

Putting things in

A closer look at the many significant events that took place during the first giving of the Torah, which we celebrate on Shavuot | BY ROBERT SUSSMAN

2448

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).

Nisan

Iyar

Sivan

Tammuz

Av

Elul

Tishrei

Cheshvan

Kislev

The Hebrew months of the year: 1. Nisan 2. Iyar 3. Sivan 4. Tammuz 5. Av 6. Elul 7. Tishrei 8. Cheshvan 9. Kislev 10. Tevet 11. Shevat 12. Adar