

The CTN Jewish Literacy Series: The Jewish Calendar – Source Sheet

1. And the L-RD spoke unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying: **'This month shall be unto you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you ...** on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty first day of the month ... (Exodus, 12:2-18)
2. Three times you shall keep a feast unto Me in the year ... The feast of unleavened bread you shall keep ... at the time appointed **in the spring month ...** and the feast of ingathering **around the end of the year**, when you gather in your labors out of the field. (Exodus 23: 14-16)
3. Speak unto the children of Israel, saying: In **the seventh month**, in the first day of the month, shall be a solemn rest unto you, a memorial proclaimed with the blast of horns, a holy convocation. (Leviticus 23:24)
4. "Today is the anniversary of the **creation of the world**" (From the Rosh Hashanah Prayer Book)
5. You shall dwell in booths seven days ... so that your generations may know that I gave the Children of Israel to dwell in booths **when I brought them out of the land of Egypt ...** (Leviticus 23:43)
6. And the L-RD spoke unto Moses, saying ... these are My Holidays ...
Six days shall work be done; but on the seventh day is a Sabbath ...
In the first month, on fifteenth day ... is the feast of unleavened bread ... And ye shall count seven weeks and ... there shall be a holy day ...
And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corner of thy field, nor shall you gather the gleaning of thy harvest; you shall leave them for the poor, and for the stranger: I am the L-RD your God ...
In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall be a solemn rest unto you, a memorial proclaimed with the blast of a horn ...
On the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement ...
On the fifteenth day of this seventh month is the Feast of Tabernacles ...
These are the appointed seasons of the L-RD ... (Leviticus 23:1- 37)
7. = month / new = (solar) year / repeat (constant)
8. *"A Jew moves through time in a cycle we call the year. (It helps to envision an analog clock with calendar dates marked off instead of numbers.) Time does not pass. It is we who pass through time. Each year, we arrive at the same point in time that we left the previous year. Each festival is a 'stop' on life's journey. Each stop has its own particular spiritual potential and influences. For instance ... Passover day imbues us with the ability to experience freedom ... in the same way that our ancestors experienced freedom when they left Egypt. ... Each year's Passover stop is designed to allow us to add to the treasure trove of experiences and insights we developed during previous Passovers, so that each year witnesses the maturation and growth of our personal Passover structure. So it is regarding ... each of the holidays."* (R. Eliyahu Dessler, *Michtav Me'Eliyahu*)