

The Year

Count from the beginning of creation: 5782

Secular years are counted BCE (Before the Common Era) and CE (Common Era)

The Month

New moon = New month = Rosh Chodesh (a holiday that is special to women)

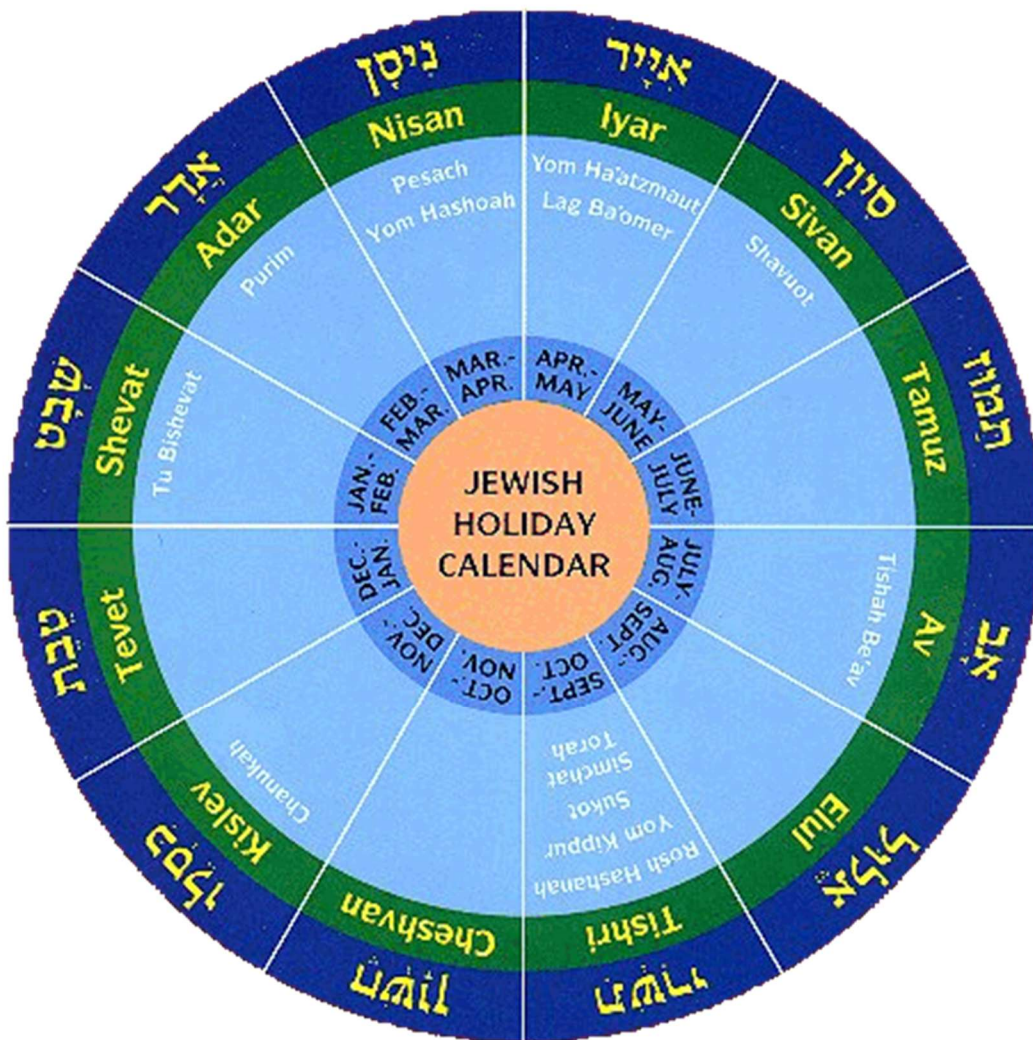
Leap year requires adding a whole month 7 times every 19 years

The Week

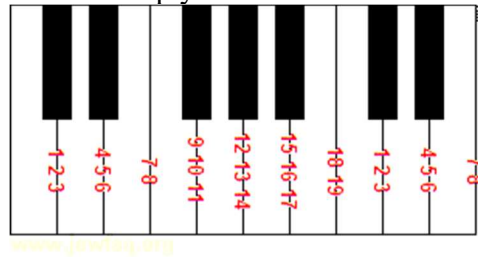
Shabbat to Shabbat

The Day

There was evening, there was morning = a day



In the fourth century, Hillel II established a fixed calendar based on mathematical and astronomical calculations. This calendar, still in use, standardized the length of months and the addition of months over the course of a 19 year cycle, so that the lunar calendar realigns with the solar years. Adar I is added in the 3rd, 6th, 8th, 11th, 14th, 17th and 19th years of the cycle. The current cycle began in Jewish year 5758 (the year that began October 2, 1997). If you are musically inclined, you may find it helpful to remember this pattern of leap years by reference to the major scale: for each whole step there are two regular years and a leap year; for each half-step there is one regular year and a leap year. This is easier to understand when you examine the keyboard illustration below and see how it relates to the leap years above.



## Months of the Jewish Year

The names of the months of the Jewish calendar were adopted during the time of Ezra, after the return from the Babylonian exile. The names are actually Babylonian month names, brought back to Israel by the returning exiles. Note that most of the Bible refers to months by number, not by name.

Hebrew	English	Number	Length	Civil Equivalent
ניסן	Nissan	1	30 days	March-April
אייר	Iyar	2	29 days	April-May
סיון	Sivan	3	30 days	May-June
תמוז	Tammuz	4	29 days	June-July
אב	Av	5	30 days	July-August
אלול	Elul	6	29 days	August-September
תשרי	Tishri	7	30 days	September-October
חשוון	Cheshvan	8	29 or 30 days	October-November
כסלו	Kislev	9	30 or 29 days	November-December
טבת	Tevet	10	29 days	December-January
שבט	Shevat	11	30 days	January-February
אדר א'	Adar I (leap years only)	12	30 days	February-March
אדר ב' אדר	Adar (called Adar Beit in leap years)	12 (13 in leap years)	29 days	February-March