

The Lunar Jewish Calendar

March	NISAN (abib) Month 1 – 30 Days	1—New Year's for Reign of Kings 10—Passover Lamb Chosen 14—Passover Lamb Sacrificed 15–21—Seven Days of Passover	Ex 12:2 Ex 12:3 Ex 12:6 Lev 23:6–8
April	IYAR (zif) Month 2 – 29 Days		
May	SIVAN Month 3 – 30 Days	6—Feast of Firstfruits (Pentecost)	Num 28:26
June	TAMMUZ Month 4 – 29 Days	17—Fast	
July	AB Month 5 – 30 Days	9—Fast	
August	ELUL Month 6 – 29 Days		
September	TISHRI (ethanim) Month 7 – 30 Days	1—Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah) 10—Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) 15—Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) 22—Eighth Day of Feast	Lev 23:24 Lev 23:27 Lev 23:34 Lev 23:36
October	HESHVAN (bul) Month 8 – 29/30 Days		
November	KISLEV Month 9 – 29/30 Days		
December	TEBET Month 10 – 29 Days	25—Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah)	
January	SHEBAT Month 11 – 30 Days		
February (Optional 29th Day)	ADAR (adari I) Month 12 – 29/30 Days	14—Feast of Esther (Purim)	
March	VEADAR (adari II) (Optional Month 13 – 29 Days)		

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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.