Chart 1-6

Roman Calendar

Explanation

At the time of Christ, the Roman calendar and dating system were used throughout the Roman Empire. The calendar derived from the old lunar calendar of the Etruscans, which was designed to keep record of times for religious observances and festivals, and which retained as principal days of the month the *kalends* (first), *nones* (fifth or seventh), and *ides* (thirteenth or fifteenth), based originally on the phases of the moon. The months had been restructured by the Romans into a solar calendar of twelve months with several intercalary days at the end of February. March was the first Roman month, making September the seventh, October the eighth, etc. These names derive from the Latin words for seven *(septem),* eight *(octo),* and so on. The Roman calendar was reformed by Julius Caesar in 45 B.C., which version operated in New Testament times and still forms the basis of our own modern calendar today.

Roman years were numbered *ab urbe condita,* "from the founding of the city." The year we call 753 B.C. was the Roman year 1, the year that Rome is believed to have been established.

References

John F. Hall, "March Gods and the Etruscan New Year," in *By Study and Also By Faith* (Provo, Utah: FARMS, 1990), 1:643–58.

A. K. Michels, *The Calendar of the Roman Republic* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1967).

Roman Calendar

Named for Mars, the god of the New Year	**Martius**	Kalendae — First day of the month
Named for Aprilia, a goddess of spring	**Aprilis**	Idus — The fifteenth of March, May, July, and October, but the thirteenth of all other months. This was the most important day of the month, used for ritual observances.
Named for Maia, an earth goddess	**Maius**	
Named for Juno, wife of Jupiter	**Iunius**	
Named for Julius Caesar (formerly Quintilis, "Fifth Month")	**Iulius**	Nonae — The seventh of March, May, July, and October, but the fifth of all other months.
Named for Augustus Caesar (formerly Sextilis, "Sixth Month")	**Augustus**	All other dates were reckoned backwards from these three dates (e.g., three days before the Kalendae of March).
"Seventh Month"	**September**	
"Eighth Month"	**October**	
"Ninth Month"	**November**	
"Tenth Month"	**December**	
Named for Janus, a god of gates and doors	**Ianuarius**	
"Month of Cleansing"	**Februaris**	