

HOLY DAYS

There are 8 annual Holy Biblical Observances... None of which were ritualistic celebrations, but evidence of divine instruction in the everyday lives and well-being of a people who had not previously known freedom.

SPRING

DAY 1 | RESHOWN CHEDESH

Literally, the "**first new moon**". It's the biblical **new year** which marks the the month Israel was brought out of Egyptian captivity.

It is **the first new moon in spring**, measured today by the spring (the grain harvest season) equinox.

Ref: Exo. 12:1, 13:4 | Num 10:10, 33:3, 28:11-15 | Deut 16:1

DAY 15 | PESACH

Known as "**Passover**", it is literally "**hop over**". It's the memorial of the emancipation of the children of Israel from Egyptian captivity.

It is the **14th day after the 1st New Moon**. It is observed exactly **2 weeks after Reshown Chedesh**.

Ref: Exo 12:11, 27, 43, 48, 34:25 | Lev 23:5 | Num 9:1-14, 28:16, 33:3

1ST SUNDAY AFTER PESACH | CHEG HAKUTSIR

The "**Feast of First Fruits**" is similar to the family cookouts in the park that most southern black families participate in on this day to celebrate the extra-biblical Easter Sunday.

Its a gathering in celebration of the end of the first grain harvest of the season which occurs on the **1st Sunday after Pesach**. This is also the 2nd day of the Hheg Hamatsowt (Feast of Unleavened Bread).

Ref: Exo 23:16 | Lev 23:16-22

DAY 16 THRU 22 | CHEG HAMATSOWT

This is the "**Feast of Unleavened Ones**" although we say the "**Feast of Unleavened Bread**".

It is **7 days beginning on the 15th day of the 1st New Moon and ending on the 22nd day**.

Ref: Exo 23:15 | Lev 28:17-25 | Deut 16:3-7

SPRING'S END

7 WEEKS AFTER THE CHEG HAKUTSIR | HASHABBATH HASHABBAYAT

Literally, the The "**Seven Sevens**", often referred to as the "Feast of Weeks". It's a feast in celebration of the end of the spring harvest season.

It is **exactly seven weeks after the Feast of First Fruits**; thus it also occurs on a Sunday.

Ref: Lev 23:16-22 | Num 28:26-31

FALL

DAY 1 | SHABATOWN ZACAROWN

The "**Sabbath of Remembrance**" is a **day of remembering, grieving, preparing goats hair coverings and cooking**. It marks a change in season.

It's the day of the **7th new moon of the biblical year** which occurs in September or October on the Gregorian calendar.

Ref: Lev 23:23 - 25 | Num 23:1-6

DAY 9 THRU 10 | YOM HACAFAREEM

The "**Day of Coverings**", often called the "**Day of Atonement**", is a daytime fast spent at home Away from others.

It occurs from the **evening of the 9th day of 7th new moon to the Evening of the 10th day**.

Ref: Lev 23:6-32 | Num 29:7-11

DAY 15 THRU 22 | CHEG HASACCOWT

The "**Feast of the Coverings**", often called the "**Feast of Tabernacles**" is the last day of the harvest year and a time of preparation for the winter season, hence the coverings.

It is on the **15th through the 22nd day of the 7th New Moon**.

Ref: Lev. 23:33-43 | Num 29:12-40 | Deut 16:13-15

FAQs

Where are the winter holy days?

Despite common beliefs, there are no biblical holy days in winter. In fact, the fall holy days were all about storing food and preparing coverings (animal skins) for a winter inside.

What about Hanukkah?

Hannukkah, also known as the "Feast of Dedication" was not an annual celebration for ancient Hebrews. Rather, it was an event that only occurred when new government or communal facilities were established. During that time, the ancient Israelites would dedicate or donate temple goods such as food, cookware, and decor for use in the new temple/government/communal facilities.

Ref: Num 8 | Num 6-8 | Kings 8:63-66 | Ezra 6 | Psalms 60 | 1 Maccabees 4