

Jewish Holidays

(Bibliography Compiled by Dr. Loretta Kuse)

Rosh Hashanah

Day - Tishri 1-2 (7th month) September

Scriptural References - Leviticus 23: 24-25; Numbers 29:1-6.

Commemoration or Celebration - (The first day of the New Year)

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Feast of Gedalia (Tzom Gedaliah)

Day - 3 Tishri (7th month)

Origin - Rabbinic

Commemoration or Celebration -Fast day commemorating the assassination of Judean governor Gedaliah, 585 B. C. E.

Bibliography

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Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)

Day - 10 Tishri (7th month) (September-October)

Scriptural References - Leviticus 16; Leviticus 23:26-32

Commemoration - Day of Atonement - Sacrifices for sins of the nation

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Sukkoth (Feast of Tabernacles - Feast of the Booths - Festival of Booths)

Day - 15-22 Tishri (7th month) (September - October)

Scriptural References - Exodus 23:16; Exodus 34:22; Leviticus 23:33-36, 39-43; Numbers 29:12-32; Deuteronomy 16:13-16; Ecclesiastes; Nehemiah 8

Commemoration - Festival of Booths

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Sukkoth (8th Day of Assembly) Shemini Atzeret

Day - 22 Tishrei (October)

Scriptural References - (See references for Sukkoth)

Commemoration - (Biblical)

Bibliography

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Simchas Torah (Rejoicing of the Law)

Day -23 Tishri (7th month) (October)

Scriptural References - (Similar observances - Nehemiah 8:9; 1 Esd. 9:50)

Origin - Medieval

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Rosh Hodesh (New Moon Day)

Day - 1 Tishrei; 1 Heshvan; 1 Kislev; 1 Tevet; 1 Sh'vat; 1 Adar 1; 1 Adar 2 - (Adar Sheni Additional month in Jewish leap year); 1 Nissan; 1 Iyar; 1 Sivan; 1 Tammuz; 1 Av; 1 Elul.

Scriptural References - Numbers 10:10; Numbers 28:14; Numbers 29:6; 1 Samuel 20:5, 18, 24; 2 Kings 4:23; Judith 8:6; 1 Macc. 10:34; Psalm 81:3; Isaiah 1:13; Isaiah 47:13; Isaiah 66:23; Ezekiel 45:1, 6; Hosea 5:7; Amos 8:5; Colossians 2:16

Commemoration - New Moon

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Chanukah (Feast of Lights)

Day - 25 Kislev (9th month)

Scriptural References - Maccabees; John 10:22

Commemoration - Restoration of the temple in 164 B.C. - Rededication of the Temple.

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Asarah B'Tevet

Day - 10 Tevet (10 month) (January)

Origin - Rabbinic

Commemoration - The tenth of Tevet, a fast commemorating laying siege to Jerusalem, leading to the Churban.

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Tu B'Shvat

Day - 15 Sh'vat (11th month)

Origin - Rabbinic

Commemoration - The New Year of the Trees - Tree planting.

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Fast of Esther - Ta'anit Esther

Day - 13 Adar 1 (12th month)

Origin - Rabbinic

Commemoration - The Fast of Esther

Bibliography

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Purim (Feast of Lots)

Day - 14 Adar Sheni - Adar 2 (February - March)

Scriptural References - Esther 9

Commemoration - Feast of Lots; deliverance from destruction in Persia; fifth century B.C.E.; Failure of plot against Jews by Haman.

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Pesach (Passover)

Day - 15 - 22 Nissan (First month) (April)

Scriptural References - Exodus 12; Leviticus 23:4-8.

Commemoration - The celebration of the Exodus from Egypt; the festival of freedom.

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Sefirat Ha'Omer

Day - 16 Nissan - Sivan 5 (First month) (April - June)

Scriptural References - References to the barley harvest - Ruth 1:22; 2 Samuel 21:9; Judith 8:2

Commemoration - The seven-week count of the Omer, the barley harvest

Bibliography

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Yom Hasho'ah (Holocaust Day of Remembrance)

Day - 27 Nissan (1st month) (April - May)

Origin - Modern

Commemoration - Holocaust Remembrance Day

Bibliography

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Cardozo, A. (1982). Jewish family celebrations. New York: St. Martin's Press, pp. 167-173.

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Yom Hazikaron

Day - 4 Iyar (2nd month) April-May

Origin - Modern

Commemoration - Israel Memorial Day

Yom Hazikaron

Bibliography

Greenberg, B. (1983). How to run a traditional Jewish household. New York: Simon and Schuster, pp. 304, 307, 308, 453.

Yom Ha'atzma'ut (Israel Independence Day)

Day - 5 Iyar (2nd month) (April-May)

Origin - Modern

Commemoration - Israel Independence Day

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Lag B' Omer

Day - 18 Iyar (Second month) (May)

Origin - Rabbinic

Commemoration - The thirty-third day of the Omer count

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Yom Yerushalayim

Day - 28 Iyar (2nd month) (May)

Origin - Modern

Commemoration - Jerusalem Reunification Day

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Shavuoth (Feast of Weeks) (Pentecost) (Feast of Harvest)

Day - 6-7 Sivan (3rd month) May-June

Scriptural References - Exodus 23:16; Deuteronomy 16:9-12; Leviticus 23:9-14; Ruth

Commemoration - Celebration of the Harvest - Celebrates the giving of the Torah

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Fast of Tammuz - Shivah Asar B'Tammuz

Day - 17 Tammuz (4th month) (July)

Origin - Rabbinic

Commemoration - The seventeenth of Tammuz, a fast commemorating the penetration of the walls of Jerusalem preceding the Churban (the destruction of the Temple)

Bibliography

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Tisha B 'Av (Fast of Av)

Day - 9 Av (5th month) (July - August)

Origin - Rabbinic - (Read Lamentations)

Commemoration - The ninth day of Av; a fast commemorating the Churban, the destruction of the Holy Temple in 586 B.C.E. and in 70 C.E.

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Teshuvah

Day - 1-29 Elul (6th month) (August)

Origin - Rabbinic

Commemoration - Repentance

Bibliography

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Sabbath

Day - Friday at sundown till Saturday evening

Scriptural References - Exodus 16:23-29; Exodus 20:8-11; Exodus 31:14-16; Exodus 35:2-3; Leviticus 16:31; Leviticus 23:3-32; Leviticus 24:8; Leviticus 25:2-6; Numbers 15:32; Numbers 28:9-10; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Nehemiah 9:14; Nehemiah 10:32; Nehemiah 13:15-22; Psalm 92; Isaiah 56:2-6; Isaiah 58:13; Isaiah 66:23; Jeremiah 17:21-27; Ezekiel 45:1-12

Commemoration - A day of rest

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Sabbatical Year

Scriptural References - Exodus 23:10-11; Deuteronomy 15:1-2

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The Year of Jubilee

Scriptural References - Leviticus 25:8-16, 23-55.

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Birth and (Circumcision - Brit Milah and Naming)

Day - Synagogue naming service for daughter and circumcision for son.

Scriptural References - Genesis 34:17; Exodus 4:26; 1 Maccabees 1:15; 1 Maccabees 2:46; Luke 2:21; John 7:22-23; Acts 7:8

Commemoration - Incorporation of person into totality of the family and of the Jewish people.

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Bar Mitzvah, Bat Mitzvah

Day - Chosen day

Origin - Middle Ages and later

Commemoration - Time when adult responsibilities are taken

Bar Mitzvah, Bat Mitzvah

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Weddings

Origin - Scriptures - Many references to specific marriages and the need to remain faithful to a spouse.

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Death

Scriptural References - Many references to death and burial practices. (Genesis 47:30; Jeremiah 34:5; John 19:40)

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Jewish Holidays. Dates of major and minor Jewish holidays. Each holiday page includes a brief overview of special observances and customs, and any special Torah readings. All holidays begin at sundown on the evening before the date specified in the tables below. For example, if the dates for Rosh Hashana were listed as Sep 19-Sep 20, then the holiday begins at sundown on Sep 18 and ends at nightfall on Sep 20. Jewish Holidays TheRebbe.org Chabad.org Video ChabadU Audio Classes News Kabbalah Online The Jewish Woman Jewish Kids. The seven days of Sukkot—celebrated by dwelling in the sukkah, taking the Four Kinds, and rejoicing—is the holiday when we expose ourselves to the elements in covered huts, commemorating G-d's sheltering our ancestors as they traveled from Egypt to the Promised Land. The Four Kinds express our unity and our belief in G-d's omnipresence. Minor Jewish holidays may have a basis in the Biblical text, but are developed and understood through the writings of the Talmud and other rabbinical literature. There are just over a handful of these days, many of which have significance in the shadow of major holidays.

Jewish Holidays & Celebrations – List. The Jewish calendar affords us with opportunities throughout the year to celebrate, commemorate, and reflect deeply on the many layers of our lives. We gather as family and community to give thanks, offer respect, and stay connected to the ancient and modern traditions that shape Jewish life and identity. We remember, we re-enact, and we retain the light for generations to come. We also honor the moments, experiences, and values we hold in fresh, but powerful ways. Jewish holidays, also known as Jewish festivals or Yamim Tovim, are holidays observed in Judaism and by Jews throughout the Hebrew calendar. They include religious, cultural and national elements, derived from three sources: biblical mitzvot ("commandments"), rabbinic mandates, and the history of Judaism and the State of Israel. Jewish holidays occur on the same dates every year in the Hebrew calendar, but the dates vary in the Gregorian. This is because the Hebrew calendar is a lunisolar calendar Jewish holidays are on the same date every year but on the Hebrew calendar, not the Gregorian calendar that most of us use. Because the Hebrew calendar is a lunar calendar that has been adjusted to reflect some elements of the solar calendar it means that the length of the year (and dates) do not line up with the Gregorian calendar, which is purely solar. Hard copy Jewish calendars listing all of the Jewish holidays abound with both the –regular– Gregorian dates and the Hebrew dates; you can even download it right onto The following are all the holidays observed on the Jewish calendar. This is definitely not an exhaustive list, as there are holidays that some of us don't observe or even understand. Specifically mentioned in the Torah, these holidays are the oldest and most important within Judaism. Often the rules and laws regulating conduct on the Sabbath apply to these holidays, regardless of what day of the week they fall on. During the Temple Periods these holidays would have been celebrated by pilgrimages and