

This is the 2020 calendar.

NOTE: For 2020, the High Holy days by this calendar differ only slightly from the traditional Jewish calendar differing only by one day (see chart at right) primarily due to the way the two calendars determine the 1st day of the month. However, Hebrew months between the two calendars remain out-of-sync until late March when the leap month required for the current Hebrew year (5780) is completed and the two calendars are back in-sync for the month of Nisan. Unfortunately, the Torah readings between the two calendars continue to differ until July 11th. The readings remain in-sync between the two calendars until the week of Sukkot when they differ once again by one week due to the one day difference in the dates of Sukkot. The one-week difference remains to the end of the calendar year. Questions can be directed to The Refiner's Fire, Calendar@therefinersfire.org.

This calendar has no authority! You are not asked or expected to follow it. See the detailed explanation for this calendar beginning on the Appendix following the December calendar grid. Genesis 1:14 says "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to divide the day from the night; let them be for signs, seasons, days and years". In our estimation a calendar should use the real sun, moon and stars as they are witnesses in and of themselves – i.e., no "two (human) witnesses" are needed to attest to a "sighted crescent" to determine the beginning of the month.

Levites of old observed the moon throughout the whole month, every month, including far more than just the new crescent: full moon rise & set, old crescent position with respect to the sun at sunrise, day of the unseen conjunction, as well as the time of sunset in Jerusalem. All these heavenly witnesses come together to provide knowledge of the 1st day of the new Hebrew month in advance. Indeed, when the new month arrived, the sighting of the crescent only established that the 1st day had just ended, and the new crescent only sanctified that the month had already begun. (See Maimonides).

While the modern traditional rabbinic calendar *calculates* the 1st day of a new month by an "average moon" and by man-made "rules" establishing *future* High Holy Days (commanded Feast Days) such that the rabbis don't permit Yom Kippur to fall on Friday or Sunday, this calendar permits all Holy Days to fall when they fall! This calendar also recognizes the importance of the *Full Moon* as a Genesis 1:14 witness of the middle of the Hebrew calendar month. In general, in Jerusalem when the Hebrew date at sunset becomes the 14th or 15th (depending on if the month is to be 29 or 30 days), a full or nearly full moon should be observed to rise. The moon is *clearly* announcing the middle of the month! If instead you relied on the "sighted moon", then *the month will have always begun a day or two late*, and come the middle of the calendar month, the *moon will be observed to rise an hour or more after sunset*, already well-past full, indicating the calendar is clearly not right because the moon itself is declaring the month is well past half over!

This calendar recognizes that when the Moon is "renewed", in conjunction before

A note on the colors used in the calendar grids:

- Dates colored "Blue" denote the 1st of the Hebrew month (which actually began at sunset the prior evening).
- Dates colored "Yellow" denote the period of the Full Moon.
- Dates colored "Green" denote the period when the moon is renewed.
- High Holy Days are indicated with a RED border.
- The days of the Feast of Unleavened bread and Sukkot observances are indicated with a Blue border.
- The weekly Shabbat is always a NO WORK day, but is not specifically highlighted.
- As always: The Hebrew day begins at local sunset the evening before the calendar date shown in the grids.
- Be sure to read the 9-page explanation of this calendar at the end of this document.

sunset in Israel, thus the sunset that very evening becomes the *first day* of the new month. Therefore, this calendar lists the time of New Moon from Jerusalem and the time of sunset in Jerusalem as an aid to validate the correct 1st day. Again, refer to the details following the December calendar page.

Summary of the Holy Days for 2020

- **Pesach:** Apr 7 (Pesach begins late afternoon and into the evening)
- **Feast of Unleavened Bread:** Apr 8 to 14 (1st and last day are High Sabbath* days)
- **First Fruits:** Apr 9 (1st day of Omer)
- **Shavuot:** May 28 (High Sabbath day)
- **Yom Teruah:** Sep 18 (High Sabbath day)
- **Yom Kippur:** Sep 27 (High Sabbath day)
- **Sukkot:** Oct 2 to 9 (1st and last day are High Sabbath days)

Compare to the 2020 Rabbinic dates:

- Pesach: Apr 8
- FULB: Apr 9-15
- First Fruits: Apr 10
- Shavuot: May 29
- Yom Teruah: Sep 19
- Yom Kippur: Sep 28
- Sukkot: Oct 3-10

(*High Sabbath: These are the set-apart days of the commanded feasts. They are called "high Sabbaths" because they are days of holy convocations, no work, time with YHWH, and rest. The weekly Sabbath is set apart on its own, distinct from the high Sabbaths. See Leviticus 23.)

The Hebrew Calendar:

Month	Name	Falls in:	Month	Name	Falls in:
1	Nisan	Mar-Apr	7	Tishri	Sep-Oct
2	Iyar	Apr-May	8	Cheshvan	Oct-Nov
3	Sivan	May-Jun	9	Kislev	Nov-Dec
4	Tammuz	Jun-Jul	10	Tevet	Dec-Jan
5	Av	Jul-Aug	11	Shevat	Jan-Feb
6	Elul	Aug-Sep	12	Adar (I)	Feb-Mar
			13†	Adar (II)	Mar-Apr

(†The new moon of Nisan each year is chosen so Pesach falls on or after the start of Spring. If Pesach would fall before Spring, then a "leap month" is added. In leap years, the 2nd Adar is always known as "Adar" though on calendars the two months are usually labeled "Adar I & Adar II", or "Adar & Adar Sheni". Purim and Adar birthdays are always in the 2nd Adar if there is one that year.)

Note: "Parsha", the weekly Torah portion, is used in the calendar grids. It is the same as "Parashat ha-Shavua".

January 2020 (5780)

Yom Rishon Sun-day	Yom Sheni Mon-day	Yom Sh'lishi Tues-day	Yom Revi'i Wednes-day	Yom Chamishi Thurs-day	Yom Shishi Fri-day	Shabbat
Dec 29 3 Shevat	Dec 30 4 Shevat	Dec 31 5 Shevat	Jan 1 6 Shevat	Jan 2 7 Shevat	Jan 3 8 Shevat	Jan 4 9 Shevat Parsha 15) Bo : Torah: Exodus 10:1-13:16 Haftarah: Jeremiah 46:13-28 Brit Chadasha: Luke 2:22-24; John 19:31-37; Acts 13:16-17; Revelation 8:6-9:12
Jan 5 10 Shevat	Jan 6 11 Shevat	Jan 7 12 Shevat	Jan 8 13 Shevat	Jan 9 14 Shevat	Jan 10 15 Shevat FM 9:21 PM (Note the late, but not unusual Full Moon time)	Jan 11 16 Shevat Parsha 16) B'shallach : Torah: Exodus 13:17-17:16 Haftarah: Judges 4:4-5:31 Brit Chadasha: John 6:25-35, 19:31-37; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; Revelation 15:1-4
Jan 12 17 Shevat	Jan 13 18 Shevat	Jan 14 19 Shevat	Jan 15 20 Shevat	Jan 16 21 Shevat	Jan 17 22 Shevat	Jan 18 23 Shevat Parsha 17) Yitro : Torah: Exodus 18:1-20:23 Haftarah: Isaiah 6:1-7:14 Brit Chadasha: 1 Timothy 3:1-14
Jan 19 24 Shevat	Jan 20 25 Shevat	Jan 21 26 Shevat	Jan 22 27 Shevat	Jan 23 28 Shevat	Jan 24 29 Shevat SS 5:05 PM NM 11:42 PM	Jan 25 30 Shevat Parsha 18) Mishpatim : Torah: Exodus 21:1-24:18 Haftarah: Jeremiah 34:8-22, 31:31-34 Brit Chadasha: Hebrews 9:15-22
Jan 26 1 Adar I	Jan 27 2 Adar I	Jan 28 3 Adar I	Jan 29 4 Adar I	Jan 30 5 Adar I	Jan 31 6 Adar I	

February 2020 (5780)

Yom Rishon Sun-day	Yom Sheni Mon-day	Yom Sh'lishi Tues-day	Yom Revi'i Wednes-day	Yom Chamishi Thurs-day	Yom Shishi Fri-day	Shabbat
						Feb 1 7 Adar I Parsha 19) Terumah: Torah: Exodus 25:1-27:19 Haftorah: 1 Kings 5:12-6:13 Brit Chadasha: Hebrews 8:1-13.
Feb 2 8 Adar I	Feb 3 9 Adar I	Feb 4 10 Adar I	Feb 5 11 Adar I	Feb 6 12 Adar I	Feb 7 13 Adar I	Feb 8 14 Adar I Parsha 20) Tetzaveh: Torah: Exodus 27:20-30:10 Haftorah: Ezekiel 43:10-27 Brit Chadasha: Philipians 4:10-20.
Feb 9 15 Adar I FM 9:33 AM	Feb 10 16 Adar I	Feb 11 17 Adar I	Feb 12 18 Adar I	Feb 13 19 Adar I	Feb 14 20 Adar I	Feb 15 21 Adar I Parsha 21) Ki Tissa: Torah: Exodus 30:11-34:35 Haftorah: 1 Kings 18:1-39 Brit Chadasha: 2 Corinthians 3:1-8.
Feb 16 22 Adar I	Feb 17 23 Adar I	Feb 18 24 Adar I	Feb 19 25 Adar I	Feb 20 26 Adar I	Feb 21 27 Adar I	Feb 22 28 Adar I Parsha 22) Vayachel: Torah: Exodus 35:1-38:20 Haftorah: 1 Kings 7:40-50 Brit Chadasha: Hebrews 9:1-14
Feb 23 29 Adar I SS 5:32 PM NM 5:32 PM	Feb 24 30 Adar I	Feb 25 1 Adar II	Feb 26 2 Adar II	Feb 27 3 Adar II	Feb 28 4 Adar II	Feb 29 5 Adar II Parsha 23) Pekudei: Torah: Exodus 38:21-40:38 Haftorah: 1 Kings 7:51-8:21 Brit Chadasha: Acts 1:1-11.

(Blue—Hebrew month; new moon day, Green—Moon Renewed, Yellow—Full Moon, RED border—High Holy Day, Blue border—Moed observance) (Hebrew day begins @ sunset prior) (NOTE: All Clock Times are in Jerusalem time)

March 2020 (5780)

Yom Rishon Sun-day	Yom Sheni Mon-day	Yom Sh'lishi Tues-day	Yom Revi'i Wednes-day	Yom Chamishi Thurs-day	Yom Shishi Fri-day	Shabbat
Mar 1 6 Adar II	Mar 2 7 Adar II	Mar 3 8 Adar II	Mar 4 9 Adar II	Mar 5 10 Adar II	Mar 6 11 Adar II	Mar 7 12 Adar II Parsha 24) Vayiqra : Torah: Leviticus 1:1-6:1 Haftorah: Isaiah 43:21-44:23 Brit Chadasha: Romans 8:1-13 (Fast of Esther begins on the 13 th which is at sunset tonight.)
Mar 8 13 Adar II Fast of Esther	Mar 9 14 Adar II Purim outside of Israel. Purim inside of Israel begins @ sunset. (Scroll of Esther read). FM 7:48 PM	Mar 10 15 Adar II Purim inside of Israel. (Scroll of Esther read).	Mar 11 16 Adar II	Mar 12 17 Adar II	Mar 13 18 Adar II	Mar 14 19 Adar II Parsha 25) Tzav : Torah: Leviticus 6:1-8:36 Haftorah: Jeremiah 7:21-8:3 Brit Chadasha: Romans 12:1-8 Shabbat (Purim) Parah : Exodus 17:8-16, Numbers 19:1-22, Ezekiel 36:16-38, John 11:45-53.
Mar 15 20 Adar II	Mar 16 21 Adar II	Mar 17 22 Adar II	Mar 18 23 Adar II	Mar 19 24 Adar II	Mar 20 25 Adar II Vernal Equinox 05:50 AM	Mar 21 26 Adar II Parsha 26) Shemini : Torah: Leviticus 9:1-11:47 Haftorah: 2 Samuel 6:1-7:17 Brit Chadasha: Mark 7:1-23.
Mar 22 27 Adar II	Mar 23 28 Adar II	Mar 24 29 Adar II NM 11:24 AM SS 5:53 PM	Mar 25 1 Nisan	Mar 26 2 Nisan	Mar 27 3 Nisan	Mar 28 4 Nisan Parsha 27) Tazria : Torah: Leviticus 12:1-13:59 Haftorah: 2 Kings 4:42-5:19 Brit Chadasha: Matthew 8:1-4; Luke 17:11-19
Mar 29 5 Nisan	Mar 30 6 Nisan	Mar 31 7 Nisan	Note that, finally, the natural progression of the sun and moon permits this calendar and the traditional, rabbinic calendar to once again unify. The new moon of March is the 1 st month of both calendars. The scripture readings, of course, remain out-of-sync, but which Torah portion is read each week is only a tradition, we apply the traditional reading by our calendar and not the traditional calendar.			

(Blue—Hebrew month; new moon day, Green—Moon Renewed, Yellow—Full Moon, RED border—High Holy Day, Blue border—Moed observance) (Hebrew day begins @ sunset prior) (NOTE: All Clock Times are in Jerusalem time)

April 2020 (5780)

Yom Rishon Sun-day	Yom Sheni Mon-day	Yom Sh'lishi Tues-day	Yom Revi'i Wednes-day	Yom Chamishi Thurs-day	Yom Shishi Fri-day	Shabbat
			Apr 1 8 Nisan	Apr 2 9 Nisan	Apr 3 10 Nisan	Apr 4 11 Nisan Parsha 28) Mtzora : Torah: Leviticus 14:1-15:33 Haftorah: 2 Kings 7:3-20 Brit Chadasha: Mark 5:24-34
Apr 5 12 Nisan	Apr 6 13 Nisan	Apr 7 14 Nisan Passover lamb slain late afternoon today. 1st day of FULB* (15th) begins at sunset. FM 4:35 AM (Watch for Full Moon to rise at sunset)	Apr 8 15 Nisan High Shabbat-FULB* Pesach**, 1st day: Exodus 12:21-51, Numbers 28:16-25, Joshua 3:5-7, 5:2-6:1; Luke 2:41-52 Omer count begins @sunset	Apr 9 16 Nisan "FirstFruits" 1st day of Omer Pesach, FULB 2nd day: Leviticus 22:26-23:44, Numbers 28:16-25, 2 Kings 23:1-9, 21-25; John 18:28-40	Apr 10 17 Nisan Omer 2 Pesach, FULB 3rd day	Apr 11 18 Nisan Omer 3 Pesach, FULB 4th day Shabbat of the week of Pesach/FULB: Exodus 33:12-34:26, Numbers 28:16-25, 2 Samuel 22:1-51, Luke 23:54-56
Apr 12 19 Nisan Omer 4 Pesach, FULB 5th day	Apr 13 20 Nisan Omer 5 Pesach, FULB 6th day	Apr 14 21 Nisan Omer 6 Pesach, FULB 7th day High Shabbat-no work allowed. Deuteronomy 15:19-16:17, Isaiah 10:32- 12:6, John 21:1-25	Apr 15 22 Nisan Omer 7	Apr 16 23 Nisan Omer 8	Apr 17 24 Nisan Omer 9	Apr 18 25 Nisan Omer 10 Parsha 29) Acharei Mot : Torah: Leviticus 16:1-18:30 Haftorah: 2 Kings 4:42-5:19 Brit Chadasha: Matthew 8:1-4; Luke 17:11-19
Apr 19 26 Nisan Omer 11	Apr 20 27 Nisan Omer 12	Apr 21 28 Nisan Omer 13	Apr 22 29 Nisan Omer 14	Apr 23 30 Nisan Omer 15 NM 4:26 AM SS 6:14 PM	Apr 24 1 Iyar Omer 16	Apr 25 2 Iyar Omer 17 Parsha 30) Kedoshim : Torah: Leviticus 19:1-20:27 Haftorah: Amos 9:7-15 Brit Chadasha: Acts 15:1-21
Apr 26 3 Iyar Omer 18	Apr 27 4 Iyar Omer 19	Apr 28 5 Iyar Omer 20	Apr 29 6 Iyar Omer 21	Apr 30 7 Iyar Omer 22	*FULB = "Feast of Unleavened Bread" ** Pesach is actually only the afternoon and evening of 14 Nisan, but the whole week, including the FULB is generally considered "Pesach" (or "Passover").	

(Blue—Hebrew month; new moon day, Green—Moon Renewed, Yellow—Full Moon, RED border-High Holy Day, Blue border-Moed observance) (Hebrew day begins @ sunset prior) (NOTE: All Clock Times are in Jerusalem time)

May 2020 (5780)

Yom Rishon Sun-day	Yom Sheni Mon-day	Yom Sh'lishi Tues-day	Yom Revi'i Wednes-day	Yom Chamishi Thurs-day	Yom Shishi Fri-day	Shabbat
					May 1 8 Iyar Omer 23	May 2 9 Iyar Omer 24 Parsha 31) Emor : Torah: Leviticus 21:1-24:23 Haftorah: Ezekiel 44:15-31 Brit Chadasha: Colossians 2:11-23
May 3 10 Iyar Omer 25	May 4 11 Iyar Omer 26	May 5 12 Iyar Omer 27	May 6 13 Iyar Omer 28	May 7 14 Iyar Omer 29 FM 12:45 PM	May 8 15 Iyar Omer 30	May 9 16 Iyar Omer 31 Parsha 32) BaHar : Torah: Leviticus 25:1-26:2 Haftorah: Jeremiah 32:6-27 Brit Chadasha: Luke 4:16-21; Galatians 5:1-13
May 10 17 Iyar Omer 32	May 11 18 Iyar Omer 33	May 12 19 Iyar Omer 34	May 13 20 Iyar Omer 35	May 14 21 Iyar Omer 36	May 15 22 Iyar Omer 37	May 16 23 Iyar Omer 38 Parsha 33) BeChukkotai : Torah: Leviticus 26:3-27:34 Haftorah: Jeremiah 16:19-17:14 Brit Chadasha: Ephesians 2:11-19
May 17 24 Iyar Omer 39	May 18 25 Iyar Omer 40	May 19 26 Iyar Omer 41	May 20 27 Iyar Omer 42	May 21 28 Iyar Omer 43	May 22 29 Iyar Omer 44 SS 6:34 PM NM 7:39 PM	May 23 30 Iyar Omer 45 Parsha 34) BaMidbar : Torah: Numbers 1:1-4:20 Haftorah: Hosea 2:1-11 Brit Chadasha: Luke 2:1-7; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31
May 24 1 Sivan Omer 46	May 25 2 Sivan Omer 47	May 26 3 Sivan Omer 48	May 27 4 Sivan Omer 49	May 28 5 Sivan Shavuot (Weekly & High Shabbat, no work) Torah: Exodus 19:1-20:26 Numbers: 28:26-31. Haftorah: Ezekiel 1:1-28, 3:12 Brit Chadasha: Acts1:1-2:47	May 29 6 Sivan	May 30 7 Sivan Parsha 35) Naso : Torah: Numbers 4:21-7:89 Haftorah: Judges 13:2-25 Brit Chadasha: Acts 21:17-32 FM 11:11 PM
May 31 8 Sivan	Note that Shavuot here, the 50 th day of the Omer, is the 5th of Sivan while in the traditional calendar it is <u>always</u> the 6th of Sivan . It is the 5 th of Sivan this year because, in any year, when counting days from the actual 1 st day of the month <i>by the moon</i> , the 50 th day omer count from First Fruits can be on the 5 th , 6 th , or 7 th of Sivan depending on whether or not the months between both had 29 days or both had 30 days or one had 29 and the other 30, and in this year that happens on the 5 th of Sivan.					

(Blue—Hebrew month; new moon day, Green—Moon Renewed, Yellow—Full Moon, RED border—High Holy Day, Blue border—Moed observance) (Hebrew day begins @ sunset prior) (NOTE: All Clock Times are in Jerusalem time)

June 2020 (5780)

Yom Rishon Sun-day	Yom Sheni Mon-day	Yom Sh'lishi Tues-day	Yom Revi'i Wednes-day	Yom Chamishi Thurs-day	Yom Shishi Fri-day	Shabbat
	Jun 1 9 Sivan	Jun 2 10 Sivan	Jun 3 11 Sivan	Jun 4 12 Sivan	Jun 5 13 Sivan FM 9:12 PM	Jun 6 14 Sivan Parsha 36) B'Haalotcha: Torah: Numbers 8:1-12:16 Haftorah: Zechariah 2:14-4:7 Brit Chadasha: Hebrews 4:1-16
Jun 7 15 Sivan	Jun 8 16 Sivan	Jun 9 17 Sivan	Jun 10 18 Sivan	Jun 11 19 Sivan	Jun 12 20 Sivan	Jun 13 21 Sivan Parsha 37) Shlach Lecha: Torah: Numbers 13:1-15:41 Haftorah: Joshua 2:1-24 Brit Chadasha: Hebrews 3:7-19
Jun 14 22 Sivan	Jun 15 23 Sivan	Jun 16 24 Sivan	Jun 17 25 Sivan	Jun 18 26 Sivan	Jun 19 27 Sivan	Jun 20 28 Sivan Parsha 38) Korach: Torah: Numbers 16:1-18:32 Haftorah: 1 Samuel 11:14-12:22 Brit Chadasha: Jude 1:1-25 Summer Solstice 11:44 PM
Jun 21 29 Sivan NM 8:41 AM SS 6:48 PM	Jun 22 1 Tammuz	Jun 23 2 Tammuz	Jun 24 3 Tammuz	Jun 25 4 Tammuz	Jun 26 5 Tammuz	Jun 27 6 Tammuz Parsha 39) Chukat: Torah: Numbers 19:1-22:1 Haftorah: Judges 11:1-33 Brit Chadasha: John 3:19-21
Jun 28 7 Tammuz	Jun 29 8 Tammuz	Jun 30 9 Tammuz				

(Blue—Hebrew month; new moon day, Green—Moon Renewed, Yellow—Full Moon, RED border—High Holy Day, Blue border—Moed observance) (Hebrew day begins @ sunset prior) (NOTE: All Clock Times are in Jerusalem time)

July 2020 (5780)

Yom Rishon Sun-day	Yom Sheni Mon-day	Yom Sh'lishi Tues-day	Yom Revi'i Wednes-day	Yom Chamishi Thurs-day	Yom Shishi Fri-day	Shabbat
			Jul 1 10 Tammuz	Jul 2 11 Tammuz	Jul 3 12 Tammuz	Jul 4 13 Tammuz Parsha 40) Balak : Torah: Numbers 22:2-25:9 Haftorah: Micah 5:6-6:8 Brit Chadasha: 2 Peter 2:1-22
Jul 5 14 Tammuz FM 6:44 AM	Jul 6 15 Tammuz	Jul 7 16 Tammuz	Jul 8 17 Tammuz	Jul 9 18 Tammuz	Jul 10 19 Tammuz	Jul 11 20 Tammuz Parsha 41) Pinchus : Torah: Numbers 25:10-30:1 Haftorah: 1 Kings 18:46-19:21 Brit Chadasha: Acts 2:1-21
Jul 12 21 Tammuz	Jul 13 22 Tammuz	Jul 14 23 Tammuz	Jul 15 24 Tammuz	Jul 16 25 Tammuz	Jul 17 26 Tammuz	Jul 18 27 Tammuz Parsha 42) Matot : Torah: Numbers 30:1-32:42 Haftorah: Jeremiah 1:1-2:3 Brit Chadasha: Matthew 5:33-37 Parsha 43) Masei : Torah: Numbers 33:1-36:13 Haftorah: Jeremiah 2:4-28 Brit Chadasha: James 4:1-12
Jul 19 28 Tammuz	Jul 20 29 Tammuz SS 6:44 PM NM 7:33 PM	Jul 21 30 Tammuz	Jul 22 1 Av	Jul 23 2 Av	Jul 24 3 Av	Jul 25 4 Av Parsha 44) Devarim : Torah: Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22 Haftorah: Isaiah 1:1-27 Brit Chadasha: John 15:1-11.
Jul 26 5 Av	Jul 27 6 Av	Jul 28 7 Av	Jul 29 8 Av Tisha b'Av begins at sunset.	Jul 30 9 Av "Tisha b'Av"-fast for the Rabbinic day the Temples were destroyed. Actual destruction dates are on the 10 th of Av.	Jul 31 10 Av	

(Blue—Hebrew month; new moon day, Green—Moon Renewed, Yellow—Full Moon, RED border—High Holy Day, Blue border—Moed observance) (Hebrew day begins @ sunset prior) (NOTE: All Clock Times are in Jerusalem time)

August 2020 (5780)

Yom Rishon Sun-day	Yom Sheni Mon-day	Yom Sh'lishi Tues-day	Yom Revi'i Wednes-day	Yom Chamishi Thurs-day	Yom Shishi Fri-day	Shabbat
						Aug 1 11 Av Parsha 45) VaEtchanan : Torah: Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11 Haftorah: Isaiah 40:1-26 Brit Chadasha: Matthew 4:1-11
Aug 2 12 Av	Aug 3 13 Av FM 5:59 PM (The moon becomes "full" after it has set).	Aug 4 14 Av	Aug 5 15 Av	Aug 6 16 Av	Aug 7 17 Av	Aug 8 18 Av Parsha 46) Ekev : Torah: Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25 Haftorah: Isaiah 49:14-51:3; 52:1-15 Brit Chadasha: Luke 4:1-13
Aug 9 19 Av	Aug 10 20 Av	Aug 11 21 Av	Aug 12 22 Av	Aug 13 23 Av	Aug 14 24 Av	Aug 15 25 Av Parsha 47) Re'eh : Torah: Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17 Haftorah: Isaiah 44:11-45:5 Brit Chadasha: 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; 1 John 4:1-6, 2:18-25
Aug 16 26 Av	Aug 17 27 Av	Aug 18 28 Av	Aug 19 29 Av NM 4:42 AM SS 6:18 PM	Aug 20 1 Elul	Aug 21 2 Elul	Aug 22 3 Elul Parsha 48) Shoftim : Torah: Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9 Haftorah: Isaiah 9:1-6, 49:1-6 Brit Chadasha: Acts 7:35-60
Aug 23 4 Elul	Aug 24 5 Elul	Aug 25 6 Elul	Aug 26 7 Elul	Aug 27 8 Elul	Aug 28 9 Elul	Aug 29 10 Elul Parsha 49) Ki Teze : Torah: Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19 Haftorah: Isaiah 40:1-11 Brit Chadasha: Mark 1:1-14
Aug 30 11 Elul	Aug 31 12 Elul					

(Blue—Hebrew month; new moon day, Green—Moon Renewed, Yellow—Full Moon, RED border—High Holy Day, Blue border—Moed observance) (Hebrew day begins @ sunset prior) (NOTE: All Clock Times are in Jerusalem time)

September 2020 (5780/5781)

Yom Rishon Sun-day	Yom Sheni Mon-day	Yom Sh'lishi Tues-day	Yom Revi'i Wednes-day	Yom Chamishi Thurs-day	Yom Shishi Fri-day	Shabbat
		Sep 1 13 Elul	Sep 2 14 Elul FM 7:22 AM	Sep 3 15 Elul	Sep 4 16 Elul	Sep 5 17 Elul Parsha 50) Ki Tavo : Torah: Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8 Haftorah: Isaiah 60:1-22 Brit Chadasha: Matthew 13:1-23
Sep 6 18 Elul	Sep 7 19 Elul	Sep 8 20 Elul	Sep 9 21 Elul	Sep 10 22 Elul	Sep 11 23 Elul	Sep 12 24 Elul Parsha 51) Nitzavim : Torah: Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20 Haftorah: Isaiah 61:1-63:9 Brit Chadasha: Romans 9:30-10:13
Sep 13 25 Elul	Sep 14 26 Elul	Sep 15 27 Elul	Sep 16 28 Elul	Sep 17 29 Elul Yom Teruah/Rosh Hashanna begins at sunset. NM 1:00 PM SS 5:42 PM	Sep 18 1 Tishri (5781) (High Shabbat, no work) Torah: Leviticus 23:23-25; Numbers 29:1-6; Brit Chadasha: Matthew 24:30-31; 1 Thes 4:16-17; Revelation 11:158	Sep 19 2 Tishri Parsha 52) Vayelech : Torah: Deuteronomy 31:1-31:30 Haftorah: Hosea 14:1-10 Brit Chadasha: Matthew 28:16-20.
Sep 20 3 Tishri	Sep 21 4 Tishri	Sep 22 5 Tishri Autumnal Equinox 3:31 PM	Sep 23 6 Tishri	Sep 24 7 Tishri	Sep 25 8 Tishri	Sep 26 9 Tishri Parsha 53) HaAzinu : Torah: Deuteronomy 32:1-32:52 Haftorah: 2 Samuel 22:1-51 Brit Chadasha: Romans 10:14-21 Yom Kippur begins at sunset. Fast begins before sunset and ends after sunset 10 Tishri.
Sep 27 10 Tishri YOM KIPPUR High Shabbat (no work allowed) <u>Yom Kippur, Morning:</u> Leviticus 16:1-34, Numbers 29:7-11, Isaiah 57:14-58:14, Matthew 27:1-32 <u>Yom Kippur, Afternoon:</u> Leviticus 18:1-30, Jonah 1:1-4:11, Micah 7:18-20, Matthew 27:33-66	Sep 28 11 Tishri	Sep 29 12 Tishri	Sep 30 13 Tishri	Note how Yom Kippur, by our calendar, falls on a Sunday. By the traditional rabbinical calendar "rules", that can never happen. Thus, on the traditional calendar, Yom Kippur falls on Sep 28 th . This is because the rabbis decided that back-to-back High Holy Days should not be permitted. We don't believe in adding such man-made rules to the scriptural calendar.		

(Blue—Hebrew month; new moon day, Green—Moon Renewed, Yellow—Full Moon, RED border—High Holy Day, Blue border—Moed observance) (Hebrew day begins @ sunset prior) (NOTE: All Clock Times are in Jerusalem time)

October 2020 (5781)

Yom Rishon Sun-day	Yom Sheni Mon-day	Yom Sh'lishi Tues-day	Yom Revi'i Wednes-day	Yom Chamishi Thurs-day	Yom Shishi Fri-day	Shabbat
				Oct 1 14 Tishri FM 11:05 PM (Watch the moon rise tonight – it will look completely full!)	Oct 2 15 Tishri Sukkot, 1st Day: Leviticus 22:26-23:44, Numbers 29:12-16, Zechariah 14:1-21, John 1:1-14, 7:1-36	Oct 3 16 Tishri Sukkot, 2nd Day: Leviticus 22:26-23:44, Numbers 29:12-16, Ecclesiastes 3:1-22, 1 Kings 8:2-21, John 1:1-14, 7:1-36
Oct 4 17 Tishri Sukkot, 3rd Day	Oct 5 18 Tishri Sukkot, 4th Day	Oct 6 19 Tishri Sukkot, 5th Day	Oct 7 20 Tishri Sukkot, 6th Day	Oct 8 21 Tishri Sukkot, 7th Day	Oct 9 22 Tishri Sukkot, Last Day: Deut 14:22-16:17, Num 29:35-30:1, 1 Kings 8:54-66 Parsha 54) VeZot HaBrachah Torah: Deut 33:1-34:12 Haftarah: Joshua 1:1-18 Gospels and Emissaries: John 7:37-52 and Matthew 5:1-20 The Major Testimonies: Jude 1:8-9	Oct 10 23 Tishri Parsha 1) Beresheeth: Torah: Genesis 1:1-6:8 Haftarah: Isaiah 42:5-43:10 Brit Chadasha: John 1:1-18 (Note: Torah readings from now to the end of the calendar year deviate from the traditional calendar due to the slight difference in the dates of Sukkot. This is regrettable but unavoidable.)
<p>Note: The Refiner's Fire added Ecclesiastes 3:1-22 to the reading on the Shabbat Chol HaMo'ed Sukkot, the Shabbat during the observance of the Sukkot, Oct 3. You may read all of Ecclesiastes if you wish. Sukkot is to be a joyous time (Leviticus 23:40). During the intermediate days of Sukkot, celebrate in the presence of Elohim, eat meals in your sukkah, give thanks and commune with Elohim daily in joy.</p>						
Oct 11 24 Tishri	Oct 12 25 Tishri	Oct 13 26 Tishri	Oct 14 27 Tishri	Oct 15 28 Tishri	Oct 16 29 Tishri SS 5:06 PM NM 9:31 PM	Oct 17 30 Tishri Parsha 2) Noach: Torah: Genesis 6:9-11:32 Haftarah: Isaiah 54:1-55:5 Brit Chadasha: Matthew 24:36-44
Oct 18 1 Cheshvan	Oct 19 2 Cheshvan	Oct 20 3 Cheshvan	Oct 21 4 Cheshvan	Oct 22 5 Cheshvan	Oct 23 6 Cheshvan	Oct 24 7 Cheshvan Parsha 3) Lech Lecha: Torah: Genesis 12:1-17:27 Haftarah: Isaiah 40:27-41:16 Brit Chadasha: Romans 3:19-5:6
Oct 25 8 Cheshvan	Oct 26 9 Cheshvan	Oct 27 10 Cheshvan	Oct 28 11 Cheshvan	Oct 29 12 Cheshvan	Oct 30 13 Cheshvan	Oct 31 14 Cheshvan Parsha 4) Vayera: Torah: Genesis 18:1-22:24 Haftarah: 2 Kings 4:1-37 Brit Chadasha: James 2:14-24 FM 4:49 PM

November 2020 (5781)

Yom Rishon Sun-day	Yom Sheni Mon-day	Yom Sh'lishi Tues-day	Yom Revi'i Wednes-day	Yom Chamishi Thurs-day	Yom Shishi Fri-day	Shabbat
Nov 1 15 Cheshvan	Nov 2 16 Cheshvan	Nov 3 17 Cheshvan	Nov 4 18 Cheshvan	Nov 5 19 Cheshvan	Nov 6 20 Cheshvan	Nov 7 21 Cheshvan Parsha 5) Chayai Sarah: Torah: Genesis 23:1-25:18 Haftorah: 1 Kings 1:1-31 Brit Chadasha: Matthew 8:19-22; Luke 9:37-62
Nov 8 22 Cheshvan	Nov 9 23 Cheshvan	Nov 10 24 Cheshvan	Nov 11 25 Cheshvan	Nov 12 26 Cheshvan	Nov 13 27 Cheshvan	Nov 14 28 Cheshvan Parsha 6) Toldot: Torah: Genesis 25:19-28:9 Haftorah: Malachi 1:1-2:7 Brit Chadasha: Romans 9:6-16
Nov 15 29 Cheshvan NM 7:07 AM SS 4:40 PM	Nov 16 1 Kislev	Nov 17 2 Kislev	Nov 18 3 Kislev	Nov 19 4 Kislev	Nov 20 5 Kislev	Nov 21 6 Kislev Parsha 7) Vayetze: Torah: Genesis 28:10-32:2 Haftorah: Hosea 12:13-14:10 Brit Chadasha: John 1:43-51
Nov 22 7 Kislev	Nov 23 8 Kislev	Nov 24 9 Kislev	Nov 25 10 Kislev	Nov 26 11 Kislev	Nov 27 12 Kislev	Nov 28 13 Kislev Parsha 8) Vayishlach: Torah: Genesis 32:3-36:43 Haftorah: Hosea 11:7-12:12 Brit Chadasha: 1 Corinthians 5:1-13
Nov 29 14 Kislev	Nov 30 15 Kislev FM 11:30 AM					

(Blue—Hebrew month; new moon day, Green—Moon Renewed, Yellow—Full Moon, RED border—High Holy Day, Blue border—Moed observance) (Hebrew day begins @ sunset prior) (NOTE: All Clock Times are in Jerusalem time)

December 2020 (5781)

Yom Rishon Sun-day	Yom Sheni Mon-day	Yom Sh'lishi Tues-day	Yom Revi'i Wednes-day	Yom Chamishi Thurs-day	Yom Shishi Fri-day	Shabbat
		Dec 1 16 Kislev	Dec 2 17 Kislev	Dec 3 18 Kislev	Dec 4 19 Kislev	Dec 5 20 Kislev Parsha 9) Vayeshev : Torah: Genesis 37:1-40:23 Haftorah: Amos 2:6-3:8 Brit Chadasha: Acts 7:9-16
Dec 6 21 Kislev	Dec 7 22 Kislev	Dec 8 23 Kislev	Dec 9 24 Kislev Hanukkah begins at sunset	Dec 10 25 Kislev HANUKKAH 1	Dec 11 26 Kislev HANUKKAH 2	Dec 12 27 Kislev HANUKKAH 3 Parsha 10) Mikketz : Torah: Genesis 41:1-44:17 Haftorah: 1 Kings 3:15-4:1 Brit Chadasha: Acts 7:9-16. <u>Shabbat for Hanukkah</u> : Zechariah 2:14-17, 1 Kings 7:40-50, Matthew 12:1-13, John 10:1-22
Dec 13 28 Kislev HANUKKAH 4	Dec 14 29 Kislev HANUKKAH 5 SS 4:37 PM NM 6:17 PM	Dec 15 30 Kislev HANUKKAH 6	Dec 16 1 Tevet HANUKKAH 7	Dec 17 2 Tevet HANUKKAH 8	Dec 18 3 Tevet	Dec 19 4 Tevet Parsha 11) Vayigash : Torah: Genesis 44:18-47:27 Haftorah: Ezekiel 37:15-28 Brit Chadasha: John 10:11-19
Dec 20 5 Tevet	Dec 21 6 Tevet Winter Solstice 12:02 PM	Dec 22 7 Tevet	Dec 23 8 Tevet	Dec 24 9 Tevet	Dec 25 10 Tevet	Dec 26 11 Tevet Parsha 12) Vayechi : Torah: Genesis 47:28-50:26 Haftorah: 1 Kings 2:1-12 Brit Chadasha: 1 Peter 2:11-17
Dec 27 12 Tevet	Dec 28 13 Tevet	Dec 29 14 Tevet (Watch the nearly moon rise tonight – announcing the 15th)	Dec 30 15 Tevet FM 5:28 AM	Dec 31 16 Tevet	Jan 1, 2021 17 Tevet	Jan 2 18 Tevet Parsha 13) Shemot : Torah: Exodus 1:1-6:1 Haftorah: Isaiah 27:6-28:13 Brit Chadasha: John 17:1-26

2020 The Refiner's Fire calendar, copyright 2017-2020

(Blue—Hebrew month; new moon day, Green—Moon Renewed, Yellow—Full Moon, RED border-High Holy Day, Blue border-Moed observance) (Hebrew day begins @ sunset prior) (NOTE: All Clock Times are in Jerusalem time)

Detailed explanation of this Calendar:

This calendar originated because the modern calendar of Judaism, (the “current (authorized) Hebrew calendar” or what we often refer to as the “traditional Hebrew calendar”, “traditional rabbinic calendar”, or “modern Jewish calendar”), is so clearly wrong. Just how the current Hebrew calendar is wrong will be addressed shortly. However, we recognize that *no individual or group* has any responsibility or authority for the “authorized Hebrew calendar”, so we recognize this calendar has no authority, and as such, we do not, and have never expected, demanded, requested or required that anyone follow this calendar! So, you may wish to ask: “Without authority, why do you advocate this calendar?” It is a fair question we hope to answer herein.

The answer begins with the fact that Elohim our Creator commanded His Feast Days, His Moedim (appointed times), to be kept at the right time of each year beginning with Pesach (Passover, Deuteronomy 16:1 and 16:6). As you will learn shortly, the traditional Hebrew calendar (which again, I acknowledge is the only *authorized* calendar) not only often begins a new month when the Moon itself has not yet declared itself “renewed”, but, more and more often, as the decades pass, errs by establishing the 1st month (Nisan) at the wrong new moon! Our “The Refiner’s Fire” calendar seeks to provide a calendar which reproduces all the heavenly signs of the sun, moon, and stars - as these bodies alone (Genesis 1:14) should declare and establish the commanded Moedim in their proper seasons (to all who would make the effort watch for the signs.)

Who are we to take on such responsibility? Who are we to say we know what is right and what is not? We are just a teaching ministry! We have no authority! And we are *not* saying “We’re right while others are wrong!” However, I’ve observed and studied the sun, moon, and stars for over 50 years and we find few others are looking at the current traditional Hebrew calendar and recognizing its *clear* errors and we feel a responsibility to at least identify the problems, inform people, and advocate a solution more in-line with scripture. The sun, moon, and stars are actually there, in the sky all the time, for anyone to *actually observe* and see how the calendar works – as they did for thousands of years – yet *hardly anyone today* does – or even knows how!

There is, today, no **Great Sanhedrin**. The Great Sanhedrin is the only body authorized in Judaism to adjudicate the calendar. *There has been no authorized Sanhedrin since the 4th century CE* (1500 years ago)– yet modern Judaism has repeatedly changed the originally approved calendar, adding new man-made rules and requirements *well after* the last Great Sanhedrin was disbanded. Indeed, the current Hebrew calendar has been altered several times in the last 1500 years, *without Sanhedrin authority*. (Some will take exception to that comment, citing that “today’s rabbis carry the authority”, but the fact remains that today’s rabbis do not hold the authority of the Great Sanhedrin and today’s Hebrew calendar is, as a result, largely a mess!) Even those in Israel attempting to restore an authorized Sanhedrin recognize the current Hebrew calendar is growing more and more out-of-sync with the actual sun, moon and stars! See:

https://therefinersfire.org/Sanhedrin_Calendar.pdf

What is so wrong with the current Hebrew Calendar? Much! But in a nutshell:

1. The current Hebrew calendar calculates the first day of each new month using an “average moon” instead of the real moon. That is, the lunation is fixed to approximately 29.53 days, while the lunation of the actual moon varies from a low of 29.27 to a high 29.84 days. The result is that sometimes the 1st of the calendar month is declared by the traditional calendar when the moon clearly has not yet reached conjunction and has not been “renewed”. Thus, the calendar month sometimes begins a day too early and often it begins the month a day too late.
2. The length of each Hebrew month in the authorized calendar is fixed in advance while ignoring the actual signs of the moon! This means that the month of Nisan, for example, in the authorized calendar is always 30 days and the next month, Iyar is always 29 days. But by the actual moon, Nisan could be 29 days in one year, while Iyar would be 30, and so on, as declared by the actual signs of the moon. Cheshvan and Kislev, in the authorized calendar, are declared “floaters”, that is, they are set to 29 or 30 days depending on the need to keep the calendar year *fixed* to predetermined total number of days. Therefore, the length of the months of Cheshvan and Kislev are also not established by the real moon, rather, the lengths of the months are determined to satisfy man-made calendar rules.

3. The current Hebrew calendar “postpones” the 1st day of the 7th month to prevent Yom Kippur from falling on a Friday or a Sunday and to prevent the 7th day of Sukkot from falling on a Saturday. There is simply no scriptural foundation for this rule! None! It is established simply for convenience.
4. And, this is very important, the determination of the new moon establishing the *critical* 1st month of each year is determined by *the rigid application of the Metonic cycle*, where the required leap month is added by a *fixed schedule* of intercalation – completely ignoring the real moon! This sometimes causes the wrong new moon to be identified as the 1st month, the month of Nisan. This error, when it happens, establishes ALL COMMANDED FEAST DAYS for the entire following months of the year to be observed in the wrong lunar month! This is occurring more and more often in the modern Hebrew calendar as the centuries progress. (This problem is well recognized, even in modern Judaism – see the link in this article cited above.)

Applying the Metonic cycle to the Hebrew calendar is perfectly fine over the whole 19-year cycle, but it is dreadfully wrong to apply the “rules” of the Metonic cycle by its rigid schedule of intercalation within the 19-year period. The actual moon should declare which year should be the intercalary year, not a rigid, predetermined schedule!

5. And finally, the modern Hebrew calendar *assumes* the Vernal Equinox is the 25th of March – the date of the Vernal Equinox during the Julian calendar era in 45 BCE. But the Vernal Equinox since 1582 CE has always fallen between March 19th and March 21st by the Gregorian calendar which was established that year. Thus the modern Hebrew calendar ignores the actual Vernal Equinox, which contributes to the incorrect month chosen as Nisan in certain years.

So, you are probably asking: “If the current Hebrew calendar is so wrong, why not use the ‘sighted moon’ calendar? Isn’t that easier and more correct? Doesn’t that solve the problem?” *No, it does not solve the problem!* By waiting to spot the sighted moon, *one is automatically beginning EVERY month a day late, sometimes 2 days late!* To make a long story short, anyone who has actually watched the moon over many years would establish that the new visible crescent is only a solid

indication (i.e., sign) *that the new month has already begun!* By the time you can “see” the thin crescent, the moon has clearly, obviously moved passed its unseen renewal! This *should* be recognized as “unacceptable” for a calendar, yet the historical record suggests that the sighted crescent was presumably “the method” the ancient Hebrews established the 1st day of the new month. Can that be true? Actually, no, it is not true. The beginning of the month by the sighting of the lunar crescent is nothing more than a very long-held myth.

Maimonides, (also known as Rambam), a great rabbi of the late 12th century CE writes, in his book “The Sanctification of the New Moon”:

“Each month the moon disappears and becomes invisible for about two days, or somewhat more or less – for about one day at the end of the old month, before it reaches its conjunction with the sun, and for about one day after its conjunction with the sun. Then it reappears in the evening in the west, and this night, on which it becomes visible in the west after its disappearance, is the beginning of the month. From this day on, 29 days were counted, and if the new crescent appeared on the night of the 30th day, this 30th day was the first day of the new month. If however, it did not appear on that night, the 30th day would belong to the old month and the 31st day would be the first day of the new month. And no matter whether the moon did or did not appear in the night of the 31st day, no attention was paid to it, for the lunar month never lasts longer than thirty days.” (The Code of Maimonides, Book 3, Treatise 8, from the Hebrew by Solomon Gandz, 1956).

Please pay careful attention to what Maimonides was saying 800+ years ago! He said, (rephrasing): *If the crescent was spotted at sunset, that sunset did not become the 1st of the month, rather, the day just ending was declared the 1st day of the month!*

Maimonides said, in no uncertain terms, that you DO NOT begin the month with the sighting of the new crescent, rather, the new crescent is expected to be seen at the END of the 1st day of the month and that sometimes it will not be seen until the 2nd day is ending!

This is a most clear indication that rabbi Maimonides understood that the new month was NOT established by the sighted crescent, rather, the

new month was established by the unseen conjunction and the 1st calendar day was the first sunset which followed conjunction. When the crescent is spotted, it DOES NOT mean the 1st day was only just now beginning (as assumed by most today), rather, it means the 1st day was ending! Today's Karaites and most everyone else using the crescent have seriously misunderstood this and use the "sighted crescent" to begin the month. This misconception has been "ingrained" in history for so long, of course the historical record is going to suggest that the "sighted moon" begins the 1st day of the month! But it is wrong! Dreadfully wrong.

Also, determining the beginning of the month by sighting the crescent is NOT found in scripture as many argue. Most argue that "scripture says the 'chodesh', (Hebrew for the 'beginning of the month' or "head of the month"), is by the crescent". But scripture does not say that at all! Chodesh only means the "head of the month" or the "beginning of the month" – it does not convey how the 1st day is determined or require that a crescent be sighted.

So this is our (admittedly) unprovable belief: The methods of the ancient Levites were a closely guarded secret as to how they knew, in advance, the day of the conjunction and hence, which sunset marked the 1st day of the new month. It makes sense that the learned Levites who guarded the calendar would **not** want the general public to know their methods lest the Levites be accused of participating in activities of the occult and equated with all the pagans who used all the same signs (the many visible signs of the sun, moon, and stars) which were given to all people. Such "heavenly body worship" was forbidden of the Hebrews! (Deuteronomy 4:19.)

The sanctification of the month was therefore a celebratory event where members of the public were invited to bring their visual sighting of the new crescent moon to the seated Sanhedrin. This only meant that the sanctification was a "formalized party" to declare the new month had begun. Note that according to Maimonides, when the new crescent was spotted, and two lucky citizens were accepted as the "witnesses" of the great event, and upon accepting of their reports, the day just ending was announced as the 1st day of the new month, meaning at that very sunset, the date became the 2nd of the month! In this manner, the methods of the learned Levites who knew in advance which day would be the 1st day

of the new month, remained hidden, protected, guarded. Unfortunately, due to this elaborate ruse, the myth was born that the new month was "declared" by two human witnesses who spotted the crescent and it took root, supplanting reality.

So we reject the "sighted crescent" as the proper determination of the 1st of the new month because, in its apparent "simplicity", it errs significantly and is therefore simply folly. Yes, and we repeat, YES, we understand the historical record suggests the Hebrew calendar month was established by the "sighted crescent". We can't help it if the real, actual, visible-to-all-who-simply-look-for-them signs of the moon completely negate the method! The "sighted crescent", at least today's sighted crescent where the 1st day of the new month only begins at the sunset the crescent is observed, is simply wrong.

The importance of the Full Moon

While many simply can't accept or have never thought about the importance of this next concept and tend to dismiss it upon first hearing, *three of the seven annual Moedim are required to be at the MIDDLE of the month!* These are: 1) Passover; 2) the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread; and 3) the beginning of Sukkot. Thus, near the sunset of the 14th of the Hebrew calendar month, one SHOULD be able to turn toward the east and watch a full or nearly full moon rise! If the calendar says it is just now becoming the 15th of the month (i.e., sunset the 14th) and you watch for the moon to rise only to see it rise **well after** sunset, then *your calendar is dreadfully wrong, as your calendar clearly does not match the declared date by the moon itself!* We make no apologies for this simple, observable fact! The calendar month should be established by the moon and remain in-sync with the moon, and therefore the *calendar should match the signs the moon provides!*

Which leads to this calendar of The Refiner's Fire.

This calendar relies on a few simple facts. First: ***The moon is renewed at conjunction which is unseen and the 1st day of the new calendar month begins at the first sunset (in Israel) to follow that unseen conjunction.***

While many say: "You can't use the conjunction of the moon because the conjunction can't be seen and a 'sign' must be visible!", the truth is that the absence of the moon during conjunction IS the sign of conjunction! **Think about that a minute!** Clearly most "signs" would obviously be

expected to be visible, but the moon has a unique “sign”! The moon is always visible every day (at some time during every day or night) of every month, **except** and only except when it is at/near conjunction! That means, very clearly, that when the moon is *unseen*, it IS A SIGN, a very clear sign! The complete absence of something that would otherwise be visible, **IS** a sign!

It is inconceivable that anyone who has ever watched the repeating cycle of the moon could deny this. Maimonides clearly recognized this fact. The moon, very clearly, ends its “month” and begins its “new month” while not visible to us humans. Period.

So the only question is how can we know when the moon is in conjunction when it can't be seen?

Glad you asked! Turns out, there are two viable methods the ancients could have known the day the moon was in conjunction, even if they did not have the advanced knowledge to calculate the day and time of conjunction through orbital mechanics as we can easily do today.

First, there is the method of simply watching the moon all the time and committing to record what is seen. The moon presents many signs of its age throughout the month and these signs are always visible *to anyone* who takes the time to watch for them. I'm not going to describe all the signs, rather, I'm going to briefly describe only the signs of the “old month”.

In the last few days of each month, the moon becomes a thin crescent in the early morning before sunrise. This means one has to be up early, before sunrise to see this. Each morning the “old” crescent gets thinner and thinner and is observed to appear closer and closer to the sun before sunrise till, finally, one morning the crescent is no longer visible before the sun rises. If one took the time to watch that “old” crescent, become familiar with it, and come to recognize the signs of the old crescent, *one can very accurately estimate on which day the moon passes through conjunction!* Please don't dismiss this observation! It is fact! I have done this myself, many, many times for years and most people are completely oblivious to this simple method for identifying the day of conjunction!

I've been a watcher of the sky all my life and as a result, I have watched the sun, moon, and stars for many decades. For a great part of my adult life, 50+ years, I had the good fortune of travelling to work in the wee

period before sunrise daily and each month I watched for the signs of the old moon in those days the aging crescent could be seen rising. I would watch the moon carefully.

I would watch the moon and make note of the “thickness” of the crescent, its distance from the horizon and its angle from the sun, and the angle or “tilt” of the “horns” of the crescent, and I began to recognize a clear correlation of these signs to the time it would take before the crescent of the renewed moon would again be observed days later. It was not long after that realization, that I began to see that the visible signs I witnessed would also tell me on which day the unseen conjunction was to take place!

I began to do exactly that! That is, I would watch the old moon, and I would *predict* the day on which I expected the conjunction to fall. Without error, I found that I picked the right day! I soon realized this was no fluke. I realized that there before me were the ever-present signs of the moon, always there from Adam, available to anyone who simply watched the moon - the moon itself announcing the coming conjunction. I realized that if I could do it, so could have the ancient Levite Priests in-charge of the true Hebrew calendar!

Additionally, you already know the calendar date, that is, you've been counting the days of the month so all you are really doing is using the moon to help you decide if the current month will have 29 or 30 days. It cannot have 28 or 31, so this is not a difficult task.

A second method to know the day of conjunction is for a slightly more sophisticated observer - one who understands some simple arithmetic (“rate times time” type functions), and the meaning and measure of angles. It is a bit too much to explain here, but the simplified method is this:

In the period of the last few days of the current month, watch the old crescent, and at the moment of sunrise, measure the elongation (angle) from the *point of sunrise* to the visible moon. Record that angle. The next morning, do the same thing. The difference between the angles measured those two successive mornings reveals the number of degrees the moon traveled in that previous full day (i.e., the previous 24-hr period, sunrise to sunrise). A little arithmetic provides you with the estimated number of hours till the moon would be expected to be in

conjunction! Therefore, this relatively simple measurement reveals a *computed* day and hour of conjunction by observation of the moon alone which can be compared to the known or expected hour of sunset, thus providing the day of conjunction.

(Measuring the elongation at the moment of sunrise is crucial, because without accurate clocks, the moment of sunrise is like having a clock. It is much harder to measure the elongation of the moon after the sun has risen. For one thing, the sun is blinding, for another, the faint crescent close to the sun, is soon washed out by the bright sky and it is far harder to measure an angle between two objects in a bright, sunlit sky. One also must be able to accurately measure the time of day if you measure the moon's elongation after sunrise. The visible moment of sunrise, however, anchors one side of the measurement to the horizon, eliminates the need for an accurate clock, and makes the angle measurement quite easy.)

This method is not perfect, for though it *usually* results in the correct day of conjunction, it is possible, that the method indicates that the computed time of conjunction would be after the expected sunset when the actual time of conjunction would have been before sunset. In that case, when the prediction is after sunset, it results in the computed day of conjunction to be in the next day. However, it turns out this is not a serious problem – briefly discussed in a moment. The point is that this is another completely sound method which provides, in advance, the day of the unseen conjunction which many say is not possible to be known! Those who insist the unseen conjunction cannot be determined by observation are simply wrong!

(Now for the brief explanation of the problem of predicting the conjunction on the wrong day: Even if the conjunction prediction is not the actual day of conjunction, the resulting calendar month for the new month works just fine because the new month simply becomes a 29-day month, when it would have been a 30-day month (or vice-versa). All “signs” of the month remain the same, that is the full moon still happens at the right time. It is too much to describe here, so for the purpose of this narrative, you'll just have to take me at my experience. I will endeavor to publish the details of this method and will include a link to the explanation with future publications of this calendar.)

Now, given that I have established there are at least two ways to determine the day of conjunction *in advance*, we can discuss the resulting calendar – this calendar.

The time of conjunction can happen any time during the last day of the moon's month (which should coincide with the last day of the calendar month). The actual *time* of the conjunction has no importance whatsoever. There are only two choices: Since the day is binary and the Hebrew calendar-day begins at sunset, the time of conjunction can only be before or after the time of sunset! (Actually, the time of conjunction can also be, though rarely, *exactly* at the time of sunset – a case to be addressed later.)

The very definition of “conjunction” whether used in the broader, ancient sense, meaning “the time period of the absence of the visible moon”, which is, by definition, the undeniable period of renewal, or the modern astronomical definition defined mathematically as it is today, the ultimate meaning is the pretty much the same. Seen or unseen, “conjunction” is the time when the moon passes from “old” to “new” (or we say it is “renewed”). So let's consider when the conjunction *should happen* in relation to the calendar month which is necessarily fixed to “whole days” defined by sunset to sunset.

Since the current day must end and the new day begin at the same sunset, conjunction *must happen within the last day* of the calendar month. That is, the moon must end its “month”, then the calendar day on which that happened can end. It would make no sense for the 1st day of the new calendar month to begin at the sunset before the moon had itself become renewed. This is not rocket science!

Some organizations, such as 119 Ministries (at least the last time I checked), assume the new calendar month begins on the day of conjunction. That is, the 119 calendar begins the 1st day of the new month before the moon has passed from old to new, requiring conjunction to happen on the 1st day of the new calendar month. But that is clearly wrong. If this is not clear, here's some additional discussion:

The year (determined by the sun) is a greater measure than the month (determined by the moon). That is, even if we did not have the moon, the year would still be determined by the sun. (It's a relatively simple

matter to watch the sun and determine when it has completed one full circuit of the sky compared to the fixed stars.) The month is a greater measure than the day because both the year and the month are made-up of “days” but the calendar is established by the moon, not the day. Therefore, the year is established by the position of the sun against the background of fixed stars, while the month of the year is established by the periodic renewal of the moon. The day is simply the steady progression of sunset to sunset whether you are counting days of the month or days of the year.

The completion of a year is independent of the moon so the sun’s year ends and the new year typically begins before the last calendar month of the year ends. If that has you scratching your head, think about it a minute. Assume for a moment that the sun’s year ends and begins at the Vernal Equinox (VE). The VE is the day, every year, when the sun is observed rising due east as the sun passes from Winter to Spring. It is extraordinarily rare that the day of the Vernal Equinox and the day of the conjunction of the moon are one and the same, so it stands to reason that the day of the VE will (almost always) happen on a day somewhere in the middle of the last month of the calendar. The calendar is, therefore, already in a particular month when the sun’s year changes, then the next new month logically begins at the next moon’s renewal. To establish a calendar then, one only has to decide which renewed moon is to be considered the 1st renewed moon of the new solar year. Without any scriptural requirement, mankind is free to choose whatever rule he so desires. But scripture tells us which new moon must be the 1st renewed moon of the year. More on that later.

So this “hierarchy” of the year by the sun, month by the moon, and day by sunset naturally establishes the proper calendar. The sun’s year happened before the moon’s month completes, and the moon’s month competes before the last calendar day completes. That is another way of saying the moon must pass through its renewal first, then that last “day” of the calendar month ends and the new *calendar* month can commence. If instead you end the calendar month before the moon has passed from old to new, then you have inadvertently granted supremacy to the *day* and not the *moon*. So the 1st day of the new calendar month cannot begin while the moon is not yet renewed.

The Year

Now let’s discuss the year. To make a very long story short, there are four times in the sun’s year to choose as the demark of the solar year for a calendar but only two of those times are logical points of the entire year to use as the “anchor”, i.e., when to end the old year and begin the new. Ignore, for a moment, scripture and all you know about *any* calendar. Those four times are the two Solstices (December & June) and the two equinoxes – the Autumnal in the fall (September) and the Vernal in the spring (March). Only the equinoxes are easily identified by observation alone to the exact day – the solstices are quite difficult to determine (see below). Since planting and harvesting are very closely tied to the year which, remember, is determined by the sun, it actually makes enormous sense that one would choose the *Autumnal* Equinox as that time when the old year would end and the new year would begin. After all, in the autumn, the last of the Summer crops are being harvested and the new crops of the new agricultural season will be planted after the year is renewed. It is thus likely that the *original* Hebrew calendar ended and began the year at what we call today the Autumnal Equinox.

One can equally choose the Vernal Equinox as the demark of the year, but since that position of the sun marks the *middle* of the agricultural season, that is, crops which had been planted months earlier are only now sprouting, the event of the Vernal Equinox is not the ideal time to be changing the year!

(The two *solstices* – the Summer and Winter – are not good candidates for the calendar because the exact day on which the solstices happen is vague, not directly observable. It’s very difficult to know the moment or even the day the sun has passed through the solstice so one is left guessing on which day it was.) While it is true that the Summer Solstice it’s the point at which the sun has reached its highest point in the Northern sky, one cannot tell on which day that happens! The same is true for the Winter Solstice. It is not easy to tell on which day either Solstice occurred by observation alone.

So, ignoring for a moment the moon as a measure of the “month”, let’s briefly address the “*natural*” demark of the year. This very clear, easy to identify, “point in time” called the “autumnal equinox” is the day the sun is observed rising (or setting) in the due East (or west) as the sun is

observed in its annual circuit as the summer season ends – that is, the sun, in its daily motion, is moving south. So one simply watches the sun rise & set day after day after as the summer progresses and the sun is observed to be moving daily southward, and the day the sun is seen to rise and set exactly due east (or west), that day ends the old year and the new year begins at the next sunset. That day marks the end of the summer season, and the beginning of the fall season when the weather will begin to turn.

Counting the number of days which elapsed since the last time you saw the sun at this same point, (i.e., at the Autumnal Equinox), you find that 365 days have passed! (Once every few years, you find you must count 366 days instead of 365. This is part of the evidence that leads us to realize that the “average” year is about $365 \frac{1}{4}$ days long. Describing this is beyond the scope of this document.)

Thus for the purpose of establishing a calendar, due entirely by the agricultural cycle, the *logical choice* is to count years from the Autumnal Equinox. Just why the Autumnal Equinox is not used today, is discussed later.

The Month

So now, we have a method to measure and establish the “year” (by the sun). What would be the proper determinant for the 1st month of that year? In keeping with the hierarchy of the sun and moon, the *logical* thing to do is to begin the 1st month of the new year with the 1st new moon which follows the Autumnal Equinox. Indeed, that works fine. You will need some additional mechanism to keep the months associated with the agricultural seasons which the months of the year come to represent.

Here is what I mean: Since the moon’s “month” averages about $29 \frac{1}{2}$ days, there are only 354 days in a whole “moon-year” of counting 12 full months. But the year (by the sun) is close to $365 \frac{1}{4}$ days and that ~ 11 days difference will cause the 1st renewed moon of the year to happen 11 days earlier (by the sun) than it did the year before. If you count 12 renewals of the moon in a solar year, year after year, then the 1st renewed moon of the new year will soon be observed before the Autumnal Equinox. Unless you do something, soon the “1st month” is

beginning way before the year, which, remember, is determined by the sun, and your agricultural indicators drift badly out-of-sync with the sun!

So you must do something to “compensate” for this “drift” of the calendar so the desired 1st moon-month of the year stays near the Autumnal Equinox. You compensate by adding a single *extra* moon-month to the calendar once-in-a-while, when needed, so the new moon of the 1st month will always begin nearest to but on or after the Autumnal Equinox. The added month is called an “intercalary month”, and all that means is that the *calendar* for that year has one more month (a 13th), so the 1st month maintains its position at the head of the year, to match the seasons. That process maintains the proper hierarchy, sun determines the year, the moon determines the calendar.

This is actually a pretty simple concept. If the 1st new moon would fall before the Autumnal equinox – the day of which you know, you simply call that new moon the 13th month instead, and the next new moon is the 1st new moon of the new year.

Thus, for agricultural reasons alone, ancient Hebrews would likely have begun their year at the Autumnal Equinox, and they probably began the month of Tishri at the 1st new moon *following* the Autumnal Equinox, though admittedly, this is just an educated guess.

Elohim changed the calendar!

We can assume that some lunar month of the calendar was already well known as the 1st calendar of the month before the exodus recorded in the book of Exodus in the Tanakh. And then we see that after centuries of Egyptian captivity, the Hebrews were freed, and what happened? Elohim changed the calendar – that’s what happened!

Elohim changed the calendar from *whatever it was* so the 1st calendar month of the year would coincide with the month of their new-found freedom - the month of the exodus. That month of the exodus was the month of the “abib” crops, that is, the month of the year in which the crops were known to begin to turn green each year. This time of year became known as the “month of abib” or “month of spring” which today is known as “Nisan” (Exodus 12:2). Remember, prior to the exodus, the month of spring (month of the abib) had already been FIXED by a calendar which began in some other month - probably in the fall as I have described! So no one, absolutely no one, watched for the barley to

turn green to “establish” the month of the abib crops! The month of the abib barley was already established by the calendar, a half-year earlier!

Now, please pay close attention to these next comments. Elohim didn't simply change which month was to be the 1st month of the calendar year, He change how the 1st month would be determined! While the calendar probably had always been anchored to the moon, as the “sign” of the months of the year, and the 1st month of the year was anchored to the sun, Elohim now anchored the calendar to the day of the exodus, which was the day of the pass-over, the night of the 14th of the month that year! He anchored the pass-over to the sun, not to the moon! On the day of the exodus, the month of spring (month of the abib crops) had already begun (for it had been established already by the existing calendar), and scripture identifies that the preparation for the pass-over happened on the night of the 14th of the month of the abib crops, and the pass-over would happen at midnight that night, when the date had changed to the 15th. So clearly, the pass-over was automatically tied to the middle of the month.)

You see, had Elohim only changed the month of the abib crops to the “1st month”, the Hebrews would have used the same “rule” they formerly used for the month of Tishri in the Autumn. They would have identified the month of the abib, as the 1st month logically as the 1st new moon *after* the Vernal Equinox. (It would make sense that way.) But in Deuteronomy 16:1, we learn that the month of spring, i.e., the month of the abib crops, had already happened the year the exodus began, and the command was to observe the month of the abib crops, and **then** observe the Passover. This means that it was the pass-over that was anchored, **not** the day of the new moon. Elohim further says in Deuteronomy 16:6 that the Passover was from then on, to be “at the time of year that you came out of Egypt.” It is most important to understand this concept.

Had Elohim only wanted the Hebrews to observe the Passover “in the month of the abib”, He would not have had to command the Passover to be “at the time of year that you came out of Egypt,” nor would there be any reason to change the way the Hebrews count the months of the year. He would only have had to have said: “keep Passover in this month” and the month of the abib could have continued to have been set by the calendar that was already well established. In making the

condition of Deuteronomy 16:1 and 16:6, *Elohim anchored Passover to the Vernal Equinox, and **not** the moon to the Vernal Equinox.* He changed the month of the abib crops to become the 1st month of the **festival**, memorial, or remembrance year for the Hebrews. But He mandated that the date of the annual observance of Passover would be set by the sun instead of establishing the 1st month of the year by the moon, in which Passover would fall.

Thus, as all of Judaism has long understood, the change to the calendar was that Passover would fall on or after the Vernal Equinox. The command was *not* to simply change the calendar to the renewed moon on or after the Vernal Equinox! Spring (i.e., the Vernal Equinox) comes first, then Passover – NOT: “spring comes first, then the new moon, then Passover”! One does not “establish the month of the abib crops, then Passover happens”! No! The command is to keep Passover “at the time of year that you came out of Egypt.” That ties Passover to the sun, not the moon! But since Passover happens the late afternoon of the 14th of the month, it remains tied to the lunar month as well, it's simply that you no longer watch for the day of the new moon to begin the year, instead you assess the calendar for the *proper day of the Passover* to begin the annual remembrance!

Therefore, the rule to determine the month of the abib crops (modern Nisan) is *the new moon that establishes Passover on or after the Vernal Equinox.* This is the rule used by The Refiner's Fire calendar.

But there remains the key difference between this calendar and the “authoritative” calendar of Judaism. The modern, authoritative calendar of Israel applies the rigid, but erred, Metonic cycle to their calendar, while our calendar only intercalates when Passover would naturally fall before the Vernal Equinox. We have seen in recent years as the modern, calculated calendar of Judaism is more and more divergent from the real sun, moon, and stars, the date of Passover and all commanded moedim in some years by the authorized calendar fall in the wrong lunar-month. 2016 and 2019 are examples. And it will happen again in 2024, 2027, 2035 and 2038.

We strive to provide a calendar that most closely resembles the calendar alluded to in scripture while holding true to the real sun, moon, and stars.

The rules for The Refiner's Fire calendar are summarized as follows:

1. The 1st day of the new Hebrew month is the sunset which follows the conjunction of the moon. Calculating the time of conjunction and comparing that with the time of sunset (in Jerusalem) matches what the ancient Levite observers could have done.
2. The 1st month of the calendar year is the new moon which establishes Passover (the afternoon of the 14th of Nisan), on or after the Vernal Equinox). This is the same as saying the 1st month is the new moon closest to the Vernal Equinox.

No other rules are added. All the designated feasts, the moedim (appointed times), fall on the days they fall. If Yom Kippur is on a Friday or a Sunday, then that's when it is. If the 7th day of Sukkot falls on a Saturday, then so be it. No artificial "postponements" are imposed.

This description has already been long enough but there remains the question of just how one knows the 1st sunset after the lunar conjunction and why the Metonic cycle is wrong to apply to the calendar. Those will have to be presented in another document.

For questions on this calendar, please write to: calendar@therefinersfire.org.