

ISRAELITE TIMELINE

- 1800 BC—Abraham leaves Ur, and eventually settles in Canaan, where his grandson Jacob raises 12 sons.
- 1400 BC—Jews flee slavery in Egypt, establish a covenant with Yahweh at Mount Sinai, and start the conquest of Canaan.
- 1100 BC—Saul is anointed the first king over Israel, replaced 40 years later by King David. The reigns of David and his son Solomon mark the establishment of Israel as a regional power with dominion over its neighbors Moab, Ammon, and Damascus.
- 990 BC—Solomon (who had a temple built) dies; upon the declaration of his son Rehoboam to continue the oppressive taxes of his father, the northern section (ten northern tribes) rebels and forms its own kingdom, now called Israel; the southern kingdom (two southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin) is now called Judah.
- 721 BC—Assyria conquers northern kingdom, exiling 10 northern tribes, bringing in outsiders who mix with the remnant of Israelis, and become the Samaritans.
- 586 BC—Babylon destroys Jerusalem, the capital of the southern kingdom (described in the OT book of Isaiah), and burns down the First Temple. In 597, and later in 586, the Babylonians send tens of thousands of Israelite leaders into exile in Babylon.
- 440s BC—Under the Persian empire (which captured Babylon in 539), the Jews are allowed to return to Palestine and rebuild the Temple and Jerusalem, the capital.
- 332 BC—Alexander the Great and the Macedonians conquer the Persian Empire, including Palestine. After his death, Palestine falls under the power first of the Ptolemaic dynasty (ruling Egypt), and after 200, of the Seleucid dynasty (ruling Syria).
- 142 BC—With the policies of Antiochus IV Epiphanes provoking Jewish rebellion, Israelite independence is won after 25 years of warfare. In this era, Israel is ruled by the dynasty of the Maccabees (called the Hasmoneans).
- 64 BC—Roman general Pompey conquers much of the eastern Mediterranean in his campaign against Mithridates. At this point, the nation of Israel becomes a Roman province.
- 70 AD—After a rebellion, Roman legions besiege the city of Jerusalem, causing a deadly famine, and raze the Second Temple to the ground.
- 135 AD—Bar Kokhba revolt crushed by the Romans; after this failed attempt at independence, Jews expelled from Jerusalem, and many in Judaea were killed or sold into slavery. This begins the *Diaspora*.