## REF. MATERIAL

## Jewish Calendar (Months & Feasts)

Of the Jewish calendar's 12 names, only 7 occur in the Hebrew text, but the whole 12 appear as the main divisions of the Megillath Ta'anith (Scroll of Fasting).

- 1. **Nîsan** (Nehemiah 2:1; Esther 3:7)
- 2. **'Iyyar** (not named in KJV)
- 3. **Sîwan** (Esther 8:9; Baruch 1:8)
- 4. **Támmûz** (Cf. A.V. Ezekiel 8:14)
- 5. 'Abh (not named in KJV)
- 6. **'Elûl** (Nehemiah 6:15; 1 Maccabees 14:27)
- 7. **Tíshrî** (not named in KJV)
- 8. **Márhéshwan** (or simply Héshwan) (not named in KJV)
- 9. **Kíslew** (Zechariah 7:1; Nehemiah 1:1)
- 10. **Tebeth** (Esther 2:16)
- 11. **Shebhat** (Zechariah 1:7, 1 Maccabees 16:14)
- 12. 'Adar (Ezra 6:15; Esther 3:7, 8:12, etc.)

## Note

The "first month" of the Jewish calendar is the month of Nissan, in the spring, when Passover occurs. However, the Jewish New Year is in Tishri, the 7<sup>th</sup> month, and that is when the year number is increased. This concept of different starting points for a year is not as strange as it might seem at first glance.

The American "new year" starts in January, but the new "school year" starts in September, and many businesses have "fiscal years" that start at various times of the year. Similarly, the Jewish calendar has different starting points for different purposes.

In leap years, Adar has 30 days. In non-leap years, Adar has 29 days.

Note that the number of days between Nissan and Tishri is always the same. Because of this, the time from the first major festival (Passover in Nissan) to the last major festival (Sukkot in Tishri) is always the same.

[taken from http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/calendar.html.]

Hebrew Month	Sacred Year	Civil Year	Ordinary Year	Leap Year	During 20th century first of month occurs between	Principal Feasts
Nîsan	1	7	30 (days)	30	Mar 13-Apr 11	<ol> <li>New Moon</li> <li>Passover—Paschal lamb killed<sup>1</sup></li> <li>Paschal Feast (Firstfruits of barley offered)</li> </ol>
'Iyyar	2	8	29	29	Apr 12-May 11	1. New Moon 14. Second Passover
Sîwan	3	9	30	30	May 11-Jun 9	New Moon     6. Pentecost (Firstfruits of wheat harvest
Támmûz	4	10	29	29	Jun 10-Jul 9	New Moon     Fast—Taking of Jerusalem by Titus
'Abh	5	11	30	30	Jul 9-Aug 7	New Moon     Fast—Destruction of the Temple
'Elûl	6	12	29	29	Aug 8-Sep 6	1. New Moon
Tíshrî	7	1	30	30	Sep 6-Oct 5	<ul><li>1-2. New Year's Feast</li><li>10. Day of Atonement</li><li>15-21. Feast of Tabernacles (Firstfruits of wine and oil)</li></ul>
Márhéshwa n (Héshwan)	8	2	29+	29+	Oct 6-Nov 4	1. New Moon
Kíslew	9	3	30-	30-	Nov 4-Dec 3	<ol> <li>New Moon</li> <li>Dedication of the Temple Feast</li> </ol>
Tebheth	10	4	29	29	Dec 4-Jan 2	New Moon     Fast—Siege of Jerusalem
Shebbat	11	5	30	30	Jan 2-Jan 31	1. New Moon
'Âdar	12	6	29	29	Feb 1-Mar 2	1. New Moon 14-15. Feast of Purim
[We-'Âdar]	2	13	()	(29)	Mar 3-Mar 13	1. New Moon 14-15. Feast of Purim

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The festival of Matstsoth (unleavened bread) is reckoned as one of the three pilgrimage festivals, though strictly the pilgrimage was connected with the Passover portion and the first day of the festival.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Intercalary; this is an added or having an addition to make the calendar year correspond to the solar year (Feb. 29 is an intercalary day; leap year is an intercalary year)