

How To Count the Holy Days and Jubilee Cycles

The counting of the Holy Days begins with the New Year - God's New Year, not man's. We will also see that while there is one Sabbath every seven days, there is also seven high Sabbaths every one year.

The New Year

Exodus 12:2-3

This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.

Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:

Exodus 12:11

*And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the **LORD's passover**.*

So the New Year begins in the same month as Passover. But we need to determine when this beginning of months is prior to figuring out when the tenth day is. Scripture explains how the New Year is established.

Deuteronomy 16:1

Observe the month of Abib, and keep the passover unto the LORD thy God: for in the month of Abib the LORD thy God brought thee forth out of Egypt by night.

The month of Abib is actually translated from Hebrew as "the month of *the abib*". Abib is not the month's name, it is a stage of barley growth. When the barley in Israel reached this particular stage, then the next new moon would dictate the first month of the new year. A priest would go out into the field and check the barley. If the barley reached abib then they kept a lookout for the new moon, and once they saw the new moon, that next day was the first day of the first month of the year. If it was not abib, then they would wait a whole additional moon cycle before checking for the new moon again, and by that time, the barley was sure to have reached abib. This way God had complete control over when the new year began and caused the Israelites to rely completely on Him for their calendar days.

The reason the barley needed to be abib was because a wave offering of barley was required during the Feast of Unleavened Bread ([Lev. 23:10-11](#)), so they had to make sure the barley was ready before offering to God.

Passover (Pesach) & Feast of Unleavened Bread (hag hamatzot)

Now that we understand when the New Year begins, let's go on to the Holy Days. Passover is to take place on the 14th day of the first month ([Lev. 23:5](#)) in the evening (before the sun goes down). The very next day (once the sun goes down on the 14th), is the 15th, and a new Holy Feast called Feast of Unleavened Bread ([Lev. 23:6](#)) which lasts for seven days.

Counting of the Omer

During these seven days we need to begin the counting of the Omer, or the 50 day counting to Shavuot, also known as the Day of Pentecost or Feast of Weeks.

Leviticus 23:15

And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete:

God instructs us to start counting the day after the Sabbath, the same day as the wave offering. The word in Hebrew is *Shabbath*, Strong's #7676, the seventh day of the week. It is not referring to the High Sabbath which, in Hebrew, is *Shabathown*, Strong's #7677, the first and last days of a Holy Feast. So wherever the weekly, seventh day (Saturday) falls during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, is the indicator for us to begin counting the 50 days to Shavuot. We should also note that the High Sabbath is not Passover, it is the first and last day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Since the Sabbath is the Saturday, seventh day of the week, we should always begin counting on the following day, Sunday. This means that Pentecost will be on a Sunday every year.

Counting of the Omer and the Jubilee Cycle

This process of counting to Pentecost teaches us how to properly count the Jubilee cycles. We know that a Jubilee year is the counting of seven times seven years, or 49 years ([Lev. 25:8](#)). But the 50th year is the Jubilee year. Now since a Jubilee cycle is only 49 years, then the 50th year must be the beginning of the next set of 49 years. This is also proven by counting the 50 days to Pentecost. The 50th day is always the first day (Sunday) of the next 7 day (Sunday to Saturday) Sabbath weekly cycle.

With this counting understood, we can accurately conclude that we are currently living in the 119th Jubilee cycle which began in 2006.

Day of Pentecost/Feast of Weeks (Shavuot)

Pentecost, the day Christians know the Holy Spirit descended upon mankind, is also a High Sabbath ([Lev. 23:21](#)). It is the same day that Moses went up to God on Mount Sinai and received the Law ([Ex. 19:1](#)). So in one instance man goes up to God, and in the other, God's Spirit comes down to man. In one, man receives the truth from God ([Psalm 119:142](#)), and in the other, man receives the Spirit from God ([Acts 2:1-4](#)). How are we to worship our Creator? In Spirit and in Truth ([John 4:24](#)).

Feast of Trumpets (Yom Teruah)

Next is the Holy Day, the Feast of Trumpets which is a High Sabbath ([Lev. 23:24-25](#)). It occurs in the seventh month, on the first day ([Lev. 23:24](#)). This is the only Holy Day that cannot be planned out in advance. It requires the sighting of the moon to determine that the new month has began, and then we know that evening and the following day constitute the first day of the seventh month. Now because a conjunctive moon can remain hidden for up to 3.5 days, it's impossible to predict when the sighted new moon will appear, despite the calendars of man. This means that it is impossible to know in advance the "day or the hour" of this Holy Day... does that sound familiar? Yes! Yeshua says that no man knows the "day or the hour" of His return ([Matt. 24:36](#)). Could He be alluding to returning on the Feast of Trumpets of some future year?

The next few Holy Days start falling in line easily as long as we wait for the new moon to be seen in Israel to determine the beginning of each month. The reason that the moon must be sighted in Israel is so that the entire planet can keep the same calendar.

Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)

The Day of Atonement falls in the same month of Yom Teruah, but occurs on the 10th day ([Lev. 23:27](#)), which is the 9th day at sun down to the 10th day at sundown ([Lev. 23:32](#)). It is also a High Sabbath. Notice this is called the Day of Atonement, and not the Day of Judgment. This is the second half of Passover. During the Day of Atonement the priest would sacrifice one goat or lamb and then pass the sins of Israel to another and release it into the wilderness. This Holy Day represents that second goat since the Passover is fulfilled in Yeshua, our Passover Lamb. This is the time when Satan and all our sins will be removed from Israel, God's people, and Satan will be bound for 1000 years.

Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot)

And then on the 15th day of this same seventh month begins the Feast of Tabernacles ([Lev. 23:34](#)). It is eight days long; seven days plus one ([Lev. 23:36](#)). It is symbolic of the wedding feast that is to come with our Messiah, Yeshua. The first and last days of this Holy Feast are High Sabbaths ([Lev. 23:35-36](#)).