

## FEASTS / HOLIDAYS

Today, we all celebrate different holidays. The word 'holidays' comes from 'holy days' and usually connote a time when people celebrate special events. For example, in Singapore, we celebrate National Day which commemorates the date when Singapore became an independent nation. The Chinese celebrate Chinese New Year as the beginning of their year.

The Scriptures teach us about certain days and seasons which the Almighty has ordained as special times (ref. Leviticus 23). These times commemorate special times in the spiritual and agricultural cycles of the Jewish people.

The feasts are of special significance to believers in Yeshua because they remind us of our redemption and salvation and at the same time, look forward to the great salvation that will come upon us in the not-so-distant future.

The beginning of the Biblical year is recorded in the Scriptures (Exodus 12) as the month of Aviv (later known as Nisan) and occurs in March/ April.

There are some issues as to the calculation of the new year. The method used by the Jews in ancient times was by looking at the ripening of the barley and the movement of the sun, moon and stars so as to map the time of spring when the new year was to begin. However, due mainly to persecution, Rabbi Hillel II switched to a computed calendar, using the best information available at the time. This calendar has served its purposes admirably over 1½ millennia but in recent years have developed slight problems. More details are found in the articles named BIBLICAL NEW YEAR.

For easy reference, here is the list of the dates for the year 2008 - 9. Please NOTE:

- (a) the feast starts the evening before unless otherwise stated;
- (b) the feasts marked \* are High Sabbaths, ie. they are days of rest (no work to be done).

<u>FEAST / HOLIDAY</u>	<u>OBSERVED CALENDAR</u>	<u>RABBINICAL CALENDAR</u>
1 Aviv (New Year)	Tue, 8 Apr 2008	Sun, 6 Apr 2008
Pesach/ Passover	Mon, 21 Apr 2008	Sat, 19 Apr 2008
	<b>3 pm</b>	
1st day of Hag HaMatzah/ Unleavened Bread *	Tue, 22 Apr 2008	Sun, 20 Apr 2008
7th day of Hag HaMatzah/ Unleavened Bread *	Mon, 28 Apr 2008	Sab, 26 Apr 2008
1 Iyyar (2nd New Moon)	Wed, 7 May 2008	Tue, 6 May 2008
1 Sivan (3rd New Moon)	Thu, 5 Jun 2008	Wed, 4 Jun 2008
Shavuot/ Pentecost *	Wed, 11 Jun 2008	Mon, 9 Jun 2008
1 Shoshana (4th New Moon)	Sab, 5 July 2008	Fri, 4 Jul 2008
1 Av (5th New Moon)	Sun, 3 Aug 2008	Sab, 2 Aug 2008
1 Elul (6th New Moon)	Tue, 2 Sep 2008	Mon, 1 Sep 2008
Yom Teruah/ Trumpets *	Thu, 2 Oct 2008	Tue, 30 Sep 2008
		(Rabbinical New Year)
Yom haKippurim/ Atonement Day *	Sab, 11 Oct 2008	Thu, 9 Oct 2008
1st day of Sukkot/ Tabernacles *	Thu, 16 Oct 2008	Tue, 14 Oct 2008
7th day of Sukkot/ Tabernacles	Wed, 22 Oct 2008	Mon, 20 Oct 2008
Eighth Day *	Thu, 23 Oct 2008	Tue, 21 Oct 2008
1 Bul (8th New Moon)	Fri, 31 Oct 2008	Thu, 30 Oct 2008
1 Kislev (9th New Moon)	Sun, 30 Nov 2008	Fri, 28 Nov 2008
Hannukah/ Dedication	Mon, 22 Dec 2008	Mon, 22 Dec 2008
(for 8 days ending 29 Dec 2008)		
1 Tebet (10th New Moon)	Tue, 30 Dec 2008	Sun, 28 Dec 2008
1 Shebat (11th New Moon)	Wed, 28 Jan 2009	Mon, 26 Jan 2009
1 Adar (12th New Moon)	Fri, 27 Feb 2009	Wed, 25 Feb 2009
Purim/ Lots	Tue, 10 Mar 2009	Tue, 10 Mar 2009
1 Aviv (New Year)	Sab, 28 Mar 2009	Thu, 26 Mar 2009

Moncy Mathew, Leader

**Mishkan Torat Chaiim** (Tabernacle of the Living Word)