

## The Biblical Calendar

The ancient biblical calendar is identical to the Jewish calendar of these days. The Jewish year has 12 lunar month starting with new moon. This means each month counts 29 or 30 days, which sums up to 354 days a year. To synchronise the calendar with the seasons, an additional month Adar is inserted in leap years (7 times in 19 years).

Hebrew month	corresponds	days	feasts
1. Nissan	March/April	30	14. evening: <a href="#">Passover</a> (Seder meal) 15. - 21.: <a href="#">Feast of unleavened bread</a> 16. in the morning: <a href="#">Presenting of the Firstfruit</a>
2. Iyar	April/May	29	
3. Sivan	May/June	30	6.: <a href="#">Schavuot</a>
4. Tammuz	June/July	29	
5. Av	July/August	30	
6. Elul	August/September	29	
7. Tishri	September/October	30	1.: <a href="#">The feast of trumpets</a> (Rosh Hashana) 10.: <a href="#">Yom Kippur</a> 15. - 21.: <a href="#">Succoth</a>
8. Cheshvan	October/November	30 or 29	
9. Kisleb	November/December	30 or 29	25.-
10. Tevet	December/January	29	- 2.: Hanukkah (rededication of the temple)/1. Maccabees + Judith
11. Schewat	Januar/Februar	30	
12. Adar	February/March	29	14.: Purim/Esther

During the year, the entire Torah (five books of Moses) is read in the synagogue, a portion at a time each Sabbath. Additionally, there will be read a portion out of the Prophets. These readings are fixed and will be repeated every year.

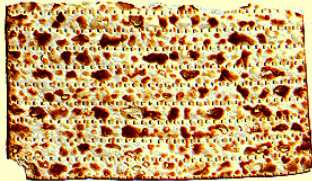
Also on feast days, a traditional portion of the Torah and the Prophets will be read. These parts do not fit in the weekly readings of the Torah.

## The 7 biblical feasts

(Leviticus 23)

- *Three times a year all your men must appear before the LORD your God at the place he will choose: at the [Feast of Unleavened Bread](#), the [Feast of Weeks](#) and the [Feast of Tabernacles](#). No man should appear before the LORD empty handed. (Deuteronomy 16:16)*
- Common to all three pilgrimage feasts is the Hallel.: Psalms 113 - 118 are sung (furthermore the main prayers and the Mussaf prayer).
- All the pilgrimage feasts are scheduled in the middle of the month, at the time of full moon. This means, there was always enough light to travel during night to Jerusalem, when it was cool.

Origin	1. Feast: Passover	Fulfilment
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Liberation from the slavery in Egypt. (Exodus 12)	On the fourteenth day of the first month (Nisan) in the afternoon, the Seder (a special meal) is prepared. In the evening, it will be eaten: A lamb, bitter herbs and unleavened bread (matzoth). (Exodus 12,8) Since the destruction of the temple 70 AD, the lamb is left out.	Liberation from the slavery of Satan, of sin.  <i>So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.</i> (John 8,36)
	Readings: Ex. 12,21-51 / Numbers 28,16-25 / Joshua 3,5-7 + 5,2-6,1 + 27	
<i>The blood of the lamb protects against the destroyer, the Angel of Death. „He will see the blood on the top and sides of the door frame and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.“ (Exodus 12,23)</i>	Passover (Hebrew Pesah) means „to pass over, to skip“	Trough the blood of Jesus, we have eternal life.  <i>Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.</i> (John 5,24)  <i>For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.</i> (1.Peter 1,18-19)
A flawless male lamb, one year old. (Exodus 12,5)  A male lamb (sheep or goat), one year old: Not a helpless little lamb!		Jesus was without fault: (Jes 53,9) or  <i>God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.</i> (2.Cor 5,21)
No bone of the lamb may be broken. (Exodus 12,46)		No bone of Jesus has been broken. (John 19,31-36)
	3 matzoth are served. The middle one will be broken in two, and one half hidden. After the meal, the children are sent out to find it. Then, every member of the family eats a small piece. This half of the middle matzoth is called <b>AFIKOMEN</b> .  Rabbinical tradition has two different explanations: 3 Matzoth: Priests, Levites and Israelites (the people) or Abraham, Isaac and Jacob	The trinity of God — 3 matzoth: Father, Son and Holy Spirit  The Messiah — the middle matzoth  Jesus body is broken for us all (Lord supper)  <b>AFIKOMEN</b> can be traced back to the Greek word <i>afikomen</i> (αφικωμεν). It is the 1. person plural aorist active of <i>afikneomai</i> (αφικνεομαι) and means <b>WE CAME</b> .
	The matzoth are full of „stripes“ and they are „pierced“.  	Jesus body is covered with stripes and is pierced. (1.Peter 2,24 / John 19,34). He says: <i>I am the bread of life.</i> (John 6,48)  <i>If anyone eats of this bread, he will live for ever.</i> (John 6,51)  He has been born in the house of bread (Bethlehem) and was put in a vessel, which is designed to eat out of it (manger).

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Origin	2. Feast: Feast of unleavened bread	Fulfilment
<i>For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses.</i> (Exodus 12,15)	On the night before Passover eve, the house is searched for yeast (or leaven), and all which is found will be burnt.  Each day Psalm 113 - 118 are recited: HALLEL	Yeast, a symbol for sin (1.Kor 5,8) is eliminated!
	Starting the 15. of Nissan, exclusively unleavened bread is eaten for 7 days.	Jesus body is buried (put into the ground): Unleavened bread (he was without sin).  <i>I tell you the truth, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.</i> (John 12,24)

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Origin	3. Feast: Feast of Firstfruits	Fulfilment
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<p><i>When you enter the land I am going to give you and you reap its harvest, bring to the priest a sheaf of the first grain you harvest. He is to wave the sheaf before the LORD so it will be accepted on your behalf; the priest is to wave it on the day after the Sabbath.(Leviticus 23,10-11)</i></p>	<p>In biblical times and today again, on the first day after Passover - Holiday (Sabbath), the feast of Firstfruits is celebrated.</p>	<p>Jesus resurrection. He is the First Fruit.  <i>But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (1.Cor 15,20)</i></p>
		<p>The word „Easter" goes back to a Teutonic/ Germanic/ Anglo-Sax godhead „Eostera". Behind this is the Babylonian goddess „Ishtar".</p>

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Origin	4. Feast: Shavuot (Pentecost)	Fulfilment
<p>The first time, Moses received the ten commandments on stone tablets and the whole law about 7 Weeks after the death of the Passover lambs in Egypt (Exodus 19).  <b>The law on stone tablets</b></p>	<p>6. Sivan: <b>Commemoration of the giving of the law</b></p>	<p>The disciples received the Holy Spirit (Acts 2)  <b>The law of life in your heart</b></p>
<p><i>When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died. (Exodus 32,19/28)</i>  <b>3000 Men died!</b></p>		<p><i>With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them. "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. (Acts 2,40-41)</i>  <i>Because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8,2)</i>  <b>3000 Men came to true life!</b></p>
<p>Israel has been born as a nation through the gift of the law.</p>		<p>The Church of Jesus has been born through the gift of the Holy Spirit.</p>
	<p>Readings:Exodus 19,1 - 20,23 / Ezekiel 1,1-28 and 3,12  <i>I looked, and I saw a windstorm coming out of the north-- an immense cloud with flashing lightning and surrounded by brilliant light. The centre of the fire looked like glowing metal. (Ezekiel 1,4)</i></p>	<p><i>Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (Acts 2,2-4)</i></p>
<p><i>From the day after the Sabbath, the day you brought the sheaf of the wave offering, count off seven full weeks. Count off fifty days up to the day after the seventh Sabbath, and then present an offering of new grain to the LORD. (Leviticus 23,15-16)</i></p>	<p>Shavuot (Hebrew) means „weeks": The Feast of Weeks.Pentecost goes back to the Greek pentaconta „fifty". The Jews start counting „Omer" the 16. Nissan. They count the 50 days.</p>	
<p><i>From wherever you live, bring two loaves made of two tenths of an ephah of fine flour, baked with yeast, as a wave offering of firstfruits to the LORD. (Leviticus 23,17)</i></p>		<p>Trough the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Church has been created. It does not consist of people, who are without sin, but they are all „baked with yeast". Nobody but Jesus alone was without sin! Two loaves: Gentiles and Jews!?</p>
<p><i>Celebrate the Feast of Harvest with the firstfruits of the crops you sow in your field. (Exodus 23,16)</i></p>	<p><b>Feast of summer harvest</b></p>	<p>Harvest of first fruits: The Church of Jesus Christ is emerging!</p>

A long time with no feast: The whole of summertime!  
?? A long time of church history: ~30 AD - ~1948 ??

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Origin	5. Feast: Feast of trumpets	Fulfilment
<p><i>On the first day of the seventh month hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. It is a day for you to sound the trumpets. (Numbers 29,1)</i></p>	<p>Since the second century BC ( other sources mention the eleventh century AD), this day is celebrated as the Jewish new year: Rosh Hashanah.  Earlier (biblically) the new year starts the first of Nissan!</p>	<p>The trumpets will announce the second coming of Jesus: <i>For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. (1.Thess 4,16-17)</i> see also 1. Corinthians 15,51-52</p>

	Readings: Genesis 21 / Numbers 29,1-6 / 1.Samuel 1,1 - 2,10	
To sound the trumpets: To call the community (Israel) together for ... (Numbers 10).		<i>For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. (Ezekiel 36,24)</i>
In Israel's religious ritual, she utilised two different kinds of trumpets. One was long and flared and made of silver (Numbers 10,2). The other was a ram's horn and is called in Hebrew the <i>shofar</i> .	To sound the trumpets is a remembrance of the grace of God against Abraham, when he supplied a ram as sacrifice at the place of Isaac. This is why at Rosh Hashanah, the shofar will sound in the Synagogues over the whole world.	

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Origin	6. Feast: Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	Fulfilment
<i>The tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. Hold a sacred assembly and deny yourselves, and present an offering made to the LORD by fire. (Leviticus 23,27)</i>	Jews fast and pray: Well known is the Kol Nidre	The bible uses the number 10, as well as the number 40 for a time of trial.
	Readings: Leviticus 16 / Numbers 29,7-11 / Isaiah 57,14 - 58,14	
Only once a year on Yom Kippur, the High Priest (nobody else) may enter the Holy of Holies, and meet there the glory of the LORD (the Shekinah). (Hebrews 9,7)		Trough Jesus' death at the cross, the way to the Father is free for everybody at anytime: <i>With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. (Mark 15,37-38)</i>
The High Priest makes atonement for himself and for the people of Israel (Leviticus 16)		When Jesus will arrive on planet earth for the second time, he will come out of the Holy of Holies (heaven).  When he returns, beside other functions, he will come as the High Priest to his chosen people Israel (Zechariah 12,10)
<i>Aaron shall bring the goat whose lot falls to the LORD and sacrifice it for a sin offering. But the goat chosen by lot as the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the LORD to be used for making atonement by sending it into the desert as a scapegoat. (Leviticus 16,9-10)</i>		After a Jewish tradition, the scapegoat did return from the desert at Yom Kippur, which followed Jesus' crucifixion.
		After a Jewish tradition, the glory of the LORD was not present anymore in the Holy of Holies during the last 40 years before the destruction of the temple through Titus: <b>Since Golgatha!</b> Since then, the crimson strip of wool tied to one of the scapegoat's horns, did not turn white anymore!

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Origin	7. Feast: Succoth (Tabernacles)	Fulfilment
<i>Celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days after you have gathered the produce of your threshing floor and your winepress. (Deut 16,13)</i>	<b>Harvest festival: The harvest is brought in!</b>  Feast of joy!	<b>Jesus returns : The harvest is brought in!</b>  Great joy and thankfulness.
	On each day, Psalm 113 - 118 are being recited: HALLEL Readings on the first day: Exodus 12,31-51 / Numbers 29,12-16 / Zechariah 14  Zechariah writes about the last battle for Jerusalem, and that afterwards all nations will come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.	
<i>Say to the Israelites: On the fifteenth day of the seventh month the LORD's Feast of Tabernacles begins, and it lasts for seven days. (Leviticus 23,34)</i>	The Jews live in a Sukkah (or tabernacle) to commemorate the time when Israel lived in tents during their 40 years in the desert. In these days, also God lived in a tent right between the people: the Tabernacle.	7 days takes a Jewish wedding feast: Wedding feast of the lamb?!
	After a Jewish tradition, the Messiah will come on Succoth (others say on Passover).	<u><a href="#">Jesus was born around Succoth!</a></u>
The 7. feast in the 7. month takes 7 days.		

<p><i>Beginning with the fifteenth day of the seventh month, after you have gathered the crops of the land, celebrate the festival to the LORD for seven days; the first day is a day of rest, and the eighth day also is a day of rest. (Leviticus 23,39)</i></p>	<p>The <u>eight</u>h day: Final feast - Simchat Torah (the Rejoicing of the Law)/the weekly Torah readings are finished and start again with Genesis 1,1.</p> <p>Water libation: In the times of the temple, a priest went to the pool of Siloam to fill a golden pitcher with water. He then came back to the temple accompanied by a joyous procession of trumpet sounds and worshipers, and poured out the water near the altar. At the same time, he recited Isaiah 12,3 ff.: <i>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation ....</i> Today, prayer for rain in the Mussaf - prayer corresponds to the biblical water libation.</p> <p>Readings on the eighth day: Deuteronomy 33,1 - 34,12</p>	<p><i>On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him". (John 7,37-38)</i></p> <p><i>Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ( Rev 22,1-2) see also Ezekiel 47,1-12</i></p> <p>The number <u>eight</u> symbolises a new beginning. The eighth day of the week is the day after Sabbath. Now the work starts anew. On this day of the week, Jesus did rise from the dead. With HIM, God did create something new: <i>But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (1 Corinthians 15,20)</i></p> <p>The number of the name Jesus (Greek ΙΗΣΟΥΣ) is 888.</p> <p>After a (Jewish) tradition, the Messiah shall come for the seventh millennium (according Jewish calendar), and establish the „Sabbath“, the Kingdom of peace, which will last for thousand years. (Revelation 20). Afterwards, on the eighth day, there will follow something new: <i>Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. (Isaiah 65,17) see also Rev 21</i></p>
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## Literature

### Jewish books

- NAFTALI ROSENAN: Das Jüdische Jahr / published by „Freunde des Schweizer Kinderdorfes Kirjath Jearim“  
An excellent, but short overview of the Jewish calendar and the feasts. German
- S. PH. DE VRIES: Jüdische Riten und Symbole / Rowohlt Verlag  
Paperback. An excellent introduction in Jewish life and tradition. Food regulations, wedding, visit of a sick person: Nearly everything is covered. German
- ELIAHU KITOV: Das jüdische Jahr / 4 volumes / Verlag Morascha Basel/Zürich  
An exhaustive reference book of the Jewish year and the feasts. German
- ISRAEL ARIEL: The Temple Haggadah / The Temple Institute Jerusalem  
A comparison of the feast of Passover during the period of the Second Temple and today.

### Christian books

- COULSON SHEPHERD: Jewish Holy Days / Published by Loizeaux Brothers, Inc  
Prophetic and Christian meaning of the Jewish feasts
- [KEVIN HOWARD / MARVIN ROSENTHAL: The Feasts of the Lord](#) / Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville  
Jewish and prophetic meaning of the feasts, lively description with pictures, Messianic - Jewish authors.
- GEORG H WARNOCK: Das Laubhüttenfest / CGV - Christlicher Gemeinde Verlag  
Exhaustive investigation about the prophetic meaning of the feast of Tabernacles. Other feasts are mentioned. German
- GERHARD SALOMON: Zahlen der Bibel / Verlag der St. - Johannes Druckerei C. Schweickhardt  
Symbolism, connections and mathematical background. German