

KEY EVENTS FROM BIBLE TIMES TO MODERN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM

TIME LINE



ROSE
PUBLISHING



Jerusalem is one of the most important cities on earth. Scripture calls it “the city of our God” (Ps. 48). Jerusalem has been—and still is—a focal point for Jews, Muslims, and Christians. The name Jerusalem means “city of peace,” yet throughout history it has been one of the most fought-over cities of all time. It has been razed and rebuilt, abandoned and filled; wars have been fought over it, and yet pilgrims, even today, travel long, arduous journeys just to set foot in the holy city.

“At that time they will call Jerusalem The Throne of the LORD, and all nations will gather in Jerusalem to honor the name of the LORD.”
—Jeremiah 3:17

Jerusalem before King David:

- The earliest mention of Jerusalem is in Egyptian texts dating from the 20th or 19th century BC.
- According to archaeological finds, Jerusalem became a fortified city with a complex water system in the 18th century BC.
- The first mention of Jerusalem in the Bible is in Genesis 14:18 when Abraham encounters Melchizedek, the “king of Salem.” (Salem is believed to be a shortened name for Jerusalem.)
- Also in Genesis, Abraham is tested by God and offers his son Isaac on Mt. Moriah (Gen. 22:2), a location later identified as the site where King Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem (2 Chron. 3:1).
- Abraham’s descendents, the sons of Jacob (Israel), moved to Egypt because of a famine in Canaan. They remained there and increased in number until 400 years later when Moses led them out of Egypt (the Exodus).
- Moses’ successor Joshua led the Israelites back to Canaan to possess the land God had promised to them. Although Joshua conquered the land, he was unable to drive out the Jebusites who controlled the city of Jerusalem (2 Sam. 5:6–10). It would be nearly four centuries later before a man named David would capture this formidable city and make it the capital of Israel.

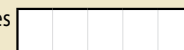
Religion of Ruling Power:



Black indicates the present walls of Old City Jerusalem
Colored portion indicates the size of Jerusalem at that time
c. = approximately



10 years between vertical lines



1000 BC

900

800

- **Reign of King David:** He captures Jerusalem (city of Jebus) from the Jebusites, brings ark of the covenant to Jerusalem, purchases threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite on Mt. Moriah in Jerusalem to be the site of the temple. c. 1011–971

- **Reign of King Solomon:** Jerusalem experiences a time of peace and prosperity. c. 971–931

- **First temple** built on Mt. Moriah by King Solomon. 967–960

- **Death of Solomon.** His kingdom is divided into Northern Kingdom of Israel and Southern Kingdom of Judah (includes Jerusalem). 931

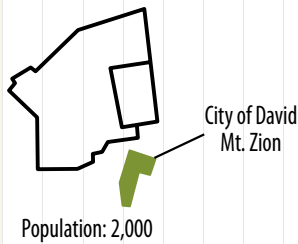
- **Egyptian Pharaoh Shishak** attacks Jerusalem and plunders the temple. 926

- **King Joash of Judah** and priest Jehoiada repair the temple. 835



Jerusalem, Israel

JERUSALEM AT THE TIME OF JEBUSITES AND KING DAVID
c. 1850–971 BC



King David brings ark of the covenant to Jerusalem

- **King Jehoash of Israel** attacks Judah, tears down Jerusalem's walls, takes temple treasures to Samaria. 796

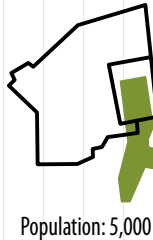
ISRAEL AND JUDAH

1000 BC

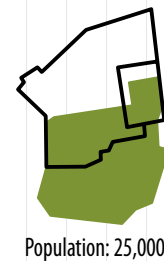
900

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KING SOLOMON
c. 971–931 BC



KING HEZEKIAH
c. 716–687 BC



700

600

500

Judah falls to Babylon upon Nebuchadnezzar's third invasion. Temple is destroyed, many Jews taken into exile in Babylon. 586

Ezekiel has a vision of a magnificent new temple (Ezek. 40–48). c. 585–573



Dedication of First Temple

Cyrus the Great of Persia defeats Babylon and issues decree allowing Jews in exile to return to Jerusalem. 539

Zerubbabel and Joshua the high priest lead Jews in exile back to Jerusalem. 539–538

Daniel, in exile, receives the prophecy of the seventy “sevens” about Messiah’s death in Jerusalem, destruction of the temple and its rebuilding and desecration (Dan. 9). c. 539–536

Temple rebuilt. Those who remember the splendor of the first temple weep about this lesser second temple. 536–516



Nehemiah rebuilds Jerusalem's walls

Ezra returns to Jerusalem and exhorts the people to religious and moral reform. 457–456

Nehemiah governs Jerusalem and rebuilds city walls. 444–432

Northern Kingdom of Israel falls to Assyria. Refugees relocate to Judah and Jerusalem’s population grows. 722

King Ahaz of Judah pays tribute to the King Tiglath-Pileser III of Assyria using temple furnishings and treasures; defiles the temple with a pagan altar. 720

ISRAEL AND JUDAH

BABYLONIAN AND PERSIAN EMPIRES

700

600

500

Reign of King Hezekiah of Judah: He cleanses the temple; constructs a long tunnel under City of David to tap into a water source to prepare for an Assyrian siege (701 BC); pays tribute to King Sennacherib of Assyria with temple treasures; foolishly shows temple treasures to a Babylonian prince, an event Isaiah prophesied would lead to the destruction of Jerusalem (2 Kings 20:12–19). 716–687

King Manasseh of Judah, Hezekiah’s son, reverses his father’s reforms and places idols in the temple. 697

King Josiah of Judah recovers Law of Moses, reforms the land, tears down pagan altars. Levites return ark to the temple (last mention in the Bible of the whereabouts of the ark, 2 Chron. 35:3). 641

Jeremiah prophesies that the Jews will return to Jerusalem after 70 years of exile (Jer. 25:11–12). c. 605

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon invades Jerusalem and loots temple treasures. 605

Nebuchadnezzar returns, takes more temple vessels to Babylon. Ezekiel taken into exile. 598–597



Babylonia invades Jerusalem and destroys temple