

Israel's Timeline: From Ancient to Contemporary Times

Destruction of the Second Temple to the Middle Ages

ca. 73 CE – 500 CE

Roman Occupation of Judea

73 – 4 BCE	Herod the Great
37	Herod captures Jerusalem, executes Antigonus II, last of the Hasmoneans, and marries Hasmonean princess Mariamne I.
20	Herod enlarges Temple Mount and renovates the Second Temple
ca. 4 -ca. 30 C.E.	Jesus of Nazareth

THE COMMON ERA CE (aka AD)

ca 50 BCE – 30 CE	Age of the great sages Hillel and Shammai whose impact on Judaism is felt to the present; two schools of thought develop into the House of Hillel (Beit Hillel) and the House of Shammai (Beit Shammai).
6 CE	Rome establishes direct rule in Judea with a series of prefects, the most well known one being Pontius Pilate.
ca. 30	Jesus of Nazareth is crucified by order of Pontius Pilate.
ca. 37-100	Josephus (Jewish military leader, historian). His book <i>The Jewish War</i> recounts the Great Jewish Revolt against Roman rule (see below) and the destruction of Jerusalem and the Second Temple.
ca. 40	Gamliel I (Jewish leader-scholar).
66-73	First Jewish Revolt against Roman occupation. Romans lay siege to Jerusalem.
69	Yohanan ben Zakkai is smuggled out of besieged Jerusalem in a coffin. Romans grant permission to ben Zakkai to establish a Jewish academy at Yavneh that will become the core for rabbinic Judaism, thus saving Judaism after Rome destroys Jerusalem and the Second Temple in 70 CE.

Period of Talmudic Development (70-500) and Emergence of Rabbinic Judaism

70	Destruction of Jerusalem and the Second Temple.
73	Last stand of Jews at Masada.
ca. 90-100	Gamaliel II excludes Jewish factions (including Christians) from synagogues.
ca. 90-150	The "Writings" (Heb. <i>k'tuvim</i> , third and last division of Jewish Scriptures including the Psalms, Proverbs) accepted as Scripture.
114-117	Jews rebel against Rome in Cyrene, Cyprus, and Egypt. The entire Jewish community of Cyprus is massacred and expelled. In Alexandria the Great Synagogue is destroyed.
120-135	Rabbi Akiva
132-135	Bar Kokhba rebellion (Second Jewish Revolt). Roman forces kill an estimated 500,000 Jews and destroy nearly 1,000 Jewish towns and villages. Jewish survivors are enslaved.
136	Roman Emperor Hadrian renames Judea (i.e. "Land of the Jews") Palaestina in an attempt to minimize Jewish identification with their homeland. He also renames Jerusalem "Aelia Capatolina" and builds a pagan temple over the site of the Second Temple. He forbids Jews to dwell there.

138-161	Antoninus Pius, Hadrian's successor, repeals many of Hadrian's harsh anti-Jewish policies.
193-211	Roman emperor Lucius Septimus Severus treats Jews relatively well.
ca. 200	Mishnah (Jewish Oral Law) compiled/edited under Yehudah HaNasi, Judah the Prince.
203	Yehudah HaNasi relocates his center of Jewish learning from Beth Shearim to Tzipori (Sepphoris) in the Galilee.
212	Roman Emperor Caracalla grants Roman citizenship to free Jews within the empire.
220	Babylonian Jewish <i>yeshiva</i> (academy) is founded at Sura.
220-470	Amoraim, or Mishnah scholars, flourish in Israel. Their commentary, along with the Mishna, makes up the Talmud.
222-235	Emperor Alexander Severus grants Jews permission to visit Jerusalem.
ca. 250	Babylonian Jewry flourishes under Persian King Shapur I
250-330	Christian monasticism develops in Egypt.
303	Emperor Diocletian violently represses Christianity.
To 311	Rome persecutes Christianity.
306	The Christian Council of Elvira prohibits intermarriage and social interaction with Jews
312/313	Emperor Constantine converts to Christianity.
315	Constantine limits rights of non-Christians.
368	<i>Talmud Yerushalmi</i> (Jerusalem Talmud) compiled.
410	Rome sacked by Visigoths.
425	Rome abolishes Jewish office of Nasi/Prince.
426	<i>Talmud Bavli</i> (Babylonian Talmud) compiled.
439	Theodosius enacts anti-Jewish code including proscribing the building of new synagogues.
500	Ostrogoth king Theodoric conquers Italy in 493 and issues an edict safeguarding the Jews, including their right to determine civil disputes and freedom of worship.