

BIBLE FACTS and FIGURES

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The Jewish Year

What Jewish festivals were celebrated in Bible times?

Passover (Pesach) and Unleavened Bread

Commemorated Israel's deliverance from Egypt
Exodus 12:11-30; Leviticus 23:4-8; Numbers 28:16-25; Matthew 26:17
 Each family celebrated the deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, and symbolically re-enacted the first Passover as they ate their own special meal. The celebration continued for seven days as they commemorated the Exodus and wilderness wanderings by eating unleavened bread, recalling the haste with which they left Egypt, when they did not have time to let the bread rise.

Firstfruits

Leviticus 23:9-14; Numbers 28:26-31
 A barley harvest feast at the end of the seven-day Passover festival

Second Passover

Numbers 9:9-13; 2 Chronicles 30:2-3
 For those unable to keep the first Passover

Pentecost

(Shavuot, Weeks, Firstfruits, Harvest)
 A celebration of harvest
Leviticus 23:9-22; Deuteronomy 16:9-12; Acts 2:1
 At Pentecost, seven weeks after Passover, the Jews celebrated the gathering in of the wheat harvest. The priests offered symbolically two loaves made from new flour. This feast also celebrated the giving of the Law to Moses at Mount Sinai.

Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah, New Year, Judgment and Memorial)

A time of reckoning with God
Leviticus 23:23-25; Numbers 29:1-6
 This two-day celebration, marked by the blowing of trumpets to greet the civil new year, was also

the beginning of the most solemn month in the year. The Israelites prepared themselves for Yom Kippur, which comes ten days later, by praising God, Whose standard they had failed to meet, and recounting His greatness, love, and mercy.

Day of Atonement

(Yom ha-Kippurim, Yom Kippur)
 The most holy day in the Jewish year
Leviticus 16; 23:26-32; Numbers 29:7-11

On Yom Kippur Israel confessed the nation's sins, and asked forgiveness and cleansing. A scape-

goat was sent into the desert, carrying symbolically the people's sin. The High Priest entered the Holy of Holies of the Temple on this day alone. Recognizing this day as the holiest of feast days, Jews neither ate nor drank for twenty-four hours.

Tabernacles

(Succoth, Booths, Ingathering)
 Commemorated Israel's wanderings in the wilderness
Leviticus 23:33-44; Numbers 29:12-40; John 7:2

A joyful harvest festival. During the seven-day celebration, the people thanked God for protecting them in the wilderness and for the harvest. For seven days, they lived in shelters made of branches to remind them of their time living in tents in the wilderness.

The Hebrew Calendar

Month	Name (name before Exile)	Modern equivalent
1	Nisan (Abib)	March/April
2	Iyyar (Ziv)	April/May
3	Sivan	May/June
4	Tammuz	June/July
5	Abu (Ab)	July/August
6	Elul	August/September
7	Tishri (Ethanim)	September/October
8	Heshvan (Bul) = Marcheshvan	October/November
9	Chislev	November/December
10	Tebeth	December/January
11	Shebat	January/February
12	Adar	February/March

The Jewish year is strictly lunar, with lunar months averaging 29.5 days, giving 354 days in a year. A thirteenth month, Second Adar, was added about every three years to align the calendar with the solar year.



A Jewish family celebrates Passover in modern Israel.

The Sabbath

A rest day commanded by God
Exodus 20:8-11; Genesis 2:3; Exodus 31:13-17; Isaiah 56; 58:13-14; Matthew 12:1-14

This day of rest follows God's own example and is a mark of His people. Every seventh day was set aside as

the Sabbath. By New Testament times, rules for Sabbath-keeping had become very complicated.

Dedication

(Hanukkah, Lights, Maccabees)
 Commemorated the rededication of the Temple in 164 B.C.

1 Maccabees 4:41-49; John 10:22
 On Hanukkah the Jews celebrated the expulsion of the Syrians by Judas Maccabeus in 164 B.C., and the cleansing and rededication of the Jerusalem Temple, which the Syrians had desecrated. Lighting a new candle each day for eight days, the Jews commemorated the miracle of the Temple's holy candelabrum: for the rededication they had only one day's worth of consecrated oil, but it burnt for eight full days, the time required to consecrate more oil.

Purim (Lots)

Celebrated the failure of Haman's plot to destroy the Jews
Esther 9:21, 27-28

A time of feasting and joy when the people celebrated the deliverance of the Jews from death through the bravery of Queen Esther of Persia.

Weather	Harvests/Agriculture	Festivals/Holy Days
Rainy ("latter rain")	Flax harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •14th Passover •15th-21st Unleavened Bread •16th Firstfruits
Dry	Barley harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •14th Second Passover
Warm and dry	Wheat harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •6th Pentecost (= Harvest, Firstfruits, Shavuot, Weeks)
Hot and dry		
Very hot and dry		
Very hot and dry	Date harvest Grape harvest Summer fig harvest	
Rain begins	Olive harvest Grape harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Trumpets (= Rosh Hashanah) •10th Day of Atonement (= Yom Kippur) •15th-21st Tabernacles (= Ingathering, Succoth, Booths)
Rainy ("earlier rain") Plowing	Olive harvest	
Cool and rainy	Winter fig harvest Sowing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •25th-2nd Tebeth Dedication (= Hanukkah, Lights)
Cold, hail, and snow	Sowing	
Warmer and rain	Almond blossoms Sowing	
Thunder and hail	Citrus fruit harvest Sowing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •14th-15th Purim (= Lots)

Four Gospels . . . One Life



Jesus' life

A simple harmonization of the Gospels

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Jesus' birth and childhood 5/6 B.C.				
Jesus' genealogy	1:1-17		3:23-38	
Jesus' birth is foretold	1:18-25		1:26-38	
Jesus is born	2:1-12		2:1-39	
Jesus' childhood and visit to Temple			2:40-52	
Jesus prepares for His public ministry A.D.				
Jesus is baptized	3:13-17	1:9-11	3:21-22	
Jesus is tempted in the wilderness	4:1-11	1:12-13	4:1-13	
Jesus' ministry begins				
John points to Jesus				1:19-34
John's disciples attracted				1:35-51
The first miracle: water into wine				2:1-11
"You must be born again"				3:1-21
Jesus in Galilee				
Jesus arrives in Galilee	4:12-17	1:14	4:14	4:43-45
Jesus calls the first of the Twelve	4:18-22	1:16-20	5:1-11	
Many miracles	8:1-17	1:40-2:12	5:12-26	
The Sermon on the Mount	5:1-7:29		6:20-49	
Jesus speaks in parables	13:1-53	4:1-34	8:4-18	
A series of miracles	8:23-9:8, 18-26	4:35-5:43	8:22-56	
Jesus affirmed as Christ and Son of God	16:13-26	8:27-9:1	9:18-27	
Jesus is transfigured	16:27-17:13	9:2-13	9:28-36	
Jesus predicts His death and Resurrection	17:22-23	9:31-32	9:43-45	
Jesus' last Galilean ministry	17:24-18:35	9:33-50	9:46-50	7:1-9
Jesus in Judea and Perea				
Jesus' journey to Jerusalem	19:1-2	10:1	9:51-62	7:10
Jesus claims deity				8:12-59
Jesus the Good Shepherd				10:1-21
Parable of the Good Samaritan			10:25-37	
Jesus in Mary and Martha's home			10:38-42	
Jesus teaches a prayer			11:1-13	
Jesus raises Lazarus				11:1-44
Jesus travels toward Jerusalem				
The rich young ruler	19:16-30	10:17-31	18:18-30	
Jesus predicts His death	20:17-19	10:32-34	18:31-34	
Jesus arrives at Bethany				11:55-12:11

Who wrote the New Testament?

Name	Nationality	Occupation	Writings	How he died
Matthew	Jewish	Tax collector	Gospel of Matthew	By tradition martyred in Ethiopia
Mark	Jewish		Gospel of Mark	By tradition martyred
Luke	Greek	Physician	Gospel of Luke Acts	By tradition martyred in Greece
John	Jewish	Fisherman	Gospel of John 1, 2, & 3 John Revelation	Banished to Patmos; natural death
Paul	Jewish	Pharisee/ Tentmaker	Romans 1 & 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 & 2 Thessalonians 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus Philemon	By tradition martyred in Rome by Nero
James	Jewish		James	By tradition martyred
Peter	Jewish	Fisherman	1 & 2 Peter	By tradition crucified upside down in Rome by Nero
Jude	Jewish		Jude	By tradition martyred

Who are the Marys of the New Testament?

Mary, Mother of Jesus

The Jewish woman from Nazareth whom God chose to give birth to His Son. Married to Joseph, she was a descendant of David. Mary stood at the foot of the Cross when Jesus was killed.

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-45; John 19:25-27; Acts 1:14

Mary of Bethany

With her sister Martha and brother Lazarus, a close friend of Jesus, whose feet she anointed with perfume.

Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-45; 12:1-3; compare Matthew 26:7; Mark 14:3

Mary, mother of James and Joseph (Joses)

A Galilean woman who, after being healed, followed Jesus and supported His ministry financially.

Matthew 27:56; 28:1; Mark 15:40, 41, 47

Mary Magdalene

Galilean woman whom Jesus healed, and who helped to support His ministry. Jesus appeared to her at the tomb.

Matthew 27:56, 61; 28:1; Mark 15:40, 47; 16:1, 9-11; Luke 8:2; John 20:1, 2, 11-18

Mary, mother of John Mark

A relative of Barnabas; her home was a gathering place for the Jerusalem church.

Acts 12:12, 13; Colossians 4:10

Mary of Rome

A woman commended by Paul.

Romans 16:6



Who were Jesus' disciples?

Simon Peter (Cephas)
Matthew 14:25-33; 16:13-18; Mark 14:27-39; Luke 22:54-62; John 20:1-6; 21; Acts 3:1-26; 10:1-48

Andrew, brother of Simon Peter
Mark 1:16-18; 3:14-19; John 1:40-44; Acts 1:13

James, son of Zebedee
Matthew 10:2; Mark 10:35-41; Acts 12:2

John, brother of James
Mark 1:19-20; 9:2; 14:33-34; Acts 3:1-11

Philip, of Bethsaida
Matthew 10:2-3; John 1:43-48; 12:21-22; 14:8-9

Bartholomew (also called Nathanael)
Matthew 10:2-3; Luke 6:13-15; John 1:43-51

Thomas, or Didymus, the "twin"
John 11:16; 14:5-7; 20:24-29; 21:2

Matthew (also called Levi)
Matthew 9:9-10; 10:3

James, son of Alphaeus, possibly Jesus' cousin
Matthew 10:3

Judas (Lebbaeus), also known as Thaddaeus
Matthew 10:3; Mark 3:18

Simon the Zealot (a member of the Jewish resistance movement)
Matthew 10:4

Judas Iscariot (perhaps a member of the extremist group of "dagger-men" pledged to kill Romans)
Matthew 26:47-50; John 13:26-30