

# 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)

### Bibliography

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- Greenfeld, H. (1979). Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, pp. 7-20.
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Rossel, S. (1976). Judaism. New York: Franklin Watts, pp. 16,18, 31.

## **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**

Greenberg, B. (1983). How to run a traditional Jewish household. New York: Simon and Schuster, pp. 305, 330, 470.

## **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**

#### **Bibliography**

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Rossel, S. (1976). Judaism. New York: Franklin Watts, pp. 28,31.

## **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**

#### **Bibliography**

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- Gilbertson, M. (1959). The way it was in Bible times. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, pp. 72-73.
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- Jeremias, J. (1969). Jerusalem in the time of Jesus. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, pp. 50, 60, 92, 151, 169, 209, 264, 334.
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- Rossel, S. (1976). Judaism. New York: Franklin Watts, pp. 31-32.

## **Sukkoth (8th Day of Assembly) Shemini Atzeret**

### **Day - 22 Tishrei (October)**

### **Scriptural References - (See references for Sukkoth)**

### **Commemoration - (Biblical)**

#### **Bibliography**

- Greenberg, B. (1983). How to run a traditional Jewish household. New York: Simon and Schuster, p. 305-306, 352, 365-367.

## **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

#### Bibliography

- Adler, D. (1981). A picture book of Jewish holidays. New York: Holiday House, pp. 16-17.
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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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- Adler, D. (1981). A picture book of Jewish holidays. New York: Holiday House, p. 31.

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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.**

#### **Bibliography**

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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.**

#### **Bibliography**

Greenberg, B. (1983). How to run a traditional Jewish household. New York: Simon and Schuster, pp. 305, 444, 469.

## **Tu B'Shvat**

### **Day - 15 Sh'vat (11th month)**

#### **Origin - Rabbinic**

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

#### **Bibliography**

Adler, D. (1981). A picture book of Jewish holidays. New York: Holiday House, pp. 20-21

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## **Fast of Esther - Ta'anit Esther**

### **Day - 13 Adar 1 (12th month)**

### **Origin - Rabbinic**

### **Commemoration - The Fast of Esther**

#### **Bibliography**

Greenberg, B. (1983). How to run a traditional Jewish household. New York: Simon and Schuster, pp. 305-306, 391- 392.

## **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.**

#### **Bibliography**

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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.**

#### **Bibliography**

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- Bates, B. (1968). Bible festivals and Holy days. Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman Press, pp. 80-92.
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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

Greenberg, B. (1983). How to run a traditional Jewish household. New York: Simon and Schuster, pp. 217-218, 304, 438-442.

## Yom Hasho'ah (Holocaust Day of Remembrance)

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

**Origin - Modern**

**Commemoration - Holocaust Remembrance Day**

### Bibliography

Adler, D. (1981). A picture book of Jewish holidays. New York: Holiday House, p. 31.

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Rossel, S. (1976). Judaism. New York: Franklin Watts, p. 37.

## 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

#### Bibliography

- Adler, D. (1981). A picture book of Jewish holidays. New York: Holiday House, pp. 26-27.
- Burstein, C. (1983). The Jewish kids catalog. Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America, p. 107.
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- Rossel, S. (1976). Judaism. New York: Franklin Watts, pp. 37, 39.

### Lag B' Omer

## Day - 18 Iyar (Second month) (May)

### Origin - Rabbinic

### Commemoration - The thirty-third day of the Omer count

#### Bibliography

- Adler, D. (1981). A picture book of Jewish holidays. New York: Holiday House, p. 31.
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Rossel, S. (1976). Judaism. New York: Franklin Watts, p. 37.

## Yom Yerushalayim

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

#### **Origin - Modern**

#### **Commemoration - Jerusalem Reunification Day**

##### Bibliography

Adler, D. (1981). A picture book of Jewish holidays. New York: Holiday House, p. 31.

Greenberg, B. (1983). How to run a traditional Jewish household. New York: Simon and Schuster, pp. 218, 304, 307, 308, 440.

## 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**

##### Bibliography

Adler, D. (1981). A picture book of Jewish holidays. New York: Holiday House, pp. 28-29.

Bates, B. (1968). Bible festivals and Holy days. Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman Press, pp. 93-105.

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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**

Greenberg, B. (1983). How to run a traditional Jewish household. New York: Simon and Schuster. pp. 304, 417.

## **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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- Adler, D. (1981). A picture book of Jewish holidays. New York: Holiday House, p. 30.
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## Teshuvah

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

#### **Origin - Rabbinic**

#### **Commemoration - Repentance**

## Bibliography

- Greenberg, B. (1983). How to run a traditional Jewish household. New York: Simon and Schuster, pp. 202, 305, 311,314

## 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**

## Bibliography

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## Sabbatical Year

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

#### Bibliography

- Gilbertson, M. (1959). The way it was in Bible times. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, p. 112.
- Jeremias, J. (1969). Jerusalem in the time of Jesus. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, pp. 114, 132, 136, 143.

## The Year of Jubilee



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

### Bibliography

Gilbertson, M. (1959). The way it was in Bible times. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, p. 113

## **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.**

Cardozo, A. (1982). Jewish family celebrations. New York: St. Martin's Press, pp. 186-196.

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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**

### Bibliography

Cardozo, A. (1982). Jewish family celebrations. New York: St. Martin's Press, 163, 184-185, 193-194, 206-216, 233,234

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Metter, B. (1984). Bar Mitzvah, Bat Mitzvah: How Jewish boys and girls come of age. New York: Ticknor and Fields - A Houghton Mifflin Company.

Rosenblum, R. (1985). My Bar Mitzvah. New York: Morrow.

Rossel, S. (1976). Judaism. New York: Franklin Watts, p.23

### Weddings

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

### Bibliography

Cardozo, A. (1982). Jewish family celebrations. New York: St. Martin's Press, pp. 217-226.

Domnitz, M. (1986). Judaism. New York: The Bookwright Press, pp. 25-26.

Drucker, M. (1984). Celebrating life: Jewish rites of passage. New York: Holiday House, pp. xi, xii, 8, 23, 28, 36, 42,47- 64.

Greenberg, B. (1983). How to run a traditional Jewish household. New York: Simon and Schuster, pp. 215-232, 439, 440.

Rossel, S. (1976). Judaism. New York: Franklin Watts, pp. 25-26.

### Death

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

### Bibliography

Cardozo, A. (1982). Jewish family celebrations. New York: St. Martin's Press, pp. 198-205.

Gilbertson, M. (1959). The way it was in Bible times. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, pp. 50-51.

Greenberg, B. (1983). How to run a traditional Jewish household. New York: Simon and Schuster, p. 291.

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 [TheRebbe.org](#) [Chabad.org](#) [Video ChabadU](#) [Audio Classes](#) [News](#) [Kabbalah Online](#) [The Jewish Woman](#) [Jewish Kids](#). The 15th of Shevat on the Jewish calendar is the day that marks the beginning of a “new year” for trees. Visit [Tubshevat.org](#). Visit [VirtualPurim.org](#). The above is the list of 2020 religious holidays declared in Jewish which includes observations, religious days, holidays and popular celebrations. We also provide Jewish holiday calendar for 2020 in Word, Excel, PDF and printable online formats. [Social Media](#). [CalendarLabs](#). [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.