

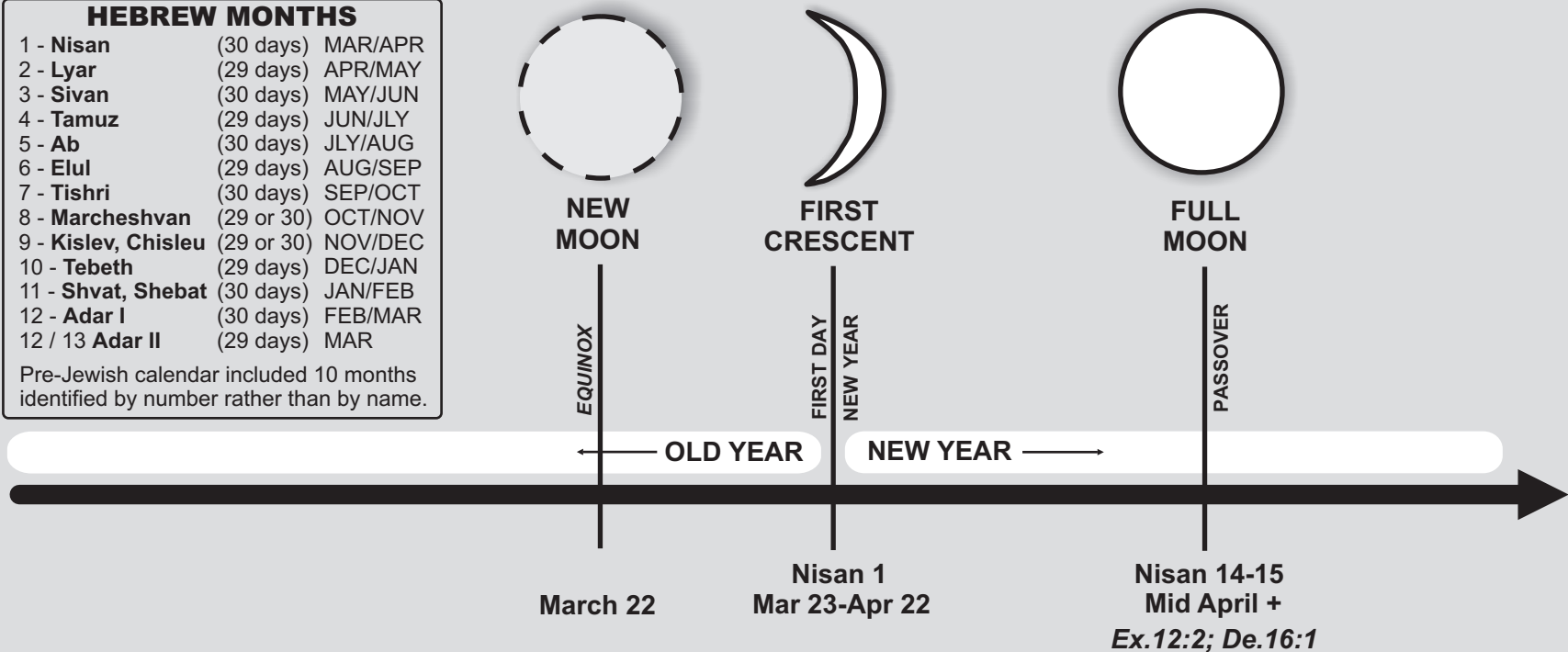
# Biblical (Hebrew) Lunar New Year

The Hebrew calendar was used by Jews for cultural and religious purposes in ancient Israel. It is lunar or moon based, and is used to reckon the Jewish New Year, and to determine dates for Jewish holy days. Each lunar month starts with a new moon. The Hebrew term for "month" (*chodesh*) means "new." It refers to the new moon that began each month. The new moon was a festival day, observed by burnt offerings and sacrifices (Nu.29:6; 1Sa.20:5; 1Ch.23:31). The calendar was based on observation (certified by witnesses) with the beginning of each month determined by the testimony of witnesses who observed a new crescent moon. The timing of the new moon is now mathematically determined.

## HEBREW MONTHS

1 - Nisan	(30 days)	MAR/APR
2 - Lyar	(29 days)	APR/MAY
3 - Sivan	(30 days)	MAY/JUN
4 - Tamuz	(29 days)	JUN/JLY
5 - Ab	(30 days)	JLY/AUG
6 - Elul	(29 days)	AUG/SEP
7 - Tishri	(30 days)	SEP/OCT
8 - Marcheshvan	(29 or 30)	OCT/NOV
9 - Kisleb, Chisleu	(29 or 30)	NOV/DEC
10 - Tebeth	(29 days)	DEC/JAN
11 - Shvat, Shebat	(30 days)	JAN/FEB
12 - Adar I	(30 days)	FEB/MAR
12 / 13 Adar II	(29 days)	MAR

Pre-Jewish calendar included 10 months identified by number rather than by name.



**NEW MOON** — when the Earth, Moon, and Sun align so the moon appears invisible.

**FULL MOON** — when the Earth, Moon, and Sun align so the moon appears fully illuminated and round. Full moon occurs in the middle of the month.

**EQUINOX** — occurs around March 20th (spring) and September 23 (autumn) where night and day are nearly the same length. The spring equinox was the beginning of the religious new year. The fall equinox was the beginning of the civil new year.