DAYS OF THE JEWISH YEAR

I. SHABBAT (The Sabbath) Day of rest from labor. Celebration through prayer, study and fellowship. The most sacred day.
   - Creation
   - Liberation

II. HIGH HOLY DAYS – YAMIM NORA’IM
1. ROSH HASHANAH – The New Year
   (Two days/one among Reform Jews)
   - Yom Harat Olam – Renewal of the world
   - Yom Hadin – Day of judgment
   - Yom Hazikaron – Day of remembrance
   - Yom Teruah – Day of sounding of the horn

   (Ten days of Repentance/Renewal)

2. YOM KIPPUR – Day of Atonement and Forgiveness
   Day of fasting, prayer and reconciliation

III. THREE PILGRIMAGE FESTIVALS (SEASONAL FEASTS)
1. SUKKOT – Festival of Tabernacles or Booths
   (Seven days plus one; one extra day among Orthodox Jews in diaspora.)
   - Hag Ha’asif (Festival of Ingathering of Fruits)
   - Z’man Simhatenu (Season of our Joy)
   - Hag (The Feast)
   - Hoshana Rabbah (The seventh day of the festival – “Great Hoshana”)

   - Agricultural: Feast of the Ingathering
   - Historical: Journey through desert to Promised Land

1a. SH’MINI ATZERET – Eighth day of “gathering” or “conclusion” of festival
1b. SIMHAT TORAH – Rejoicing with the Torah (Completion and renewal of cycle of Torah reading. Either on eighth day or extra ninth day)

2. PESACH – PASSOVER – Festival of Freedom
   (Seven days; eight among Orthodox in diaspora)
   - Hag Hamatzot (Festival of Unleavened Bread)
   - Z’man Herutenu (Time of our Redemption)
   - Hag Ha’aviv (Festival of Spring)

   - Shepherds Festival – Pascal lamb (Pesach)
   - Agricultural Festival – Grain harvest (Matzot)
   - Historical: Freedom from Egyptian bondage

2a. Omer: seven weeks between Passover and Sh’vuot
3. SH'VUOT — Festival of Weeks
   (One day; two days among Orthodox in diaspora)
   - Hag Habikurim (Festival of First Fruits)
   - Hag Hakatzir (Feast of the Harvest)
   - Z’m'an Matan Toratenu (The time of the giving of the Torah)
   - Atzeret (Concluding Feast)

   - Agricultural: Conclusion of grain harvest (wheat)
   - Historical: Revelation of Torah (covenant) at Mt. Sinai

IV. MINOR FESTIVALS
1. PURIM — Festival of lots
   - Based on Book of Esther — joyous carnival-like celebration of deliverance
     among the Jews of Persia (5th cent. BCE)

2. HANUKAH — Feast of Dedication
   (Eight days)
   - Based on accounts of Books of Maccabees (extra-canonical) and rabbinical
     sources celebrating Maccabean victory over the Graeco-Syrians and
     rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem (165 BCE)

V. OTHER OBSERVANCES
   - TISHA B'AV — the 9th of Av — Day of mourning and fasting in remembrance of
     destruction of the First (586 BCE) and second (70 CE) Temples in Jerusalem
     and other tragic events in Jewish history.
   - YOM HASHOÁ — Holocaust Remembrance Day
     (observed on 27 Nisan to mark the uprising of the Warsaw Ghetto)
   - YOM HA’ATZMAUT — State of Israel’s Independence Day
     Iyar 5 (1948)