

BIBLE BLOCKS

Week 1 Handout — The Biblical Timeline: Creation to Revelation

Here is a comprehensive, chronological biblical timeline. Because dating ancient events involves some estimation (especially prior to the monarchy), dates are based on standard conservative and mainstream archaeological estimates, transitioning from B.C. (Before Christ) to A.D. (Anno Domini).

1. Primeval History (Creation to the Patriarchs)

This period covers the foundations of the world and early human history, described in Genesis 1–11.

- **Creation & The Fall (Genesis 1-3)** — Date undetermined
- **The Flood / Noah's Ark (Genesis 6-9)** — Date undetermined
- **The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11)** — Date undetermined

2. The Patriarchal Era (c. 2100 B.C. - 1800 B.C.)

God initiates His covenant with Abraham, forming the family that would become the nation of Israel.

- **c. 2090 B.C.** — God Calls Abram: Abram leaves Ur for Canaan; God makes His covenant with him (Gen. 12).
- **c. 2066 B.C.** — Birth of Isaac: The son of the promise is born to Abraham and Sarah (Gen. 21).
- **c. 2006 B.C.** — Birth of Jacob & Esau: Twin sons of Isaac and Rebekah (Gen. 25).
- **c. 1915 B.C.** — Birth of Joseph: Jacob's eleventh and favored son (Gen. 30).
- **c. 1898 B.C.** — Joseph Sold into Slavery: Joseph is taken to Egypt (Gen. 37).
- **c. 1876 B.C.** — Jacob's Family Moves to Egypt: Fleeing famine, Israel settles in Goshen (Gen. 46).

3. The Exodus and Wilderness Wanderings (c. 1446 B.C. or 1260 B.C.)

Scholars generally debate between an "early date" (c. 1446 B.C.) and a "late date" (c. 1260 B.C.) for the Exodus. The early date timeline is used below:

- **c. 1526 B.C.** — Birth of Moses: Drawn from the Nile by Pharaoh's daughter (Exodus 2).
- **c. 1446 B.C.** — The Exodus: God delivers Israel from Egypt via the 10 Plagues and the parting of the Red Sea (Exodus 12–14).
- **c. 1445 B.C.** — The Law at Mount Sinai: God establishes the Mosaic Covenant and gives the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20).
- **c. 1445–1406 B.C.** — 40 Years of Wandering: Israel wanders the wilderness due to disbelief at Kadesh-barnea (Numbers 14).

4. Conquest and the Period of the Judges (c. 1406 B.C. - 1050 B.C.)

Israel enters the Promised Land and goes through cycles of disobedience, oppression, and deliverance.

- **c. 1406 B.C.** — Crossing the Jordan: Joshua leads Israel into Canaan; the walls of Jericho fall (Joshua 3-6).
- **c. 1400-1390 B.C.** — Division of the Land: Promised Land divided among the 12 tribes (Joshua 13-21).
- **c. 1375-1050 B.C.** — Era of the Judges: Leaders like Deborah, Gideon, Samson, and Samuel deliver Israel during repeated cycles of rebellion and repentance (Book of Judges).

5. The United Kingdom (c. 1050 B.C. - 930 B.C.)

Israel demands a king and reaches its peak political and geographical influence.

- **c. 1050 B.C.** — Saul Anointed King: Samuel anoints Saul as Israel's first king (1 Sam. 10).
- **c. 1010 B.C.** — David Becomes King: David succeeds Saul, eventually establishing Jerusalem as the capital (2 Sam. 5).
- **c. 970 B.C.** — Solomon Becomes King: David's son succeeds him and experiences unparalleled wealth and wisdom (1 Kings 1).
- **c. 966-959 B.C.** — Construction of the First Temple: Solomon builds the Temple in Jerusalem (1 Kings 6).

6. The Divided Kingdom (930 B.C. - 586 B.C.)

Civil war splits the nation into Israel (North) and Judah (South). Prophets warn of coming judgment.

- **930 B.C.** — The Kingdom Splits: Rehoboam (Solomon's son) rules Judah (South), while Jeroboam rules Israel (North) (1 Kings 12).
- **c. 875-850 B.C.** — Ministry of Elijah: Confronts King Ahab and Jezebel regarding Baal worship (1 Kings 17-2 Kings 2).
- **722 B.C.** — Fall of the Northern Kingdom (Israel): Assyria conquers Samaria; the 10 northern tribes are exiled (2 Kings 17).
- **701 B.C.** — Sennacherib's Siege: King Hezekiah trusts God, and Jerusalem is spared from the Assyrian army (2 Kings 18-19).
- **586 B.C.** — Fall of the Southern Kingdom (Judah): King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon destroys Jerusalem, burns Solomon's Temple, and exiles the citizens (2 Kings 25).

7. Exile and Return (586 B.C. - 400 B.C.)

Judah lives in Babylonian captivity until Persia defeats Babylon, allowing the Jews to return and rebuild.

- **c. 605-530 B.C.** — Daniel's Ministry: Daniel serves in the courts of Babylon and Persia (Book of Daniel).
- **539 B.C.** — Fall of Babylon: Cyrus the Great of Persia conquers Babylon.
- **538 B.C.** — The First Return: Cyrus issues a decree allowing the Jews to return under Zerubbabel to rebuild the Temple (Ezra 1).
- **516 B.C.** — The Second Temple Completed: Dedication of the rebuilt Temple (Ezra 6).
- **c. 479 B.C.** — Esther Becomes Queen: God uses Esther to save the Jews in Persia (Book of Esther).
- **458 B.C.** — Ezra's Return: Ezra returns to reform spiritual life in Jerusalem (Ezra 7).
- **445 B.C.** — Nehemiah Rebuilds the Walls: Nehemiah leads the rebuilding of Jerusalem's physical walls (Book of Nehemiah).
- **c. 430 B.C.** — Malachi's Prophecy: The final Old Testament prophet speaks; the 400 Years of Silence (Intertestamental Period) begins.

8. The New Testament and the Early Church (c. 6 B.C. - A.D. 95)

The birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, followed by the birth and expansion of the Christian Church — spanning the Life of Christ (c. 6 B.C. – A.D. 30/33) and the Early Church and Missionary Expansion (c. A.D. 30 – A.D. 95).

- **c. 6-4 B.C.** — Birth of Jesus: Born in Bethlehem during the reign of King Herod the Great (Luke 2).
- **c. A.D. 26-27** — John the Baptist's Ministry & Jesus' Baptism: Jesus begins His public ministry (Matthew 3, Luke 3).
- **c. A.D. 30 (or 33)** — Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension: Jesus is crucified under Pontius Pilate, rises on the third day, and ascends to heaven (Gospels; Acts 1).
- **c. A.D. 30 (or 33)** — Pentecost: The Holy Spirit descends; Peter preaches, and the early church is born in Jerusalem (Acts 2).
- **c. A.D. 34-35** — Conversion of Saul (Paul): Saul is blinded on the road to Damascus and converted (Acts 9).
- **c. A.D. 46-48** — Paul's First Missionary Journey: Paul and Barnabas travel to Cyprus and Galatia (Acts 13-14).
- **c. A.D. 49** — The Jerusalem Council: Church leaders resolve the dispute regarding Gentile Christians and the Mosaic Law (Acts 15).
- **c. A.D. 49-52** — Paul's Second Missionary Journey: Paul travels into Macedonia and Greece, founding churches in Philippi, Thessalonica, and Corinth (Acts 15:36-18:22).
- **c. A.D. 53-57** — Paul's Third Missionary Journey: Paul spends significant time teaching in Ephesus (Acts 18:23-21:17).
- **c. A.D. 59-62** — Paul's Voyage and Roman Imprisonment: Arrested in Jerusalem, Paul appeals to Caesar, survives a shipwreck near Malta, and is placed under house arrest in Rome (Acts 21-28).
- **A.D. 70** — Destruction of the Second Temple: Roman legions under Titus capture and destroy Jerusalem, fulfilling Jesus' prophecy in Matthew 24.
- **c. A.D. 95** — The Book of Revelation: John receives visions on the island of Patmos, penning the final book of the biblical canon.