

Assyrian calendar

The **Assyrian calendar** (Syriac: ܣܘܪܓܐ ܕܐܬܪܝܐ *sūrgā dā ʾĀtōrāyā*) is a solar calendar used by modern Assyrian people.

Contents

[History](#)

[New year](#)

[Months](#)

[See also](#)

[References](#)

History

Historically and also in some sources in the modern day, Assyrians dated their calendar according to the Seleucid reckoning (Syriac: ܕܝܐܢܐܝܐ *d-yawnāyē*, literally "of the Greeks"), beginning on the first day of *Tešrīn Qdīm* in 312 BC.^[1]

The modern Assyrian calendar, however, uses a different reckoning: 4750 BC was set as its first year in the 1950s,^[2] based on a series of articles published in the Assyrian nationalist magazine *Gilgamesh*; the first came in 1952 and written by Nimrod Simono and dealt with the Akitu festival, then an article by Jean Alkhas in 1955 (April, issue 34) fixed the year 4750 BC as the starting point.^[3] Alkhas referenced his information to a French archaeologist, whom he did not name, as stating that a cuneiform tablet dating to 4750 BC mentioned the year of the calming of the great flood and beginning of life.^[4]

New year

The year begins with the first sight of Spring. In the Julian calendar, the vernal equinox moved gradually away from 21 March. The Gregorian calendar reform restored the vernal equinox to its original date, but since the festival was by now tied to the date, not the astronomical event, Kha b-Nisan remains fixed at 21

March in the Julian reckoning, corresponding to 1 April in the Gregorian calendar.^[5] and the calendar adopted by the ancient Assyrians had the month "Nisan" at the beginning of the calendar^[6] lending to the term "Kha b-Nisan", or the "first of Nisan".

Months

Assyrian calendar ^[1]					
Season	Syriac	Transliteration	Arabic equivalent	Hebrew equivalent	Julian/Gregorian equivalent
Spring	ܐܕܪ	<i>ʾĀḏar</i>	آذار (<i>ʾĀḏar</i>)	אֲדָר (<i>ʾĀḏar</i>)	March
	ܢܝܨܢ	<i>Nīsān</i>	نَيْسَان (<i>Naysān</i>)	נִיסָן (<i>Nīsān</i>)	April
	ܐܝܪ	<i>ʾĪyār</i>	أَيَّار (<i>ʾAyyār</i>)	אֵיָר (<i>ʾĪyyār</i>)	May
Summer	ܫܒܬܐ	<i>Ḥzīrān</i>	حَزِيرَان (<i>Ḥazīrān</i>)	סִיּוֹן (<i>Sīwān</i>)	June
	ܬܡܡܐ	<i>Tammūz</i>	تَمُّوز (<i>Tammūz</i>)	תַּמּוּז (<i>Tammūz</i>)	July
	ܐܒܬܪܬܐ	<i>ʾĀb/Ṭabbāḥ</i>	آب (<i>ʾĀb</i>)	אָב (<i>ʾĀb</i>)	August
Autumn	ܟܠܐܠ	<i>ʾĪlūl</i>	أَيْلُول (<i>ʾAylūl</i>)	אֵילּוּל (<i>ʾĒlūl</i>)	September
	ܬܝܫܪܝܢ ܩܕܝܡ	<i>Tešrīn Qḏīm</i>	تَيْشْرِينَ الْأَوَّل (<i>Tišrīn al-ʾAwwal</i>)	תִּשְׂרִי (<i>Tišrī</i>)	October
	ܬܝܫܪܝܢ ܗܪܐ	<i>Tešrīn [ʾ]Ḥrāy</i>	تَيْشْرِينَ الثَّانِي (<i>Tišrīn at-Ṭānī</i>)	מַרְחֶשְׁוָן (<i>Marḥešwān</i>)	November
Winter	ܚܬܝܢ	<i>Kānōn Qḏīm</i>	كَانُون الْأَوَّل (<i>Kānūn al-ʾAwwal</i>)	כִּסְלֵו (<i>Kislēw</i>)	December
	ܚܬܝܢ ܗܪܐ	<i>Kānōn [ʾ]Ḥrāy</i>	كَانُون الثَّانِي (<i>Kānūn at-Ṭānī</i>)	טֵבֵת (<i>Tēbēṭ</i>)	January
	ܫܒܬܐ	<i>Šbāṭ</i>	شَبَاط (<i>Šbāṭ</i>)	שְׁבַט (<i>Šbāṭ</i>)	February

See also

- Babylonian calendar
- Hebrew calendar
- Islamic calendar
- Kha b-Nisan
- Mandaean calendar
- Persian calendar
- Solar Hijri calendar

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