

## The Samaritan Calendar

The Samaritan-Israelite calendar is based on a singular system of calculation which is known by the priestly family only and has been kept secret for generations. According to the Samaritan tradition, this calculation, which is called in Aramaic "Ishban Kashta" (The truth calculation), was taught to Adam, our forefather by God, and passed from one generation to the next, till Pinhas the High Priest based it on the horizon of Mt. Gerizim. For the co-ordination of the lunar year with the solar year Samaritans (and Jews) use two cycles: the nineteen-year lunar cycle and the twenty-eight-year solar cycle: The Samaritan calculation system, works on cycles of 19 years, 7 of the years are leap years, each one consisting of 13 months. However, the different starting points of the two calendars makes the leap years fall out of phase with each other. As a consequence the Samaritans celebrate the festivals a month later than the Jewish celebrations in those years. For the remaining twelve years of the nineteen year cycle, the Jews and Samaritans sometimes celebrate the festivals on the same days, sometimes two days apart. This is due to the fact that the Jews modified the rules governing their calendar for the sake of convenience. For example the first day of the seventh month that the Jews call the first day of the year will never fall on Sunday, Wednesday or Friday because the date is dependent upon three festivals of the seventh month - the Day of Atonement, Tabernacles (Succoth) and the Eighth Day of Succoth. On years in which each of these festivals would fall directly on the day after Sabbath, the Jews add one day to the 9th month - Kislev - in their calendar to move the festivals one day ahead. Sabbath restrictions that prevents the proper preparation for the festivals are thus circumvented by allowing an extra day before the festival. The Samaritans, however, have always kept the principle of celebrating the festivals on the days that they fall in the calendar, regardless of whether they directly follow the Sabbath or not.

Another difference between the two calendars is the way of counting the years. The Samaritan calendar counts the years to the entrance of the people of Israel to the holy land. According to the Samaritan tradition the people of Israel entered in to the holy land on the first month, and six months later they started the counting of the years to the entrance, which means that on the six month of the year we go one year forward. However the first month of the year is still the first month, as the torah says: "*This month shall be unto you the beginning of months, it shall be the first month of the year to you*" (Exodus 12:2). It is also the first month of the creation, which means that on this month is the beginning of the counting of the years from creation.

## Table of weekly Parshiyot

The Initial Verse	Torah	Parashat
Shemor- Exodus 20:8-20:12	Genesis 1-3	Bereshit

Shemor- Exodus 20:8-20:12	Genesis 4-4:24	Ve'Hadam Yada
Shemor- Exodus 20:8-20:12	Genesis 4:25-6:16	Ve'Yeda Adam
Shemor- Exodus 20:8-20:12	Genesis 6:17-8:20	Ve'Ani Hineni
Shemor- Exodus 20:8-20:12	Genesis 8:21-11	El Libo
Shemor- Exodus 20:8-20:12	Genesis 12-16	Lech Lecha
Shemor- Exodus 20:8-20:12	Genesis 17-20	Va'Yehi Abram
Shemor- Exodus 20:8-20:12	Genesis 21-23	Ve' Hashem Pakad
Shemor- Exodus 20:8-20:12	Genesis 24-25:18	Ve'Abraham Zaken
Shemor- Exodus 20:8-20:12	Genesis 25:19-28	Ve'Elle Toldat Yitschak
Shemor- Exodus 20:8-20:12	Genesis 29-31:16	Va'Yissa Yaacov
Shemor- Exodus 20:8-20:12	Genesis 31:17-33	Va'Yakam Yaacov
Shemor- Exodus 20:8-20:12	Genesis 34-36	Va'Tetse Dinna
Shemor- Exodus 20:8-20:12	Genesis 37-38	Va'Yeshev Yaacov
Shemor- Exodus 20:8-20:12	Genesis 39-41:49	Ve'Yusef Hurad
Shemor- Exodus 20:8-20:12	Genesis 41:50-43:25	Ve'Le Yosef Yelidu
Shemor- Exodus 20:8-20:12	Genesis 43:26-46:7	Ve'Yavo Yosef
Shemor- Exodus 20:8-20:12	Genesis 46:8-48:2	Ve'Ele Shmot
Shemor- Exodus 20:8-20:12	Genesis 48:3-49:21	El Shaday
Torha Tsiva Lanu Moseh...+Shemor	Genesis 49:22-50	Ben Porat
Shemor- Exodus 20:8-20:12	Exodus 1-7:7	Ve'Elle Shmot
Shemor- Exodus 20:8-20:12	Exodus 7:8-11	Ki Yedaber
Ki Tissa Numbers 30:11-30:16	Exodus 12-15:21	Ha Hodesh Haze
Shemor- Exodus 20:8-20:12	Exodus 15:22-18	Ve'Yas'sa Moshe
Ve'Ata Daber- Exodus 31:12-31:17	Exodus 19-24	Ba'Hodesh Hashlishi

Ve'Ata Daber -Exodus 31:12-31:17	Exodus 25-28	Va'Yikchu Li Truma
Ve'Shamru -Exodus 31:16-31:17	Exodus 29-31:17	Ve'Ze Hadavar
Kadoshim -Leviticus 19:1-19:8	Exodus 31:18-36:19	Va'Yiten El Moshe
Torha Tsiva Lanu Moseh...	Exodus 36:20-40	Va'Yaas et Hekerashem
Moadey -Leviticus 23:1-23:8	Leviticus 1-5	Va'Yikra El Moshe
Moadey-Leviticus 23:1-23:8	Leviticus 6-9:21	Tsave Et Aaron
Ve'Safartem-Leviticus 23:15-23:22	Leviticus 9:22-13:28	Va' Yissa Aaron
Ve'Safartem-Leviticus 23:15-23:22	Leviticus 13:29-15	Ve'Eish O' Elsha
Ve'Safartem-Leviticus 23:15-23:22	Leviticus 16-19:8	Acharei Mot
Ve'Safartem-Leviticus 23:15-23:22	Leviticus 19:9-22	Ve'Bekatsirchem
Shiva'a Shavuot-Deuteronomy 16:9-:16:12	Leviticus 23-26:2	Moadey
Torha Tsiva Lanu Moseh...	Leviticus 26:3-27	Im Bechuqotai
Daber El Aaron- Numbers-6:22-6:27	Numbers 1-3	Bemidbar Sinai
Daber El Aaron-Numbers-6:22-6:27	Numbers 4-6:21	Nasa et Rosh
Tsave-Numbers 28:1-28:10	Numbers 6:22-12	Daber el Aaron
Tsave-Numbers 28:1-28:10	Numbers 13-15	Shlach Lecha
Tsave-Numbers 28:1-28:10	Numbers 16-20:13	Va' Yikach Korach
Tsave-Numbers 28:1-28:10	Numbers 20:14-25:9	Va' Yishlach Moshe
Shemor-Deutronomy 5:12-5:15	Numbers 25:10-31:31	Pinhas
Torha Tsiva...+ Shemor	Numbers 31:32-36	Va'Yehi Ha MaKoach
Shemor-Deuteronomy 5:12-5:15	Deuteronomy 1-4:4	Ele Hadevarim
Ki Tissa Numbers 30:11-30:16	Deuteronomy 4:5-6	Reu Limadety
Va' Yishkon-Deuteronomy 33:24-33:29	Deuteronomy 7-11:30	Ki Yiviacha

Va' Yishkon-Deuteronomy 33:24-33:29	Deuteronomy 11:31-13	Ki Atem
Va' Yishkon-Deuteronomy 33:24-33:29	Deuteronomy 14-16:17	Banim Atem
Va' Yishkon-Deuteronomy 33:24-33:29	Deuteronomy 16:18-22:11	Shoftim
Va' Yishkon-Deuteronomy 33:24-33:29	Deuteronomy 22:12-26:15	Ki Yikach Eish
Va' Yishkon-Deuteronomy 33:24-33:29	Deuteronomy 26:16-29	Hayom Haze
Torha Tsiva Lanu Moseh...	Deuteronomy 30-34	Ve' Haya Ki Yavou

U :Baruch Eolhenu le Olam :a Elohim YitbarachNatann :Torha Tsiva Lanu Moshe  
 \*\*\*Baruch Shemo Le Olam

**Rosh Chodesh:** *The new moon which is the beginning of each month.*

**Wonders:** *Every Sabbath, starting on the first Sabbath of the Eleven Month (except cases of leap years), dedicated to one of the wonders of Moses and Aaron on Egypt. This is the period before the Exodus of the People of Israel from Egypt. Read about it on the Enlightenments book on our Knowledge Center)*

**Tsimmot of Passover -** The Sabbath that occurs fifty days before the Passover, dedicated to the conjunction between the sun and the moon, and the meeting between Moses and Aaron after 60 years of departure. On this week the semi-annual calendar is handed to the community by the High Priest.

**Rosh Hashana:** *The New Moon of the first month of the year.*

**Mishmeret:** *The fourteen days between the first day of the first month till the day of the sacrifice, each day is mentioned by a special prayer, in the morning, and in the evening of the same day. These days are the days of the preparation to the Passover. On the tenth day of the month, the Samaritans buy the sheep for the sacrifice. (Exodus 12:3-12:4)*

**The Seven days of the Feast of Matsot-** *The seven days which starts on the day after the day of the sacrifice (the fifteenth day of the first month) and ends twenty-first day of the same month.*

**Pessach Sheni- Second Passover-** For every one who didn't have the opportunity to fulfill the first Sacrifice. Today only a special prayer mentions this day.

**Sabbath of the feast of Matsot-** *The Sabbath that occurs on the seven days of the feast of Matsot.*

**Counting of the Omer**- *The fifty days between Passover and Pentecost, that starts on the day after the Sabbath of Matsoth and ends on the second pilgrimage of the year- on Pentecost (Shavuth). (Lev. 23:15). Every Sabbath of these fifty days is mentioned by a station of the people of Israel on their way from Egypt to Mt. Sinai.*

**Yom Khalla** - *In ancient times the Samaritans used to visit, on this day, the tombs of the just- the high priests on Eburta ( a place near Mt Gerizim) and the tomb of Joseph in Nablus.*

**Yom Ma'mad Har Sinai**- *The forty-six days of the fifty days is dedicated to the revelation of Sinai. This day is mentioned by a special and long prayer that starts at midnight of the day before and ends on the evening of that day.*

**Sabbath Devarim**- *The Sabbath that is dedicated to the week, in which the Torah (The Ten Commandments-"Devarim") was given to the people of Israel.*

**Tsimmot of Sukoth**- *A Special Sabbath that occurs about two month before Suckuth, dedicated to the conjunction between the sun and the moon, and the meeting of Aaron Moses and Elazar on the mount called Har' Haar.*

**Selihot- Days of pardons**- *the ten days between the first day of the seventh month and the Day of Atonement (Kippur). Every day is mentioned by special prayers in morning and evening.*

**Sabbath of Selihot**-*The Sabbath that occurs in the ten days of Selihot*

**Seven days of Suckuth**- *The seven days between the first day of Suckuth to the seventh day.*