

HEBREW CALENDAR AND SELECTED EVENTS

NUMBER OF MONTH	HEBREW NAME	MODERN EQUIVALENT	BIBLICAL REFERENCES	AGRICULTURE	FEASTS
1 Sacred sequence begins	7 Abib; Nisan	March-April	Ex 12:2; 13:4; 23:15; 34:18; Deut 16:1; Ne 2:1; Esth 3:7	Spring (later) rains; barley and flax harvest begins	Passover; Unleavened Bread; Firstfruits
2	8 Ziv (Iyyar)*	April-May	1 Kin 6:1,37	Barley harvest; dry season begins	
3	9 Sivan	May-June	Esth 8:9	Wheat harvest	Pentecost (Weeks)
4	10 (Tammuz)*	June-July		Tending vines	
5	11 (Ab)*	July-August		Ripening of grapes, figs and olives	
6	12 Elul	August-September	Neh 6:15	Processing grapes, figs and olives	
7 Civil sequence	1 Ethanim (Tishri)*	September-October	1 Kin 8:2	Autumn (early) rains begin; plowing	Trumpets; Atonement; Tabernacles (Booths)
8	2 Bul (Marcheshvan)*	October-November	1 Kin 6:38	Sowing of wheat and barley	
9	3 Kislev	November-December	Neh 1:1; Zech 7:1	Winter rains begin (snow in some areas)	Hanukkah
10	4 Tebeth	December-January	Esth 2:16		
11	5 Shebat	January-February	Zech 1:7		
12	6 Adar	February-March	Ezra 6:15; Esth 3:7,13; 8:12; 9:1,15,17,19,21	Almond trees bloom; citrus fruit harvest	Purim

(Adar Sheni)* This intercalary month was added about every three years so the lunar calendar would correspond to the solar year.
Second Adar

The Israelites divided their year according to natural phenomena exclusively, combining, therefore, the solar and lunar year. The civil sequence months began with the new moon. But, the sacred sequence was fixed after the Exodus and by the necessities of the Passover (i.e. the ripening of the earliest grain, viz., barley.) The lunar month averaging 29½ days, a year of 12 months of 30 and 29 days alternately resulted; but this involved a variation of 11 and 22 days alternately in 18 out of 19 years. To reconcile this lunar year with the year of seasons, a 13 month was inserted about once every 3 years.

* Names in parentheses are not in the Bible.