

# The First Of The Year - A Look At The Jewish Calendar

Sunday PM 03/24/19

## Introduction:

Events happen in the element of time. We mark events by their dates. Some may be important nationally (July 4th, December 7th, etc) some may be important to us personally (birthdays, anniversaries, etc). Some dates may even be unimportant but they still have some event attached to them, for instance, January 13th is National Rubber Ducky Day; June 7th is National Donut Day.

The very first mention of time in the Bible is *Genesis 1.4-5* it was called a "day". Going on in Genesis we read of six days of creation and the 7th day in *Genesis 2.2* is called a week. Therefore, we have a week. The first-time month is used is *Genesis 7.11*. *Genesis 5* speaks of the lives of men in years, *Genesis 5.3ff*. In our lesson we want to understand the counting of time before and after the Jewish Calendar and look at some events which occurred in the first month.

- I) The Flood of Noah, *Genesis 6.13*
  - A) The flood started in the 600th year of Noah's life in the 2nd month, on the 17th day, *Genesis 7.11*.
  - B) Rained for 40 days and nights, *Genesis 7.12*
  - C) For a whole year the waters covered the earth, *Genesis 8.13*.
  - D) Months based on the moon.
- II) The Jewish or Levitical Calendar
  - A) Based on the Passover.

1. *Exodus 12.2* apparently God changed the calendar for the Jewish nation.
2. The Jewish Calendar (Table to be filled out)
  - a. 12 months consisting of 29 to 30 days.
  - b. Most years have 12 months.
  - c. Four years out of every 11 have a 13th month.
  - d. The 12 month is Adhar consisting of 30 days, the 13th months is 2nd Adhar consisting of 29 days.
  - e. The Bible does not specifically name every month but it does refer to each month by number.

## **B) Comparing the Jewish Calendar and Ours**

1. Nisan (30 days) corresponds to our (March/April)
2. Iyar (29 days) is our (April/May)
3. Sivan (30 days) is our (May/June)
4. Tammuz (29 days) is our (June/July)
5. Av (30 days) is our (July/August)
6. Elul (29 days) is our (August/September)
7. Tishri (30 days) is our (September/October)
8. Cheshvan (29 or 30 days) (October/November)
9. Kislev (30 or 29 days) is our(November/December)
10. Tevet (29 days) is our (December/January)
11. Shevat (30 days) is our (January/February)

12. Adhar (29 or 30 days) is our (February/March)
13. 2nd Adhar (29 days) is our (March/April)
  - a. Before the Exile, each month began with a new moon.
  - b. On the 16th day of Nisan, if the sun had not reached its vernal equinox, it was declared to be the month of Adhar II.

### III) Important Events During the First Month

#### A) **Institution of the Passover (Pesach), *Exodus 12.2, 18; 13.10***

1. The first month of the 2nd year is mentioned in *Numbers 9.1ff.*
2. Bitter herbs are eaten to symbolize the bitterness of slavery.
3. Meal ends with a wish that next year the Pesach will be eaten in Jerusalem. Hence, the Messiah will come the next year.

#### B) **Departure from Rameses on the 15th day of the 1st month. *Numbers 33.3.***

#### C) **The raising of the tabernacle, *Exodus 40.17***

1. The tent of meeting, a place for the congregation of Israel to approach God.

#### D) **Every seventh year would be a year of rest for the land, *Leviticus 25.1-7.***

#### E) **Every 50th year would be a year of "Jubilee" *Leviticus 25.10ff***

1. Debts were forgiven, land returned to its family.

2. God's provision for these years of rest, *Leviticus 25.21*.

**F) Joshua and Israel crossing the Jordan River**

1. *Joshua 3.14-19* the priest bore the ark and as their feet came to the edge of the water, the Jordan quit flowing. All the people passed through the river during the flood season.
2. A memorial was set up consisting of 12 stones, *Joshua 4.4-7*.
3. The date is stated in *Joshua 4.19*.

**IV) Point of Application**

**A) The Passover is also called the Feast of Unleavened Bread, *Deut. 16.16*.**

1. During this time a male lamb was sacrificed and eaten along with unleavened bread and herbs.
2. A memorial of when God passed over the Hebrews and struck the first born in Egypt.
3. They placed the blood of bulls and goats on the doorpost so God would Passover their house.

**B) Today we do not remember the "Passover" in the sense of the Jews.**

1. Our Passover is through the blood of Christ, *John 19.34*.
2. Our redemption is through His blood, *Ephesians 1.7*.

**C) How do we come in contact with His blood?**

1. *Matthew 26.28* Jesus blood was shed for the remission of sins.
2. *Romans 3.25* God sent His blood as propitiation for our sins.
3. We are washed in His blood, *Revelation 1.5*.
4. In baptism we come in contact with the blood of Christ, *Romans 6.3-4*.

**Conclusion:**

Each year we have is precious. It can only be used once. Let us use it wisely in His service. There are times we may have regretted our decisions but a person will never regret using their time to serve God.