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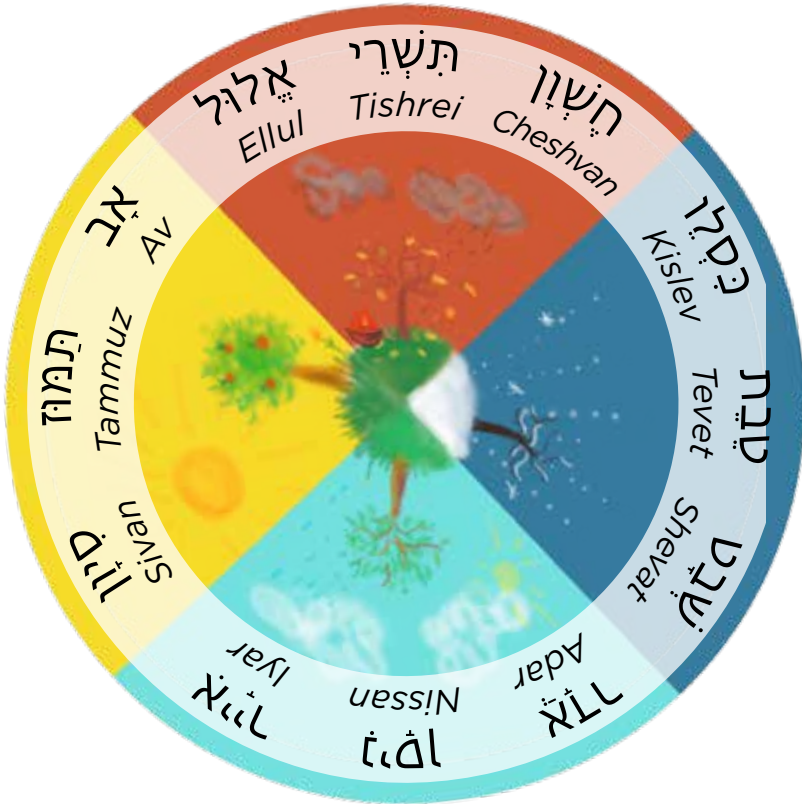
114 *Brachot* on Other Occasions

Section 1: The Jewish Calendar

The Days of the Week

יום ראשון	1
יום שני	2
יום שלישי	3
יום רביעי	4
יום חמישי	5
יום שישי	6
יום שבת	7

The Months of the Year




The first month of the year is **Nissan** - the month in which we left Egypt and became a free people.

Sometimes, we call **Tishrei** the first month of the year, because it begins with *Rosh Hashanah* (Head of the Year).

The Jewish Month

The moon goes around the earth every **29½ days** - this period is called a 'lunar month'.



At the beginning of every lunar month, the moon looks like a thin crescent; it grows to a full moon in the middle of the month; then it shrinks again to a crescent.

So when you see a crescent moon, you know it is the beginning of the Jewish month.

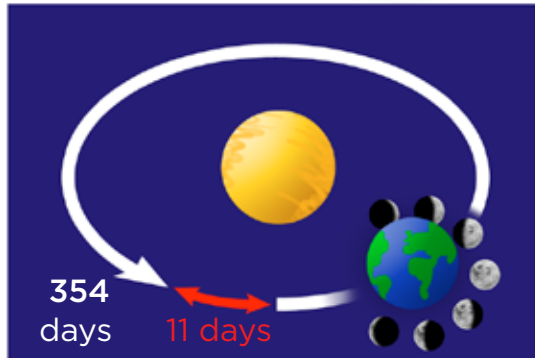
Jewish months last either 29 or 30 days so that over time they last an average of 29½ days - the same as a lunar month.

Leap Years

The earth goes around the sun in **365** days.



But 12 lunar months last a total of just **354** days - a difference of 11 days.



In order to make up the difference of 11 days, we add an extra month 7 times in every 19 years. These years, which have 13 months, are called leap years. The extra month is called *Adar Rishon* and comes just before *Adar* which is renamed *Adar Sheini*.



Key Dates

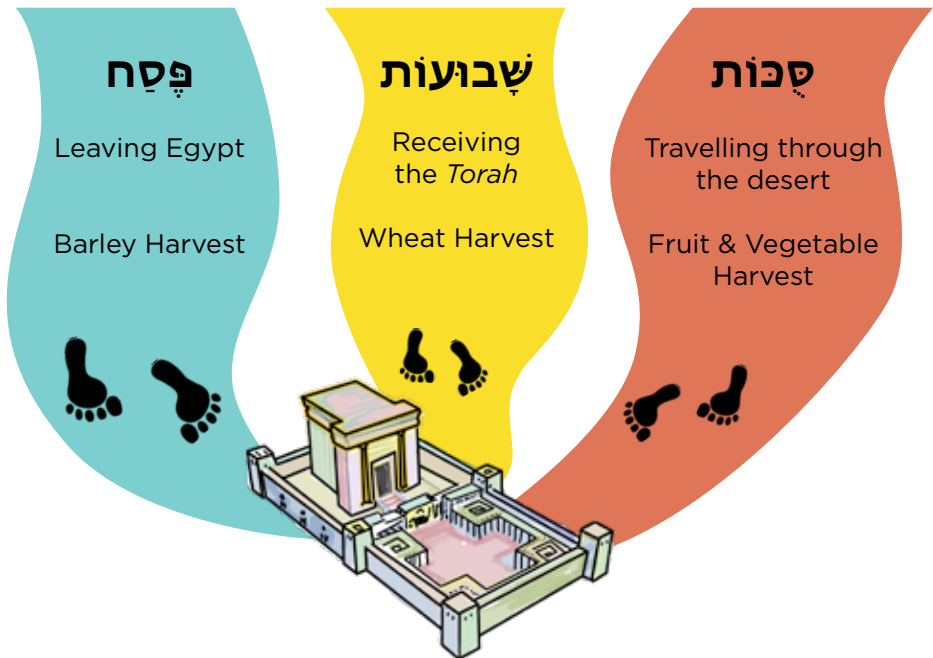
1 <i>Tishrei</i>	ראש השנה
10 <i>Tishrei</i>	יום כפור
15 <i>Tishrei</i>	סוכות
25 <i>Kislev</i>	חנוכה
15 <i>Shevat</i>	ט"ו בשבט
14 <i>Adar</i> (in a leap year <i>Adar Sheini</i>)	פורים
15 <i>Nissan</i>	פסח
27 <i>Nissan</i>	יום השואה
4 <i>Iyar</i>	יום הזכרון
5 <i>Iyar</i>	יום העצמאות
28 <i>Iyar</i>	יום ירושלים
6 <i>Sivan</i>	שבועות



The *Shalosh Regalim*

When the *Bet Hamikdash* stood in Jerusalem, Jews would come from all over Israel to visit it. They came in particular on three festivals - *Pesach*, *Shavuot* and *Succot*. Because most people travelled on foot - these are known as the **שְׁלוֹשׁ רֶגְלִים** (3 Foot Festivals).

Many Jews at that time were farmers and they would bring their first fruits to the *Bet Hamikdash* as a gift to God.



Fast Days

3 <i>Tishrei</i>	צוֹם גְּדַלְיָה
10 <i>Tishrei</i>	יוֹם כְּפוּר
10 <i>Tevet</i>	עֶשְׂרֵה בְּטֵבֵת
13 <i>Adar</i>	תַּעֲנִית אֶסְתֵּר
17 <i>Tammuz</i>	שִׁבְעָה עָשָׂר בְּתַמּוּז
9 <i>Av</i>	תְּשַׁעָה בְּאָב



Hint: Many of the fast days are named after their date

Rosh Hashanah

1st – 2nd Tishrei

On *Rosh Hashanah* we focus on God as King of the World.

It is also a time when we think about how we have behaved over the past year. The period from *Rosh Hashanah* to *Yom Kippur* is called the עֶשְׂרֵת יָמֵי תְשׁוּבָה - the Ten Days of Repentance.



Other names for *Rosh Hashanah*:

Name	Meaning	Reason for name
יום הדין	Day of Judgement	God judges every person
יום הזכרון	Day of Remembrance	God remembers every person's deeds
יום תרועה	Day of Blowing the <i>Shofar</i>	The <i>shofar</i> reminds us to repent

Mitzvot and Customs of Rosh Hashanah

It is a *mitzvah* to hear 100 shofar blasts on each day of *Rosh Hashanah*. **תְּקִיעַת שׁוֹפָר**

The order of the blasts is:



On the first day of *Rosh Hashanah* after *minchah* we say *tashlich* beside a stream. We throw bread onto the water as if we were throwing away our sins.

תַּשְׁלִיךְ



Apple and Honey

We eat slices of apple dipped in honey as a sign that we hope for a 'sweet new year'.

שְׂתַחַדֵּשׁ עֲלֵינוּ שָׁנָה טוֹבָה וּמְתוּקָה

Yom Kippur

10th Tishrei

On *Yom Kippur* God decides what the coming year will be like for each of us. The Rabbis say that we can do three things to improve the year that we will have:



Prohibitions of *Yom Kippur*

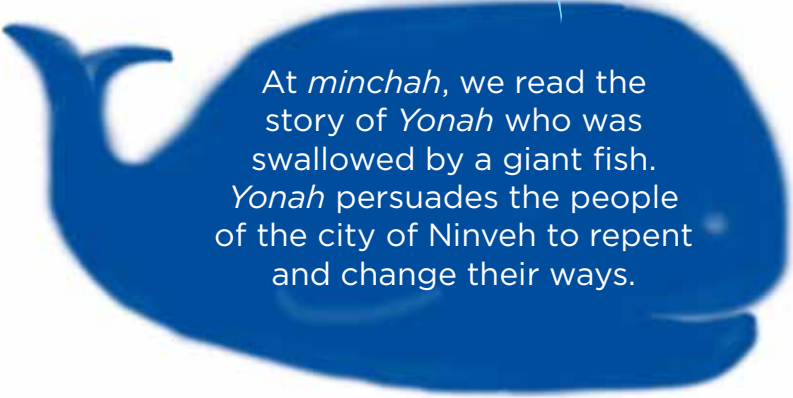


We do not **work** on *Yom Kippur* because it is like *Shabbat* - in fact, it is also known as *Shabbat Shabbaton*.

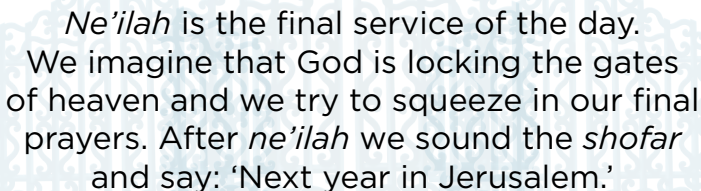
Services of *Yom Kippur*

On *Yom Kippur* there are five services:

- כָּל נְדָרֵי
- שְׁחָרִית
- מוֹסֵף
- מִנְחָה
- נְעִילָה



At *minchah*, we read the story of *Yonah* who was swallowed by a giant fish. *Yonah* persuades the people of the city of Ninveh to repent and change their ways.



Ne'ilah is the final service of the day. We imagine that God is locking the gates of heaven and we try to squeeze in our final prayers. After *ne'ilah* we sound the *shofar* and say: 'Next year in Jerusalem.'