

This is the 2021 **The Refiner's Fire** calendar.

NOTE: For 2021, the High Holy days by this calendar differ only slightly from the traditional Jewish calendar primarily due to the way the two calendars determine the 1st day of the month and some Holy Days. Torah portions between the two calendars remain unavoidably out of sync until July 17 due to the required intercalary (leap) month for Hebrew year 5780, experienced at the beginning of 2020, which was not included in the traditional calendar. (The traditional calendar inserts the leap month by rigid schedule instead of by the real moon.) 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.

Updated: Jan 29, 2020.

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 2021

- **Pesach:** Mar 27 (Pesach begins late afternoon and into the evening)
- **Feast of Unleavened Bread:** Mar 28 to Apr 4 (1st and last day are High Sabbath* days)
- **First Fruits:** Mar 29 (1st day of Omer)
- **Shavuot:** May 17 (High Sabbath day)
- **Yom Teruah:** Sep 8 (High Sabbath day)
- **Yom Kippur:** Sep 17 (High Sabbath day)
- **Sukkot:** Sep 22 to 29 (1st and last day are High Sabbath days)

Compare to the 2021 Rabbinic dates:

- Pesach: Mar 27
- FULB: Mar 28-Apr 4
- First Fruits: Mar 29
- Shavuot: May 17
- Yom Teruah: Sep 7
- Yom Kippur: Sep 16
- Sukkot: Sep 21-28

(*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 2021 (5781)

Yom Rishon Sun-day	Yom Sheni Mon-day	Yom Sh'lishi Tues-day	Yom Rev'i Wednes-day	Yom Chamishi Thurs-day	Yom Shishi Fri-day	Shabbat
Dec 27 12 Tevet	Dec 28 13 Tevet	Dec 29 14 Tevet (Watch the nearly full moon rise tonight – announcing the 15th)	Dec 30 15 Tevet FM 5:28 AM	Dec 31 16 Tevet	Jan 1 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
Jan 3 19 Tevet	Jan 4 20 Tevet	Jan 5 21 Tevet	Jan 6 22 Tevet	Jan 7 23 Tevet	Jan 8 24 Tevet	Jan 9 25 Tevet Parsha 14) Vayera: Torah: Exodus 6:2-9:35 Haftorah: Ezekiel 28:25-29:21 Brit Chadasha: Romans 9:14-17; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1
Jan 10 26 Tevet	Jan 11 27 Tevet	Jan 12 28 Tevet	Jan 13 29 Tevet NM 7:00 AM (well before sunset)	Jan 14 1 Shevat	Jan 15 2 Shevat	Jan 16 3 Shevat Parsha 15) Bo: Torah: Exodus 10:1-13:16 Haftorah: Jeremiah 46:13-28 Brit Chadasha: Luke 2:22-24; John 19:31-37; Acts 13:16-17; Revelation 8:6-9:12
Jan 17 4 Shevat	Jan 18 5 Shevat	Jan 19 6 Shevat	Jan 20 7 Shevat	Jan 21 8 Shevat	Jan 22 9 Shevat	Jan 23 10 Shevat Parsha 16) B'shallach: Torah: Exodus 13:17-17:16 Haftorah: 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 24 11 Shevat	Jan 25 12 Shevat	Jan 26 13 Shevat	Jan 27 14 Shevat (Watch the moon rise early tonight, well before sunset – announcing the 15 th and revealing the late FM.)	Jan 28 15 Shevat FM 9:16 PM (Note the rare but not unusual lateness of the full moon tonight.)	Jan 29 16 Shevat	Jan 30 17 Shevat Parsha 17) Yitro: Torah: Exodus 18:1-20:23 Haftorah: Isaiah 6:1-7:14 Brit Chadasha: 1 Timothy 3:1-14
Jan 31 18 Shevat						

(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)

February 2021 (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
	Feb 1 19 Shevat	Feb 2 20 Shevat	Feb 3 21 Shevat	Feb 4 22 Shevat	Feb 5 23 Shevat	Feb 6 24 Shevat Parsha 18) Mishpatim : Torah: Exodus 21:1-24:18 Haftarah: Jeremiah 34:8-22, 31:31-34 Brit Chadasha: Hebrews 9:15-22
Feb 7 25 Shevat	Feb 8 26 Shevat	Feb 9 27 Shevat	Feb 10 28 Shevat	Feb 11 29 Shevat NM 9:05 PM (well after sunset)	Feb 12 30 Shevat	Feb 13 1 Adar Parsha 19) Terumah : Torah: Exodus 25:1-27:19 Haftarah: 1 Kings 5:12-6:13 Brit Chadasha: Hebrews 8:1-13.
Feb 14 2 Adar	Feb 15 3 Adar	Feb 16 4 Adar	Feb 17 5 Adar	Feb 18 6 Adar	Feb 19 7 Adar	Feb 20 8 Adar Parsha 20) Tetzaveh : Torah: Exodus 27:20-30:10 Haftarah: Ezekiel 43:10-27 Brit Chadasha: Philippians 4:10-20.
Feb 21 9 Adar	Feb 22 10 Adar	Feb 23 11 Adar	Feb 24 12 Adar	Feb 25 13 Adar	Feb 26 14 Adar Purim outside of Israel. Purim inside of Israel begins @ sunset. (Scroll of Esther read). (Watch the nearly full moon rise tonight – announcing the 15 th)	Feb 27 15 Adar Purim inside of Israel. (Scroll of Esther read). Parsha 21) Ki Tissa : Torah: Exodus 30:11-34:35 Haftarah: 1 Kings 18:1-39 Brit Chadasha: 2 Corinthians 3:1-8. FM 10:17 AM
Feb 28 16 Adar						

March 2021 (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
	Mar 1 17 Adar	Mar 2 18 Adar	Mar 3 19 Adar	Mar 4 20 Adar	Mar 5 21 Adar	Mar 6 22 Adar Parsha 22) Vayachel : Torah: Exodus 35:1-38:20, Haftarah: 1 Kings 7:40-50, Brit Chadasha: Hebrews 9:1-14 Parsha 23) Pekudei : Torah: Exodus 38:21-40:38, Haftarah: 1 Kings 7:51-8:21 Brit Chadasha: Acts 1:1-11
Mar 7 23 Adar	Mar 8 24 Adar	Mar 9 25 Adar	Mar 10 26 Adar	Mar 11 27 Adar	Mar 12 28 Adar	Mar 13 29 Adar Parsha 24) Vayiqra : Torah: Leviticus 1:1-6:1 Haftarah: Isaiah 43:21-44:23 Brit Chadasha: Romans 8:1-13 NM 12:21 PM (well before sunset)
Mar 14 1 Nisan	Mar 15 2 Nisan	Mar 16 3 Nisan	Mar 17 4 Nisan	Mar 18 5 Nisan	Mar 19 6 Nisan	Mar 20 7 Nisan Parsha 25) Tzav : Torah: Leviticus 6:1-8:36 Haftarah: Jeremiah 7:21-8:3 Brit Chadasha: Romans 12:1-8 Vernal Equinox 11:37 AM
Mar 21 8 Nisan	Mar 22 9 Nisan	Mar 23 10 Nisan	Mar 24 11 Nisan	Mar 25 12 Nisan	Mar 26 13 Nisan	Mar 27 14 Nisan Parsha 26) Shemini : Torah: Leviticus 9:1-11:47 Haftarah: 2 Samuel 6:1-7:17 Brit Chadasha: Mark 7:1-23 Passover lamb slain late afternoon today. 1st day of Feast of Unleavened Bread * (15th) begins at sunset. (Watch for nearly Full Moon to rise before sunset tonight)
Mar 28 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 FM 8:48 PM	Mar 29 16 Nisan "FirstFruits" 1 st 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	Mar 30 17 Nisan Omer 2 Pesach, FULB 3rd day	Mar 31 18 Nisan Omer 3 Pesach, FULB 4th day	*FLUB = "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").		

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April 2021 (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
				Apr 1 19 Nisan Omer 4 Pesach, FULB 5th day	Apr 2 20 Nisan Omer 5 Pesach, FULB 6th day	Apr 3 21 Nisan Omer 6 Pesach, FULB 7th 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 4 22 Nisan Omer 7 Pesach, FULB 7th day High Shabbat-no work allowed. Deuteronomy 15:19-16:17, Isaiah 10:32-12:6, John 21:1-25	Apr 5 23 Nisan Omer 8	Apr 6 24 Nisan Omer 9	Apr 7 25 Nisan Omer 10	Apr 8 26 Nisan Omer 11	Apr 9 27 Nisan Omer 12	Apr 10 28 Nisan Omer 13 Parsha 27) Tazria: Torah: Leviticus 12:1-13:59 Haftorah: 2 Kings 4:42-5:19 Brit Chadasha: Matt 8:1-4; Luke 17:11-19 Parsha 28) Mtzora: Torah: Leviticus 14:1-15:33 Haftorah: 2 Kings 7:3-20 Brit Chadasha: Mark 5:24-34
Apr 11 29 Nisan Omer 14	Apr 12 30 Nisan Omer 15 NM 4:31 AM (well before sunset)	Apr 13 1 Iyar Omer 16	Apr 14 2 Iyar Omer 17	Apr 15 3 Iyar Omer 18	Apr 16 4 Iyar Omer 19	Apr 17 5 Iyar Omer 20 Parsha 29) Acharei Mot: Torah: Leviticus 16:1-18:30 Haftorah: 2 Kings 4:42-5:19 Brit Chadasha: Matt 8:1-4; Luke 17:11-19 Parsha 30) Kedoshim: Torah: Leviticus 19:1-20:27 Haftorah: Amos 9:7-15 Brit Chadasha: Acts 15:1-21
Apr 18 6 Iyar Omer 21	Apr 19 7 Iyar Omer 22	Apr 20 8 Iyar Omer 23	Apr 21 9 Iyar Omer 24	Apr 22 10 Iyar Omer 25	Apr 23 11 Iyar Omer 26	Apr 20 12 Iyar Omer 27 Parsha 31) Emor: Torah: Leviticus 21:1-24:23 Haftorah: Ezekiel 44:15-31 Brit Chadasha: Colossians 2:11-23
Apr 25 13 Iyar Omer 28	Apr 26 14 Iyar Omer 29 (Watch the nearly full moon rise tonight – announcing the 15th)	Apr 27 15 Iyar Omer 30 FM 5:32 AM	Apr 28 16 Iyar Omer 31	Apr 29 17 Iyar Omer 32	Apr 30 18 Iyar Omer 33	

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May 2021 (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
						May 1 19 Iyar Omer 34 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 2 20 Iyar Omer 35	May 3 21 Iyar Omer 36	May 4 22 Iyar Omer 37	May 5 23 Iyar Omer 38	May 6 24 Iyar Omer 39	May 7 25 Iyar Omer 40	May 8 26 Iyar Omer 41 Parsha 33) BeChukkotai: Torah: Leviticus 26:3-27:34 Haftorah: Jeremiah 16:19-17:14 Brit Chadasha: Ephesians 2:11-19
May 9 27 Iyar Omer 42	May 10 28 Iyar Omer 43	May 11 29 Iyar Omer 44 NM 9:00 PM (well after sunset)	May 12 30 Iyar Omer 45	May 13 1 Sivan Omer 46	May 14 2 Sivan Omer 47	May 15 3 Sivan Omer 48 Parsha 34) BaMidbar: Torah: Numbers 1:1-4:20 Haftorah: Hosea 2:1-11 The Second Testimony of John: Revelation 7:1-17.
May 16 4 Sivan Omer 49	May 17 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: Acts 1:1-2:47	May 18 6 Sivan	May 19 7 Sivan	May 20 8 Sivan	May 21 9 Sivan	May 22 10 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 23 11 Sivan	May 24 12 Sivan	May 25 13 Sivan	May 26 14 Sivan (Watch the full moon rise tonight – announcing the 15 th) FM 1:14 PM	May 27 15 Sivan	May 28 16 Sivan	May 29 17 Sivan Parsha 36) B'Haalotcha: Torah: Numbers 8:1-12:16 Haftorah: Zechariah 2:14-4:7 Brit Chadasha: Hebrews 4:1-16
May 30 18 Sivan	May 31 19 Sivan	Note that Shavuot is the 5 th of Sivan while on the traditional calendar it is <u>always</u> the 6 th of Sivan. It is the 5 th this year because when counting days from the actual 1 st day of the month <i>by the moon</i> , the 50 th day omer count can end on the 5 th , 6 th , or 7 th of Sivan depending on whether or not the months between both had 29 days, both had 30 days, or one had 29 and the other 30.				

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June 2021 (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
		Jun 1 20 Sivan	Jun 2 21 Sivan	Jun 3 22 Sivan	Jun 4 23 Sivan	Jun 5 24 Sivan Parsha 37) Shlach Lecha: Torah: Numbers 13:1-15:41 Haftarah: Joshua 2:1-24 Brit Chadasha: Hebrews 3:7-19
Jun 6 25 Sivan	Jun 7 26 Sivan	Jun 8 27 Sivan	Jun 9 28 Sivan	Jun 10 29 Sivan NM 12:53 PM (well before sunset)	Jun 11 1 Tammuz	Jun 12 2 Tammuz Parsha 38) Korach: Torah: Numbers 16:1-18:32 Haftarah: 1 Samuel 11:14-12:22 Brit Chadasha: Jude 1:1-25
Jun 13 3 Tammuz	Jun 14 4 Tammuz	Jun 15 5 Tammuz	Jun 16 6 Tammuz	Jun 17 7 Tammuz	Jun 18 8 Tammuz	Jun 19 9 Tammuz Parsha 39) Chukkat: Torah: Numbers 19:1-22:1 Haftarah: Judges 11:1-33 Brit Chadasha: John 3:19-21 Parsha 40) Balak: Torah: Numbers 22:2-25:9 Haftarah: Micah 5:6-6:8 Brit Chadasha: 2 Peter 2:1-22
Jun 20 10 Tammuz	Jun 21 11 Tammuz Summer Solstice 5:32 AM	Jun 22 12 Tammuz	Jun 23 13 Tammuz	Jun 24 14 Tammuz (Watch the nearly full moon rise tonight – announcing the 15 th) FM 8:40 PM	Jun 25 15 Tammuz	Jun 26 16 Tammuz Parsha 41) Pinchus: Torah: Numbers 25:10-30:1 Haftarah: 1 Kings 18:46-19:21 Brit Chadasha: Acts 2:1-21
Jun 27 17 Tammuz	Jun 28 18 Tammuz	Jun 29 19 Tammuz	Jun 30 20 Tammuz			

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July 2021 (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
				Jul 1 21 Tammuz	Jul 2 22 Tammuz	Jul 3 23 Tammuz Parsha 42) Matot : Torah: Numbers 30:1-32:42 Haftorah: Jeremiah 1:1-2:3 Brit Chadasha: Matthew 5:33-37
Jul 4 24 Tammuz	Jul 5 25 Tammuz	Jul 6 26 Tammuz	Jul 7 27 Tammuz	Jul 8 28 Tammuz	Jul 9 29 Tammuz	Jul 10 30 Tammuz Parsha 43) Masei : Torah: Numbers 33:1-36:13 Haftorah: Jeremiah 2:4-28 Brit Chadasha: Ya'akov 4:1-12 NM 3:17 AM (well before sunset)
Jul 11 1 Av	Jul 12 2 Av	Jul 13 3 Av	Jul 14 4 Av	Jul 15 5 Av	Jul 16 6 Av	Jul 17 7 Av Parsha 44) Devarim : Torah: Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22 Haftorah: Isaiah 1:1-27 Gospels and Emissaries: John 15:1-11.
Jul 18 8 Av Tisha b'Av begins at sunset.	Jul 19 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 20 10 Av	Jul 21 11 Av	Jul 22 12 Av	Jul 23 13 Av (Watch the unusual nearly full moon rise tonight – announcing the 14 th is the middle of this 29-day month)	Jul 24 14 Av Parsha 45) VaEtchanan : Torah: Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11 Haftorah: Isaiah 40:1-26 Brit Chadasha: Matthew 4:1-11 FM 4:37 AM
Jul 25 15 Av	Jul 26 16 Av	Jul 27 17 Av	Jul 28 18 Av	Jul 29 19 Av	Jul 30 20 Av	Jul 31 21 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

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August 2021 (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
Aug 1 22 Av	Aug 2 23 Av	Aug 3 24 Av	Aug 4 25 Av	Aug 5 26 Av	Aug 6 27 Av	Aug 7 28 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 8 29 Av NM 3:50 PM (well before sunset)	Aug 9 1 Elul	Aug 10 2 Elul	Aug 11 3 Elul	Aug 12 4 Elul	Aug 13 5 Elul	Aug 14 6 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 15 7 Elul	Aug 16 8 Elul	Aug 17 9 Elul	Aug 18 10 Elul	Aug 19 11 Elul	Aug 20 12 Elul	Aug 21 13 Elul Parsha 49) Ki Teze : Torah: Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19 Haftorah: Isaiah 40:1-11 Brit Chadasha: Mark 1:1-14
Aug 22 14 Elul (Watch the full moon rise tonight – announcing the 15 th) FM 2:02 PM	Aug 23 15 Elul	Aug 24 16 Elul	Aug 25 17 Elul	Aug 26 18 Elul	Aug 27 19 Elul	Aug 28 20 Elul Parsha 50) Ki Tavo : Torah: Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8 Haftorah: Isaiah 60:1-22 Brit Chadasha: Matthew 13:1-23
Aug 29 21 Elul	Aug 30 22 Elul	Aug 31 23 Elul				

September 2021 (5781-5782)

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 24 Elul	Sep 2 25 Elul	Sep 3 26 Elul	Sep 4 27 Elul Parsha 51) Nitzavim : Torah: Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20 Haftarah: Isaiah 61:1-63:9 Brit Chadasha: Romans 9:30-10:13
Sep 5 28 Elul	Sep 6 29 Elul	Sep 7 30 Elul Yom Teruah/Rosh Hashanna begins at sunset. NM 2:52 AM (well before sunset)	Sep 8 1 Tishri (5782) (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 11:15	Sep 9 2 Tishri	Sep 10 3 Tishri	Sep 11 4 Tishri Parsha 52) Vayelech : Torah: Deuteronomy 31:1-31:30 Haftarah: Hosea 14:1-10 Brit Chadasha: Matthew 28:16-20
Sep 12 5 Tishri	Sep 13 6 Tishri	Sep 14 7 Tishri	Sep 15 8 Tishri	Sep 16 9 Tishri	Sep 17 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 18 11 Tishri Parsha 53) HaAzinu : Torah: Deuteronomy 32:1-32:52 Haftarah: 2 Samuel 22:1-51 Brit Chadasha: Romans 10:14-21
Sep 19 12 Tishri	Sep 20 13 Tishri	Sep 21 14 Tishri FM 1:55 AM (Watch the moon rise late tonight – the 14 th is the middle of this 29-day month)	Sep 22 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 Autumnal Equinox 9:21 PM	Sep 23 16 Tishri Sukkot, 2nd Day: Leviticus 22:26-23:44, Numbers 29:12-16, 1 Kings 8:2-21, John 1:1-14, 7:1-36	Sep 24 17 Tishri Sukkot, 3rd Day	Sep 25 18 Tishri Sukkot, 4th Day Leviticus 22:26-23:44, Numbers 29:12-16, Zechariah 14:1-21, Ecclesiastes 3:1-22, John 1:1-14, 7:1-36 (Parashah 54 is read on 22 Tishri)
Sep 26 19 Tishri Sukkot, 5th Day	Sep 27 20 Tishri Sukkot, 6th Day	Sep 28 21 Tishri Sukkot, 7th Day	Sep 29 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 Brit Chadasha: John 7:37-52; Matthew 5:1-20; Jude 1:8-9	Sep 30 23 Tishri	Note that Yom Kippur is on a Friday. The traditional, rabbinical calendar does not permit this by inserting “postponements” to the beginning of the month of Tishri so Yom Kippur will not fall on a Friday (or a Sunday), and the 7 th day of Sukkot will not fall on a Saturday. We find such “calendar manipulations” to be unscriptural. By this calendar, Yom Kippur falls on the day it falls as does the 7 th day of Sukkot.	

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October 2021 (5782)

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 24 Tishri	Oct 2 25 Tishri Parsha 1) Beresheeth: Torah: Genesis 1:1-6:8 Haftorah: Isaiah 42:5-43:10 Brit Chadasha: John 1:1-18
Oct 3 26 Tishri	Oct 4 27 Tishri	Oct 5 28 Tishri	Oct 6 29 Tishri NM 1:05 PM (well before sunset)	Oct 7 1 Cheshvan	Oct 8 2 Cheshvan	Oct 9 3 Cheshvan Parsha 2) Noach: Torah: Genesis 6:9-11:32 Haftorah: Isaiah 54:1-55:5 Brit Chadasha: Matthew 24:36-44
Oct 10 4 Cheshvan	Oct 11 5 Cheshvan	Oct 12 6 Cheshvan	Oct 13 7 Cheshvan	Oct 14 8 Cheshvan	Oct 15 9 Cheshvan	Oct 16 10 Cheshvan Parsha 3) Lech Lecha: Torah: Genesis 12:1-17:27 Haftorah: Isaiah 40:27-41:16 Brit Chadasha: Romans 3:19-5:6
Oct 17 11 Cheshvan	Oct 18 12 Cheshvan	Oct 19 13 Cheshvan	Oct 20 14 Cheshvan (Watch the moon rise tonight – it will look completely full!) FM 4:57 PM	Oct 21 15 Cheshvan	Oct 22 16 Cheshvan	Oct 23 17 Cheshvan Parsha 4) Vayera: Torah: Genesis 18:1-22:24 Haftorah: 2 Kings 4:1-37 Brit Chadasha: James 2:14-24 FM 4:49 PM
Oct 24 18 Cheshvan	Oct 25 19 Cheshvan	Oct 26 20 Cheshvan	Oct 27 21 Cheshvan	Oct 28 22 Cheshvan	Oct 29 23 Cheshvan	Oct 30 24 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
Oct 31 25 Cheshvan						

(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)

November 2021 (5782)

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 26 Cheshvan	Nov 2 27 Cheshvan	Nov 3 28 Cheshvan	Nov 4 29 Cheshvan NM 11:15 PM (well after sunset)	Nov 5 30 Cheshvan	Nov 6 1 Kislev Parsha 6) Toldot : Torah: Genesis 25:19-28:9 Haftorah: Malachi 1:1-2:7 Brit Chadasha: Romans 9:6-16
Nov 7 2 Kislev	Nov 8 3 Kislev	Nov 9 4 Kislev	Nov 10 5 Kislev	Nov 11 6 Kislev	Nov 12 7 Kislev	Nov 13 8 Kislev Parsha 7) Vayetze : Torah: Genesis 28:10-32:2 Haftorah: Hosea 12:13-14:10 Brit Chadasha: John 1:43-51
Nov 14 9 Kislev	Nov 15 10 Kislev	Nov 16 11 Kislev	Nov 17 12 Kislev	Nov 18 13 Kislev	Nov 19 14 Kislev (Watch the moon rise tonight – announcing the 14 th is the middle of this 29-day month!) FM 10:58 AM	Nov 20 15 Kislev Parsha 8) Vayishlach : Torah: Genesis 32:3-36:43 Haftorah: Hosea 11:7-12:12 Brit Chadasha: 1 Corinthians 5:1-13
Nov 21 16 Kislev	Nov 22 17 Kislev	Nov 23 18 Kislev	Nov 24 19 Kislev	Nov 25 20 Kislev	Nov 26 21 Kislev	Nov 27 22 Kislev Parsha 9) Vayeshev : Torah: Genesis 37:1-40:23 Haftorah: Amos 2:6-3:8 Brit Chadasha: Acts 7:9-16
Nov 28 23 Kislev	Nov 29 24 Kislev Hanukkah begins at sunset	Nov 30 25 Kislev HANUKKAH 1				

(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 2021 (5782)

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 26 Kislev HANUKKAH 2	Dec 2 27 Kislev HANUKKAH 3	Dec 3 28 Kislev HANUKKAH 4	Dec 4 29 Kislev HANUKKAH 5 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 NM 9:43 AM (well before sunset)
Dec 5 1 Tevet HANUKKAH 6	Dec 6 2 Tevet HANUKKAH 7	Dec 7 3 Tevet HANUKKAH 8	Dec 8 4 Tevet	Dec 9 5 Tevet	Dec 10 6 Tevet	Dec 11 7 Tevet Parsha 11) Vayigash : Torah: Genesis 44:18-47:27 Haftorah: Ezekiel 37:15-28 Brit Chadasha: John 10:11-19
Dec 12 8 Tevet	Dec 13 9 Tevet	Dec 14 10 Tevet	Dec 15 11 Tevet	Dec 16 12 Tevet	Dec 17 13 Tevet	Dec 18 14 Tevet Parsha 12) Vayechi : Torah: Genesis 47:28-50:26 Haftorah: 1 Kings 2:1-12 Brit Chadasha: 1 Peter 2:11-17 (Watch the moon rise tonight announcing the 15 th .)
Dec 19 15 Tevet FM 6:36 AM	Dec 20 16 Tevet	Dec 21 17 Tevet Winter Solstice 5:59 PM	Dec 22 18 Tevet	Dec 23 19 Tevet	Dec 24 20 Tevet	Dec 25 21 Tevet Parsha 13) Shemot : Torah: Exodus 1:1-6:1 Haftorah: Isaiah 27:6-28:13 Brit Chadasha: John 17:1-26
Dec 26 22 Tevet	Dec 27 23 Tevet	Dec 28 24 Tevet	Dec 29 25 Tevet	Dec 30 26 Tevet	Dec 31 27 Tevet	Jan 1 28 Tevet Parsha 14) Vayera : Torah: Exodus 6:2-9:35 Haftorah: Ezekiel 28:25-29:21 Brit Chadasha: Romans 9:14-17; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

2021 The Refiner's Fire calendar, copyright 2017-2021

(**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.