

4Winds Fellowships

2025AD¹ Calendar of the Festivals of the Lord²

I. Spring Feasts of the Lord

A. **Passover** (1 day), Nisan 14 begins at sunset (4/12). The lamb was to be slaughtered and prepared immediately (between sunset and dark) and the Passover meal must be eaten before dawn (Ex. 12:5-10). The daylight hours following were used for clean-up and preparation for the seven days of 'Unleavened Bread.' For us, we will celebrate Passover on the evening of 4/17 in order to celebrate First-fruits on the 3rd day.

1. **Unleavened Bread** (7 days), Nisan 15-21 begins at sunset (4/13) and continues until sunset (4/20). This year we will celebrate from 4/18-4/24.

2. **First-fruits** (1 day) Resurrection Day, always falls on the Sunday following the first day of Unleavened Bread. This year it begins at sunset (4/19) and ends at sunset (4/20).

II. Summer Feast of the Lord

A. **Pentecost** "50th" (1 day) is seven full weeks after First-fruits, and always falls on the first day of the week, the 50th Day. This year it begins at sunset (6/7) and ends at sunset (6/8).

III. Fall Feasts of the Lord

A. **Rosh Hashanah** (1 day) Tishri 1 begins at sunset (9/23) through sunset (9/24).

B. **Days of Awe** (10 days) Tishri 1-10 includes Rosh Hashanah through Yom Kippur.

C. **Yom Kippur** (1 day) Tishri 10 **FAST DAY** begins at sundown (10/2) through sundown (10/3).

D. **Sukkot** (Tabernacles) Tishri 15-21 begins sunset (10/7) through sunset (10/14).

IV. Winter Celebration

A. **Hanukkah** (8 days) begins at sunset (12/16) until sunset (12/24). Menorah lamps to be lit each evening after sunset on 12/16 – 12/23.

¹ The AM (Year of the World) date depends on linking our chronology to Jesus' crucifixion. If He was crucified in AD 30, then 2025 is the year 5988-89 AM. If Jesus was crucified in AD 33, then the year 2025 is the year 5985-86 AM.

² Calculations are based on virtual "sightings" of the "new moon" using astronomy program Redshift 7 as viewed from Jerusalem. The standard is that the moon must set behind the sun by at least 12 deg. in order for the new moon crescent to be visible to the naked eye. The modern dates on the Jewish calendar are not based on the sighting of the new moon but from the astronomical dark moon (when the moon is exactly between earth and sun). So generally, our dates will be a day or two after the modern Jewish calendar. These dates may further differ for the following reasons:

1. The Modern Jewish calendar merges the Passover which Scripture places on the 14th of Nisan with the first day of Unleavened Bread which is on the 15th. Before AD 70, Passover and Unleavened Bread were distinct holidays. The Torah required preserving the lamb alive from the 10th until the 14th, not through the 14th (Exod. 12:6), killing it at sunset which begins the 14th (Lev. 23:5; Deut. 16:6; 2 Chron. 35:1). The entire Passover ritual – slaughtering, preparing, and eating the meal – was to be "observed" on the 14th (Num. 9:3-5; Ezra 6:19).

2. The modern Jewish calendar does not provide the correct date for "First-fruits" which is always on a Sunday. Lev. 23:10-11 states that this festival occurs on "the day after the Sabbath" following Passover, which we interpret as **the weekly Sabbath**, thus always placing First-fruits on the first day of the week. But the modern Jewish interpretation considers the first day of Unleavened Bread (Nisan 15) to be an additional "Sabbath" referred to in this passage. The modern Jewish calendar "First-fruits" is always on the 16th of Nisan regardless of weekday. But the careful student should notice that if this method is followed, then Pentecost will not always be the "50th day" as Scripture states. We believe that the changes were intentionally made long ago in order to disassociate the feasts from any connection with Jesus Christ.

3. Because of the change of First-fruits, the modern Jewish calendar does not always place Pentecost (Shavout) on a Sunday as Scripture requires, because they changed the start-day for the countdown of the 50-days, defined as 7 full Sabbaths + 1 day = 50 days.