

# The Calendar

## Bereshit – Genesis

1:1 “In the beginning G'd created the Heaven and the Earth”

- Establishes for All Humanity who [G'd] is in charge.... The owner, designer, and source of all things.
- Creation of the First Day sets “time”, as we know it, in motion.

1:4 “It was good” R. Hertz in his commentary says this means it fulfills the Will of G'd.

- Note that HaShem says this before the 'end' of each day is mentioned.... Like He first reviews or inspects the creations of that day before saying it is fulfilling His Will as it should.

1:5 “There was evening and there was morning, One Day”

- This establishes for us that the “Day” as created by G'd begins at sundown which is the beginning of “Evening”.

## Fourth Day

1:14-19 HaShem creates the “lights” or Luminaries to rule over the Day and the Night.

- **For Signs** - to enable us to navigate our way around, like a compass.
- **For Seasons** - To regulate the calendar; Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter; Seed time and harvest.
- **For Light on Earth** - To divide light from darkness and without which nothing would grow.

G'd saw that it was “good” meaning it fulfilled His Will.

Note\* that in verse 31 G'd sees all that he created and said it was “very good”... R. Hertz's commentary explains that everything that was created was “good” by itself, but when it was united all together, everything in the universe was exactly as He created it to be, fulfilling the Will of G'd in harmony and it was “Very good”

“This harmony bears witness to the Unity of G'd who planned this unity of nature”

R. Luzzato

**Chapter 2:1-3** actually belongs to chapter one.

“The Heaven and the Earth were **finished** and all the **host** of them”.

- **Finished** – means not just completion but perfection as well.
- **Host** - the cosmos, all of the universe as an organized whole.

The point being made here is that Hashem, the Creator of all things is the one who owns all things including times, days, months, seasons etc.... and He Created all things to work according to His will in unity.

{{One thing we think we figured out; that while everything was completed with its perfection and that everything was “good”, the Seventh Day was not pronounced as good or very good, but was sanctified and set apart. It may be that while it was set apart that its purpose was not revealed until Sinai when it became a sign of, and a gift to, the Jewish people as part of their inheritance.}} *Pirkei D'Rebbi Eliezer Vol. 1, pg 61*

## **Rotations**

The calendar is based on the rotation of the planet:

- **A Day** – about 24 hours, begins at sundown
- **A Month** – about 29 ½ days, begins with the observation of the first sliver of the moon after it had gone dark.
- **A Year** – 12.4 Lunar Months

## **Making Adjustments**

Intercalation was the process of computing leap years and the maintaining of the perpetual calendar given by HaShem to Adam in the Garden of Eden (Gan Eden) Bereshit 5:1 indicates that it was intended for all future generations and so it was transmitted beginning with Adam as follows:

- Adam - Chanoch
- Chanoch – Noah
- Noah – Shem
- Shem – Avraham
- Avraham – Isaac
- Isaac – Yacov
- Yacov – Yosef

After the death of Yosef and his brothers this knowledge was diminished until Hashem transmitted it to Moses when they left Egypt.... thus Hashem kept track and told Moses “This month shall be for you the beginning of the months” Exodus 12:1,2

## The Standard

Keeping a strictly Lunar Calendar presents a problem in that a 12 month lunar calendar is about 11 days shorter than a Solar year and a 13 month lunar calendar is 19 days longer than a solar year. Causing the months to drift which in turn cause the seasons to fall out of place, so an extra month (Adar I) is added every so often to adjust for the drift.

Since the fourth Century Hillel II established the standardized calendar that is in use today. This calendar is based mathematically on astronomical calculations with a 19 year cycle. Adar I is added every 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> years.

The current Cycle began October 2, 1997 (Jewish Year 5758)

### A Few Observations:

- I find it interesting that the 7<sup>th</sup> year is skipped.... I wonder if it is significant that it is every 7<sup>th</sup> year All Israel is to gather for the reading of Deuteronomy? Which if we are figuring it correctly should be this year Sukkot 2011.
- The current 19 year cycle will end in 2016.
- We should note that Adar II is always the “real” Adar and it is when Purim is celebrated.

## The Names of the Calendar Months

During the time of Ezra, when the people of Israel returned from Babylon, the calendar months began to be called by names rather than numbers.

The Jewish calendar has the following months:

Month	Number	Length	Civil Equivalent
Nissan	1	30 days	March-April
Iyar	2	29 days	April-May
Sivan	3	30 days	May-June
Tammuz	4	29 days	June-July
Av	5	30 days	July-August
Elul	6	29 days	August-September
Tishri	7	30 days	September-October
Cheshvan	8	29 or 30 days	October-November
Kislev	9	30 or 29 days	November-December
Tevet	10	29 days	December-January
Shevat	11	30 days	January-February

Adar I (leap years only)	12	30 days	February-March
Adar II (in leap years)	12 (13 in leap years)	29 days	February-March

### Days of the Jewish Week

Transliteration	English
Yom Rishon	First Day (Sunday)
Yom Sheini	Second Day (Monday)
Yom Shlishi	Third Day (Tuesday)
Yom R'vi'i	Fourth Day (Wednesday)
Yom Chamishi	Fifth Day (Thursday)
Yom Shishi	Sixth Day (Friday)
Yom Shabbat	<b>Sabbath</b> (Israel) ( <b>Seventh Day</b> ) BN (Saturday)