

# The Jewish Calendar

Names of Months		Festivals	Season	Weather	Crops, etc.
Hebrew	English				
A'BIB (Heb. <i>'ābīb</i> , green ears), or NI'SAN. Thirty days; first of <i>sacred</i> , seventh of <i>civil</i> , year.	March - April	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New moon (Num. 10:10; 28:11-15). <i>Fast</i> for Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 10:1,2).</li> <li>10. Selection of paschal lamb (Exod.12:3). <i>Fast</i> for Miriam (Num. 20:1), and in memory of the scarcity of water (20:2).</li> <li>14. Paschal lamb killed in evening (Exod. 12:6). <i>Passover</i> begins (Num. 28:16). Search for leaven.</li> <li>15. First day of unleavened bread (Num. 28:17). After sunset sheaf of barley brought to temple.</li> <li>16. "First fruits," sheaf offered (Lev. 23:10, sq.) Beginning of harvest, fifty days to Pentecost (Lev. 23:15).</li> <li>21. Close of <i>Passover</i>, end of unleavened bread (Lev. 23:6).</li> <li>15 &amp; 21. Holy convocations (23:7).</li> <li>26. <i>Fast</i> for death of Joshua.</li> </ol>	Spring equinox.	<i>Wind</i> S.; sometimes <i>sirocco</i> . Fall of the "latter" or spring rains (Deut. 11:14). The melting snows of Lebanon and the rains fill the Jordan channel, and the river overflows in places its "lower plain" (Josh. 3:15; comp. Zech. 10:11).	<i>Barley</i> harvest begins in the plain of Jericho and in the Jordan valley; <i>wheat</i> coming into ear; uplands brilliant with short-lived verdure and flowers.
ZIF (Heb. <i>zīf</i> , brightness), or I'JAR. Twenty-nine days; second <i>sacred</i> , eighth of <i>civil</i> , year.	April - May.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New moon (Num. 1:18).</li> <li>6. <i>Fast</i> of three days for excesses during <i>Passover</i>.</li> <li>10. <i>Fast</i> for death of Eli and capture of ark (I Sam. 4:11, sq.).</li> <li>15. "Second" or "little" <i>Passover</i>, for those unable to celebrate in Abib; in memory of entering wilderness (Exod. 16:11).</li> <li>23. <i>Feast</i> for taking Gaza by S. Maccabaeus; for taking and purification of temple by the Maccabees.</li> <li>27. <i>Feast</i> for expulsion of Galleans from Jerusalem.</li> <li>28. <i>Feast</i> for death of Samuel (I Samuel 25:1).</li> </ol>	Summer	<i>Wind</i> S.; showers and thunder storms very rare (I Sam. 12:17, 18). Sky generally cloudless until end of summer.	Principal harvest month in lower districts. <i>Barley</i> harvest general (Ruth 1:22); <i>wheat</i> ripening on the uplands; <i>apricots</i> ripen. In Jordan valley hot winds destroy vegetation.
SI'VAN (Heb. <i>sīvan</i> ). Thirty days; third third of <i>sacred</i> , ninth of <i>civil</i> , year.	May - June	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New Moon.</li> <li>2. "<i>Feast of Pentecost</i>," or "<i>Feast of Weeks</i>," because it came seven weeks after <i>Passover</i> (Lev. 23:15-21).</li> <li>15,16. Celebration of victory over Beth-san (I Macc. 5:52;12:40, 41).</li> <li>17. <i>Feast</i> for taking Caesarea by Asmonaeans.</li> </ol>		<i>Wind</i> N.W., also E.; and <i>khamseen</i> , or parching wind from southern deserts. Air still and brilliantly clear.	<i>Wheat</i> harvest begins on uplands; <i>almonds</i> ripen; <i>grapes</i> begin to ripen; <i>honey</i> of the Jordan valley collected May to July.

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		<p>22. <i>Fast</i> in memory of Jeroboam's forbidding subjects to carry first fruits to Jerusalem (I Kings 12:27).</p> <p>25. <i>Fast</i> in memory of rabbins Simeon, Ishmael, and Chanina; feast in honor of judgment of Alexander the Great, in favor of Jews against Ishmaelites, who claimed Canaan.</p> <p>27. <i>Fast</i>, Chanina being burned with books of law.</p>			
TAM'M JZ (Heb. <i>tammūz</i> ). Twenty-nine days; fourth of <i>sacred</i> , tenth of <i>civil</i> , year.	June - July	<p>1. New Moon.</p> <p>14. <i>Feast</i> for abolition of a book of Sadducees and Bethusians, intended to subvert oral law and traditions.</p> <p>17. <i>Fast</i> in memory of tables of law broken by Moses (Exod. 32:19); and taking of Jerusalem by Titus.</p>	Hot season.	<i>Wind</i> usually N.W., also E., and <i>khamseen</i> from S. Air still and very clear; heat intense; heavy dews.	<i>Wheat</i> harvest on highest districts; various <i>fruits</i> ripe. Springs and vegetation generally dried up. Bedouins leave steppes for mountain pastures. Elsewhere, country-parched, dry & hard - "a dreary waste of withered stalks and burned up grass" (*stubble,* A.V).
AB (Heb. <i>'āb</i> , <i>fruitful</i> ). Thirty days; fifth of <i>sacred</i> , eleventh of <i>civil</i> , year.	July - August	<p>1. New moon; <i>fast</i> for death of Aaron, commemorated by children of Jethuel, who furnished wood to temple after the captivity.</p> <p>9. <i>Fast</i> in memory of God's declaration against murmurers entering Canaan (Num. 14:29-31).</p> <p>18. <i>Fast</i>, because in the time of Ahaz the evening lamp went out.</p> <p>21. <i>Feast</i> when wood was stored in temple.</p> <p>24. <i>Feast</i> in memory of law providing for sons and daughters alike inheriting estate of parents.</p>		<i>Wind</i> E. Air still and very clear; heat intense; heavy dews	Principal <i>fruit</i> month - grapes, figs, walnuts, olives, etc.; <i>vintage</i> begins (Lev. 26:5).
E'LUL (Heb. <i>'ēlūl</i> , good for <i>nothing</i> ). Twenty-nine days; sixth of <i>sacred</i> , twelfth of <i>civil</i> , year.	August - September	<p>1. New Moon.</p> <p>7. <i>Feast</i> for dedication of Jerusalem's walls by Nehemiah.</p> <p>17. <i>Fast</i>, death of spies bringing ill report (Num. 14:26).</p> <p>21. <i>Feast</i>, wood offering.</p> <p>22. <i>Feast</i> in memory of wicked Israelites, who were punished with death. (Throughout the month the cornet is sounded to warn of approaching new civil year.)</p>		<i>Wind</i> N.E. Heat still intense (II Kings 4:18-20), much lightning, but rain rarely.	<i>Vintage</i> general; harvest of <i>dourra</i> and <i>maize</i> ; <i>cotton</i> and <i>pomegranates</i> ripen.



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ETH'ANIM (Heb. <i>ēthānim</i> , permanent), or TIS'RI. Thirty days; seventh of sacred, first of civil, year.	September - October	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New moon; <i>New Year</i>; <i>Feast of Trumpets</i> (Lev. 23:24; Num. 29: 1,2).</li> <li>3. <i>Fast</i> for murder of Gedaliah (II Kings 25:25; Jer. 41:2); high priest set apart for day of atonement.</li> <li>7. <i>Fast</i> on account of worship of golden calf.</li> <li>10. Day of atonement, "<i>the fast</i>" (Acts 27:9), i.e., the only one enjoined by the law; the first day of jubilee years.</li> <li>15-21. <i>Feast of Tabernacles</i>.</li> <li>22. Holy convocation, palms borne, prayer for rain.</li> <li>23. <i>Feast</i> for law being finished; dedication of Solomon's temple.</li> </ol>	Seed time, or earing.	Wind N.E. Dews very heavy. Former or early, i.e., autumnal, rains begin (Joel 2:23) to soften the ground (Deut. 11:14); nights frosty (Gen. 31:40).	Plowing and sowing begin as soon as ground is softened by the rain - in any weather as the time runs short (Prov. 20:4; Eccles. 11:4); <i>cotton</i> harvest.
BUL (Heb. <i>būl</i> ), or MARCHESH'VAN. Twenty-nine days; eighth of sacred, second of civil, year.	October - November	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New moon.</li> <li>6, 7. <i>Fast</i> because Nebuchadnezzar blinded Hezekiah (II Kings 25:7; Jer. 52:10).</li> <li>17. Prayer for rain.</li> <li>19. <i>Fast</i> for faults committed during <i>Feast of Tabernacles</i>.</li> <li>23. Memorial of stones of altar profaned by Greeks (I Macc. 4:44).</li> <li>26. <i>Feast</i> in memory of recovery after the captivity of places occupied by the Cuthites.</li> </ol>		Wind N., N.W., N.E., S., S.W. Rainy month, partly fine; rains from S. and S.W.	<i>Wheat</i> and <i>barley</i> sown; <i>vintage</i> in northern Palestine; <i>rice</i> harvest; <i>fig</i> tree laden with fruit; <i>orange</i> and <i>citron</i> blossom; almost all vegetation has disappeared.
CHIS'LEU (Heb. <i>kis'leu</i> ). Thirty days; ninth of sacred, third of civil, year.	November - December	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New moon.</li> <li>2. <i>Fast</i> (3 days) if no rainfalls.</li> <li>3. <i>Feast</i> in honor of Asmonaeans throwing out idols placed in temple court by Gentiles.</li> <li>6. <i>Feast</i> in memory of roll burned by Jehoiakim (Jer. 36:23).</li> <li>7. <i>Feast</i> in memory of Death of Herod the Great.</li> <li>14. <i>Fast</i>, absolute if no rain.</li> <li>21. <i>Feast</i> of Mount Gerizim; plowing and sowing of Mt. Gerizim with tares, as Samaritans had intended to do with temple ground.</li> <li>25. <i>Feast</i> of the dedication of the temple, or of Lights (eight days) in memory of restoration of temple by Judas Maccabaeus.</li> </ol>	Winter begins (John 10:22).	Snow on mountains and stormy. Greatest amount of rainfall during year in December, January, and February.	Trees bare, but plains and deserts gradually become green pastures.
TE'BETH (Heb. <i>tēbēth</i> ). Twenty-nine days; tenth of sacred, fourth of civil, year.	December - January	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New Moon</li> <li>8. <i>Fast</i> because the law was translated into Greek.</li> <li>9. <i>Fast</i>, no reason assigned.</li> <li>10. <i>Fast</i> on account of siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar (II Kings 25:1).</li> <li>28. <i>Feast</i> in memory of exclusion of Sadducees from the Sanhedrin.</li> </ol>	Mid-Winter	Wind N., NW., N.E. Coldest month; rain, hail, and snow (Josh. 10:11) on higher hills, and occasionally at Jerusalem.	Flocks leave highlands for the Jordan valley, and its cultivation begins; oranges ripening, and lower districts green with grain.

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SHE'BAT (Heb. <i>sh'bat</i> ), or SE'BAT. Thirty days; eleventh of sacred, fifth of civil, year.	January - February	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New Moon.</li> <li>2. Rejoicing for death of King Alexander Jannaeus, enemy of the Pharisees.</li> <li>4 or 5. <i>Fast</i> in memory of death of elders, successors to Joshua.</li> <li>15. Beginning of the year of <i>Trees</i> (q.v.).</li> <li>22. <i>Feast</i> in memory of death of Niscalenus, who ordered images placed in temple, and who died before execution of his orders.</li> <li>23. <i>Fast</i> for war of the Ten Tribes against Benjamin (Judg. 20); also idol of Micah (18:11, sq.).</li> <li>29. Memorial of death of Antiochus Epiphanes, enemy of Jews.</li> </ol>	Winter	Wind N., N.W., N.E. Gradually growing warmer. Toward end of month the most pleasant "cool season" begins.	<i>Almond</i> and <i>peach</i> blossom in warmer and sheltered localities; <i>oranges</i> ripe.
A'DAR .. (Heb. <i>'adar</i> , <i>fire</i> ). Twenty- nine days; twelfth of sacred, sixth of civil, year.	February - March	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New Moon.</li> <li>7. <i>Fast</i> because of Moses' death (Deut. 34:5).</li> <li>8, 9. Trumpet sounded in thanksgiving for rain, and prayer for future rain.</li> <li>12. <i>Feast</i> in memory of Hollianus and Pipus, two proselytes, who died rather than break the law.</li> <li>13. <i>Fast</i> of Esther (Esth. 4:16). Feast in memory of Nicanor, enemy of the Jews (I Macc. 7:44).</li> <li>14. The first Purim, or lesser <i>Feast</i> of Lots (Esth. 9:21).</li> <li>15. The great <i>Feast</i> of Purim (q. v.)</li> <li>17. Deliverance of sages who fled from Alexander Jannaeus.</li> <li>20. <i>Feast</i> for rain obtained in time of drought, in time of Alexander Jannaeus.</li> <li>23. <i>Feast</i> for dedication of Zerubbabel's temple (Ezra 6:16).</li> <li>28. <i>Feast</i> to commemorate the repeal of decree of Grecian kings forbidding Jews to circumcise their children.</li> </ol>	Cold and rainy season, or spring.	Wind. W. Thunder and hail frequent, sometimes snow. The latter rains begin, on which plenty or famine, the crops and pasture depend.	In valley of Jordan cultivation draws to an end, and <i>barley</i> ripens.