

Jewish Feasts and Festivals

NAME	MONTH: DATE	REFERENCE	SIGNIFICANCE
Passover	Nisan (Mar./Apr.): 14–21	Exod 12:2–20; Lev 23:5	Commemorates God’s deliverance of Israel out of Egypt.
Feast of Unleavened Bread	Nisan (Mar./Apr.): 15–21	Lev 23:6–8	Commemorates God’s deliverance of Israel out of Egypt. Includes a Day of Firstfruits for the barley harvest.
Feast of Weeks, or Harvest (Pentecost)	Sivan (May/June): 6 (seven weeks after Passover)	Exod 23:16; 34:22; Lev 23:15–21	Commemorates the giving of the law at Mount Sinai. Includes a Day of Firstfruits for the wheat harvest.
Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah)	Tishri (Sept./Oct.): 1	Lev 23:23–25; Num 29:1–6	Day of the blowing of the trumpets to signal the beginning of the civil new year.
Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)	Tishri (Sept./Oct.): 10	Lev 23:26–33; Exod 30:10	On this day the high priest makes atonement for the nation’s sin. Also a day of fasting.
Feast of Booths, or Tabernacles (Sukkot)	Tishri (Sept./Oct.): 15–21	Lev 23:33–43; Num 29:12–39; Deut 16:13	Commemorates the forty years of wilderness wandering.
Feast of Dedication, or Festival of Lights (Hanukkah)	Kislev (Nov./Dec.): 25–30; and Tebeth (Dec./Jan.): 1–2	John 10:22	Commemorates the purification of the temple by Judas Maccabaeus in 164 B.C.
Feast of Purim, or Esther	Adar (Feb./Mar.): 14	Esth 9	Commemorates the deliverance of the Jewish people in the days of Esther. ¹

Note: Color Highlighted festivals were to be celebrated in Jerusalem only. Several events could occur during the same Jerusalem visit, as indicated by the differing highlighted colors.

¹ Adapted from Smith, M. A. E., Swann, J., Butler, T. C., Church, C. L., & Dockery, D. S. (1993). [Holman book of biblical charts, maps, and reconstructions](#) (p. 56). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.