



# Bible History

## *The Jewish Year*

### I. THE JEWISH CALENDAR

#### A. Sacred or Ceremonial Year

1. The sacred year begins with Abib (Nisan) which runs roughly from March to April.
2. It was established when Israel was brought out of Egypt (Exodus 12:1-2; Leviticus 23:5).
3. This is the calendar by which the Jewish feasts are determined.

#### B. Secular or Civil Year

1. The secular year begins with Ethanim which runs roughly from September to October.
2. The feast of trumpets (Leviticus 23:23-25), called Rosh Hashanah, is the Jewish new year (see Exodus 34:22; Exodus 23:16; Leviticus 23:39).
3. The first month of the secular year is the same as the seventh month of the sacred year and visa versa.

#### C. Growing Seasons

1. Israel averages between two and twenty-two inches of rain per year with more rain as you go north.
  - a. Anywhere from ten to twelve inches of rain is the minimum needed to have a harvest each year.
  - b. In much of the south, rain-watered crops are not possible.
2. Israel's main growing season is during the winter when most of the rain comes.
  - a. The summer is so dry that very little can grow.
  - b. Barley and wheat are sown at the beginning of the rainy season (October-November) and harvested at the end (April-May).
  - c. These rains are called the former and the latter rains in scripture (Deuteronomy 11:14; Job 29:23; Proverbs 16:15; Jeremiah 3:3; Jeremiah 5:24; Hosea 6:3; Joel 2:23; Zechariah 10:1; James 5:7)

#### D. Months of the Jewish Year

1. Abib (Exodus 13:4; Exodus 23:15) or Nisan (Nehemiah 2:1; Esther 3:7)
  - a. The breakdown
    - (1) Sacred—first month (Exodus 12:2)
    - (2) Secular—seventh month
  - b. The comparison (March to April)



- c. The noteworthy
  - (1) The time of the latter rain; beginning of barley and flax harvest
  - (2) The feasts of Passover, unleavened bread, and firstfruits
2. Zif or Iyyar (non-biblical name)
  - a. The breakdown
    - (1) Sacred—second month (1 Kings 6:1, 37)
    - (2) Secular—eighth month
  - b. The comparison (April to May)
  - c. The noteworthy
    - (1) The time of barley harvest
    - (2) And the beginning of dry season
3. Sivan
  - a. The breakdown
    - (1) Sacred—third month (Esther 8:9)
    - (2) Secular—ninth month
  - b. The comparison (May to June)
  - c. The noteworthy
    - (1) The time of wheat harvest
    - (2) And the feast of weeks, also known as pentecost
4. Tammuz (non-biblical name)
  - a. The breakdown
    - (1) Sacred—fourth month
    - (2) Secular—tenth month
  - b. The comparison (June to July)
  - c. The noteworthy—the time of tending vines
5. Ab (non-biblical name)
  - a. The breakdown
    - (1) Sacred—fifth month
    - (2) Secular—eleventh month
  - b. The comparison (July to August)
  - c. The noteworthy—the time of ripening grapes, figs, and olives
6. Elul (Nehemiah 6:15)
  - a. The breakdown
    - (1) Sacred—sixth month
    - (2) Secular—twelfth month
  - b. The comparison (August to September)
  - c. The noteworthy—the time of processing grapes, figs, and olives
7. Ethanim or Tishri (non-biblical name)
  - a. The breakdown
    - (1) Sacred—seventh month (1 Kings 8:2)
    - (2) Secular—first month
  - b. The comparison (September to October)
  - c. The noteworthy
    - (1) The early rains begin and serve as the time of plowing.
    - (2) The time for the feasts of trumpets, atonement, and tabernacles
8. Bul
  - a. The breakdown



- (1) Sacred—eighth month (1 Kings 6:38)
    - (2) Secular—second month
  - b. The comparison (October to November)
  - c. The noteworthy—the time for sowing wheat and barley
- 9. Chisleu (Nehemiah 1:1) or Kislev
  - a. The breakdown
    - (1) Sacred—ninth month (Zechariah 7:1)
    - (2) Secular—third month
  - b. The comparison (November to December)
  - c. The noteworthy
    - (1) The time of winter rains
    - (2) And the feast of Hanukkah (Dedication)
- 10. Tebeth
  - a. The breakdown
    - (1) Sacred—tenth month (Esther 2:16)
    - (2) Secular—fourth month
  - b. The comparison (December to January)
- 11. Sebat
  - a. The breakdown
    - (1) Sacred—eleventh month (Zechariah 1:7)
    - (2) Secular—fifth month
  - b. The comparison (January to February)
- 12. Adar (Ezra 6:15; Esther 9:15, 17, 19, 21)
  - a. The breakdown
    - (1) Sacred—twelfth month (Esther 3:7, 13; Esther 8:12; Esther 9:1)
    - (2) Secular—sixth month
  - b. The comparison (February to March)
  - c. The noteworthy
    - (1) The almond trees bloom and the time of citrus fruit harvest
    - (2) And the feast of Purim
- 13. Second Adar
  - a. A calendar correction
  - b. Added about every three years so the lunar calendar would correspond to the solar year

## II. THE SABBATH

- A. Established at Creation (Genesis 2:1-3)
- B. Given to Israel (Exodus 31:12-17; Ezekiel 20:12, 20)
- C. Not Given to the Gentiles as a Law
  - 1. Only one of the ten commandments not repeated in the New Testament
  - 2. No man to be judged for not keeping it (Colossians 2:16-17)
- D. A Day of Rest (Exodus 20:8-11; Exodus 35:1-3; Leviticus 23:3)



### III. THE SEVEN ORIGINAL FEASTS

#### A. Feast of the Passover (Leviticus 23:4-5)

1. It was the fourteenth day of the first month and to be eaten at even
2. Established at the time of the tenth plague as a remembrance to the deliverance from Egypt (Exodus 11:1-10; Exodus 12:1-20)
3. **A type of the crucifixion** (1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Peter 3:18)
4. The day of the crucifixion (from 6PM to 6PM)
  - a. The passover meal was eaten.
  - b. The Lord's Supper was instituted.
  - c. Prayer and arrest in Gethsemane
  - d. The trial before the high priest
  - e. Christ's appearance before Herod
  - f. The trial before Pilate
  - g. Christ was crucified.
  - h. Christ was buried.

#### B. Feast of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:6-8)

1. The fifteenth day of the first month lasting through the twenty-first day
2. Unleavened bread eaten throughout
3. No work to be done on the first and seventh days of the feast
4. A burnt offering made every day
5. **A type of the holy sacrifice of Christ** (Numbers 28:17-19; Leviticus 1:1-3 with 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5)

#### C. Feast of the Firstfruits (Leviticus 23:9-14)

1. On the morrow after the sabbath following the feast of unleavened bread. This would always be a Sunday.
2. The feast of unleavened Bread was on a particular day of the month and therefore the day of the week would change from year to year. Since the feast of firstfruits was on a particular day of the week (Sunday), the gap between the two feasts would not be the same each year. When Christ died, the feast of the passover occurred on the day of His crucifixion and the feast of firstfruits occurred on the day of His resurrection.
3. A sheaf of firstfruits was waved before the Lord
4. **A type of the resurrection of Christ** (1 Corinthians 15:19-23)

#### D. Feast of Weeks or Pentecost (Leviticus 23:15-22)

1. Fifty days from the feast of firstfruits (inclusive of both feast days)
2. A new meat offering was made
3. **A type of the New Testament Day of Pentecost when the believers were baptized with the Holy Ghost** (Acts 2:1-4; Romans 8:9)



- E. Feast of Trumpets (Leviticus 23:23-25)
  - 1. The first day of the seventh month
  - 2. The Jewish New Year
  - 3. No work to be done
  - 4. Commemorated by the blowing of trumpets
  - 5. **A type of the coming of Christ** (Matthew 24:30-31)
  
- F. Day of Atonement (Leviticus 23:26-32)
  - 1. The tenth day of the seventh month
  - 2. No work to be done
  - 3. A day to afflict their souls (Leviticus 23:27, 29)
  - 4. The day of the annual offering by the high priest in the most holy place (Leviticus chapter 16)
  - 5. **A type of Israel's reconciliation** (Jeremiah 31:34; Hebrews 10:15-17)
  
- G. Feast of Tabernacles (Leviticus 23:33-44)
  - 1. Began the fifteenth day of the seventh month and lasted until the twenty-second day
  - 2. No work to be done on the first and eighth day of the feast
  - 3. To live in roughly constructed booths for seven days (Leviticus 23:40-42)
  - 4. Commemorates the time Israel wandered in the wilderness (Leviticus 23:43)
  - 5. **A type of God's dwelling with His people in their future millennial kingdom** (Ezekiel 37:27)

#### IV. THE SPECIAL YEARS

- A. Sabbath Year (Leviticus 25:1-7)
  - 1. Every seventh year
  - 2. A year of rest for the land
  - 3. Israel disobedient to this command (Leviticus 26:34-35; 2 Chronicles 36:21)
  
- B. Year of Jubilee (Leviticus 25:8-55)
  - 1. Every fiftieth year after the seventh sabbath year
  - 2. Land to be returned to original family owners
  - 3. Slaves to be freed
  - 4. Debts to be forgiven
  - 5. Land to rest (Leviticus 25:11)
  - 6. God's provision promised (Leviticus 25:20-22)



# Bible History

## *Old Testament History Books*

### I. THE CONQUEST AND JUDGES

#### A. Continuous History

1. Joshua—deals with the conquest of Canaan and the dividing of the land
2. Judges—deals with the time of the judges who delivered and ruled Israel between the conquest and the introduction of kings

#### B. Storyline

1. The book—Ruth (a woman lead)
2. The time—during the days of the judges

### II. THE KINGS

#### A. Continuous History

1. First Samuel—begins with Samuel’s birth and covers the reign of Saul
2. Second Samuel—deals with the reign of David
3. First Kings—deals with the reign of Solomon and the early kings of both of Judah and Israel
4. Second Kings—deals with the remaining kings of both Judah and Israel up to the Babylonian captivity

#### B. Storyline

1. First Chronicles—retells the spiritual aspect of Israel’s history with a focus on the reign of David
2. Second Chronicles—retells the spiritual aspect of the kings of Judah from Saul to the Babylonian captivity with news of a return

### III. THE CAPTIVITY AND RETURNS

#### A. Continuous History

1. Ezra—deals with the first and second return from Babylonian captivity
2. Nehemiah—deals with the third return from Babylonian captivity

#### B. Storyline

1. The book—Esther (a woman lead)
2. The time—during the book of Ezra between the first and second return