

ISRAELITE TIMELINE

1400 BC—Jews flee slavery in Egypt, establish a covenant with Yahweh at Mount Sinai, and start the conquest of Canaan.

1100 BC—Saul is anointed the first king over Israel, replaced 40 years later by King David. The reigns of David and his son Solomon mark the establishment of Israel as a regional power with dominion over its neighbors Moab, Ammon, and Damascus.

1025 BC—construction started on first Temple

990 BC—Solomon dies; upon the declaration of his son to continue the oppressive taxes of his father, the northern section (ten northern tribes) rebels and forms its own kingdom, now called Israel; the southern kingdom (two southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin) is now called Judah.

721 BC—Assyria conquers northern kingdom, exiling 10 northern tribes, bringing in outsiders who mix with the remnant of Israelis, and become the Samaritans.

586 BC—Babylon destroys Jerusalem, the capital of the southern kingdom, and burns down Temple. In 597, and later in 586, the Babylonians sent tens of thousands of Israelite leaders into exile in Babylon.

440s BC—Under the Persian empire, the Jews are allowed to return to Palestine and rebuild the Temple and Jerusalem, the capital

332 BC—Alexander the Great and the Macedonians conquer the Persian Empire, including Palestine. After his death, Palestine falls under the power of the Seleucid dynasty (named after its founder, Seleucus, one of Alexander's generals) ruling Syria.

142 BC—After 25 years of warfare against the Greek dynasts, Israelite independence is achieved. In this era, Israel was ruled by the dynasty of the Maccabees (called the Hasmoneans).

64 BC—Roman general Pompey conquers much of the eastern Mediterranean in his campaign against Mithridates. At this point, the nation of Israel becomes a Roman province.

70 AD—after a rebellion, Roman legions besiege the city of Jerusalem, causing a deadly famine, and raze the Temple to the ground.

135 AD—Bar Kokhba revolt crushed by the Romans; after this failed attempt at independence, Jews expelled from Jerusalem, and many in Judaea were killed or sold into slavery. This begins the *Diaspora*.