

## Introduction to the Calendar of the Dead Sea Scrolls

As you look at this calendar, keep Ezekiel’s wheels in your mind. There are cycles of six years, three years, three months, 50 days, one month, lunar cycles, etc. This of course also somehow works in the additional cycles of seven years and jubilee years.

First, I will show the basic month. Each box below outlined in red represents one month. Each month has exactly 30 days, except for the last day of each quarter, which has 31 days. This extra day marks the equinoxes and solstices. In total, there are exactly 52 weeks per year, which is 364 days. However, Enoch warns that in calculating the year, men err by counting these four extra days [Enoch chapter 74]. Therefore, when numbering the days of the year, the extra days are skipped. If you have five months, compute  $5 \times 30 = 150$ . 42 months is  $42 \times 30 = 1,260$  days.

	Year 1	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	(s)Sabbath	
LC1	(T)Gamul	(starts day after spr. equinox)			(Q)(R)[1]	2	3	4	(P)Gamul
[Lunar Cycle 1]	1st Month	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Delaiah
(R)Gamul	(X)Aviv	12	13	(A)14	(B)15	16	17	18	Maaziah
(R)29 days	(V)Gate 4	(D)26	27	28	29	(R)30			Jehoiarib
(Black line above is separation between lunar cycles (LC))									
LC2	2nd month						(Q)1	2	Jedaiah
Jedaiah	(X)Zif	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Harim
30 days	(V)Gate 5	10	11	12	13	(E)14	15	16	Seorim
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Malchijah
		24	25	26	27	28	29	(R)30	Mijamin
LC3	3rd month	(Q)1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Hakkoz
Hakkoz	(X)Sivan	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Abijah
29 days	(V)Gate 6	(F)15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Jeshua
		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Shecaniah
		(R)29	30	31					
LC4	(T)Eliashib	(starts day after sum. solstice)			(Q)1	2	3	4	Eliashib
Eliashib	4th month	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Jakim
30 days	(V)Gate 6	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Huppah
		19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Shebebat
		26	27	(R)28	29	30			

Each quarter is outlined in blue. Notice that each quarter begins on the same day – the fourth day of the week. This is understandable since the sun, moon and stars were created on the fourth day, and these things are the elements that Yah put in place to divide the days, appointed times, years, etc. In the Dead Sea Scrolls, there are several calendrical documents which address one or more specific elements about the calendar, such as what priest is serving during a particular week, quarter, feast day, lunar cycle, etc. So, in the quarters of the year, there is the name of a priest, who happens to be the priest that also serves at the beginning week of that quarter.

Each priest clan will serve for one quarter over the six year period. Plus, each priest clan serves for one week approximately twice a year. The week that a clan serves changes by a couple weeks each year until the end of the sixth year. Then the cycle is ready to start over again with Gamul.

The six years are divided in two groups of three years, based on the cycle of the moon. I have outlined alternate lunar cycles with purple and yellow. Each cycle oscillates between 29 and 30 days. Notice the name of the priest affiliated with the lunar cycle is the priest who happens to be serving the week that particular cycle begins.

	Year 1	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	(s)Sabbath
LC1	(T)Gamul	(starts day after spr. equinox)		(Q)(R)[1	2	3	4	(P)Gamul
[Lunar Cycle 1]	1st Month	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
(R)Gamul	(X)Aviv	12	13	(A)14	(B)15	16	17	18
(R)29 days	(V)Gate 4	19	20	(C)21	22	23	24	25
		(D)26	27	28	29	(R)[30		
		(Black line above is separation between lunar cycles (LC)						
LC2	2nd month	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Jedaiah	(X)Zif	10	11	12	13	(E)14	15	16
30 days	(V)Gate 5	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		24	25	26	27	28	29	(R)[30
LC3	3rd month	(Q)1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Hakkoz	(X)Sivan	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
29 days	(V)Gate 6	(F)15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		(R)29	30	31				
LC4	(T)Eliashib	(starts day after sum. solstice)		(Q)1	2	3	4	(E)liashib
Eliashib	4th month	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
30 days	(V)Gate 6	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		26	27	(R)28	29	30		

As we continue through a year, the lunar cycle slips in its relationship to the defined 30 day month. By the time we get to the end of the first year, we have an additional 10 days left over:

	month	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Bilgah
	(X)Tebeth	19	20	21	22	(R)23	24	25	Immer
	(V)Gate 1	26	27	28	29	30			
LC11	11th month						(Q)1	2	Hezir
Immer	(X)Sebat	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Aphses
29 days	(V)Gate 2	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Pethahiah
		17	18	19	20	21	(R)22	23	Jehezekel
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Jachin
LC12	12th month	(Q)1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Gamul
Jehezekel	(X)Adar	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Delaiah
30 days	(V)Gate 3	(R)22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Maaziah
		29	30	(Y)31					Jehoiarib

At the end of two years, there are 20 extra days left over. At the end of the third year, there is a full thirty days left over, or one full month. This provides a means for a person to define which year of the three year cycle we are in, which is important for setting aside a tithe for the poor.

The gray shaded boxes represent the feast days. In this diagram, the 14<sup>th</sup> of the first month, circled in red, is Passover. Maaziah is the priest serving that month for this year, and Passover ALWAYS falls on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the week, year after year. The 14<sup>th</sup> of the second month is the alternate day. In blue, we have the first and last days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Notice that the calendar from the Dead Sea Scrolls has the day of First Fruits on the first day of the week after Unleavened Bread is completely finished. In Leviticus 23, the feasts are all listed chronologically. The day of First Fruits is listed after both the first and last days of Unleavened Bread. This day aligns with the day that Yeshua appeared to all of the disciples, including Thomas, which was about 8 days after his resurrection [John 20:26].

Year 1		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	(S)Sabbath	
LC1	(T)Gamul (starts day after spr. equinox)			(Q)(R)1	2	3	4	(P)Gamul	
[Lunar	1st	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Delaiah
Cycle 1]	Month	12	13	(A)14	(B)15	16	17	18	Maaziah
(R)Gamul	(X)Aviv	19	20	(C)21	22	23	24	25	Jehoiarib
(R)29 days	(V)Gate 4	(D)26	27	28	29	(R)30			
(Black line above is separation between lunar cycles (LC))									
	2nd						(Q)1	2	Jedaiah
LC2	month	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Harim
Jedaiah	(X)Zif	10	11	12	13	(E)14	15	16	Seorim
30 days	(V)Gate 5	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Malchijah
		24	25	26	27	28	29	(R)30	Mijamin
LC3	3rd	(Q)1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Hakkoz
Hakkoz	month	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Abijah
29 days	(X)Sivan	(F)15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Jeshua
	(V)Gate 6	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Shecaniah
		(R)29	30	31					
LC4	(T)Eliashib (starts day after sum. solstice)			(Q)1	2	3	4	Eliashib	
Eliashib	4th	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Jakim
30 days	month	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Huppah
	(V)Gate 6	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Jeshebeath
		26	27	(R)28	29	30			

This placement of First Fruits causes the Feast of Weeks, Shavuot/Pentecost, to fall on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the 3<sup>rd</sup> month every year. This placement is consistent with extra-biblical documents such as the book of Jubilees, also recovered in the Dead Sea Scrolls.

In the Temple Scroll, among the Dead Sea Scrolls, there are a couple of additional feasts that are not listed in the canonized scripture. These feasts are the Feast of Wine, Oil, and Wood. The Feast of Weeks (Shavuot/Pentecost) is a celebration of the wheat harvest, which comes 50 days after the barley harvest. The Feast of Wine comes 50 days after the wheat, and the Feast of Oil comes 50 days after the wine. These feasts are also listed in the calendrical documents which specifically detail the day and month that they fall on. While they are specifically addressed in the canonized scripture, wheat, wine and oil are often grouped together. The Feast of Wood is a feast that requires 2 tribes to bring their wood to the temple each day for six days. It begins immediately after the Feast of Oil, however I was unsure if it began the same day or the next day. I opted for the same day so that it didn't conflict with the Sabbath day.

The fall feasts are likewise shown in gray shaded boxes. The Day of Trumpets, Yom Teruah, falls on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of the week every year. One of the reasons that trumpets are blown is for the crowning of a king. The sages hold that it was on this day that Yah was crowned King of all creation. This is reasonable on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of the week, because on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of creation, when the luminaries were made, we have the first mention of rulership given. The greater luminary was to rule the day, and the lesser was to rule the night. Authority to rule cannot be given unless someone with a higher authority gives it.

Year 1		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	Shabbat
LC7	(T)Maaziah	(starts day after fall equinox)			(Q)(Q)1	2	3	(P)Maaziah
[Lunar	7th	5	6	7	8	9	(L)10	Jehoiarib
Cycle 7]	month	12	13	14	(M)15	16	17	Jedaiah
(R)Delaiah	(X)Ethanim	19	20	21	(N)22	23	24]	(R)25
(R)29 days	(V)Gate 3	26	27	28	29	30		
LC8	8th						(Q)1	2
Seorim	month	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
30 days	(X)Bul	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	(V)Gate 2	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		24]	(R)25	26	27	28	29	30
								Abijah

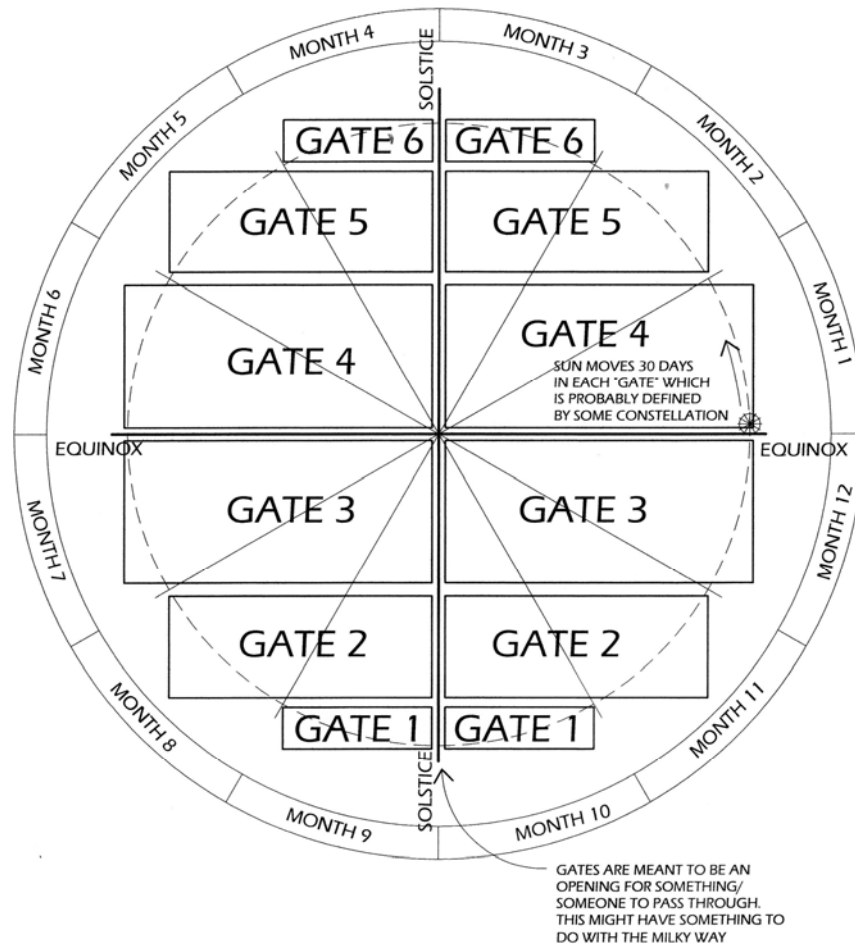
The Jewish calendar system is lunar based with corrections to keep the feasts in the correct position in the year, as well as additional corrections to keep certain feasts from falling on certain days of the week. For instance, the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, is NEVER, EVER, EVER supposed to fall on the sixth day of the week because it would be too much of a hardship to have it the day before Sabbath, because it is listed as a Sabbath itself. So, adjustments are made to the Jewish calendar to prevent this from happening. However, as you can see, on the Dead Sea Scrolls calendar it falls on the sixth day EVERY YEAR.

There is a parallel in scripture: Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is actually called a Sabbath by the exact same language as the weekly Sabbath is defined. This is the only holy day that this happens for. So, in a sense, we have two Sabbaths back-to-back. In the yearly model, we also have two Sabbaths back-to-back. The 49<sup>th</sup> year is a Sabbath (seven x seven years) and the 50<sup>th</sup> year, the Jubilee, is a Sabbath. And, in the 49<sup>th</sup> year, on the day of Yom Kippur, the trumpet is blown consecrating the Jubilee year.

This calendar is supposed to stay on course year after year. We have about 365.25 days per year from our perspective, so for a 364 day calendar to not drift, then a day in this calendar is not equivalent to a day on our local calendar. Some people propose adding extra days or weeks after a certain period of time. However, the various scrolls are clear that the year starts when the day and night are equal and then the day begins to grow longer than the night. This beginning is known to us as the spring equinox. However, our definition and/or perspective may not be correct on this, either. Another determination of the start of the year and of the length of the months is the sun passing through 'gates'. It starts in the 4<sup>th</sup> gate, where it rises and sets for 30 days. It then passes into the 5<sup>th</sup> gate for 30 days... see Enoch chapter 71. Genesis chapter 1 says that the lights in the heavens separate the day from the night and are for signs, appointed times, days and years. These lights include the two great lights and the stars. Enoch talks about the sun passing through gates, followed by the moon passing through gates. Perhaps the stars form the gates.



I have recently started looking at astronomy. I have discovered some amazing things about our solar system, such as almost everything in our solar system spins around in the same plane, like a spinning bicycle wheel. This plane is called the ecliptic. The familiar 12 constellations that form the zodiac are also on that plane. On the star finder wheels, the constellations are the same each year at that time of the year. On the following diagram, the constellations can be used to break up the sky into 360 degrees and form the six gates of Enoch.



I still have many questions about how to implement such a calendar. Recently I learned of an ancient set of astronomical tablets called the MUL.APIN which is thought to represent the knowledge of astronomy from as early as 1500 BC. One of the sections of the tablets has the names of each of the months. Compare them to the modern Hebrew names: Nisannu (Nisan), Ajjaru (Iyar), Simanu (Sivan), Du'uzu (Tammuz), Abu (Av), Ululu (Elul), Tashritu (Tishri), Arachsamma (Marheshvan), Kislimu (Chislev), Tebetu (Tebeth), Shabatu (Shevat), and Addaru (Adar). It says that on the 1<sup>st</sup> of Nisannu, the 'agrarian worker' (also known as the 'hired man') is visible. This constellation is part of what we now know as Aries. For more information, go to [www.geocities.com/astrologymulapin](http://www.geocities.com/astrologymulapin) .

One final note: Notice that the Priest in charge of the last quarter is named Yeshua. Perhaps this is representative of Yeshua's return, and the reason there is no 7<sup>th</sup> year recorded is because his rule will not end. Please email me at [sharifreeland@comcast.net](mailto:sharifreeland@comcast.net) if you have any further insight. Shalom.