

The Lunar Jewish Calendar

Explanation

Keeping track of time was extremely important in the life of most Jews during the lifetime of Jesus. The weekly Sabbath was meticulously observed by most Jews. In addition, annual festival days were holy celebrations falling on particular days in the month and year. The annual Jewish lunar calendar began in March, as did the Roman calendar (“Beware the Ides of March”). Passover, Pentecost, Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), Tabernacles (Sukkot), Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah), and other holy days were Sabbath days for purposes of the law.

References

John P. Pratt, “Passover: Was It Symbolic of His Coming?” *Ensign*, January 1994, 38–45.
James C. Vanderkam, “Calendars,” *ABD*, 1:814–20.

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March	NISAN (abib) Month 1 – 30 Days	1—New Year's for Reign of Kings	Ex 12:2
April		10—Passover Lamb Chosen	Ex 12:3
May	IYAR (zif) Month 2 – 29 Days	14—Passover Lamb Sacrificed	Ex 12:6
		15–21—Seven Days of Passover	Lev 23:6–8
June	SIVAN Month 3 – 30 Days	6—Feast of Firstfruits (Pentecost)	Num 28:26
July	TAMMUZ Month 4 – 29 Days	17—Fast	
August	AB Month 5 – 30 Days	9—Fast	
September	ELUL Month 6 – 29 Days	1—Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah)	Lev 23:24
October		TISHRI (ethanim) Month 7 – 30 Days	10—Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)
November	HESHVAN (bul) Month 8 – 29/30 Days	15—Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot)	Lev 23:34
December		22—Eighth Day of Feast	Lev 23:36
January	KISLEV Month 9 – 29/30 Days		
February	TEBET Month 10 – 29 Days	25—Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah)	
March	SHEBAT Month 11 – 30 Days		
April	ADAR (adari I) Month 12 – 29/30 Days	14—Feast of Esther (Purim)	
May	VEADAR (adari II) (Optional Month 13 – 29 Days)		