

### **Check Number**

**Excerpted and adapted from a *shiur* by HaRav Chaim Weg**

March 16, 2023

<https://baishavaad.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/10-Vayakhel-Pikudei-Rabbi-Chaim-Weg-HaChodesh-5783-Counting-Months-And-Watching-Matzah.mp3>

*This month shall be for you the beginning of the months, it shall be for you the first of the months of the year.*

Shmos 12:2

The Ramban explains that the months are counted from Nissan to commemorate *yetzias* Mitzrayim. The months had only numbers, not names, until Yirmiyahu commanded the Jews returning from *galus* Bavel to Eretz Yisrael to commemorate *that* redemption by calling the months by their Babylonian names Nissan, Iyar, and so on.

As the Minchas Chinuch and Get Pashut understand the Ramban, today one may call the months by any name he wishes, but not by the wrong number, for example by starting the count from Tamuz. According to the Binyan Shlomo and Abarbanel, neither the names nor the numbers may be changed.

Later *poskim* disagree about whether one may write the date on a check using the numbers of the months of the Gregorian (solar) calendar. The Chasam Sofer (commentary to Bo) and the Steipler hold that one may not do so, based on the Ramban. But the Sheivet Halevi and Minchas Yitzchak permit it, and the common custom follows that view.[1] They explain that while one may not renumber the Jewish (lunar) months, this does not apply to the months of the secular calendar.

[1] For further discussion of the lenient view, see Tzitz Eliezer (8:8), Yabia Omer (Y.D. 3:9), and Minchas Asher (Shmos 14).