

A BIBLE TIME LINE

<u>Approximate Date BCE/CE</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Biblical Source</u>
About 1850 BCE	Abraham leaves northern Mesopotamia and journeys to Canaan.	Gen. 12
About 1020	Samuel anoints Saul king of Israel over a united twelve-tribe kingdom.	1 Sam. 10
About 1000-961	David creates an Israelite empire, makes Jerusalem the national capital. J written down?	2 Sam. 2-21; 1 Kings 2
About 961-922	King Solomon rules, builds the First Temple at Jerusalem.	1 Kings 3-11
922	Kingdom split into Israel, a ten-tribe northern state, and Judah, a two-tribe southern state.	1 Kings 12
721	Assyria conquers Israel, destroys its capital, Samaria; deports the population. E and J combined? Thus Samaritans = Jews who remained in Israel and assimilated with Assyrians.	2 Kings 17
701	Sennacherib besieges Jerusalem, Assyrians withdraw.	Isa. 36-37; 2 Kings 18-19
622 or 621	Book of Deuteronomy “discovered”; Josiah reforms Judah’s religion. Approx. time D added to JE?	2 Kings 22-23; 2 Chron. 34-35
598/597	Nebuchadnezzar sacks Jerusalem; first deportation of Jewish captives.	
587	Nebuchadnezzar destroys Jerusalem, burns Solomon’s Temple, takes Jews Babylon as captives. Approx. time of writing of P?	2 Kings 24
539	Cyrus the Great of Persia captures Babylon.	
538	Much of Jewish remnant returns to Jerusalem, but some do not (= Diaspora).	Ezra 1
520-515	The Second Temple is built and dedicated; Judah becomes a province of the Persian Empire.	Ezra 6 Hag. 2
486-465	Xerxes I (=Ahasuerus in Book of Esther) rules in Persia.	Esther
445ff.	Ezra and Nehemia religious reforms; Torah promulgated as canon.	Neh. 8
About 332	Alexander the Great includes Palestine in his empire.	1 Macc. 1
323-197	The Ptolemys of Egypt rule Palestine (Hellenistic period).	

About 250	Septuagint begun; completed by 1st century CE.	
About 200	Former and latter prophets added to canon.	
About 200	Earliest Dead Sea scrolls written.	
197-142	Seleucid dynasty of Syria rules Palestine.	2 Macc. 4
167-164	Antiochus IV attempts to force Hellenistic religion on the Jews, pollutes the Second Temple.	1 Macc.; Dan. 11:30
164	The Maccabean revolt is successful, Second Temple is cleaned and rededicated.	Dan. 7:25; 8:14; 9:27; 12:7
About 150	Writings (Ketuvim) added to canon.	
142-63	Jews expel the Seleucids; Judea becomes an independent kingdom under the Hasmonean dynasty.	1 Macc.
63	General Pompey makes Palestine part of the Roman Empire, partitions Judaea.	
50-62 CE	Paul's epistles written. (Last epistle to be written is 2 Peter, ca. 120)	
66-73	Jewish revolt against Rome.	
70	Romans destroy Jerusalem and the Second Temple.	
70-100	Gospels written. ("New testament" begins to be used in 100's CE)	
About 150	Epistles of Paul considered canonical.	2 Pet. 3:15-16
367	Christian canon in modern form, with Revelation as last book admitted.	
About 400	Vulgate Bible in Latin; becomes standard Christian Bible until the Protestant Reformation, after which it is the standard Catholic bible.	
700-800	Masoretic text of Hebrew Bible finalized.	
About 1400	John Wyclif's followers translate parts of Bible into English.	
1543	Martin Luther translates Old Testament into German.	
1560	Geneva Bible (known to Shakespeare).	
1611	Authorized or King James Version; becomes standard Protestant Bible in English.	
1947	Dead Sea Scrolls discovered in Qumran near the Dead Sea.	
1948	Modern state of Israel created.	

- **J = Yahwist texts** from Judah, the southern kingdom of ancient Israel; God is identified by His personal name *Yahweh* (explained in Ex. 3:13-18), with *Adonai* (“the Lord”) written over it in manuscripts; includes part of Primeval History (Gen. 1-11) and other narratives in Genesis, Exodus, and Numbers)
- **E = Elohistic texts** from Ephraim in the northern kingdom of ancient Israel: God is identified by His title *Elohim* (lit. “gods,” plural, using the traditional form for referring to a deity or royalty); includes some early narratives in Genesis.
- **D = Deuteronomistic texts** found in the Temple in Jerusalem in 622/621 BCE: Books of Deuteronomy and Deuteronomistic History from Joshua through Kings; also interested in laws, ritual practices, and prophecy.
- **P = Priestly texts** possibly assembled during the Babylonian Captivity: Parts of Primeval History and Exodus, all of Leviticus, parts of Numbers; also interested in genealogy and ritual practices.

SOURCES:

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