

Putting things in PERSPECTIVE

A closer look at the many significant events that took place during the first two years – 2448 and 2449 – after the exodus from Egypt, including the giving of the Torah, which we celebrate on Shavuot | BY ROBERT SUSSMAN

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15 NISAN – We left Egypt.
23 NISAN – We arrived at Marah, where we received some laws, among them: Shabbos.

16 IYAR – Manna started falling and Moshe instituted the first blessing of Birchas HaMazon (aka Bentching or Grace After Meals).
22 IYAR (SOME SAY 23 IYAR) – The first time Shabbos was observed. Only a few days later, Amalek attacked us.

1 SIVAN – We arrived at Har Sinai.
6 SIVAN – Hashem gave us the Torah (some say it was 7 Sivan) – this is what we celebrate on Shavuot, the only one of the Chagim that does not fall out on a date specified by the Torah, but instead following a count of 49 days/7 weeks after the bringing of the Omer offering, which occurred each year on the 16th of Nisan after we entered Eretz Yisrael.
7 SIVAN – Moshe went up Har Sinai and remained there for 40 days (his first 40-day period on Har Sinai).

16 TAMMUZ – The children of Israel, who had miscalculated the day that Moshe would return, thought that he was due to return on this date and, when he did not, feared that he had died.
17 TAMMUZ – Moshe came down from Har Sinai carrying the two luchos (tablets) with the Aseres Hadibros (Ten Commandments) engraved upon them, only to find the children of Israel worshipping the eigel hazahav (golden calf), at which point he smashed the tablets that he was carrying.
18 TAMMUZ – Moshe again went up Har Sinai for another 40 days (his second 40-day period on Har Sinai).

29 AV – Moshe descended from Har Sinai. Hashem commanded Moshe to carve two stone luchos “like the first ones”, noting that He would write upon them the words that had been on the first ones, and to return to Har Sinai the next day.
30 AV – Moshe went up Har Sinai for another 40 days (his third and final 40-day period on Har Sinai).

10 TISHREI (AKA YOM KIPPUR) – Moshe came down from Har Sinai with the second set of luchos (tablets), informed the children of Israel that Hashem had forgiven them, and commanded them to build the Mishkan (Tabernacle).
11 TISHREI – The children of Israel began bringing gifts for the construction of the Mishkan. Moshe began hearing disputes from the people and his father-in-law, Yisro, suggested that Moshe, with Hashem’s consent, institute a judicial hierarchy so as to ease Moshe’s burden.
15 TISHREI – Construction of the Mishkan began (and the clouds of glory, which had departed following the sin of the golden calf, returned; we would later be commanded to celebrate Succos on this date).

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14 IYAR – Pesach Sheini (aka the Second Pesach) – those who were unable to bring their Pesach offering on Pesach were given a second chance to do so.

1 NISAN – The Mishkan was set up and not taken down; Aharon’s sons, Nadav and Avihu, died.
15 NISAN – Pesach was celebrated [according to Rashi, this was the only time Pesach was celebrated during the 40 years that the children of Israel wandered in the midbar (desert)].

25 KISLEV – The construction of the Mishkan was completed (some say it was 1 Adar).

23 ADAR – The Mishkan was set up for the first time (for seven days it was set up and taken down).

29 SIVAN – The twelve Meraglim (spies) (see Bamidbar chapters 13 and 14) were sent to survey the land of Israel and its inhabitants and report back.

8 AV – The Meraglim returned and gave a bad report about Israel.
9 AV – That night, the people cried over the report of the Meraglim and Hashem decreed that the generation would not enter the land of Israel, instead remaining in the midbar for 40 years. According to some, Korach’s rebellion (see Bamidbar chapter 16) took place soon after this (there are other opinions, however, that maintain it happened at various other times both before and after this). **10**