

PHILOTORAH

יהי רצון מלפניך ה' אלהינו וא'להי אבותינו שתשלח מהרה רפואה שלמה מן השמים, רפואת הנפש ורפואת הגוף לחולי קורונה בישראל, בעם היהודי, ובעולם. ולנפגעי מעשי טרור בישראל, ולנפגעי מעשי אנטישמיות בכל מקום שהם - בתוך שאר חולי ישראל. אמן.

YITRO

כ' שבט
ה'תשפ"ב



Jan 21-22, '22

Yerushalayim

in/out times for
Shabbat Parshat

YITRO



4:29 PM

Plag 3:59 PM



5:43 PM

R"t 6:22 PM

For other locales
see Z'MANIM link





Intercalation

With TU BiShvat just past (assuming you are reading this from Monday night and beyond), let us take a look towards the two Adars.

Intercalation (timekeeping), insertion of a leap day, week or month into some calendar years to make the calendar follow the seasons.

My guess is that most readers know about most of what I will write - but I hope everyone will pick up a new point or two.

Torah Law requires that our months are based on the cycle of the Moon as it revolves around the Earth (as the Earth & Moon revolve around the Sun.

And we are required to celebrate Pesach in the Spring (and Sukkot in the Fall).

The Moon takes a bit more than 29½ days to go through its cycle of phases.

It follows that a year of 12 lunar months is 354 days long (plus or minus a day).

Pesach in the Spring necessitates adjusting the Lunar calendar by

adding approx. 11 days per year to align our holidays with the seasons, which are based on the 365-day solar year.

(Numbers are rounded to simplify the topic.)

Adding a number of days each year is not doable, so a month is added a bit more often than once in three years. To be specific, the fixed calendar calls for 7 years with two Adars and 12 years with one Adar, in every 19-year Lunar (or Lesser) Cycle.

Specifically, the 3rd, 6th, 8th, 11th, 14th, 17th, and 19th of a Lunar cycle have 13 months; the others have 12 months.

That's 3 years, 3 years, 2 years, then 3, 3, 3, 2.

To see for yourselves, take the year-number and divide it by 19. For this year, $5782 \div 19 = 304$ remainder 6.

This means that 304 Lunar cycles have past since Creation and that we are in the 6th year of the current 305th MACHZOR KATAN. The 6th year of the cycle is a SHANA M'UBERET, a 13-month year.

Hence we will announce and bench the month of Adar HaRishon next Shabbat (Mishpatim).

In the fixed calendar, the first Adar (which is the additional one) has 30d.