

ISRAELITE TIMELINE

- 1500 BC—Jews flee slavery in Egypt, establish a covenant with Yahweh at Mount Sinai, and conquer 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.
- 1018 BC—First Temple dedicated by King Solomon
- 990 BC—Solomon dies; the northern section rebels and forms its own kingdom, retaining the name of Israel; the southern kingdom is now called Judah.
- 721 BC—**Assyria** conquers northern kingdom, exiling 10 northern tribes, bringing in outsiders who mix with the remnant and become the Samaritans
- 586 BC—**Babylon** destroys Jerusalem, the capital of the southern kingdom, and burns down Temple. In 597, the Babylonians had sent some 10,000 Israelite leaders into exile in Babylon, and exile more in 586.
- 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 time, 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 Judea were killed or sold into slavery. This begins the *Diaspora*.