

Israel's Timeline: From Ancient to Contemporary Times

Return from Babylonian Exile to Roman Occupation

ca. 538 BCE – 63 CE

AFTER THE BABYLONIAN EXILE	
520-515	Jerusalem and the Second Temple (Heb. <i>Beit HaMiqdash</i>) rebuilt.
520	Jewish Prophet Haggai of Judea.
450-400	Reformation led by the Scribes Ezra and Nehemiah.
ca. 450	Torah begins to gain recognition as Scripture.
438	Ahashverosh becomes king of Persia.
426	Haman issues decrees calling for annihilation of all Jews in the Persian Empire; fast ordered by Queen Esther, the Jewish wife of Persian King Achashverosh. Haman is defeated and executed. Events recorded in the <i>Megillat Esther</i> (Book of Esther)
425	Haman's ten sons executed; commemorated in Jewish feast of Purim.
411	Bagoas, a Persian, is made governor of Jerusalem.
333/331	Alexander the Great conquers the Land of Israel.
ca. 320-168	Judea under Greek Ptolemies & Seleucids.
ca. 250	"Septuagint" translation of Torah into Greek.
ca. 230-146	Rome expands to the eastern Mediterranean.
ca. 201	Prophets (Heb. <i>Nevi'im</i> , the second division of Jewish Scriptures) recognized as Scripture
ca. 200 -135 C.E.	Jewish Qumran community.
175	Seleucid, king of Syria, plunders Jerusalem, murdering many.
167-160	Maccabean Revolt and the story of Hanukkah: Jewish rebellion against Syrian-Greek repression including laws on practice of Judaism and defiling of the Temple in Jerusalem. Jews emerge victorious, expelling the Greeks out of Israel, and restoring the Temple in Jerusalem.
ca. 230-146	Roman Empire expands to the eastern Mediterranean.
142-63	Jewish autonomy under Hasmoneans (Heb. <i>Hashmona'im</i>). By 67 civil war erupts between Hasmonean rivals, leading to downfall of the Hasmonean Dynasty
63	Judah (<i>Yehudah</i> in Hebrew, <i>Iudaea</i> in Latin) becomes a Roman protectorate