

SEFER YETZIRAH 5.5



**משנה ה': שנים עשר חדשים בשנה ניסן אייר סיון תמוז אב
אלול תשרי חשון כסלו טבת שבט אדר:**

5.5: Twelve months in the year, Nissan, Iyar, Sivan, Tamuz, Av, Elul, Tishrei, Cheshvan, Kislev, Tevet, Shevat, Adar.

(Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan translation)

5:5 Twelve months in the year. April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December, January, February, March.

(Doc Benton translation)

In the Hebrew text of the *Sefer Yetzirah*, we would find the traditional names for the twelve Hebrew months. However, in the lunar calendar that is traditionally used in Judaism, these months drift somewhat around the calendar year, and occasionally a leap month has to be added. Thus, I have used above the more familiar months of the Gregorian calendar which match up better with the dates for the twelve astrological signs. Also, technically speaking, what I should have used above are the actual starting and stopping dates for the twelve astrological signs. For instance, March 21 – April 19 for *Aries*, April 20 – May 20 for *Taurus*, May 21 – June 21 for *Gemini*, and so on. However, as long as we understand this, it is simpler to list the months in the usual order as done above and then to remember that most of *April* corresponds to *Aries*, most of *May* to *Taurus*, and so on and so forth.