

Jewish Holidays

(Bibliography Compiled by Dr. Loretta Kuse)

Rosh Hashanah

Day - Tishri 1-2 (7th month) September

Scriptural References - Leviticus 23: 24-25; Numbers 29:1-6.

Commemoration or Celebration - (The first day of the New Year)

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Feast of Gedalia (Tzom Gedaliah)

Day - 3 Tishri (7th month)

Origin - Rabbinic

Commemoration or Celebration -Fast day commemorating the assassination of Judean governor Gedaliah, 585 B. C. E.

Bibliography

Greenberg, B. (1983). How to run a traditional Jewish household. New York: Simon and Schuster, pp. 305, 330, 470.

Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)

Day - 10 Tishri (7th month) (September-October)

Scriptural References - Leviticus 16; Leviticus 23:26-32

Commemoration - Day of Atonement - Sacrifices for sins of the nation

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Sukkoth (Feast of Tabernacles - Feast of the Booths - Festival of Booths)

Day - 15-22 Tishri (7th month) (September - October)

Scriptural References - Exodus 23:16; Exodus 34:22; Leviticus 23:33-36, 39-43; Numbers 29:12-32; Deuteronomy 16:13-16; Ecclesiastes; Nehemiah 8

Commemoration - Festival of Booths

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Sukkoth (8th Day of Assembly) Shemini Atzeret

Day - 22 Tishrei (October)

Scriptural References - (See references for Sukkoth)

Commemoration - (Biblical)

Bibliography

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Simchas Torah (Rejoicing of the Law)

Day -23 Tishri (7th month) (October)

Scriptural References - (Similar observances - Nehemiah 8:9; 1 Esd. 9:50)

Origin - Medieval

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Rosh Hodesh (New Moon Day)

Day - 1 Tishrei; 1 Heshvan; 1 Kislev; 1 Tevet; 1 Sh'vat; 1 Adar 1; 1 Adar 2 - (Adar Sheni Additional month in Jewish leap year); 1 Nissan; 1 Iyar; 1 Sivan; 1 Tammuz; 1 Av; 1 Elul.

Scriptural References - Numbers 10:10; Numbers 28:14; Numbers 29:6; 1 Samuel 20:5, 18, 24; 2 Kings 4:23; Judith 8:6; 1 Macc. 10:34; Psalm 81:3; Isaiah 1:13; Isaiah 47:13; Isaiah 66:23; Ezekiel 45:1, 6; Hosea 5:7; Amos 8:5; Colossians 2:16

Commemoration - New Moon

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Chanukah (Feast of Lights)

Day - 25 Kislev (9th month)

Scriptural References - Maccabees; John 10:22

Commemoration - Restoration of the temple in 164 B.C. - Rededication of the Temple.

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Asarah B'Tevet

Day - 10 Tevet (10 month) (January)

Origin - Rabbinic

Commemoration - The tenth of Tevet, a fast commemorating laying siege to Jerusalem, leading to the Churban.

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Tu B'Shvat

Day - 15 Sh'vat (11th month)

Origin - Rabbinic

Commemoration - The New Year of the Trees - Tree planting.

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Fast of Esther - Ta'anit Esther

Day - 13 Adar 1 (12th month)

Origin - Rabbinic

Commemoration - The Fast of Esther

Bibliography

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Purim (Feast of Lots)

Day - 14 Adar Sheni - Adar 2 (February - March)

Scriptural References - Esther 9

Commemoration - Feast of Lots; deliverance from destruction in Persia; fifth century B.C.E.; Failure of plot against Jews by Haman.

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Pesach (Passover)

Day - 15 - 22 Nissan (First month) (April)

Scriptural References - Exodus 12; Leviticus 23:4-8.

Commemoration - The celebration of the Exodus from Egypt; the festival of freedom.

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Sefirat Ha'Omer

Day - 16 Nissan - Sivan 5 (First month) (April - June)

Scriptural References - References to the barley harvest - Ruth 1:22; 2 Samuel 21:9; Judith 8:2

Commemoration - The seven-week count of the Omer, the barley harvest

Bibliography

Greenberg, B. (1983). How to run a traditional Jewish household. New York: Simon and Schuster, pp. 217-218, 304, 438-442.

Yom Hasho'ah (Holocaust Day of Remembrance)

Day - 27 Nissan (1st month) (April - May)

Origin - Modern

Commemoration - Holocaust Remembrance Day

Bibliography

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Cardozo, A. (1982). Jewish family celebrations. New York: St. Martin's Press, pp. 167-173.

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Yom Hazikaron

Day - 4 Iyar (2nd month) April-May

Origin - Modern

Commemoration - Israel Memorial Day

Yom Hazikaron

Bibliography

Greenberg, B. (1983). How to run a traditional Jewish household. New York: Simon and Schuster, pp. 304, 307, 308, 453.

Yom Ha'atzma'ut (Israel Independence Day)

Day - 5 Iyar (2nd month) (April-May)

Origin - Modern

Commemoration - Israel Independence Day

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Lag B' Omer

Day - 18 Iyar (Second month) (May)

Origin - Rabbinic

Commemoration - The thirty-third day of the Omer count

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Yom Yerushalayim

Day - 28 Iyar (2nd month) (May)

Origin - Modern

Commemoration - Jerusalem Reunification Day

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Shavuoth (Feast of Weeks) (Pentecost) (Feast of Harvest)

Day - 6-7 Sivan (3rd month) May-June

Scriptural References - Exodus 23:16; Deuteronomy 16:9-12; Leviticus 23:9-14; Ruth

Commemoration - Celebration of the Harvest - Celebrates the giving of the Torah

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Fast of Tammuz - Shivah Asar B'Tammuz

Day - 17 Tammuz (4th month) (July)

Origin - Rabbinic

Commemoration - The seventeenth of Tammuz, a fast commemorating the penetration of the walls of Jerusalem preceding the Churban (the destruction of the Temple)

Bibliography

Greenberg, B. (1983). How to run a traditional Jewish household. New York: Simon and Schuster, pp. 304, 417.

Tisha B'Av (Fast of Av)

Day - 9 Av (5th month) (July - August)

Origin - Rabbinic - (Read Lamentations)

Commemoration - The ninth day of Av; a fast commemorating the Churban, the destruction of the Holy Temple in 586 B.C.E. and in 70 C.E.

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Teshuvah

Day - 1-29 Elul (6th month) (August)

Origin - Rabbinic

Commemoration - Repentance

Bibliography

Greenberg, B. (1983). How to run a traditional Jewish household. New York: Simon and Schuster, pp. 202, 305, 311, 314

Sabbath

Day - Friday at sundown till Saturday evening

Scriptural References - Exodus 16:23-29; Exodus 20:8-11; Exodus 31:14-16; Exodus 35:2-3; Leviticus 16:31; Leviticus 23:3-32; Leviticus 24:8; Leviticus 25:2-6; Numbers 15:32; Numbers 28:9-10; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Nehemiah 9:14; Nehemiah 10:32; Nehemiah 13:15-22; Psalm 92; Isaiah 56:2-6; Isaiah 58:13; Isaiah 66:23; Jeremiah 17:21-27; Ezekiel 45:1-12

Commemoration - A day of rest

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Sabbatical Year

Scriptural References - Exodus 23:10-11; Deuteronomy 15:1-2

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The Year of Jubilee

Scriptural References - Leviticus 25:8-16, 23-55.

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Birth and (Circumcision - Brit Milah and Naming)

Day - Synagogue naming service for daughter and circumcision for son.

Scriptural References - Genesis 34:17; Exodus 4:26; 1 Maccabes 1:15; 1 Maccabes 2:46; Luke 2:21; John 7:22-23; Acts 7:8

Commemoration - Incorporation of person into totality of the family and of the Jewish people.

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Bar Mitzvah, Bat Mitzvah

Day - Chosen day

Origin - Middle Ages and later

Commemoration - Time when adult responsibilities are taken

Bar Mitzvah, Bat Mitzvah

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Weddings

Origin - Scriptures - Many references to specific marriages and the need to remain faithful to a spouse.

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Death

Scriptural References - Many references to death and burial practices. (Genesis 47:30; Jeremiah 34:5; John 19:40)

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