Jewish Feasts *and* Holidays

The Gregorian calendar, used by most western nations today, was established by Pope Gregory VIII in 1582. It is a solar calendar.

The Jewish calendar uses both lunar and solar movements. The months are determined by the moon, and the year is determined by the sun. The Jewish day begins at sunset.

There are 12 months in the Jewish calendar, each with 29 or 30 days. Approximately every third year is a leap year containing an extra month. This adjustment is necessary to ensure that the major festivals stay in their appointed seasons.

Over the years the names of the months and the process of establishing the calendar has changed. Following the Babylonian exile in 586–516 BC, the Jewish calendar reflected the Babylonian names of the months and these names still exist today in the current Jewish calendar.

Today the Jewish calendar is determined by precise astronomical calculations, but that wasn't always the case. For centuries the calendar was determined each month by the sighting of the new moon (Num. 10:10; Ps. 81:3). Today the new moon is called Rosh Hodesh (head of the month) and is marked in the synagogue with prayers, Torah readings, and special greetings.

In Exodus 12, God established the order of the months. This was the first Jewish calendar used to determine the holidays. Nisan (Abib) was to be the first month and mark the redemption of Israel from Egypt. Passover is celebrated in Nisan.

By Jesus' time, there was a second calendar used for civil affairs. This calendar began with the month of Tishri. The first of Tishri was the civil New Year, Rosh HaShanah. The second calendar is still in use.
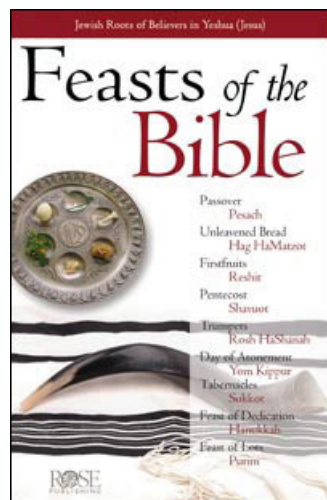
To determine the Jewish calendar year, simply add 3761 to the western calendar year. For example, the Jewish year 5776 begins on September 14 of the Gregorian year 2015. (See the "Jewish Year" column above Rosh HaShanah for the Jewish years that correspond to the Gregorian years.)

Gregorian Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Holiday	(Starts at sundown the previous day)							
Pesach (Passover)	April 4	April 23	April 11	March 31	April 20	March 10	March 28	April 16
Hag HaMatzot (Unleavened Bread)	April 5	April 24	April 12	April 1	April 21	March 11	March 29	April 17
Reishit (Firstfruits)	April 6	April 25	April 13	April 2	April 22	March 12	March 30	April 18
Shavuot (Pentecost)	May 24	June 12	May 31	May 20	June 9	May 29	May 17	June 5
Jewish Year	5776	5777	5778	5779	5780	5781	5782	5783
Rosh HaShanah (New Year; Trumpets)	Sept. 14	Oct. 3	Sept. 21	Sept. 10	Sept. 30	Sept. 19	Sept. 7	Sept. 26
Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	Sept. 23	Oct. 12	Sept. 30	Sept. 19	Oct. 9	Sept. 28	Sept. 16	Oct. 5
Sukkot (Tabernacles or Booths)	Sept. 28	Oct. 17	Oct. 5	Sept. 24	Oct. 14	Oct. 3	Sept. 21	Oct. 10
Hanukkah (Feast of Dedication)	Dec. 7	Dec. 25	Dec. 13	Dec. 3	Dec. 23	Dec. 11	Nov. 29	Dec. 19
Purim (Feast of Lots)	March 5 2015	March 24 2016	March 12 2017	March 1 2018	March 21 2019	March 10 2020	Feb. 26 2021	March 17 2022

Feast of Trumpets (Rosh HaShanah)

Holiday	Also Known As	Date Observed	Scripture Basis	General Information
FEAST of TRUMPETS or NEW YEAR	Yom HaTeruah Rosh HaShanah	1 TISHRI (September or October)	Leviticus 23:23-25	**Feast of Trumpets: The Beginning of the Civil New Year** The Ten Days of Repentance with Rosh HaShanah (Rosh Ha-SHA-nah) on the first day and Yom Kippur on the last day make up the High Holy Days. Jewish tradition says that God writes every person's words, deeds, and thoughts in the Book of Life, which he opens and examines on this day. If good deeds outnumber sinful ones for the year, that person's name will be inscribed in the book for another year on Yom Kippur. So during Rosh HaShanah and the Ten Days of Repentance, people can repent of their sins and do good deeds to increase their chances of being inscribed in the Book of Life. During the Rosh HaShanah synagogue services, the shofar (ram's horn) is blown 100 times.

Yeshua (Jesus)

Rosh HaShanah is sometimes referred to as the Day of Judgment. Jesus said he has the authority to judge people (John 5:24–27) and the apostle Paul referred to him as the judge of "the living and the dead" (2 Tim. 4:1). God does have a book of life; Revelation 21:27 calls it the "Lamb's book of life." The only way to have one's name inscribed in it is through faith in Jesus as Savior from sin, and then it is permanent (John 10:27–30). Those whose names are not in the book will be judged and sentenced to hell: "Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:15).

Fascinating Facts

- A common custom is sending cards to relatives and friends to wish them a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year. The message includes the greeting, L'shanah tovah tikatevoo, which means "May you be inscribed [in the Book of Life] for a good year."
- It is traditional to eat apple slices dipped in honey. The apples represent provision, and the honey represents sweetness for the coming year.
- Many Jewish people attend Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur services even if they have not attended synagogue services the rest of the year.

Feast of Trumpets in the Hebrew Scriptures: Num. 29:1–6

Hebrew

רֹאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה

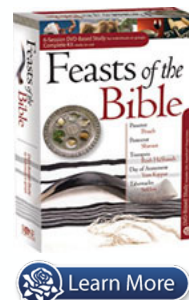**(Table modified from the foldout Feasts of the Bible Pamphlet.)**

Feasts of the Bible

God commanded Israel to observe His feasts and holy days as memorials to the great things that He had done. Jesus observed each of the holy days throughout his life. Learn about Passover/Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks, Rosh HaShanah, and more. See how these special days point to Jesus as the promised Messiah.

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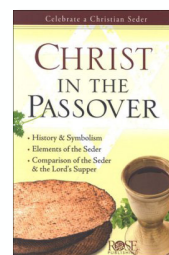
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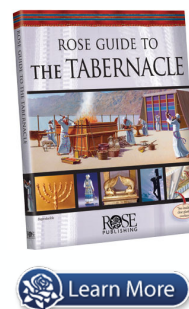
Christ in the Passover Pamphlet
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