:10; Matt. 26:17–20
*Pentecost (Firstfruits or Weeks)	Sivan	6 (50 days after Passover)	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)	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).