

Timeline of the History of Israel

17th-6th C. BCE BIBLICAL TIMES (BCE - Before the Common Era)

- c. 17th C. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob - patriarchs of the Jewish people and bearers of a belief in one God - settle in the Land of Israel.
Famine forces Israelites to migrate to Egypt.
- c. 13th C. Exodus from Egypt: Moses leads Israelites from Egypt, followed by 40 years of wandering in the desert.
Torah, including the Ten Commandments, received at Mount Sinai.
- 13th - 12th C. Israelites settle in the Land of Israel
- c. 1020 BCE Jewish monarchy established; Saul, first king.
- c. 1000 BCE Jerusalem made capital of David's kingdom.
- c. 960 BCE First Temple, the national and spiritual center of the Jewish people, built in Jerusalem by King Solomon.
- c. 930 BCE Divided kingdom: Judah and Israel
- 722-720 BCE Israel crushed by Assyrians; 10 tribes exiled (Ten Lost Tribes).
- 586 BCE Judah conquered by Babylonia; Jerusalem and First Temple destroyed; most Jews exiled.

THE SECOND TEMPLE PERIOD

- 538-142 BCE Persian and Hellenistic periods
- 538-515 BCE Many Jews return from Babylonia; Temple rebuilt.
- 332 BCE Land conquered by Alexander the Great; Hellenistic rule.
- 166-160 BCE Maccabean (Hasmonean) revolt against restrictions on practice of Judaism and desecration of the Temple
- 142-129 BCE Jewish autonomy under Hasmoneans.
- 129-63 BCE Jewish independence under Hasmonean monarchy.
- 63 BCE Jerusalem captured by Roman general, Pompey.

63 BCE-313 CE ROMAN RULE

- 63-4 BCE Herod, Roman vassal king, rules the Land of Israel;
Temple in Jerusalem refurbished

(CE - The Common Era)

- c. 20-33 Ministry of Jesus of Nazareth
- 66 Jewish revolt against the Romans
- 70 Destruction of Jerusalem and Second Temple.
- 73 Last stand of Jews at Masada.
- 132-135 Bar Kokhba uprising against Rome.
- c. 210 Codification of Jewish oral law (Mishna) completed.

FOREIGN DOMINATION

- 313-636 Byzantine rule
- c. 390 Commentary on the Mishna (Jerusalem Talmud) completed.
- 614 Persian invasion

636-1099 ARAB RULE

- 691 On site of First and Second Temples in Jerusalem, Dome of the Rock built by Caliph Abd el-Malik.

1099-1291 CRUSADER RULE

(Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem)

1291-1516 MAMLUKE RULE

1517-1917 OTTOMAN RULE

1564 Code of Jewish law (Shulhan Arukh) published.

1860 First neighborhood built outside walls of Jerusalem's Old City.

1882-1903 First Aliya (large-scale immigration), mainly from Russia.

1897 First Zionist Congress convened by Theodor Herzl in Basel, Switzerland; Zionist Organization founded.

1904-1914 Second Aliya, mainly from Russia and Poland.

1909 First kibbutz, Degania, and first modern all-Jewish city, Tel Aviv, founded.

1917 400 years of Ottoman rule ended by British conquest;

British Foreign Minister Balfour pledges support for establishment of a "Jewish national home in Palestine"

1918-1948 BRITISH RULE

1919-1923 Third Aliya, mainly from Russia

1920 Histadrut (General Federation of Labor) and Haganah (Jewish defense organization) founded.

Vaad Leumi (National Council) set up by Jewish community (Yishuv) to conduct its affairs.

1921 First moshav (cooperative village), Nahalal, founded.

1922 Britain granted Mandate for Palestine (Land of Israel) by League of Nations; Transjordan set up on three-fourths of the area, leaving one fourth for the Jewish national home.

Jewish Agency representing Jewish community vis-a-vis Mandate authorities set up.

1924 Technion, first institute of technology, founded in Haifa.

1924-1932 Fourth Aliya, mainly from Poland.

1925 Hebrew University of Jerusalem opened on Mount Scopus.

1929 Hebron Jews massacred by Arab terrorists.

1931 Etzel, Jewish underground organization, founded.

1933-1939 Fifth Aliya, mainly from Germany.

1936-1939 Anti-Jewish riots instigated by Arab terrorists.

1939 Jewish immigration severely limited by British White Paper.

1939-1945 World War II; Holocaust in Europe.

1941 Lehi underground movement formed; Palmach, strike force of Haganah, set up.

1944 Jewish Brigade formed as part of British forces.

1947 UN proposes the establishment of Arab and Jewish states in the Land.

1948 STATE OF ISRAEL

End of British Mandate (14 May)

State of Israel proclaimed (14 May).

Israel invaded by five Arab states (15 May).

Israel Defense Forces (IDF) established.

1948-1949 War of Independence

1949 Armistice agreements signed with Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon.

1948-1952 Jerusalem divided under Israeli and Jordanian rule.

First Knesset (parliament) elected.

Israel admitted to United Nations as 59th member.

Mass immigration from Europe and Arab countries.

1956 Sinai Campaign

1964 National Water Carrier completed, bringing water from Lake Kinneret in the north to the semi-arid south.

1967 Six-Day War; Jerusalem reunited.

1968-1970 Egypt's War of Attrition against Israel

1973 Yom Kippur War

1975	Israel becomes an associate member of the European Common Market.
1978	Camp David Accords include a framework for comprehensive peace in the Middle East and a proposal for Palestinian self-government.
1979	Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty signed. (still intact) Prime Minister Menachem Begin and President Anwar Sadat awarded Nobel Peace Prize.
1981	Israel Air Force destroys Iraqi nuclear reactor just before it is to become operative.
1982	Israel's three-stage withdrawal from Sinai Peninsula completed. Operation Peace for Galilee removes Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) terrorists from Lebanon.
1984	Operation Moses, immigration of Jews from Ethiopia.
1985	Free Trade Agreement signed with United States.
1987	First Intifada
1989	Four-point peace initiative proposed by Israel. Start of mass immigration of Jews from former Soviet Union.
1991	Israel attacked by Iraqi Scud missiles during Gulf war. Middle East peace conference convened in Madrid; Operation Solomon, airlift of Jews from Ethiopia.
1992	Diplomatic relations established with China and India.
1993	Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements for the Palestinians signed by Israel and PLO, as representative of the Palestinian people (Oslo Accords).
1994	Implementation of Palestinian self-government in Gaza Strip and Jericho area. Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty signed. (still intact) Rabin, Peres, Arafat awarded Nobel Peace Prize.
1995	Broadened Palestinian self-government implemented in West Bank and Gaza Strip; Palestinian Council elected. Prime Minister Rabin assassinated at peace rally.
1996	Fundamentalist Arab terrorism against Israel escalates. Operation Grapes of Wrath, retaliation for Hizbullah terrorists' attacks on northern Israel.
2000	Israel admitted to UN Western European and Others Group. Renewed violence (Second Intifada).
2001	Palestinian-Israeli Security Implementation Work Plan (Tenet ceasefire plan) proposed.
2002	Israel launches Operation Defensive Shield in response to massive Palestinian terrorist attacks. Israel begins building the anti-terrorist fence to stop West Bank terrorists from killing Israeli citizens.
2005	Israel carries out the Disengagement Plan, ending Israel's presence in the Gaza Strip.
2006	The Second War in Lebanon, during which Israel carried out military operations against Hizbullah terrorism from southern Lebanon, following missile attacks and kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers.
2007	Israel declares Gaza "hostile territory" following Hamas violent takeover of Gaza Strip.
2008	Israel launches its Gaza Operation (Operation Cast Lead) in response to the barrage of over 10,000 rockets and mortars fired from the Gaza Strip.
2009	The city of Tel Aviv celebrates its 100th anniversary.