

Amharic in Ethiopic	Amharic in Latin	Coptic Pronunciation	Start Date	Start Date Leap Year
መስከረም	Meskerem	Tout	11 Sept	12 Sept
ጥቅምት	Thikimt	Baba	11 Oct	12 Oct
ገዳር	Hidar	Hator	10 Nov	11 Nov
ታሕሣሥ	Tahsas	Kiahk	10 Dec	11 Dec
ጥር	Thir	Toba	9 Jan	10 Jan
የካቲት	Yekatit	Amshir	8 Feb	9 Feb
መጋቢት	Megabit	Baramhat	10 Mar	-
ሚያዝያ	Miyazia	Baramouda	9 Apr	-
ግንቦት	Ginbot	Bashans	9 May	-
ሰኔ	Senie	Paona	9 Jun	-
ሐምሌ	Hamlie	Epep	8 Jul	-
ነሐሴ	Nehasie	Mesra	7Aug	-
ጳጉሜን	Phagumien	Nasie	6 Sep	-
Modified from http://saintmark.com/easter.html				

Following his conquest of Egypt, Julius Caesar consulted the Alexandrian astronomer [Sosigenes](#) about calendar reform. The calendar which Julius Caesar adopted in the Roman year 709 A.U.C. (*Ab Urbe Condita*, i.e. since the founding of Rome or 46 B.C.) was identical to the [Alexandrian](#) Aristarchus' calendar of 239 B.C., and consisted of a solar year of twelve months and of 365 days with an extra day every fourth year. This calendar which replaced the Roman calendar and established January 1 as new year became the [Julian](#) Calendar. Quintilis was changed to July in honor of Julius Caesar and Sextilis was renamed August for Augustus Caesar.

About 527 A.D. [Dionysius Exiguus](#), started his count (instead of the Diocletian of 284 A.D.) with the year 1 A.D., considered to be the year of the birth of Christ. (It is likely that Jesus was actually born around 7 B.C. or before King [Herod's](#) death in 750 A.U.C..) The Julian Calendar was modified to the Gregorian Calendar in 1582 A.D.. In the Gregorian Calendar, the tropical year is approximated as $365+97/400$ days = 365.2425 days. Thus it takes approximately 3300 years for the tropical year to shift one day with respect to the Gregorian Calendar. The approximation $365+97/400$ is achieved by having 97 leap years every 400 years. Some claim that the Gregorian Calendar took care of the extra 11 minutes and 14 seconds of the tropical solar year with 365.242199 days instead of the 365.25 days. Yet, in the Eastern Orthodox system a century year is a leap year only if division of the century number by 9 leaves a remainder of 2 or 6.

The Ethiopic calendar differs from both the Coptic and the Julian Calendars. The current 1994 Ethiopian Calendar (E.C.) year is equivalent to the 1718 Coptic Calendar (C.C.) and the 2001 Julian Calendar (J.C.). After the massive killing that was so severe and traumatic the Egyptians began a new calendar called "The Martyr's calendar" in A.D. 284. In spite of this, the Ethiopic Calendar is closely associated with the rules and calculations influenced by the Egyptian Coptic Church and the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church. According to Ethiopian scholars such as Aleqa Kidane Wold Kifle, the Ethiopic Calendar A.D. differs from other Christian calendars because of the continuity to these years after completion of the 5500 years and the former is religious while the latter are based on history. The Ethiopic years are seven years behind the Western and Eastern Church calendars. The seven years gap by መስከረም ፩ becomes eight on January 1. Ethiopic uses the 5500 E.B.C. years in proleptic as well as modern calendrical calculations.

According to Asrat and Gebre Hiwot, the Romans endorsed an inaccurate figure by the time they accepted the religion and used 532 to go back and start counting the birth year of Jesus Christ. Exiguus suggested that the Romans (drop the A.U.C. calendar and) start with the Christian Calendar in 532 A.D. (and 19 lunar cycle times 28 solar cycles equals 532). Other churches accepted the [A.D. 1](#) (or 753 A.U.C.) calculation of Exiguus, which was off by four years, only because of the difficulty associated with changing calendar rules and regulations established on it. The authors point out to evidence presented by [Flavius Josephus](#) and others which include [Matthew 2:1](#). Also Tiberius Caesar became the king of Rome in the Roman 765 year and Jesus started teaching fifteen years into his reign, at the age of thirty, in 780 A.U.C. - see [Luke 3:1](#), 3, 22, 23. The starting point of the Jewish Calendar is 3761 B.C., the date for the creation of the world according to their religion. The Aztecs believed that the creation of the world occurred 3113 B.C.. The Greek epoch correlates to 776 B.C.E. Olympiad. The Islamic Calendar started from A.D. 622 after the flight of Mohammed to Medina.

The Geez Calendar (ቀለንቶስ) is divided into old and new. The old era which is equivalent to the B.C. is *Zemene Bluy* (Z.B.) or (ዘመነ ብሉይ). *Zemene Haddis* (Z.H.) or (ዘመነ ሓዲስ) is *Anno Domini* (A.D.), though it is commonly referred to as *Amete Mihret* (A.M.) which means "years of mercy". *Amete Mihret* (ዓመተ ምሕረት) is abbreviated as ዓ.ም.. The Gregorian Calendar years are followed by እንደ ኤውሮጳ አቋጣጠር, which means according to the "European" calendar and is abbreviated as እ.ኤ.አ.. In Amharic Julius is ዩልዮስ, Gregory is ጎርጎርዮስ and B.C. is ከክርስቶስ በፊት (ክ.በ.). The current Ethiopic year can be written as ፲፱፻፺፬ ዓ.ም. , 1994 A.M., 1994 Z.H., 7494 A.A. and even ፩፻፶፬ ዓ.ም.. The new year or 1/1/94 E.C. was on September 11, 2001 G.C..

The Ethiopians, like all their contemporaries, probably did not know about the [zero](#) between the B.C. and the A.D. years. Thus the proleptic Ethiopic B.C. 1 (year 0) is a leap year. [Leap](#) (ሠግር) years by the Ethiopian Calendar are those

that end in a Gregorian Calendar year preceding a Gregorian Calendar leap year. The Ethiopic Leap day is *Phagumien 6* (ጳጉሜን ፮).

The ancient people must have used the "abgd" (አበገደ) digits before the introduction of the Greek alphabet as Ethiopic numerals. The modern Ethiopian calendar is tabulated with Ethiopic and Latin alphanumeric characters to make it bi-alphabetic and includes the G.C. dates. Many incorporate national, Christian and Moslem holidays. It has continued to play important roles in agriculture, genealogy, astronomy, history, astrology, commerce, science, etc. and in calculating movable holidays such as Ethiopian Easter. Many other movable Christian holidays change with the Easter. Ethiopic calendar tables are usually annual, though one spans five centuries.

Groups of years like those associated with lunar and solar cycles have Amharic names. The Ethiopic years have a four year cycle. The years are named after the evangelists Matthew, Luke, Mark and John. Each year has four seasons, similar to autumn (fall), winter, spring and summer. An Ethiopian week has seven days. (Each day has a numeric value for use in calendrical calculations. For instance, Mitonic cycles, the calculations of Ptolemy and the Egyptian calendar were utilized by Patriarch Demetrios of the See of Alexandria to establish the rules for calculating Easter and the week day of a particular new year. Asrat and Gebre Hiwot have published the arithmetic of similar Ethiopic old methods.) Each day has 24 hours with twelve hours of daylight followed by the night.

Days in Amharic Alphabet (ዕለት)	Amharic Days in Latin Alphabet	Days in English
እሁድ	Ehud	Sunday
ሰኞ	Segno	Monday
ማክሰኞ	Maksegno	Tuesday
ረቡዕ	Rebu	Wednesday
ኃምስ	Hamus	Thursday
ዓርብ	Arb	Friday
ቅዳሜ	Kidamie	Saturday

Apart from hours, minutes, seconds, etc. Ethiopic also has a time frame known as *kekros* (ክክሮስ). A kekros is 1/60th of a day. An Ethiopian solar year has 365 days and 15 kekroses while a lunar year has 354 days and 22 kerkoses. (A 1987 E.C. Amharic book by Asrat Gebre Mariam and Gebre Hiwot Mehari is recommended for more information on the calendar or ባሕረ ሓሳብ.)

[Addis Abeba, Ethiopia Current Time](#)

Ethiopia is located on 45 degrees longitude and is thus three hours ahead of Greenwich mean time (GMT) or coordinated universal time, abbreviated UTC.

When it is [0000 UTC](#) or midnight in London, it is 3:00 A.M. in Addis Abeba. This 3 A.M. standard local time is Ethiopic 9 o'clock or the 9th hour of the night. (A simple method to convert from local English time to Ethiopic or *vice versa* is to add or subtract six.)

UTC GMT	Local Time in English	Ethiopian Local Time	Time in Ethiopic (ሰዓት)
0000	3 AM	9	፱
0100	4 AM	10	፳
0200	5 AM	11	፳፩
0300	6 AM	12	፳፪ ከግታው
0400	7AM	1	፩ ጠዋት
0500	8 AM	2	፪
0600	9 AM	3	፫
0700	10 AM	4	፬
0800	11 AM	5	፭
0900	Noon	6	፮ ቀትር
1000	1 PM	7	፯ ቀትር በኋላ
1100	2 PM	8	፰
1200	3 PM	9	፱
1300	4 PM	10	፳
1400	5 PM	11	፳፩
1500	6 PM	12	፳፪ ከቀኑ
1600	7 PM	1	፩ ምሽት
1700	8 PM	2	፪
1800	9 PM	3	፫
1900	10 PM	4	፬
2000	11 PM	5	፭
2100	Midnight	6	፮ እኩለሌሊት
2200	1 AM	7	፯ ሌሊት

2300	2 AM	8	፳
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References

ዓሥራት ገብረ ማርያምና ገብረ ሕይወት መሓሪ፡- የዘመን አቆጣጠር፣ ኣርቲስቲክ ማተሚያ ቤት፣ ኣዲስ ኣበባ፣ ፩፻፳፯ ዓ.ም.

Beleke Molla (2000), [1994 Ethiopian Calendar](#)

Claus Tondering, [FAQ about Calendars](#)

Peter Meyer, [The Julian and Gregorian Calendars](#)

Medhat R. Wassef (1998), [The Coptic Calendar of Martyrs](#)

URL of this site is:

<http://www.ethiopic.com/calendar/ethiopic.htm>

<http://www.ethiopic.com/calendar/ethiopic.pdf>

Under construction
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[የኢትዮጵያ ዘመን አቆጣጠር](#)



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