

Event Sequence for "Israel"

(Keep eye on Jerusalem and the temple, where the Bible comes from)

Formation of the political/cultic sons of Israel (*b^enê yiśrā'ēl*)/tribes of Yahweh, typically suspicious of or opposed to monarchy, yet formed, again typically, on behalf of Egyptian imperial monarchy on its Hittite frontier.

1000 BCE

- Emergence of tribal monarchy: Saul (or earlier).
- David usurps Saul and Ishbaal, conquers Jerusalem.
- Solomon (10th in line of succession) builds temple in Jerusalem.
- Ephraimite Jeroboam ends reign of the house of David over Israel.
- String of nine unstable Israelite dynasties and regimes.
- **Assyrians** conquer Samaria and end Israelite monarchy.
- Hezekiah plans to restore Davidic sovereignty over Israel.
- Assyrians attack Jerusalem and place Hezekiah under tribute.
- The house of David remains under Assyrian suzerainty.
- Josiah refurbishes temple and institutes political and cultic centralization.
- **Babylonians** defeat Assyrians.
- Babylonians conquer Jerusalem, deport segment of house of David to Babylon.
- Babylonians end Davidic rule in Jerusalem and deport more Judahites.
- **Persians** conquer Babylon.
- Cyrus authorizes restoration of the house of David to Jerusalem.
- With Persian allowance the house of David rebuilds the temple ("Second Temple").

500 BCE

- The Persians end the Davidic monarchy but will remain the temple's friends throughout their rule. Not one negative word about the Persians is voiced in the Bible until 2nd-cent. Daniel, the Bible's latest book, when under the Hasmoneans the Romans, Persia's rivals, become the temple's friends.
- Temple priesthoods govern Judah under Persian, Greek, and Roman imperial suzerainty until 70 CE.
- Persia sends Judahite legate Ezra to promulgate temple law and control marriage alliances to oppose Athenian sphere of influence.

- Persia sends Nehemiah to restore Jerusalem's walls to control its trade. (Scholars debate who came first, Ezra or Nehemiah.)
- The **Greeks** conquer Palestine, Persia, Egypt (Alexander).
- Alexander's generals divide his empire.
- Palestine comes under first the Ptolemies (Egypt) and then the Seleucids (Syria, Mesopotamia).
- Hasmoneans rebel and establish new Israelite monarchy, soon with Roman help. Celebrate the refurbishment of the temple desecrated under Seleucid rule.

100 BCE

- **Romans** conquer Jerusalem to strengthen frontier with Persia.
- The Roman Senate chooses Herod the Great to rule Palestine.
- Herod builds new cities, a new port at Caesarea, and rebuilds the temple as a humungous monument.
- The Roman governor of Judea executes the Galilean Jesus (why is not known). He reappears. His cult is founded in Jerusalem adjacent to the temple and led by his kin and closest followers, who claim he is the Davidic messiah predicted in the Prophets.
- The cult instigator Paul, a cosmopolitan Jew from Tarsus trained in the Jewish scriptures and possibly Stoic philosophy, claims authority from Jesus and not cult heads to assert a maverick end-time message in which Jesus in his role as Davidic king promoting the Davidic temple and its law plays little or no role.
- The Romans suppress a Jewish rebellion, besiege Jerusalem, take it, destroy the temple, and end Jewish monarchic rule there for good.
- The message of Paul gradually takes effect; the Gospels are written to address the conflict it generates within the cult.

100 CE

- The Romans under Trajan suppress Jewish rebellions throughout the Mediterranean and under Hadrian defeat a further ferocious rebellion (Bar Kochba) like the first in Palestine.
- The cult of Jesus spawns all manner of spiritual and philosophical speculation and assertions and corresponding cult branches (Marcionites, Montanists, Gnostics, etc.). A network of bishops counters by insisting on the ongoing scriptural authority of the Bible, and of themselves. Their inclusion of the "OT" eventually emerges as the orthodox position, validated in the 4th-5th century imperial brute vanquishment of their adversaries (followed by further ecclesial disputes) and demonstrated by the earliest complete codices of the Christian Bible from the same era.