

Biblical Timeline

“To understand the Bible, it is essential to grasp the sweep of that history from creation to consummation. It is also crucial to keep in focus the unifying theme of Scripture. The one constant theme unfolding throughout the whole Bible is this: *God for His own glory has chosen to create and gather to Himself a group of people to be the subjects of His eternal kingdom, to praise, honor, and serve Him forever and through whom He will display His wisdom, power, mercy, grace, and glory. To gather His chosen ones, God must redeem them from sin.* The Bible reveals God’s plan for this redemption from its inception in eternity past to its completion in eternity future. Covenants, promises, and epochs are all secondary to the one continuous plan of redemption.”

—John MacArthur¹

Old Testament Scripture

~4000 BC	Creation (Genesis 1–2) Fall (Genesis 3–4) The generations of Adam (Genesis 5)
~2350 BC	God judges mankind for their wickedness (Genesis 6) Noah and the flood (Genesis 7) The flood waters recede and God makes His covenant with Noah (Genesis 8) Noah and his sons after the flood (Genesis 9–10)
~2245 BC	Tower of Babel and the forming of nations (Genesis 11) The generations of Shem and Terah (Genesis 11)
~2165–1800 BC	God begins to forge the nation that will be His people, Israel. Abraham (Genesis 12–24, ~2165–1990 BC) * The events of Job are thought to have happened during Abraham’s time. Isaac (Genesis 25–26) Jacob (Genesis 27–36) Joseph (Genesis 37–50) Death of Joseph: ~1804 BC
~1800–1445 BC	The generations of the patriarchs grew greatly in number in Egypt and are enslaved (Exodus 1:1–14) Enslavement of the Israelites lasts approximately 350–400 years The brutality of Egyptian oppression (Ex 1–2) Birth of Moses: (Ex 2, ~1525 BC) Moses flees Egypt and is called by God, returns to Egypt (Ex 2:11–4:31) Deliverance from Egypt and the Exodus: ~1445 BC (Ex 5–15:21)
~1445–1405 BC	Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy written by Moses Israel moves from the Red Sea to Mount Sinai (Ex 15:22–18:27) Israel at Sinai (Ex 19–Num 10:10) Israel in the wilderness; the journey from Sinai to Canaan (Num 10:11–21:35) Israel at Moab (Num 22–Deut 34) Death of Moses (Deut 34, ~1405 BC)
~1405–1380 BC	Events and writing of Joshua Israel enters Canaan

¹ John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Bible Handbook*, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2003), xii. Emphasis added.

~1375–1051 BC

Era of the judges

Othniel: ~1375–1325 BC (Judg 1:11–15, 3:1–11; 1 Chr 4:13)

Ehud: ~1310–1230 BC (Judg 3:12–4:1)

Shamgar: “after Ehud” ~1310–1230 BC (Judg 3:31, 5:6)

Deborah and Barak: ~1230–1190 BC (Judg 4:1–5:31; Heb 11:32)

Gideon: ~1190–1150 BC (Judg 6:1–8:32; Heb 11:32; see also 2 Sam 11:21)

Abimelech: ~1150–1147 BC (Judg 8:33–9:57; 2 Sam 11:21)

Tola: ~1147–1125 BC (Judg 10:1–2)

Jair: ~1125–1100 BC (Judg 10:3–5)

*** The events of Ruth are thought to have happened during Jair’s judgeship.**

Jephthah: ~1095–1090 BC (Judg 10:6–12:7; Heb 11:32)

Ibzan: ~1090–1083 BC (Judg 12:8–10)

Elon: ~1083–1073 BC (Judg 12:11–12)

Abdon: ~1073–1065 BC (Judg 12:13–15)

Samson: ~1075–1055 BC (Judg 13:1–16:31)

Eli: ~1110–1070 (1 Sam 1:3–28)

Samuel: ~1092–1051 BC (1 Sam 1:1–25:1)

Joel and Abijah: ~1060–1052 BC (1 Sam 8:1–3)

~1051–931 BC

The reign of the kings of the united kingdom of Israel

Saul: ~1051–1011 BC (1 Sam 9:1–31:13; 1 Chr 10:1–14)

David: ~1011–971 BC (2 Samuel; 1 Kgs 1:1–2:9; 1 Chr 11:1–29:30)

Solomon: ~971–931 BC (1 Kgs 2:10–11:43; 2 Chr 1:1–9:31)

Proverbs written: ~971–686 BC; Job written(?)

Song of Solomon written: ~971–965 BC

Ecclesiastes written: ~940–931 BC

931–586 BC

The age of the divided kingdom: Prophets and Kings

Solomon’s death and the kingdom divides: **931 BC**

Northern 10 tribes (Israel) and southern 2 tribes (Judah)

	<u>Kings</u>		<u>Prophets</u>	
	<u>Israel (N)</u>	<u>Judah (S)</u>	<u>to Israel</u>	<u>to Judah</u>
	Jeroboam (931–910)	Rehoboam (931–913)		
	Nadab (910–909)	Abijah (913–911)		
	Baasha (909–886)	Asa (911–870)		
	Elah (886–885)			
	Zimri (885)			
	Omri (885–874)			
	Ahab (874–853)	Jehoshaphat (873–848)	Elijah (~862–851)	
	Ahaziah (853–852)			
	Joram (852–841)	Jehoram (848–841)	Elisha (~851–793)	Obadiah (~848–841)
	Jehu (841–814)	Ahaziah (841)		
		Athaliah (841–835)		
	Jehoahaz (814–798)	Joash (835–796)		Joel (during Joash)
	Jehoash (798–782)	Amaziah (796–767)		
	Jeroboam II (793–753)	Uzziah (790–739)		
			Jonah [to Ninevah] (mid 8th c. ~760)	
	Zechariah (753)		Amos (mid 8th c.)	Isaiah (739–686)
	Shallum (752)		Hosea (755–710)	Micah (735–710)
	Menahem (752–742)	Jotham (750–731)		
	Pekahiah (742–740)			
	Pekah (752–732)	Ahaz (735–715)		
	Hoshea (732–722)	Hezekiah (729–686)		
		Manasseh (695–642)	Nahum [to Ninevah] (mid 7th c.)	Zephaniah (635–625)
		Amon (642–640)		Jeremiah (627–561)
		Josiah (640–609)		Habakkuk (~610)
		Jehoahaz (609)		Ezekiel (593–570)
		Jehoiakim (608–598)		
		Jehoiachin (598–597)	Daniel [to Babylon and Persia] (609–530)	
		Zedekiah (597–586)		

* Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi were prophets after exile (see timeline)

Independence of Israel: **931–722 BC**
Assyria conquers Israel: **722 BC**
Assyrian/Babylonian war: **626–609 BC**
Some Jews are taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar, beginning exile: **609 BC**
Daniel taken to Babylon: **609 BC**
Babylon defeats remnants of Assyria and its alliances: **605 BC**
Independence of Judah: **931–609 BC**
Babylon conquers Judah and Jerusalem falls: **586 BC**
Books written: 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, Obadiah, Joel,
Jonah, Amos, Micah, Hosea,
Isaiah, Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk

609–538 BC

Jewish exile in Babylon
Persia defeats Babylon: **539 BC**
Edict of Cyrus: **538 BC**
Daniel written: **536–530 BC**
Books written: Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Lamentations,
1 Kings, 2 Kings,

538–424 BC

Restoration of (post-exile) Israel
Jewish exile ends: **538 BC**
Zerubbabel leads the first group of exiles out of Babylon: **538 BC** (Ez 2:2–5:2)
Temple rebuilding begins, but is soon interrupted: **536 BC** (Ez 3:8–4:24)
Haggai and Zechariah, prophets, preach to the people: **~520 BC** (Ez 5:1, 6:14)
Temple rebuilding resumes: **520 BC** (Ez 5:2)
Temple rebuilding completed: **516 BC**
Haggai written: **~520 BC**
*** Events of the book of Esther: 483–473 BC**
Esther becomes queen of Persia: **478 BC**
Zechariah written: **480–470 BC**
Ezra returns and leads the second group of exiles out: **458 BC** (Ez ch. 7–10)
Nehemiah dispatched, leads the third group of exiles out: **445 BC** (Neh 2:5–11)
Nehemiah builds the wall in Jerusalem: **445 BC** (Neh 6:15)
Malachi prophecies to Israel: **~433–424 BC** (during Nehemiah's return to Persia)
Books written: Daniel, Haggai, Zechariah
Ezra, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles
Esther, Malachi, Nehemiah,
***Final form of the Psalter arranged**

~424–4 BC

Divine silence/Intertestamental Period

~4 BC

Birth of the Christ

Selected Bibliography

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Merril, Eugene H., Mark E. Rooper, and Michael A. Grisanti. *The World and the Word*. Brentwood, TN: B&H, 2011.

Biblical References to the Kings²

United Kingdom

Saul: 1 Sam 9:1–31:13; 1 Chr 10:1–14

David: 2 Sam; 1 Kgs 1:1–2:9; 1 Chr 11:1–29:30

Solomon: 1 Kgs 2:10–11:43; 2 Chr 1:1–9:31

Northern Kingdom (Israel)

Jeroboam: 1 Kgs 12:25–14:20

Nadab: 1 Kgs 15:25–31

Baasha: 1 Kgs 15:32–16:7

Elah: 1 Kgs 16:8–14

Zimri: 1 Kgs 16:15–20

Tibni: 1 Kgs 16:21–22

Omri: 1 Kgs 16:21–28

Ahab: 1 Kgs 16:29–22:40

Joram (Jehoram) 2 Kgs 2:1–8:15

Jehu: 2 Kgs 8:1–10:36

Jehoahaz: 2 Kgs 13:1–9

Jehoash (Joash): 2 Kgs 13:10–25

Jeroboam II: 2 Kgs 14:23–29

Zechariah: 2 Kgs 15:8–12

Shallum: 2 Kgs 15:13–15

Menahem: 2 Kgs 15:16–22

Pekahiah: 2 Kgs 15:23–26

Pekah: 2 Kgs 15:27–31

Hoshea: 2 Kgs 17:1–41

Southern Kingdom (Judah)

Rehoboam: 1 Kgs 12:1–14:31; 2 Chr 10:1–12:16

Abijah (Abijam): 1 Kgs 15:1–8; 2 Chr 13:1–22

Asa: 1 Kgs 15:9–24; 2 Chr 14:1–16:14

Jehoshaphat: 1 Kgs 22:41–50; 2 Chr 17:1–20:37

Jehoram (Joram): 2 Kgs 8:16–24; 2 Chr 21:1–20

Ahaziah: 2 Kgs 8:25–29; 2 Chr 22:1–9

Athaliah (queen): 2 Kgs 11:1–16; 2 Chr 22:10–23:21

Joash (Jehoash): 2 Kgs 11:17–12:21; 2 Chr 23:1–24:27

Amaziah: 2 Kgs 14:1–22; 2 Chr 25:1–28

Uzziah (Azariah): 2 Kgs 15:1–7; 2 Chr 26:1–23

Jotham: 2 Kgs 15:32–38; 2 Chr 27:1–8

Ahaz: 2 Kgs 16:1–20; 2 Chr 28:1–27

Hezekiah: 2 Kgs 18:1–20:21; 2 Chr 29:1–32:33

Manasseh: 2 Kgs 21:1–18; 2 Chr 33:1–20

Amon: 2 Kgs 21:19–26; 2 Chr 33:21–25

Josiah: 2 Kgs 22:1–23:30; 2 Chr 34:1–35:27

Jehoahaz: 2 Kgs 23:31–33; 2 Chr 36:1–4

Jehoiakim: 2 Kgs 23:34–24:7; 2 Chr 36:5–8

Jehoiachin: 2 Kgs 24:8–16; 2 Chr 36:9–10

Zedekiah: 2 Kgs 24:18–25:21; 2 Chr 36:11–21

² *MacArthur Bible Handbook*, 103