










Old Testament: The Kingdoms of Israel and Judah

This timeline traces the rise and fall of the Israelite monarchy, from the period of the judges to the Babylonian exile, highlighting key events, rulers, prophets, and interactions with surrounding nations. All dates are approximate.

Old Testament Writings

 1 Samuel 1100 BC - 1010 BC	1 Samuel records Israel's transition from the period of the judges to monarchy. It follows the leadership of Samuel, the rise and fall of Saul, and the anointing of David as Israel's future king.
 1 Chronicles 1050 BC - 970 BC	1 Chronicles retells Israel's history from Adam to David, emphasizing David's reign, his preparations for the Temple, and the establishment of the Davidic line as central to God's covenant.
 2 Samuel 1010 BC - 970 BC	2 Samuel focuses on David's reign as king, highlighting his military victories, covenant with God, personal failures, and the lasting impact of his leadership on Israel's future.
 1 Kings 970 BC - 850 BC	1 Kings details the reign of Solomon, including the construction of the Temple, and the division of the kingdom into Israel (north) and Judah (south). It introduces the prophetic ministries of Elijah and Elisha.
 2 Chronicles 970 BC - 539 BC	2 Chronicles parallels 1 & 2 Kings but focuses on Judah's history, highlighting the reigns of righteous and wicked kings, the Temple's significance, and Judah's eventual exile, ending with Cyrus' decree to return.
 2 Kings 850 BC - 586 BC	2 Kings continues the story of the divided kingdom, recounting the rise and fall of kings, the ministries of prophets like Elisha and Isaiah, the fall of Israel to Assyria, and Judah's exile to Babylon.
 Jonah 780 BC - 750 BC	Jonah reluctantly preaches repentance to Nineveh, an enemy of Israel. His story highlights God's compassion for all nations, challenging Israel's narrow view of divine mercy.
 Amos 760 BC - 750 BC	A shepherd and prophet, Amos condemns Israel's corruption, oppression of the poor, and empty religious rituals. He warns of imminent judgment but points to future restoration under God's justice and mercy.
 Hosea	

750 BC - 722 BC

Hosea's life serves as an illustration of God's love and Israel's unfaithfulness. His marriage to an unfaithful wife mirrors Israel's spiritual adultery, yet his message highlights God's enduring mercy and call to repentance before Assyria's conquest.



Isaiah

740 BC - 680 BC

Isaiah prophesies during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, warning Judah of coming judgment while offering hope in the promise of a future Messiah. He speaks against idolatry, injustice, and trust in foreign alliances, emphasizing God's sovereignty over nations.



Micah

735 BC - 700 BC

Micah calls Judah to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. He warns of judgment for idolatry and social injustice but also proclaims the coming of a ruler from Bethlehem who will bring peace.



Nahum

660 BC - 630 BC

Nahum prophesies Nineveh's destruction, declaring God's justice against Assyria for its cruelty. His message reassures Judah that God will judge oppressors and protect His people.



Zephaniah

640 BC - 609 BC

Proclaiming the coming "Day of the Lord," Zephaniah warns of judgment on Judah and surrounding nations. Yet, he also speaks of hope, pointing to a future time of blessing and restoration for the faithful remnant.



Jeremiah

627 BC - 586 BC

Known as the "weeping prophet," Jeremiah warns of Jerusalem's destruction due to Judah's unfaithfulness. He calls for repentance but is rejected, witnessing Babylon's siege and the city's fall. His prophecies include the promise of a new covenant written on hearts instead of stone.



Habakkuk

620 BC - 600 BC

Habakkuk wrestles with God's justice, questioning why He allows evil to prosper. God reveals that Babylon will punish Judah but will also be judged in turn, teaching that the righteous live by faith.



Daniel

605 BC - 530 BC

Daniel, taken into Babylonian exile as a young man, remains faithful to God despite political pressure. His visions reveal the rise and fall of empires, the coming of God's kingdom, and the ultimate triumph of the Messiah.



Ezekiel

593 BC - 570 BC

Ezekiel, a priest and prophet in Babylonian exile, receives dramatic visions of God's glory and Israel's restoration. He rebukes Judah's leaders, enacts prophetic signs, and speaks of a future temple, emphasizing God's presence even in exile.



Lamentations

APPROX. 586 BC

Written after Jerusalem's destruction, this poetic book mourns the devastation of the city and the temple. It expresses grief over sin's consequences while affirming God's faithfulness and hope for restoration.

Kings of the United Kingdom

Southern Kingdom



Saul

1050 BC - 1010 BC

First king of Israel, chosen by God but later rejected due to disobedience. Led Israel in battles but was tormented by jealousy toward David.

Moral Evaluation: Mixed – Started well but turned away from God.

Death: Died by suicide in battle against the Philistines.



David

1010 BC - 970 BC

Established Jerusalem as the capital, united the tribes, received God's covenant promising an everlasting dynasty, and wrote many Psalms.

Moral Evaluation: Good – A man after God's own heart, but still flawed.

Death: Died naturally in old age.



Solomon

970 BC - 931 BC

Built the First Temple in Jerusalem; known for wisdom and wealth. Turned to idolatry in later years, leading to future division of the kingdom.

Moral Evaluation: Good → Turned Bad – Wise but compromised his faith.

Death: Died naturally, but his kingdom was set to divide after his death.

Kings of Judea

Southern Kingdom



Rehoboam

931 BC - 913 BC

Son of Solomon, his harsh policies led to the kingdom splitting into Judah (south) and Israel (north). Faced invasion from Shishak of Egypt.

Moral Evaluation: Bad – Followed pagan practices and led Judah into idolatry.

Death: Died naturally in Jerusalem.



Abijah (Abijam)

913 BC - 911 BC

Warred against Jeroboam of Israel but maintained control over Judah. Briefly reaffirmed loyalty to God but did not remove idol worship.

Moral Evaluation: Bad – Continued in sin like Rehoboam.

Death: Died naturally in Jerusalem.



Asa

911 BC - 870 BC

Instituted major spiritual reforms, removed idols, and led Judah in revival. Defeated a massive Ethiopian invasion with God's help. Later relied on Syria instead of God in war.

 **Jehoshaphat**
870 BC - 848 BC

Moral Evaluation: Good – Faithful to God for most of his reign but faltered at the end.
Death: Died of a severe foot disease, possibly as a judgment from God.

Strengthened Judah spiritually and militarily. Allied with Ahab of Israel, which led to compromise. Led Judah in national prayer and victory over Moabites and Ammonites.

Moral Evaluation: Good – Devoted to God but made unwise alliances.
Death: Died naturally in Jerusalem.

 **Jehoram (Joram)**
848 BC - 841 BC

Married Ahab's daughter Athaliah, led Judah into Baal worship, killed his brothers. Faced revolts and foreign invasions.

Moral Evaluation: Evil – Followed the ways of Ahab and introduced idol worship.
Death: Died of a horrific intestinal disease, as prophesied by Elijah.

 **Ahaziah**
841 BC

Son of Jehoram and Athaliah, heavily influenced by Ahab's family in Israel. Reigns only one year. Killed while visiting the wounded King Joram of Israel.

Moral Evaluation: Evil – Continued in Ahab's wickedness.
Death: Murdered by Jehu in his purge against Ahab's descendants.

 **Athaliah**
841 BC - 835 BC

Daughter of Ahab and only queen to rule Judah. Killed all royal heirs (except Joash, who was hidden). Usurped the throne and promoted Baal worship.

Moral Evaluation: Evil – Idolater and murderer.
Death: Executed in a coup led by the priest Jehoiada.

 **Joash**
835 BC - 796 BC

Crowned as a child after Athaliah's death, restored the Temple, and ruled well under Jehoiada the priest. Later abandoned God and murdered Zechariah the priest.

Moral Evaluation: Good → Turned Bad – Started well but became corrupt.
Death: Assassinated by his own officials.

 **Amaziah**
796 BC - 767 BC

Followed God at first, defeated Edom, but later turned to idolatry. Fought and lost a war against Israel, leading to Jerusalem's walls being breached.

Moral Evaluation: Mixed – Obeyed at first but later fell into sin.
Death: Assassinated in a conspiracy.

Uzziah (Azariah)

767 BC - 740 BC

Strengthened Judah militarily, expanded its territory, and built a strong economy. Became prideful and entered the Temple illegally, resulting in leprosy.

Moral Evaluation: Good → Turned Bad – Faithful early but strayed later.

Death: Died as a leper, isolated from the people.

Jotham

740 BC - 732 BC

Continued Uzziah's policies, led spiritual reforms, and resisted Assyrian influence. Did not remove high places but personally remained faithful to God.

Moral Evaluation: Good – Righteous, though idol worship persisted.

Death: Died naturally in Jerusalem.

Ahaz

732 BC - 716 BC

One of the worst kings of Judah. Practiced child sacrifice, introduced Assyrian idols into the Temple, and formed an alliance with Tiglath-Pileser III of Assyria, leading to Judah's vassal status.

Moral Evaluation: Evil – Idolatrous, led Judah into deep sin.

Death: Died naturally, but not buried in the royal tombs due to his wickedness.

Hezekiah

716 BC - 687 BC

Led a great revival, destroyed idols, and restored Temple worship. Miraculously delivered from Sennacherib's Assyrian army (2 Kings 19). Later showed Babylonian envoys his wealth, leading to a prophecy of exile.

Moral Evaluation: Good – One of Judah's best kings.

Death: Died naturally in Jerusalem.

Manasseh

687 BC - 642 BC

Most wicked king of Judah—built altars to false gods, sacrificed his own children, and led Judah into extreme idolatry. Later repented after being taken captive by Assyria.

Moral Evaluation: Evil → Repented Late – Did great evil but turned to God at the end.

Death: Died naturally in Jerusalem.

Amon

642 BC - 640 BC

Continued Manasseh's earlier wickedness, led Judah deeper into idolatry. Did not repent like his father.

Moral Evaluation: Evil – No repentance, continued in sin.

Death: Assassinated by his own officials.

Josiah

640 BC - 609 BC

Best king since David—rediscovered the Book of the Law, led major religious reforms, and purified the land of idolatry. Died prematurely in battle against Pharaoh Necho.

Moral Evaluation: Very Good – A righteous reformer.

Death: Killed in battle against Egypt at Megiddo.



Jehoahaz

609 BC

Reigned only three months before being deposed by Pharaoh Necho and taken to Egypt.

Moral Evaluation: Bad – Did evil like his ancestors.

Death: Died in Egyptian captivity.



Jehoiachin

598 BC - 597 BC

Reigned only three months, surrendered to Babylon, and was exiled to Babylon.

Moral Evaluation: Evil – Continued his father's wickedness.

Death: Died in Babylonian captivity.



Zedekiah

597 BC - 586 BC

Last king of Judah. Rebelled against Babylon, leading to the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple.

Moral Evaluation: Evil – Ignored Jeremiah's warnings.

Death: Blinded and taken captive to Babylon.

Kings of Israel

Northern Kingdom



Jeroboam I

931 BC - 910 BC

First king of the northern kingdom after Israel split from Judah. Established idolatrous worship by setting up golden calves at Bethel and Dan to prevent people from going to Jerusalem. Ignored prophetic warnings.

Moral Evaluation: Evil – Led Israel into idolatry.

Death: Died naturally



Nadab

910 BC - 909 BC

Son of Jeroboam I. Continued his father's idolatrous practices. Assassinated by Baasha after only two years.

Moral Evaluation: Evil – Continued in sin like Jeroboam.

Death: Assassinated by Baasha.



Baasha

909 BC - 886 BC

Overthrew Nadab and killed all of Jeroboam's descendants to secure his throne. Waged war against Asa of Judah. Rebuked by the prophet Jehu for leading Israel into sin.

Moral Evaluation: Evil – Followed the wicked ways of Jeroboam.

Death: Died naturally.



Elah

886 BC - 885 BC

Son of Baasha. Reigned only one year. Assassinated while drunk by his official Zimri.

 **Zimri**
885 BC

Moral Evaluation: Evil – Unrighteous and careless ruler.
Death: Assassinated by Zimri.


Seized the throne by assassinating Elah but ruled for only seven days before being overthrown by Omri.

Moral Evaluation: Evil – Murderous and power-hungry.
Death: Committed suicide by burning down his palace.

 **Omri**
885 BC - 874 BC

Ended the civil war in Israel and established Samaria as the capital. Strengthened the kingdom militarily but led Israel deeper into idolatry. Father of Ahab.

Moral Evaluation: Evil – Worse than his predecessors.
Death: Died naturally.

 **Ahab**
874 BC - 853 BC

One of the most wicked kings in Israel. Married Jezebel, promoted Baal worship, and persecuted the prophets. Confronted by Elijah on Mount Carmel. Killed in battle against Aram.

Moral Evaluation: Very Evil – Led Israel into the worst idolatry.
Death: Killed in battle, as prophesied by Micaiah.

 **Ahaziah**
853 BC - 852 BC

Son of Ahab and Jezebel. Continued his parents' idolatry. Suffered a fatal injury from falling through a lattice and died without an heir.

Moral Evaluation: Evil – Persisted in Baal worship.
Death: Died from injuries after falling.

 **Jehoram (Joram)**
852 BC - 841 BC

Another son of Ahab and Jezebel. Partially removed Baal worship but still practiced idolatry. Opposed by Elisha.

Moral Evaluation: Evil – Continued in Jeroboam's sins.
Death: Killed by Jehu during his coup.

 **Jehu**
841 BC - 814 BC

Led a violent coup against Ahab's dynasty. Purged Baal worship from Israel but continued the sins of Jeroboam with golden calf worship.

Moral Evaluation: Mixed – Obeyed God in destroying Baal worship but did not fully follow Him.
Death: Died naturally.

 **Jehoahaz**
814 BC - 798 BC

Oppressed by Aram, humbled himself before God but did not fully repent.

👑 **Joash (Jehoash)**
798 BC - 782 BC

Moral Evaluation: Evil – Acknowledged God but still led Israel in sin.
Death: Died naturally.

Regained some lost territory but continued in Israel's idolatry. Met with Elisha before his death.

Moral Evaluation: Evil – Refused to turn fully to God.
Death: Died naturally.

👑 **Jeroboam II**
782 BC - 753 BC

Longest-reigning king of Israel. Expanded Israel's borders and brought economic prosperity but ignored God's commands. Prophets Amos and Hosea spoke during his reign.

Moral Evaluation: Evil – Focused on power but ignored righteousness.
Death: Died naturally.

👑 **Zechariah**
753 BC

Last king from Jehu's dynasty. Assassinated after only six months by Shallum.

Moral Evaluation: Evil – Continued in sin.
Death: Assassinated by Shallum.

👑 **Shallum**
752 BC

Seized power but reigned only one month before being overthrown.

Moral Evaluation: Evil – Did not lead Israel back to God.
Death: Assassinated by Menahem.

👑 **Menahem**
752 BC - 742 BC

Seized the throne brutally, massacring opponents. Paid tribute to Assyria to secure power.

Moral Evaluation: Evil – Oppressive and idolatrous.
Death: Died naturally.

👑 **Pekahiah**
742 BC - 740 BC

Son of Menahem. Reigned only two years before being assassinated by Pekah.

Moral Evaluation: Evil – Did not reform Israel's corruption.
Death: Assassinated by Pekah.

👑 **Pekah**
740 BC - 732 BC

Rebelled against Pekahiah. Allied with Aram against Judah. Tiglath-Pileser III of Assyria attacked Israel in response.

Moral Evaluation: Evil – Led Israel into destruction.
Death: Assassinated by Hoshea.



Hoshea

732 BC - 722 BC

Last king of Israel. Became a vassal of Assyria but later rebelled. This led to Assyria's invasion and Israel's final destruction in 722 BC.

Moral Evaluation: Evil – Ignored God's warnings.

Death: Captured and imprisoned by Assyria; fate unknown.

Old Testament People and Events



Birth of Samuel

APPROX. 1105 BC

Samuel is miraculously born to Hannah, who dedicates him to God's service at the Tabernacle. He becomes Israel's last judge, a prophet, and a key figure in the transition to monarchy (1 Samuel 1).



Battle of Mizpah

APPROX. 1080 BC

After Israel repents, Samuel leads them to victory over the Philistines. As a memorial, he sets up the Ebenezer stone, declaring, 'Thus far the Lord has helped us' (1 Samuel 7).



Battle of Shiloh & The Ark's Capture and Return

APPROX. 1080 BC

The Philistines defeat Israel at Shiloh and capture the Ark of the Covenant. However, the Ark brings plagues upon them, forcing its return to Israel (1 Samuel 4–6).



Samuel Anoints Saul as Israel's First King

APPROX. 1050 BC

As Israel demands a king, God chooses Saul. Samuel anoints him, warning of the dangers of monarchy but affirming God's sovereignty (1 Samuel 8–10).



David Defeats Goliath

APPROX. 1025 BC

A young shepherd, David, kills the Philistine giant Goliath with a sling and stone, demonstrating God's power and securing his rise to prominence (1 Samuel 17).



Samuel Anoints David at Bethlehem

APPROX. 1025 BC

Despite Saul's reign, God sends Samuel to anoint David as Israel's future king. Though years pass before he takes the throne, David is marked as 'a man after God's own heart' (1 Samuel 16).



Saul's Rejection as King

APPROX. 1025 BC

Saul disobeys God by offering an unlawful sacrifice and sparing the Amalekites. As a result, God rejects him, declaring that the kingdom will be given to another (1 Samuel 13 & 15).



David Spares Saul's Life

APPROX. 1015 BC

David, though pursued by Saul, refuses to harm him, sparing his life twice in the wilderness. He entrusts his fate to God rather than seizing power himself (1 Samuel 24, 26).



David Becomes King Over All Israel

APPROX. 1005 BC



David Captures Jerusalem

APPROX. 1000 BC

After ruling Judah for seven years in Hebron, David unites all Israel under his reign, fulfilling God's promise of a shepherd-king (2 Samuel 5:1-5).



The Ark Brought to Jerusalem

APPROX. 997 BC

David conquers Jerusalem from the Jebusites and establishes it as Israel's capital, securing its role as the spiritual and political center of the kingdom (2 Samuel 5:6-10).



Davidic Covenant

APPROX. 990 BC

David moves the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, establishing the city as Israel's spiritual center. However, improper handling of the Ark results in the death of Uzzah, leading to reverent worship when it is finally placed in the Tabernacle (2 Samuel 6).



Absalom's Rebellion

APPROX. 980 BC

God makes an everlasting covenant with David, promising that his dynasty will endure forever, ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ (2 Samuel 7).



Solomon's Dream & Divine Wisdom

APPROX. 965 BC

David's son, Absalom, leads a revolt against his father, forcing David to flee Jerusalem. After a dramatic civil war, Absalom is killed, and David mourns his loss (2 Samuel 15–18).



Building of Solomon's Temple

APPROX. 960 BC

In a dream, Solomon asks God for wisdom instead of wealth or power. God grants him unmatched wisdom, leading to a golden age of peace and prosperity (1 Kings 3).



Queen of Sheba Visits Solomon

APPROX. 950 BC

Solomon completes the First Temple in Jerusalem, a monumental achievement in Israel's history. The glory of the Lord fills the temple, and Solomon offers a powerful prayer of dedication (1 Kings 6, 8).



Division of the Kingdoms

APPROX. 931 BC

Solomon's wisdom and wealth attract the Queen of Sheba, who visits Jerusalem to test him with questions. She leaves in awe, acknowledging God's blessing upon Israel (1 Kings 10).



Battle of Shishak's Invasion

APPROX. 925 BC

After Solomon's death, his son Rehoboam's harsh policies cause ten northern tribes to rebel, forming the kingdom of Israel under Jeroboam I. Only Judah and Benjamin remain under Rehoboam. This marks the beginning of the divided monarchy (1 Kings 12; 2 Chronicles 10).

After Solomon's death, Pharaoh Shishak of Egypt invades Judah, plundering the Temple and Jerusalem's wealth. This attack is part of Egypt's larger expansionist strategy, exploiting the new division between Israel and Judah (1 Kings 14:25-26).



Civil War Against Jeroboam

APPROX. 925 BC

The divided kingdoms immediately enter conflict, as Rehoboam of Judah and Jeroboam of Israel wage war against each other, shaping the region's future (1 Kings 14:30)



Elijah vs. Prophets of Baal

APPROX. 860 BC

On Mount Carmel, Elijah challenges the prophets of Baal, calling down fire from heaven to prove Yahweh is the true God. This moment turns Israel briefly back to God (1 Kings 18).



Battle of Qarqar

APPROX. 853 BC

King Ahab of Israel joins a coalition of nations in a battle against the expanding Assyrian Empire, delaying their conquest (Referenced in Assyrian records).



Elijah Taken to Heaven

APPROX. 850 BC

Elijah is taken up to heaven in a whirlwind, leaving behind his mantle for his successor, Elisha (2 Kings 2).



Elisha's Miracles

APPROX. 850 BC

Elisha performs numerous miracles, including healing Naaman the Syrian, multiplying oil for a widow, and raising a child from the dead (2 Kings 4–5).



Jehu's Coup

APPROX. 841 BC

Jehu overthrows the house of Ahab, killing Joram, Jezebel, and Ahab's descendants. He purges Baal worship but fails to fully return Israel to God (2 Kings 9–10).



The Moabite Rebellion Against Israel

APPROX. 840 BC

King Mesha of Moab revolts against Israel, regaining independence. The Mesha Stele, an archaeological inscription, confirms this event outside the Bible (2 Kings 3).



The Assassination of Joash of Judah

APPROX. 796 BC

After restoring the Temple, Joash turns away from God, leading to the murder of Zechariah the priest. He is later assassinated by his own officials (2 Kings 12; 2 Chronicles 24:17-27).



The Earthquake in Uzziah's Reign

APPROX. 750 BC

A massive earthquake occurs during King Uzziah's rule. The prophet Amos references it as a divine warning, and Zechariah later recalls its impact (Amos 1:1; Zechariah 14:5).



Uzziah Struck with Leprosy

APPROX. 750 BC

King Uzziah grows prideful and unlawfully enters the Temple to burn incense—a role reserved for priests. As a result, God strikes him with leprosy, and he lives in isolation until his death (2 Chronicles 26:16-21).



The Calling of Isaiah

APPROX. 740 BC

In the year of King Uzziah's death, Isaiah has a vision of God's throne in the Temple. Angels declare 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty!' Isaiah is purified with a burning coal and commissioned as a prophet to warn Judah of impending judgment (Isaiah 6).



Fall of Israel & Assyrian Exile

APPROX. 722 BC

After years of idolatry and disobedience, the northern kingdom of Israel is conquered by Assyria under King Shalmaneser V and Sargon II. Many Israelites are deported and scattered, leading to the 'Lost Tribes of Israel' (2 Kings 17; Hosea 9:3-17).



The Religious Reforms of Hezekiah

APPROX. 715 BC

King Hezekiah removes idols, destroys the bronze serpent (Nehushtan), and restores proper worship, including a national Passover celebration (2 Kings 18:1-8; 2 Chronicles 30).



Hezekiah's Deliverance

APPROX. 701 BC

The Assyrians, led by Sennacherib, besiege Jerusalem. Hezekiah prays, and God sends an angel who strikes down 185,000 Assyrian soldiers, saving the city (2 Kings 19).



The Calling of Jeremiah

APPROX. 627 BC

As a young man, Jeremiah is called by God to be 'a prophet to the nations.' Though he feels unqualified, God assures him, 'Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you' (Jeremiah 1:4-10).



The Discovery of the Book of the Law

APPROX. 622 BC

Hilkiah the priest finds the Book of the Law in the Temple, leading to Josiah's major religious reforms. (2 Kings 22–23)



Jehoiakim Burns Jeremiah's Scroll

APPROX. 605 BC

As Jeremiah warns Judah of Babylonian invasion and exile, King Jehoiakim defiantly burns the prophetic scroll in rejection of God's warning. Despite this, God commands Jeremiah to rewrite the prophecy, affirming that Judah's downfall is inevitable (Jeremiah 36).



The First Babylonian Deportation

APPROX. 605 BC

Following Babylon's victory at Carchemish, King Nebuchadnezzar marches into Judah and takes Daniel, nobles, and the educated elite into exile. However, this is only the first wave of deportations—most of Judah's population remains in the land for now (Daniel 1)



The Calling of Ezekiel

APPROX. 593 BC

While in Babylonian exile, Ezekiel sees a vision of God's glory on a chariot of living creatures. He is called to be a 'watchman for Israel' and given the difficult task of warning Judah of its coming destruction (Ezekiel 1–3).



Jeremiah Imprisoned

APPROX. 590 BC

Accused of treason for warning Judah to surrender to Babylon, Jeremiah is thrown into a cistern, sinking into the mud. He is later rescued but continues to face persecution (Jeremiah 37–38).



Siege of Jerusalem Begins

APPROX. 588 BC

King Nebuchadnezzar lays siege to Jerusalem, cutting off supplies and leading to extreme famine. Residents suffer terribly as the city nears its downfall (2 Kings 25).



The Fall of Judah & Destruction of the Temple

APPROX. 586 BC



Gedaliah Assassinated

APPROX. 582 BC

After two years under siege, Babylonian forces breach Jerusalem's walls, burn the city, and destroy Solomon's Temple. Most survivors are exiled to Babylon, while a remnant is left in the land (2 Kings 25; Jeremiah 39–52; Lamentations)

Nebuchadnezzar appoints Gedaliah as governor over the remaining Jews in Judah. However, he is assassinated by Ishmael, leading to fear and further deportations to Babylon (Jeremiah 41).

The Surrounding Nations



Rise of the Twenty-first Dynasty in Egypt

APPROX. 1069 BC

After the death of Ramses XI, Smendes I establishes the Twenty-first Dynasty in Egypt, shifting power from Thebes to Tanis. This period is marked by a weakened Egypt, unable to control Canaan as it once did.



Phoenician Alphabet Invented

APPROX. 1000 BC

The Phoenicians develop one of the earliest phonetic alphabets, which will later influence Greek, Latin, and Hebrew writing systems.



Shoshenq I Founds the Twenty-second Dynasty of Egypt

APPROX. 945 BC

Shoshenq I, identified as Shishak in the Bible (1 Kings 14:25-26), becomes Pharaoh of Egypt and later invades Judah, plundering Jerusalem's treasures. He also establishes Libyan rule over Egypt.



Rise of the Neo-Assyrian Empire with Adad-nirari II

APPROX. 911 BC

Adad-nirari II begins the aggressive expansion of Assyria, reclaiming lost territory and increasing military campaigns in Mesopotamia. This marks the start of the powerful Neo-Assyrian Empire, which will dominate the Near East for centuries.



The Kingdom of Kush Develops in Nubia

APPROX. 900 BC

The Kingdom of Kush, located in modern Sudan, becomes a rising power. Kushite rulers will later conquer Egypt (during the 25th Dynasty) and play a significant role in biblical history.



Shalmaneser III and the Battle of Qarqar

APPROX. 853 BC

Shalmaneser III defeats a coalition of kings, including Ahab's successor, in a battle that temporarily halts Assyrian expansion.



Shalmaneser III Devastates Damascus

APPROX. 842 BC

The Assyrians devastate Aram-Damascus, weakening Israel's greatest enemy. In response, Israel and the Phoenician cities send tribute to Assyria, further entrenching Assyrian dominance in the region



Founding of Carthage

APPROX. 814 BC



Adad-nirari III Conquers Damascus

APPROX. 804 BC

Queen Dido of Tyre flees to North Africa and founds Carthage, a Phoenician colony that will later become a major Mediterranean power and rival of Rome.



The Founding of Rome

APPROX. 753 BC

The Assyrian king Adad-nirari III launches a successful campaign against Damascus, further weakening Aramean power and increasing Assyrian influence over Israel and Judah.



Tiglath-Pileser III Seizes the Assyrian Throne

APPROX. 745 BC

According to Roman legend, Romulus founds the city of Rome, establishing what will become one of the most influential civilizations in history.



Fall of Damascus to Assyria

APPROX. 732 BC

Pul, a military general, seizes the Assyrian crown and takes the name Tiglath-Pileser III. He reorganizes the empire, strengthens the army, and begins a campaign of expansion, forcing Israel and Judah into vassalage (2 Kings 15:19-29).



Piye of Kush Invades Egypt and Establishes the Twenty-Fifth Dynasty

APPROX. 728 BC

Assyria captures Damascus, ending Aramean independence and reducing its influence in the region.



Sargon II Captures Samaria

APPROX. 722 BC

Piye, a Nubian king from Kush, invades Egypt and takes control of Memphis, forcing the rulers of the Nile Delta to submit. His dynasty, the Twenty-Fifth Dynasty of Egypt, will rule for nearly a century.



Sennacherib's Siege of Jerusalem

APPROX. 701 BC

Completes the conquest of Israel, leading to the Assyrian exile of the northern tribes.



Sennacherib Sacks Babylon

APPROX. 689 BC

Besieges Jerusalem but fails to capture it after a plague devastates his army, as recorded in biblical and Assyrian accounts.



Esarhaddon Invades and Conquers Egypt

APPROX. 671 BC

King Sennacherib of Assyria launches a brutal campaign against Babylon, destroying the city and flooding it. This marks one of the greatest acts of devastation in Babylonian history, leading to long-standing hatred between the two empires.



Rise of the Neo-Babylonian Empire

APPROX. 626 BC

Esarhaddon, successor of Sennacherib, invades Egypt and captures Memphis, briefly making Egypt an Assyrian vassal state. However, Egyptian resistance continues under local rulers.

Babylon, under Nabopolassar, rises to power after overthrowing Assyrian dominance in Mesopotamia.



Medo-Babylonian Revolt Against Assyria

APPROX. 625 BC

Under the leadership of Nabopolassar, Babylon allies with the Medes and Scythians to revolt against Assyria, which had dominated the Near East for centuries. This rebellion weakens Assyria significantly, setting the stage for the fall of Nineveh and the rise of the Neo-Babylonian Empire.



Fall of Nineveh and End of Assyria

APPROX. 612 BC

The Assyrian capital, Nineveh, falls to a coalition of Babylonian and Median forces, marking the end of the Neo-Assyrian Empire.



Nebuchadnezzar Defeats Egypt at Carchemish

APPROX. 605 BC

In a decisive battle, Crown Prince Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon defeats Pharaoh Necho II at Carchemish, effectively ending Egyptian influence in the Levant. This victory solidifies Babylon's control over former Assyrian territories, making it the dominant power in the Near East.



Nebuchadnezzar II Builds the Hanging Gardens of Babylon

APPROX. 600 BC

One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the legendary Hanging Gardens are believed to have been constructed under Nebuchadnezzar II, possibly as a gift to his wife, who longed for the mountains of her homeland.



Cyrus the Great and the Rise of Persia

APPROX. 550 BC

Cyrus consolidates Persian power, setting the stage for the conquest of Babylon and the eventual return of Jewish exiles.