

Old Testament Time Line

Bible History		World History		Kings of the Old Testament	
The Beginning	Books of the Old Testament	Bible History	World History	Kings of the Old Testament	
2200-2000 B.C.	Genesis	Creation. Adam and Eve. The Fall. Cain and Abel. Enoch taken to heaven. Noah and the Flood. Noah's sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth. Tower of Babel. Language confused and peoples disperse.	Earliest cuneiform writing (3000 B.C.). Middle Bronze Age. Pyramids built in Egypt and ziggurats built in Mesopotamia (3000-2000 B.C.).	United Kingdom	
2000-1800	Job	God tells Abram to go to Canaan. Abram travels from his home in Ur in Mesopotamia to Canaan, the Promised Land. God promises to give the land to Abram's descendants. Abram goes to Egypt and back due to famine. Ishmael born. Sodom and Gomorrah. Job. Abram's name changed to Abraham. Isaac born.	Old Babylonian Period Pyramids built in Egypt and ziggurats built in Mesopotamia (3000-2000 B.C.).	Saul	
1800-1600		Isaac and Rebekah have twins. Jacob and Esau. Jacob goes to Haran, marries Leah and Rachel, has 12 sons. The Lord names Jacob "Israel." Son Joseph sold into slavery, taken to Egypt.	Indoor bathroom plumbing developed.	David	
1600-1400	Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy	Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dream, becomes a ruler in Egypt. Jacob (Israel) and family go to Egypt. Jacob's descendants live in Egypt about 400 years. They are slaves for part of that time, building Pithom and Rameses, which are store cities.	King Hammurabi of Babylon writes "code of law." Babylonians develop the 60-minute hour. After Hammurabi's death, Hittites plunder Babylon. Assyria rises in strength.	Solomon	
1400-1200	Joshua, Judges	Baby Moses saved by Pharaoh's daughter. God speaks to Moses in burning bush. Moses (age 80) gives God's message to Pharaoh. Miracles. Plagues. First Passover. The Exodus. Moses leads the Israelites out of Egypt. Crosses the Red Sea. Wandering 40 years.	Stonehenge erected in Britain (2800-1500?). Late Bronze Age. Mycenaean civilization in Greece. Minoan Crete destroyed by volcano and earthquakes. Period of the Egyptian Empire.		
1200-1100	Ruth	During wanderings (above): Ten Commandments. Laws. Golden calf. The Tabernacle completed. Ark of the Covenant. Spies sent to Canaan. Rahab hides spies. Joshua and Caleb. Moses dies. After the 40 years, Joshua conquers Canaan. Period of the Judges and cycles of disobedience.	Phoenician pharaoh Ichnatun develops a monotheistic religion. Tuthankhamun becomes pharaoh of Egypt, and reinstates earlier gods. Legend: Greeks use the Trojan horse to defeat Troy.		
1100-1000	1 & 2 Samuel, 1 Chronicles	Judges include Deborah and Gideon. People of Israel attacked by the Philistines, Canaanites, Midianites, Ammonites, and others. Ruth, a widow from Moab, chooses to follow God. Eli, high priest 40 years.	Iron Age. People begin to use iron tools. Phoenicians have main centers in Tyre and Sidon. Mycenaean civilization collapses. Greeks decline.		
1000-900	Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, 1 Kings	Samson pulls down Philistine temple in Gaza. Samuel, the first prophet and last judge of Israel. Saul becomes first king of Israel. David slays Goliath. Saul disobeys the Lord and the Lord rejects him as king. David selected as next king. David tries to kill David. (See "Kings in the Old Testament" at far right.)	Phoenicians develop supremacy in the Mediterranean: seafaring, trade in wood and cloth. Phoenicians develop an alphabet that is the basis of the modern English alphabet.		
900-800	2 Kings, Joel	David is the second king of Israel. When David becomes old, his sons Absalom and later Adonijah conspire for the throne. David and Bathsheba's son, Solomon, becomes third king. First Temple built. After Solomon's death the kingdom divides: Israel (north) and Judah (south).	Etruscans arrive in Italy. Queen of Sheba (Yemen today) visits King Solomon.		
800-700	Jonah, Micah, Isaiah, Hosea, Amos	Elijah and the prophets of Baal. Jezebel, the wicked queen of Israel. Elijah and Elisha see chariot of fire. Elijah goes to heaven in whirlwind. Elisha and the miracles of the widow's oil and raising the Shunammite's son. Naaman healed of leprosy. The Lord blinds the attacking Aramean army. Joel.	Period of the Assyrian Empire. Assyrians known as cruel warriors who torture prisoners and deport people from conquered nations.		
700-600	Nahum, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Zephaniah, Habakkuk	Jonah is sent to Nineveh. Amos and Hosea prophesy to Israel. Isaiah and Micah prophesy to Judah. Fall of Samaria (Israel) to Assyrians. (722 B.C.) People deported to other lands.	Greeks colonize Italy and Sicily. First Olympic games. Nineveh is capital of Assyrian Empire. Founding of Rome (753 B.C.).		
600-500	2 Chronicles, Daniel, Ezekiel, Obadiah	Isaiah, Jeremiah, other prophets warn Judah and other nations. Babylonians seize Judah (606 B.C.) and start carrying off inhabitants. Daniel and friends taken to Babylon. Ark of the Covenant lost.	Nineveh destroyed by Babylonians. Medes, Assyria conquered. Period of the New Babylonian Empire.		
500-400	Haggai, Zechariah, Esther, Ezra, Nehemiah, Malachi	Jerusalem falls and Judah destroyed (586 B.C.). Captives taken by King Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon. Daniel in lion's den. Jeremiah taken to Egypt. First Jews return to home in 536 B.C. under Zerubbabel. Second Temple built.	Babylon's Hanging Gardens is one of the wonders of the world. Babylon conquered by Medes, Persians. Edict of Cyrus, Persian king. Period of Persian Empire. Confucius in China. Buddha in India.		
400-300		King Xerxes of Persia chooses Esther to be queen. Esther saves the Jews from a plot by Haman. More Jews led by Ezra, and another group led by Nehemiah, return to their homeland. Walls of Jerusalem rebuilt. Haggai, Zechariah, Jews under Persian rule.	Persian kings: Darius I, Xerxes (Ahasuerus), Artaxerxes I, Darius II. Parthenon built. Socrates. Runner carries news of Greek victory at battle of Marathon 26 miles to Athens. Origin of athletic "marathon."		
300-200		Inter-testamental Period. 400-year period before Jesus is born. Jews remain under Persian rule. In 330 B.C. the land falls to Alexander the Great of Greece. Alexander dies at age 32. His empire is divided by his four generals. The Ptolemies (Greek Kings of Egypt) begin their rule.	Alexander the Great conquers Persia. Period of the Greek Kingdoms. Greek philosophers Plato, Aristotle (Alexander's teacher), Hippocratic oath written.		
200-100		Judea is possessed by the Ptolemies (Egypt). The Seleucids of Syria gain control of the region.	Great Wall of China built. Mayan calendar invented. First Roman gladiator games. Punic Wars (Rome vs. Carthage). General Hannibal of Carthage crosses the Alps with elephants.		
100-1 B.C.		Temple dedicated by Antiochus IV (Epiphanes) of Syria who set up a statue of Zeus and sacrificed a pig on the altar. Maccabees revolt. Feast of Lights (Hanukkah or the Feast of Dedication) celebrates the rededication of the cleansed temple. Jews win independence temporarily. Hasmoneans rule (166-63 B.C.).	Syrians conquer Jerusalem (170 B.C.). Hellenization promotes a world united by Greek language and culture (330-166 B.C.). Romans dominate Greece, destroy Carthage, found province of Africa.		
		Romans conquer Jerusalem (63 B.C.). Judea is under Roman rule. Julius Caesar appoints Herod Antipater governor of Judea. Later his son Herod the Great is appointed "king of the Jews" by the Roman senate. Herod spends 10 years restoring the temple. Jesus Christ born.	Period of the Roman Republic and Empire. Pompey conquers Jerusalem. Cleopatra, last Egyptian queen, rules (51-31 B.C.). Julius Caesar defeats Egypt, later succeeded by Caesar Augustus (Octavian).		

* Good Kings of the Divided Kingdom
(Only major kings noted here. Listed by first date of each king's or prophet's influence.)

For dates after A.D. 1 and the life of Jesus, use:
New Testament Time Line. Maps of this period: Middle East: Then and Now (301X), Holy Land: Then and Now (302X), and Paul's Journeys: Then and Now (304X).