

The “Big Picture” of the Bible

Key Dates in the History of Israel and Judah

Dates from the Oxford Annotated Bible

CREATION AND FALL “Primeval history” Dates unknown

Adam and Eve
The Fall into sin
Cain and Abel
Sin continues to grow
Noah and the Flood
The Tower of Babel

Affirms the truths that

- God made the world
- Humanity sinned
- Sin continues to wreak havoc on the world
- Therefore salvation was needed—first the creation of a saving nation who then would bring forth a savior

Bible: Genesis 1-11

THE PATRIARCHS 2000-1200 B.C.E.

God calls Abram
Ishmael
Abraham and Sarah
Isaac and Rebekkah
Jacob and Esau

Jacob’s Children

By Leah

Reuben, Simeon, Levi
Judah, Isaachar,
Zebulon, Dina

By Zilpah, Leah’s

handmaiden
Gad and Asher

By Rachel

Joseph and Benjamin

By Bilhah, Rachel’s

handmaiden

Dan and Naphtali

- Story of the promise of the nation through Abraham
- Establishment of the covenant—land, descendants, blessing
- Origins of the Twelve Tribes
- How Israel came to Egypt

Bible: Genesis 12-50

EXODUS and WILDERNESS 1500-1200 B.C.E. 1279-1213 B.C.E.—The Reign of Ramses II.

Moses
1279-1213 B.C.E.
The Exodus from Egypt
Journey to Sinai
Receive the Law
The Covenant Code

- How the nation was created and saved
- The Mosaic Law given by God
- Origin of Passover and the festivals
- Wilderness wanderings and dependence on God
- Rebellion and punishment
- Organization of Israel’s religious identity
- Warnings (Deuteronomic history)
- Moses dies before entering the Promised Land

Bible: Exodus-
Deuteronomy

CONQUEST AND SETTLEMENT 1200-1025 B.C.E.

Joshua
The Judges
Othniel
Ehud
Shamgar
Deborah and Barak
Gideon
Abimelech
Tola
Jair
Jephthah
Ibzan
Elon
Abdon
Samson

Ruth is from this period

- The violent campaign to conquer the land from the Canaanites
- The division of the land
- The “culture wars” and local threats to Israel

Bible: Joshua, Judges
and Ruth

UNITED MONARCHY 1025-928 B.C.E.

Saul 1025 B.C.E.
David 1005-965 B.C.E.
Solomon 968-928 B.C.E.

Eli
Samuel
Bathsheba
The Prophet Nathan
Jonathan
Absalom

- God gives Israel at king at the people’s request
- Rise and centralization of the King
- David ascends to unique place in Israel’s history
- Prophetic movement begins as protest against the throne
- Establishment of Jerusalem as the city of David
- Violation of the Deuteronomic warnings
- corruption

Bible: 1 Samuel 1-1
Kings 11

DIVIDED

North known as Israel
928-722 B.C.E.

Various dynasties rule

Jeroboam 1st king of
Israel after division, 928-
907 B.C.E.

Omri 882-871

Samaria capital

Ahab 873-852

Elijah

Elisha

Jehu 842-814

Jehoash 800-788

Jeroboam II 788-747

Amos

Hosea

Hoshea 732-722

Fall of the Northern
kingdom, destruction of
Samaria by the Assyrians
722 B.C.E.

- Story of the monarchy and Israel
- Deuteronomist's explanation of why disaster came and exile happened

KINGDOM

South known as Judah
Davidic line continues

Rehoboam King of Judah
928-911

Solomon's son, first
Judean king in divided
kingdom

Jehoshaphat 870-846

Athaliah 842-836

Jehoash 836-798

Ahaz 743-727

Hezekiah 727-701

Isaiah

Micah

Mannaseh 698-642

Josiah 639-609

Zephaniah

Jeremiah

Jehoahaz 609

Jehorakim 608-598

Jehoiachin 597

Zedekiah 597-586

Deportations 597-586

Destruction of Jerusalem
586

Beginning of Exile

Bible: 1 Kings 12-2

Kings 25 and parallels in
Chronicles

Zephaniah, Nahum,

Habakkuk

WORLD HISTORY

928 BCE

Rise of Assyria

Babylon is superpower

722 B.C.E

597-586

Rise of Persians, Medes

EXILE

586-539 B.C.E.

- Leading citizens taken to Babylon
- Time of great theological struggle
- Birth of the synagogue
- Literary production—books of law, Deuteronomic history likely put in full written form
- Death and rebirth of the covenant
- Problem of theodicy
- Liberation by Cyrus of Persia 539

Bible: Jeremiah
Ezekiel
Isaiah 40-55

RETURN AND REBUILDING OF JERUSALEM

539-332 B.C.E.

- Exiles permitted to return by Cyrus King of Persia.
- Rebuild city walls of Jerusalem
- Rebuild the temple 520-515
- Emphasis on rigorous observance of law and separate identity

Bible: Ezra
Nehemiah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi
Joel

The “Big Picture” of the Bible--II

Key Dates in the History of Israel and Judah

GREEK PERIOD 333-63 B.C.E.

Alexander the Great

333 conquers Palestine

Dies in 323

Divided by his 4 generals

Ptolemies (Egypt) and the Seleucids (Syria) vie for control of Palestine

Diaspora community in

Egypt the LXX

Seventy-two translators

250-200 BCE

Seleucids retake in 198

Beginnings of trouble

Antiochus IV Epiphanes

175-164 B.C.E.

Forced Hellenism

Temple plundered 168

Dedication of temple to

Zeus to accommodate the

Syrian troops

Judaism suppressed

The Maccabean Revolt

Mattathias and sons

Judas Maccabeus

Jonathan, Simon, John

and Eleazar

Liberation and temple

Worship reinstated

164 B.C.E.

Feast of Dedication

(Hannukah)

Hasmoneans unite high

priesthood and kingship

Upsurge in Apocalyptic

- Exhortations to remain faithful

Hostility with Samaritans grows

Bible: Daniel

ROMAN DOMINATION 63 B.C.E. – 135 A.D.

Conquest of Palestine
by Romans

Julius Caesar murdered in 44 AD

Roman republic replaced by autocratic rule by Julius Caesar's nephew Octavian (Augustus)

who rules from 27 BCE-14 AD

Direct Roman rule in 6 BCE

Roman governors and Collaboration of Herods Herod the Great rebuilds the temple

Rule of Tiberias 14-37

Rule of Caligua 37-41

Rule of Claudius 41-54

Rule of Nero 54-68

Rule of Vespasian 69-79

Rule of Titus 79-81

Rule of Domitian 81-96

Zealots and First Jewish Revolt 66-73

Destruction of Jerusalem and the temple by Titus 70 AD

Second Jewish Revolt 132-135 AD

Jews banned from Jerusalem by Romans

By Rachel

JESUS OF NAZARETH 4-6 B.C.E.-30 AD

- Life, ministry and teaching of Jesus of Nazareth
- Crucifixion ca. 30 AD under Pontius Pilate, governor
- Early Church preaches a risen Lord
- Palestinian Christianity spreads

Bible: Matthew-John, Acts 1-8

THE EARLY CHURCH AND PAUL 1200-1025 B.C.E.

Conversion

- Letters of Paul and other books 45-85??
- Gospel crosses from Judaism to the world
- Beginnings of institutional Christianity
- Canonization of scripture by 367 AD

Bible: Acts 9 - Revelation