Biblical Months and the New Year

Exodus 12
1 And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt saying, **2** This **month** shall be unto you the beginning of **months**: it shall be the first **month** of the year to you.

H2320 חֹדֶשׁ chodesh (kho'-desh) n-m.
1. the new moon
2. (by implication) a month

Outline of Biblical Usage:
1. the new moon, month, monthly
    a. the first day of the month
    b. the lunar month

Root(s): H2318

H2318 חָדַשׁ chadash (khaw-dash') v.
1. to be new
2. causatively, to rebuild

Outline of Biblical Usage:
1. to be new, renew, repair
    a. (Piel)
        i. to renew, make anew
        ii. to repair
    b. (Hithpael) to renew oneself

The word “month”, or Chodesh in Hebrew, literally means the new moon and by implication a new month. It is not a brand new moon but a renewed moon.



Psalm 104:19 He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down.

The moon has been appointed for the seasons. It helps us to keep track of God’s calendar.

Exodus 13:3 And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the Lord brought you out

from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten. **4** This day came ye out in the month **Abib**.

H24 אָבִיב 'abiyb (aw-beeb') n-m.
1. green, i.e. a young ear of grain

(hence) the name of the month Abib or Nisan
[from an unused root (meaning to be tender)]

Outline of Biblical Usage:
1. fresh, young barley ears, barley
2. month of ear-forming, of greening of crop, of growing green Abib, month of exodus and passover (March or April)

Abib or Aviv means the greening of the barley. The first month of the year occurs at the new moon when the barley is green, or when they are young barley ears.

Exodus 9:22 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch forth thine hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, upon man, and upon beast, and upon every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt. **23** And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt. **24** So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. **25** And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail smote every herb of the field, and brake every tree of the field. **26** Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, was there no hail.

Exodus 9:31 And the flax and the barley was smitten: for the barley was in the ear, and the flax was bolled. **32** But the wheat and the rie were not smitten: for they were not grown up.

The plague of hail wiped out the barley in Egypt because it was in the ear. It was getting close to harvest. The month of Abib starts at the new moon when the barley is ripening so that it is ready to be harvested by the Feast of Firstfruits. The month of Abib starts the New Year on God's calendar.

****Keep in mind that we are in the diaspora, we are sojourners in foreign lands. We are about 2000 years removed from Jesus' time on earth and more than 1300 years longer from the Exodus. We have many years between us and God's original instructions. Man does a great job at disobeying God and making their own path. With this in mind, we do the best that we can. When our King returns He will set everything straight. The thing that matters is that we are wholly following Him and trying to conform to Him and His Word in every way. We cannot be content with following the traditions of man. We have to be willing to change when we're shown something different in Scripture from what we currently do. When God called out Abraham, he left everything that he knew behind; his family, his gods and his way of life. When God calls us out we have to be willing to do the same, even if we *think* we already have it all figured out. God laid out a plan for His people and man has clearly made their own way. This is blatant disobedience and rebellion. We have the choice to either seek to follow God and His ways or to continue in iniquity. Our choices show the condition of our heart.**