

Old Testament Timeline

Date	Event	Story Found in	Other Writings
Prehistory	Creation - Sin Cain and Abel Flood Babel	Genesis 1-11	
BCE 2000-1800	Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob Joseph and Sojourn in Egypt	Genesis 12-50	
1290 -1250	Moses Passover and Exodus Sinai Covenant & 10 Commandments Wilderness Journey	Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	
1250 - 1050	Joshua Settlement in the Land, Judges: Deborah, Gideon, Samson Samuel	Joshua Judges 1 Samuel 1-12	Ruth
1020 - 931	United Monarchy Saul (1020) David (1000) Solomon (960)	1 Samuel 13-24 2 Samuel 1 Kings 1-11 2 Chronicles 9	JE traditions of the Pentateuch
931	Kingdom Divides	1 Kings 12-15 2 Chron 10-20	
931 - 722	Northern Kingdom - Israel The era of Omri, Ahab and Jezebel, Elijah, Elisha	1 Kings 16 to 2 Kings 10 2 Chron 21-24	Elijah Elisha Amos Hosea
722 - 597	Fall of Northern Kingdom (722) Hezekiah Reign of Josiah (622)	2 Kings 10-20, 2 Chron 25-32	
931 - 586 597 586	Southern Kingdom - Judah Capture of Jerusalem Destruction of Jerusalem Babylonian power	2 Kings 21-25, 2 Chron 33-36	Isaiah (1-39) Micah Nahum Habakkuk Jeremiah
586-538	Babylonian Exile	Jeremiah Ezekiel 33-48 Isaiah 40-55	Ezekiel 33-48 D traditions Lamentations
538-400	Persian Era Return from Exile and Restoration Second Temple completed (515) Wall rebuilt by Nehemiah (445)	Ezra Nehemiah	Haggai Zechariah Malachi P traditions Esther

400 – 6 or 4CE	Intertestamental Period Greek and Romans Maccabean Wars	1 and 2 Macabbees	Apocalyptic traditions Daniel Apocrypha
6/4 CE- CE 27/30	Birth, Life, and Death of Jesus	Matthew* Mark* Luke* <u>John*</u>	
CE 30-60	The Early Church Ministry of the Apostle Paul	Acts	1-2 Thessalonians Galatians Romans 1-2 Corinthians Prison Epistles Pastoral Epistles
CE 60-100	Other Early Christians		General Epistles Revelation

- Note that the time period in which a writing is set or describes does not mean that it was written in that era. For example, Kings is a recounting of Israel's entire history in the land from the perspective of exile after the nation had been destroyed (after 586 BCE). Chronicles is an exilic rewriting of the Samuel/Kings traditions from the perspective of anticipated restoration and the hopes of a new Davidic kingdom (c. 550-500 BCE). The book of Jonah most likely dates to the time of Ezra and Nehemiah (c. 450 BC) although set in the Assyrian period (c. 720 BCE). Although the issue is debated, many scholars attribute Daniel to the period of the Maccabean Wars (c. 164 BCE) even though it is set in the Babylonian period (586-538 BC). Even though they recount the life and teachings of Jesus (c. 4 BCE - CE 30), the Gospels were not written until shortly before and after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in CE 70 after Paul's letters were written (CE 55-60).
- This reflects the fact that most biblical material is a reflection on the **significance** of history for the ongoing community from a much later time rather than being a purely contemporary record of events. This does not invalidate the historical dimension, but it does serve to emphasize the theological and confessional aspects rather than just historical data .

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