

VOLUME I



THE CHURCH & THE JEWS
SERIES BY DAVID BIRNBAUM

JEW'S, CHURCH & CIVILIZATION

AN INTEGRATED HISTORICAL TIMELINE

I

Ancient Era - 1 BCE

BY DAVID BIRNBAUM

author of the *Summa Metaphysica* series

New Paradigm Matrix™

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THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE JEWISH HISTORY TIMELINE - *EXAMINER*

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JEWS, CHURCH & CIVILIZATION

AN INTEGRATED HISTORICAL TIME LINE

David Birnbaum's ***Jews, Church & Civilization*** is a uniquely distinctive work on the extraordinary historical odyssey of the Jews.

Birnbaum starts not with Abraham, but somewhat more adventurously, with the 'origin' of the cosmos as we know it. The author uniquely places the Jewish journey within the context of Western and Asian history and advance.

Playing-out themes of the ebbs-and-flows of empires, discovery and exploration, scientific, intellectual and artistic advance, Birnbaum injects history with spice, flavor, irony and texture.

Jewish and rabbinic scholarship are given not inconsiderable attention. The author of the iconic Summa Metaphysica philosophy series articulates the flow of Jewish intellectual advance winding through the centuries - in the context of world and Jewish history.

A feast for the mind and the soul.

* * *



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About the Author

David Birnbaum is known globally as “the architect of Potentialism Theory” – a unified philosophy/cosmology/metaphysics. The paradigm-challenging theory is delineated in Birnbaum’s 3-volume *Summa Metaphysica* series (1988, 2005, 2014).

A riposte to *Summa Theologica* of (St.) Thomas Aquinas, the Birnbaum treatise (see PotentialismTheory.com) challenges both the mainstream Western philosophy of Aristotelianism and the well-propped-up British/atheistic cosmology of Randomness (see ParadigmChallenge.com). The focus of over 150 reviews and articles (see SummaCoverage.com), a course text at over 15 institutions of higher learning globally (see SummaCourseText.com), *Summa Metaphysica* was the focus of an international academic conference on Science & Religion April 16-19, 2012 (see BardConference.com).

David Birnbaum is, as well, the Editor-in-Chief of the in-progress *Mesorah Matrix* series on Jewish thought and spirituality: 10-volume, 10-theme, 150+ global Jewish thought leader essayists (see Mesorah1000.com).

In the history realm, David Birnbaum is the author of the 2-volume *The Crucifixion – of the Jews*, and of the 7-volume *Jews, Church & Civilization*. His *Crucifixion* series, in particular, traces a direct trajectory from the Canon Gospels in the First Century to Auschwitz in the Twentieth.

Birnbaum is a graduate of Yeshiva University High School (Manhattan), CCNY (City College of New York – Engineering) and Harvard. His commentary blog is www.ManhattanObserver.com.

See also www.DavidBacademic.com

(David Birnbaum bio above updated 10/01/15)

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DAVID BIRNBAUM MAJOR WORKS

As Author

3-volume Summa Metaphysica (www.philosophy1000.com)

2-volume The Crucifixion (www.crucifixion1000.com)

7-volume Jews, Church & Civilization (www.civilization1000.com)

As Editor-in-Chief*

10-volume Mesorah Matrix (www.mesorah1000.com)
(target completion: 2020)

5-volume Commentary Matrix (www.commentary1000.com)
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As Conceptualizer

3-volume Summa Spinoffs (www.Spinoffs1000.com)

8-volume Potentialism Theory via Graphics
(www.TheoryGraphics1000.com)

As Commentator

www.ManhattanObserver.com

**in-progress*



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Books by David Birnbaum

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Jews, Church & Civilization
I, II, III, IV, V, VI & VII
(2005)

www.Civilization1000.com

The Crucifixion

I and II

(2009)

www.Crucifixion1000.com

Metaphysics-related

Summa Metaphysica series

www.Philosophy1000.com

Summa Metaphysica I:

Religious Man: God and Evil

(1988)

[originally published by KTAV Publishing]

Summa Metaphysica II:

Spiritual Man: God and Good

(2005)

Summa Metaphysica III:

Secular Man: The Transcendent Dynamic

(2014)

Summa Metaphysica:

Supplement: Articles on Summa

(2013 and onward)

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**“companion works” to
Summa Metaphysica
[artistic/graphic representations]**

www.MetaphysicsB.com

www.MetaphysicsC.com

Q4P I Theory of Potential

Q4P II Theory of Potential

Cosmic Womb of Potential I Complexification (C+)

Cosmic Womb of Potential II Complexification (C+)

Theory of Everything: Cosmic Tool Kit #I + II

Theory of Everything: Cosmic Tool Kit #II

Quest for Potential[∞] (Q4P)

Extraordinariation (E+)

end of David Birnbaum book listings

www.PotentialismTheory.com

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“My dad likes context”

– J. S. Birnbaum

The 4,000-year Jewish journey through history

through the lens of David Birnbaum

In Tribute

to

Dean Henry Rosovsky

*

Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences
Harvard University
from 1973–1987

Dedicated In Memory of

Andor J. Birnbaum a"h

1916 – 1998

Solva, Czechoslovakia > Berlin > Madison, Wisconsin > New York > Herzliyah, Israel

1916

1930

1938

1940

1990

Special Thank You

to

my Editorial Associate

Nora Frydman

Introduction

The objective of this endeavor is to provide a Jewish History TimeLine integrated within the context of world history.

Spanning the millennia, and courtesy in large part to various persecutions emanating from sundry European/Russian areas, the Jewish people / nation / tribe / religious group / nation / entity / civilization now find themselves around the globe. As is known, the Jews *tend to leave their mark*. Thus, there is a *rich and intense* history to endeavor to chronicle.

The publisher commissioned a multi-volume set. I have endeavored to optimize within those constraints. Needless to say, if the allocated space were ten times the allotted amount, there would still be subjects not covered and major subjects not fully covered in all their rich texture.

Thus, this work is subjective in noting key secular and Jewish 'energy points' spanning time immemorial. Please forgive my human frailties.

This has been a seven year endeavor, and I have attempted to do justice to a great nation.

David Birnbaum
Manhattan

As we were taught in first grade in (Modern Orthodox Jewish Day School) Yeshiva of Forest Hills in Queens, Long Island, first we start with '*bereshith*,' i.e. we start at the beginning....



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Jews, Church & Civilization

*

*** Integrated TimeLine ***

*

with a Jewish focus

*

from Infinity to the present day

*

* * * * *

*Note: In early 2008 the total number of Jews in the world is approx. 14.8 million, representing approx. **1/5 of 1 percent** of the world's population (of 6.7 billion)*

* * * * *

*Jews,
Church
& Civilization*

TimeLine
Volume I

Note regarding dates of the early universe:

If one asks 12 different astrophysicists one will get 12 slightly different variations of the dates (and of the particulars).

If one asks the same physicist the same question 12 months later, one will also get a slightly different variation (and slightly different particulars).

The same issue relates to other scientific groups with a scientific stake in the datings.

The sequence that I have articulated is my understanding of the rough consensus as of the official closing–point of this work, June, 2008.

C. 13.7 billion BCE: "CREATION"

JEWS, CHURCH, & CIVILIZATION

hydrogen		helium		lithium		beryllium		boron		carbon		nitrogen		oxygen		fluorine		neon	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
H	He	Li	Be	B	C	N	O	F	Ne	Na	Mg	Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar	K	Ca
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
atomic number	atomic number	atomic number	atomic number	atomic number	atomic number	atomic number	atomic number	atomic number	atomic number	atomic number	atomic number	atomic number	atomic number	atomic number	atomic number	atomic number	atomic number	atomic number	atomic number
symbol	symbol	symbol	symbol	symbol	symbol	symbol	symbol	symbol	symbol	symbol	symbol	symbol	symbol	symbol	symbol	symbol	symbol	symbol	symbol
atomic weight	atomic weight	atomic weight	atomic weight	atomic weight	atomic weight	atomic weight	atomic weight	atomic weight	atomic weight	atomic weight	atomic weight	atomic weight	atomic weight	atomic weight	atomic weight	atomic weight	atomic weight	atomic weight	atomic weight
1.0079	4.0026	6.941	9.0122	10.811	12.011	14.007	15.999	18.998	20.180	22.989	24.305	26.982	28.086	30.974	32.065	35.453	39.948	39.098	40.078
Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr	Rb	Sr	Y	Zr
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
Scandium	Titanium	Vanadium	Chromium	Manganese	Iron	Cobalt	Nickel	Copper	Zinc	Gallium	Germanium	Arsenic	Selenium	Bromine	Krypton	Rubidium	Strontium	Yttrium	Zirconium
44.956	47.887	50.942	51.996	54.938	55.845	58.933	58.933	63.546	65.38	69.723	72.64	74.922	78.96	79.904	83.80	85.468	87.62	88.906	91.224
Scandium	Titanium	Vanadium	Chromium	Manganese	Iron	Cobalt	Nickel	Copper	Zinc	Gallium	Germanium	Arsenic	Selenium	Bromine	Krypton	Rubidium	Strontium	Yttrium	Zirconium
89-102	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105
Francium	Radium	Actinium	Thorium	Protactinium	Uranium	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr	Rf	Hf	Ta
223	226	227	232.04	231.04	238.03	237.05	244.06	243.06	247.07	247.07	251.10	252.08	257.10	258.10	262.11	263.10	267.10	270.10	270.10
Francium	Radium	Actinium	Thorium	Protactinium	Uranium	Neptunium	Plutonium	Americium	Curium	Berkelium	Californium	Einsteinium	Fermium	Mendelevium	Nobelium	Lanthanum	Rutherfordium	Hafnium	Tantalum
87	88	89-102	87-79	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102
Francium	Radium	Lanthanoids	*Lanthanoids	Actinoids	**Actinoids	Actinoids	Actinoids	Actinoids	Actinoids	Actinoids	Actinoids	Actinoids	Actinoids	Actinoids	Actinoids	Actinoids	Actinoids	Actinoids	Actinoids
223	226	227	227	227	227	227	227	227	227	227	227	227	227	227	227	227	227	227	227
Francium	Radium	Lanthanoids	*Lanthanoids	Actinoids	**Actinoids	Actinoids	Actinoids	Actinoids	Actinoids	Actinoids	Actinoids	Actinoids	Actinoids	Actinoids	Actinoids	Actinoids	Actinoids	Actinoids	Actinoids

Infinity BCE: QUEST FOR POTENTIAL

Ongoing infinitely.

Infinity BCE – 14 billion BCE: ADVANCED META-PHYSICAL REALMS CONCRETIZE**c. 13.7 billion BCE: “CREATION”**

(a.k.a. The Big Bang)

*** A half billion years transpire ***

The first 26 elements of the Periodic Table are created in the process.

c. 13.2 billion BCE: GRAVITY EXERTS ITS PULL

Gravity starts to pull together huge regions of relatively dense cosmic gas from the far reaches of the cosmos.

Within half a billion years, this dynamic will be forming the vast, swirling collections of stars we call galaxies. These galaxies, in turn, form clusters, of which one—the so-called Local Group cluster—will eventually contain our own Milky Way galaxy.

c. 12.95 billion BCE: SUPERNOVAS

Supernovas, collapsing hi-mass stars, start creating the heavier elements (that is, the elements heavier than iron).

The elements are created in the massive fusion reactions in the superheated and super-compressed imploding and exploding cores of the supernovas.

To date, over 90 elements heavier than iron have been uncovered.



c. 12.7 billion BCE: GALAXIES



The Milky Way galaxy

Stars in the Sky

Our sun is a star, and is one of approximately 2 billion stars in our own galaxy, the Milky Way Galaxy. In turn, the Milky Way is one of approximately a billion galaxies in the universe.

Therefore, the number of stars in the universe is 2 billion times a billion.

So, the multiplication-out is -
 $2,000,000,000 \times 1,000,000,000 = 2,000,000,000,000,000$ stars total.**

** source: exposition at Hayden Planetarium, Museum of Natural History, New York

In addition, supernovas

–seed their respective galaxies with heavy elements;

–heat their respective galaxies with the energy of their radiation;

–stir up their respective galaxies with the force of their blast waves;

and, last but not least,

–cause new stars to form.

Note: Stars with at least 3–10 times the mass of our sun are potential candidates for “supernova” status.



c. 12.7 billion BCE: GALAXIES

–continue to emerge and the Milky Way coalesces.

*** Approximately 8.1 billion years transpire ***

4.6 billion BCE: THE SUN

4.5 billion BCE: OUR SOLAR SYSTEM

*** A half billion years transpire ***

4 billion BCE: “LIFE”

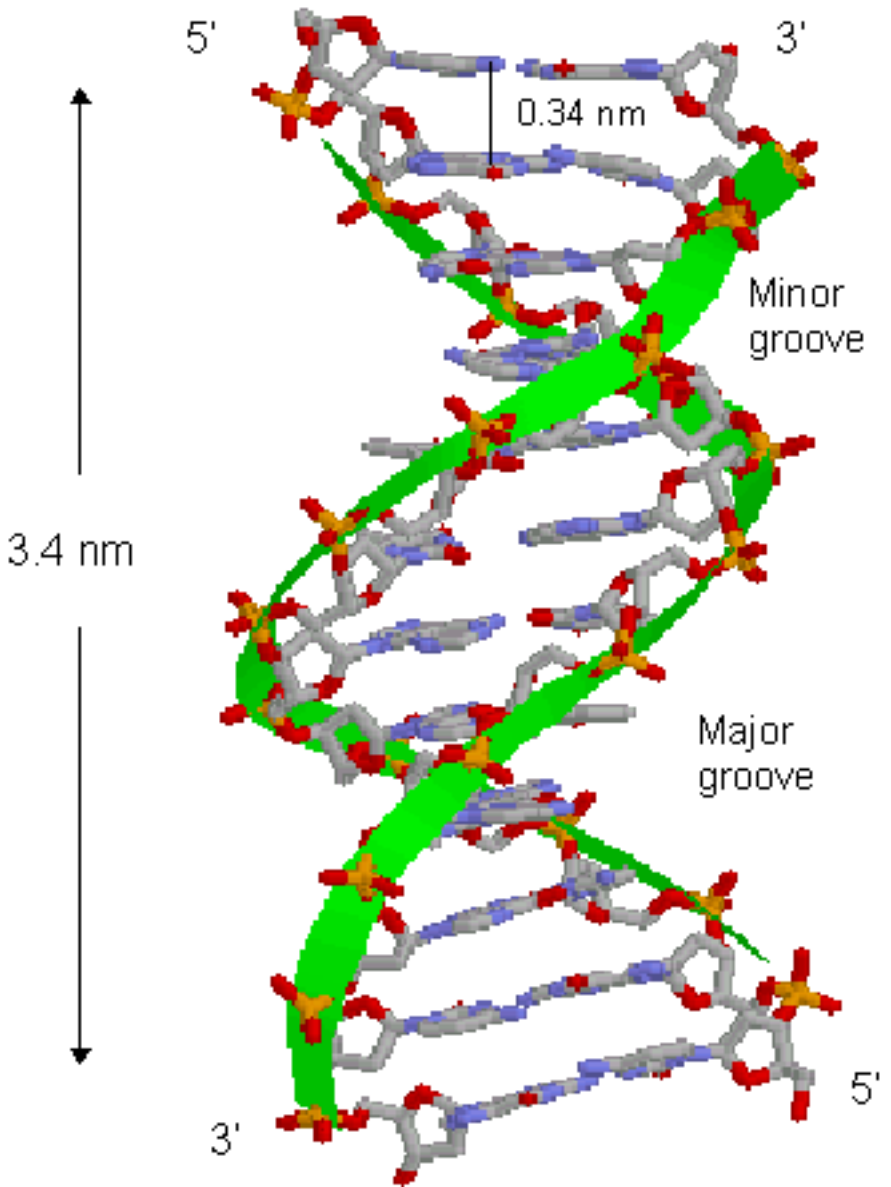
The first living cell appears, probably as self-replicating RNA, such as bacteria.

3.9 billion BCE: PHOTOSYNTHESIS

*** Four hundred million years transpire ***



3.5 billion BCE: DNA



The structure of a section of DNA. The bases lie horizontally between the two spiraling strands.

3.5 billion BCE: DNA

First strand of DNA appears.

*** Approximately 1.5 billion years transpire ***

2 billion BCE: “SNOWBALL THEORY”

Possible global Ice Age.

*** A half billion years transpire ***

1.5 billion BCE: ORGANISMS

—with cell nucleus containing DNA appear.

*** A half billion years transpire ***

1.2 billion BCE: SEXUAL REPRODUCTION

—leads to an explosion of evolution.

1 billion BCE: MULTI-CELLULAR LIFE APPEARS

First algae and seaweeds appear in the ocean.

*** A half billion years transpire ***

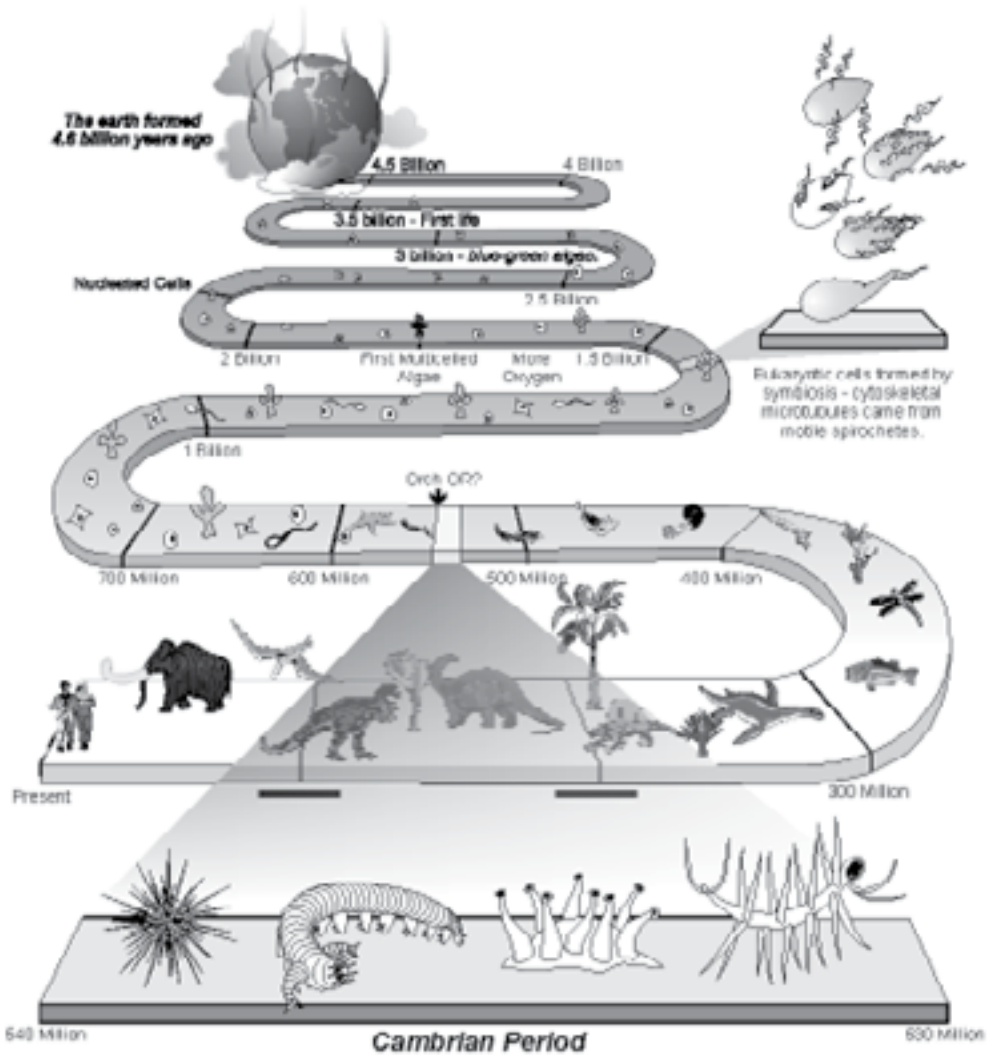
c. 540 million BCE: CAMBRIAN EXPLOSION

Some 50 phyla (basic body plans) suddenly and simultaneously appear—the first appearance of complex animal life.

With the appearance of complex animal life, predator–prey dynamics manifest, as well.

JEWS, CHURCH & CIVILIZATION

c. 540 million BCE: CAMBRIAN EXPLOSION



The Cambrian explosion.

Darwin apparently viewed the Cambrian Explosion as one of the principal objections to his theory of evolution by natural selection.

Note: The Cambrian Explosion has never been even near-adequately explained by mainstream science, perhaps because mainstream science is too “bounded.”

*** 80 million years transpire ***

c. 460 million BCE: LIFE MOVES ASHORE

At first, primitive plants and algae, then arthropods such as spiders and scorpions.

*** 70 million years transpire ***

c. 390 million BCE: AMPHIBIANS

Amphibians evolve from freshwater fish, developing lungs (from swim bladders) and legs (from fins).

*** 55 million years transpire ***

c. 335 million BCE: THE FIRST FORESTS

*** 270 million years transpire ***

c. 300 million BCE: REPTILES

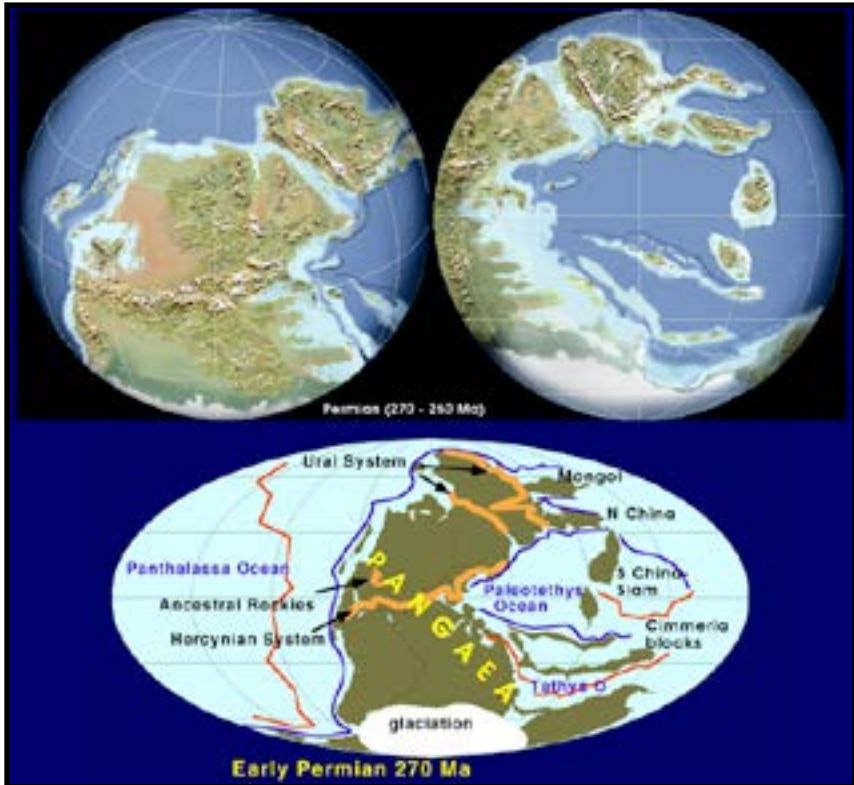
Reptiles evolve from amphibians, courtesy of the amniotic egg, which allows reproduction on land.

Small mammals subsequently evolve from reptiles in the 250–230 million BCE period.

JEWS, CHURCH & CIVILIZATION



250 million BCE: THE PERMIAN EXTINCTION



Galactic Year

Our earth revolves around the sun once per year. In turn, our sun revolves around the center of the Milky Way Galaxy once every 250 million years.

This 250 million-year period is referred to as a *galactic year*. One 'galactic year' ago (250 million years) was the time of the 'Permian Extinction.' Our sun was created c. 18 *galactic years* ago (4.6 billion years ago).

275 million BCE: LARGE MAMMALS

Mammals approximately the size of later respectable-sized dinosaurs evolve from reptiles and roam the planet but become extinct during...

**250 million BCE: THE PERMIAN EXTINCTION**
(a.k.a. the Permian–Triassic Extinction)

“The mother of all extinctions”

Catastrophic worldwide volcanic eruption and/or drought causes about 75 percent of all species to become extinct.

Note: at this point in time, “worldwide” means Pangaea-wide, with Pangaea being the C-shaped super-continental land mass spread across the equator. It is the sole significant land mass.

200 million BCE: DINOSAURS (meaning “terrible lizards”)

—and pterosaurs (flying reptiles)

c. 150 million BCE: BIRDS

They are believed to have primarily evolved from ancestors of flying dinosaurs.

*** 36 million years transpire ***

c. 114 million BCE: FLOWERS

*** 50 million years transpire ***

**65 million BCE: DINOSAURS BECOME EXTINCT**

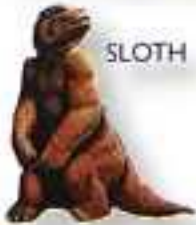
Enormous meteor 6 miles in diameter hits Mexico; creates

JEWS, CHURCH & CIVILIZATION

© 200 million BCE: DINOSAURS BECOME EXTINCT



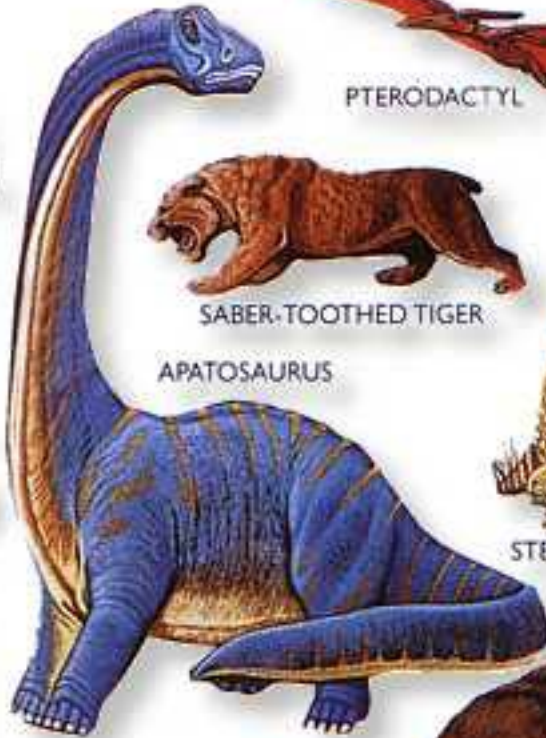
ICHTHYOSAURUS



SLOTH



TYRANNOSAURUS REX



APATOSAURUS



PTERODACTYL



SABER-TOOTHED TIGER



STEGOSAURUS



TRICERATOPS



WOOLLY MAMMOTH



ANKYLOSAURUS

impact crater 100 miles across, simultaneous with catastrophic volcanic eruptions in the Greater India region.

The resultant mega dust–cloud enveloping Earth destroys the dinosaurs one way or another.

65 million BCE: LARGE MAMMALS (AGAIN)

–evolve and flourish.

The largest mammal ever to have lived is the Blue Whale, currently an endangered species.

Potentially up to 190 tons and 110 feet long, the Blue Whale is considerably larger than the largest extinct dinosaur.

The Blue Whale probably evolved from an animal resembling the hippopotamus, which had returned back to the sea.

Note: Humans are, of course, also mammalian and will appear later.

*** 61 million years transpire ***



4 million BCE: EARLIEST HOMINIDS

(Precursors of human lineage)

French and Chadian paleontologists assert that the “Toumai” male fossil, discovered in 2001 in the Djurab Desert in northern Chad, is the earliest hominid. Standing 4 feet high at age twenty, and with a nuclear family group of about six, paleontologists date him to 7 million BCE—i.e. 230,000 generations back—but the current consensus (June 2008) is that Toumai, whatever he is, is not the earliest hominid, but rather a precursor of hominids.



4 million BCE: EARLIEST HOMINIDS



Lucy fossil

Photographer: Tom McHugh, Photo Researchers Inc.

So, which fossil is the earliest hominid?

The famous “Lucy” fossil was discovered in 1974 in Ethiopia. The American anthropologist, who discovered her, Donald Johanson, was listening to the Beatles song “Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds” as he unearthed her remains... hence, “Lucy.” Lucy (3.2 million BCE) is considered by consensus the first clear-cut hominid fossil, and hominids as a group are dated to 4 million BCE.

3 million BCE: NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA BECOME JOINED

–courtesy of volcanic activity around Panama.

This joining allows migration of animals and affects ocean currents, triggering an Ice Age.

1.8 million BCE: *HOMO ERECTUS* EMERGES

780,000–400,000 BCE: PEKING MAN

Peking Man was an example of *Homo Erectus*. Remains were discovered in Zhoukoudian, China near Beijing in 1923–27.

130,000 BCE: NEANDERTHAL MAN

–evolves in the savannas of Africa and migrates to other continents. Neanderthal will die out in 33,000 BCE.



120,000 BCE: *HOMO SAPIENS* (Latin for “wise/ knowing man”)

The first anatomically modern humans, evolved from *Homo erectus*, not from Neanderthal, appear in Africa.

JEWS, CHURCH & CIVILIZATION



120,000 BCE: *HOMO SAPIENS*



source: www.scienceclarified.com

So, if one generation is calculated as 30 years, then from the earliest hominids (4 million BCE) until Abraham (1700 BCE) will be 133,000 generations; from the first *Homo sapiens* (120,000 BCE) until Abraham will be 3,933 generations; and from Abraham to the current day will be 123 generations.

Therefore, the period from Abraham to the present represents only about 3 percent of the time since the appearance of anatomically modern humans.

18,000 BCE: HOMEIO FLORESIENSIS LIVED ON FLORES, INDONESIA

Homo Floresiensis, (“Flores Man,” nicknamed the Hobbit) which has a very small body and brain, and which is possibly a new species, lived contemporaneously with humans on the Indonesian island of Flores. Its tenure spanned from somewhere starting in the 75,000–20,000 BCE zone until 12,000 BCE before becoming extinct. Note that Neanderthal Man became extinct c. 33,000.

The other possibility is that “Flores Man” is not a new species, but, rather, a line of *homo sapiens* with retarded growth aspects to its physiology. This theory has distinguished advocates, as well.

The fossil which was uncovered, and which has been dated at 18,000 BCE has been named LB1. If “Flores Man” is indeed a new species, it would be the non-modern human species which existed the latest into history.

As of the closing point of this book, June 2008, the anthropology community is fairly evenly split on the issue: new species v. dwarf human. In June, 2007, a research team from Tel Aviv University published a paper arguing that the physiology of LB1 was very



11,000–7000 BCE: ROCK SHELTERS OF BHIMBETKA, INDIA



Bhimbetka rock painting

similar to that of humans afflicted with Laron Syndrome, which causes pituitary dwarfism, meaning that we are not dealing with a new species. All theories to date from both sides of the academic debate, including the Tel Aviv University paper, have been challenged vigorously.

13,000 BCE: AGRICULTURE

Agriculture, permanent settlements, and cities have archaeological traces in present-day Iraq.

11,000–7000 BCE: ROCK SHELTERS OF BHIMBETKA, INDIA

In the foothills of the Vindhya Mountains at the southern edge of the central Indian plateau, five clusters of natural rock shelters display paintings apparently from the Mesolithic Period (c. 11,000–7000 BCE) right through to the 9000–7000 BCE period.

9500 BCE: GRANARIES EMPLOYED

Jordan Valley: Storage areas for grain were located between buildings. By 8500 BCE, they were moved inside houses; by 7500 BCE they were in separate rooms in houses.

8700 BCE: METAL WORKING CARRIED OUT

Mesopotamia: Iraq: Copper pendant found in the area dated to this era.

7600 BCE: ZHENPIYAN, CHINA CULTURE

Archeological evidence related to this culture exists – on domestication of pig for the first time.

4000 BCE: WATER CLOCKS



7500 BCE: PENGTOUSHAN, CHINA CULTURE

Analysis of Chinese rice residues shows that rice had been domesticated by this time in this culture.

6000 BCE: CISHAN, CHINA CULTURE

Archeological evidence related to this culture exists – on domestication of dog and chicken for the first time.

5500 BCE: FABRIC

Egyptians weave flax threads together to create fabric for the first time.

5000 BCE: BAIJIA, CHINA CULTURE

Archeological evidence exists related to this culture exists – on domestication of ox and sheep for the first time.

4400 BCE: HORSES DOMESTICATED

–power... transportation... farming... warfare.

4000 BCE: IRRIGATION CANALS EMPLOYED

Mesopotamia: Artificial channels for water are known to have been employed (in the area that is modern day Iraq and Syria).

4000 BCE: BANPO (CHINA) SCRIPT

Scholars still debate if it is actual writing or not.



4000 BCE: WATER CLOCKS

China possibly saw the utilization of water clocks at this point.

Historical Images – Egypt

c. 3400 BCE



Hathor (an Ancient Egyptian goddess who personified the principles of love, motherhood and joy)

Historical Images – Egypt

[continued]

c. 2560 BCE



The Great Sphinx and the Pyramids of Giza, built during the Old Kingdom, are modern national icons that are at the heart of Egypt's thriving tourism industry.

THE SUMERIANS
c. 3500 BCE AND c. 3200 BCE

SUMER, AKKAD AND ELAM



3630 BCE: SILK

Approximate date of the oldest discovered silk in China – found by archaeologists in what is now Henan province – related to the late Yangshao period in China.

3500 BCE: EARLY BRONZE AGE

Invention of writing and the beginning of recorded history. Organization of city–states (c. 3500–2000 BCE).

**c. 3500 BCE: THE SUMERIANS, PART 1**

The Sumerians develop a phonetic alphabet, as well as the first numeral system and a system of weights and measures. Most of the surviving records are of business transactions.

c. 3500 BCE: BRONZE

Copper is combined with tin, creating the new metal bronze, which can be used in many tools.

c. 3250 BCE: PAPER

The central pulp of papyrus reed is split, dried, and glued together in Egypt to produce the first known paper.

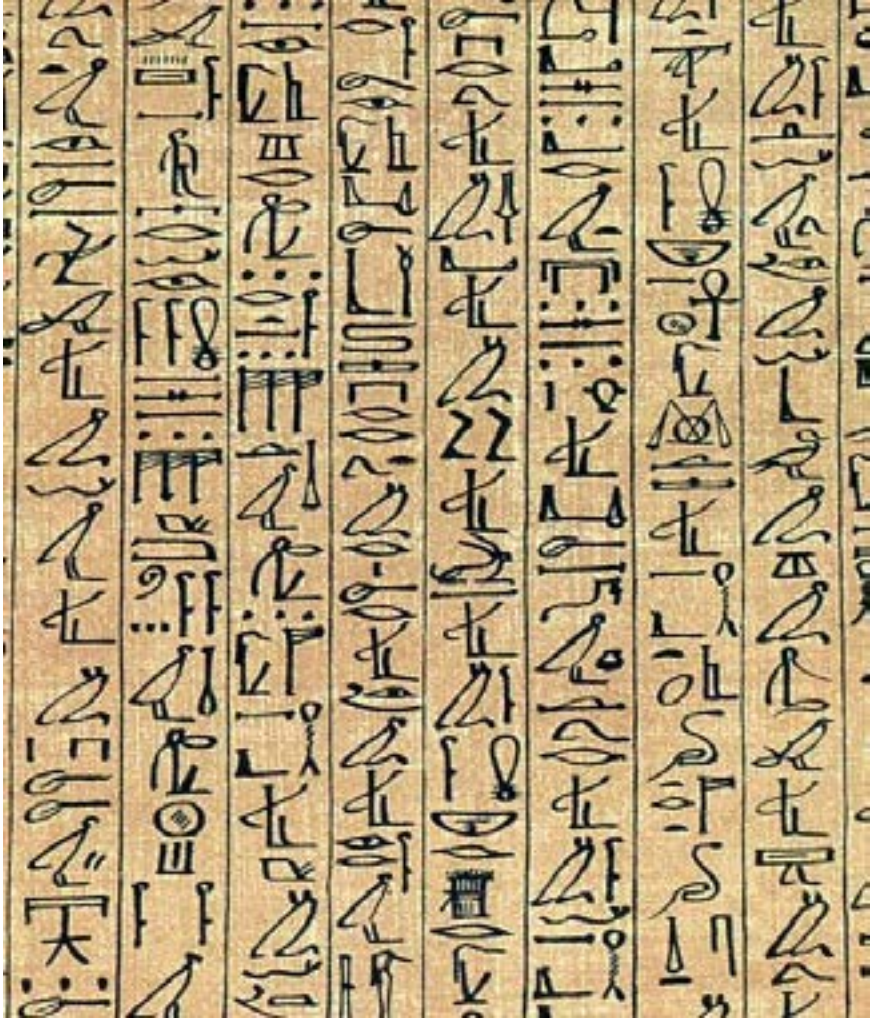
**c. 3250 BCE: HIEROGLYPHIC WRITING**

The Egyptians develop a system of recording/writing known as *hieroglyphics*, which initially tell a story with pictographs.

c. 3200 BCE: THE SUMERIANS, PART 2

More advanced civilization begins. A system of city–states develops along the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers (modern–day Iraq).

c. 3250 BCE: HIEROGLYPHIC WRITING



Of course, the stage had been set by the Sumerians' development of an alphabet 300 years earlier.

3100 BCE: 60 PLACE-VALUE

The Babylonians develop a base-60 (sexagesimal) place-value numeration system (as opposed to our base-10 system), where the value of a digit depends on its relative placement in the sequence.

With 12 factors (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 15, 20, 30 and 60) in their system, the Babylonians had rich mathematical material to play with.

The Babylonians inherited key components of the base-60 system from earlier Sumerian civilization. The Babylonian system is, of course, the basis of our 60-minute hour system.

3000 BCE: LONGSHAN (CHINA) CULTURE

During the Longshan Neolithic period, the buffalo are domesticated for the first time in China, and the plow may have been used.

c. 3000 BCE: FIRST CHARIOTS AND WAGONS

The wheels are made of wood, and are initially very heavy and cumbersome, as might be expected.

c. 3050 BCE: NARMER (a.k.a. Menes)

Founder of the first dynasty of Egypt and generally considered the first pharaoh.

3000 BCE: CANDLES EMPLOYED

Egypt: Made out of beeswax

Historical Images – Mesopotamia

c. 3100 BCE



overview map of ancient Mesopotamia

c. 3100 BCE

“THE BABYLONIAN MARRIAGE MARKET” (1875)

PAINTER: EDWIN LONG



Historical Images – Mesopotamia


[continued]

c. 2500 BCE

“ASSYRIAN SOLDIERS” (C. 1860)

PAINTER: BRAUN & SCHNEIDER



 c. 2800 BCE: CHINA

Chinese Dynasties

Xia Dynasty	2100 BCE	–	1600 BCE
Shang Dynasty	1600 BCE	–	1046 BCE
Zhou Dynasty	1046 BCE	–	256 BCE
Qin Dynasty	221 BCE	–	206 BCE
Western Han Dynasty	206 BCE	–	9 CE
Xin Dynasty	9 CE	–	23 CE
Eastern Han Dynasty	25 CE	–	220 CE
Three Kingdoms	220 CE	–	265 CE
Jin Dynasty	265 CE	–	420 CE
Southern and Northern Dynasties	420 CE	–	589 CE
Sui Dynasty	581 CE	–	618 CE
Tang Dynasty	618 CE	–	907 CE
Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms	907 CE	–	960 CE
Song Dynasty	960 CE	–	1279 CE
Liao Dynasty	907 CE	–	1125 CE
Jin Dynasty	1115 CE	–	1234 CE
Yuan Dynasty	1271 CE	–	1368 CE
Ming Dynasty	1368 CE	–	1644 CE
Qing Dynasty	1644 CE	–	1911 CE

2800 BCE: SOAP IN USE

Mesopotamia: Ancient Babylon

A formula for soap has been found on a Babylonian clay tablet 600 years later, around 2200 BCE. The formula was apparently: water, alkali, and cassia oil.

c. 2800 BCE: CHINA

According to Chinese legend, China is ruled by the Three August Ones and the Five Emperors, sage-kings and moral-exemplars.

One of them, the Yellow Emperor, is possibly the royal ancestor of the Han Chinese.

Note that the earliest written records of China's past date from approximately the thirteenth century BCE, the time of the Jewish Exodus.

These written records are inscriptions (spiritual/religious-related) on a trove of bones and shells known as the "Oracle Bones."

The Shang Dynasty spans approximately 550 years, from 1600 BCE to 1046 BCE. It incorporates 31 kings, from Tang to Di Xin (a.k.a. Zhou, Zhou Xin, Zhou Wang). Note that this last emperor, notwithstanding his name, is not a Zhou Dynasty emperor.

Over the 550-year span, the Shang Dynasty moves its capital six times, the last time to the city of Yin (modern-day Henan in east-central China), traditionally considered the "cradle of Chinese civilization."

□ c. 2800 BCE: CHINA



Drawings of Shang Dynasty ritual vessels.

source: www.art-virtue.com

The Shang Dynasty is succeeded by the 800-year Zhou Dynasty (1046–256 BCE).

King Wu of Zhou invokes the so-called “Mandate from Heaven,” a celestial invocation of legitimacy to rule by divine right, employed by succeeding claimants to the Chinese thrown over the centuries.

(Author’s note: I use this line, with my three kids, with mixed results.)

The Zhou Dynasty, China’s longest, spans 37 emperors.

Note that for some reason, Zhou Dynasty emperors reign approximately 21 years on average, whereas preceding Shang Dynasty kings reign just 8 years on average.

In any event, in 221 BCE, Qin defeats the other six states, including the Zhou, and finally unifies China under the Qin Dynasty.

Note: Whenever you hear that so-and-so “unified a country,” do not assume that this was a nice and sweet “Boy Scout operation.”

2700 BCE: ALPHABET

Egypt: Twenty-two Hieroglyphics employed. Civilization as we know it commences.

2700 BCE: PLUMBING (OUTDOOR)

Urban settlements in the Indus Valley. Earthenware pipes employing asphalt are used.

2700 BCE: PRECISION SURVEYING

—sets the stage for more advanced pyramid building in Egypt.



2630 BCE: IMHOTEP



2697 BCE: YELLOW EMPEROR

This period is part of the Chinese mythology.
The Battle of Banquan, the first battle in Chinese lore....

**2630 BCE: IMHOTEP**

Vizier of Egypt designs and constructs the great Step Pyramid Complex of Pharaoh Djoser at Saqqara (2630–2611 BCE), the first stone pyramid (as opposed to mud brick).

The central pyramid rises about 20 stories.

Imhotep—doctor, sage, architect, astronomer and high priest—is credited as a founder of the Egyptian and Masonic mystery traditions.

2570 BCE: MORE ADVANCED SILK PRODUCTS

Silk and other items found at the Liangzhu culture site at Qianshanyang in Wuxing District, Zhejiang; silk items found there included a braided silk belt, silk threads, and woven silk.

c. 2560 BCE: GREAT PYRAMID OF GIZA

a.k.a. Khufu's Pyramid, Tomb of Cheops, Khufu (with Khufu being a fourth dynasty Egyptian pharaoh)

The approximately seven-year construction was the world's highest manmade structure, at 480.9 ft or 146.6 m, until 1300 CE, although height was certainly not its primary defining historical significance.

Note: The Great Pyramid was not surpassed in height until 3,652 years later, by the Lincoln Cathedral in Lincoln, England, in 1300.

© c. 2500 BCE: STONEHENGE



(contemporary photo)

c. 2500 BCE: STONEHENGE

A sophisticated civilization spawns Stonehenge over many centuries... but disappears from any radar.

The Stonehenge edifice itself seems to have been a spiritual/religious/astronomical edifice, marking, as well, seasonal solstices via the sun's projection through its carefully laid out architectural apertures.

Edifices with a similar sun-centered spiritual/religious/astronomical dimension will manifest later in world history around the globe, including the well-known Incan Machu Picchu complex in the Andes Mountains, halfway around the world, 4,000 years later.

2500 BCE: DOORWAY ARCHES EMPLOYED

Indus Valley (current day India):

Dating 700 plus years still-further down the road in history, the oldest arched *city gate* in the world, 8 ft. wide, was found in Ashkelon, Israel, dating to the Middle Bronze Age (c. 1775 BCE). [Ashkelon is a coastal city on the (southern end of the) Mediterranean Coast of Israel, just north of the Gaza Strip.]

2500 BCE: GLASS

Egypt: Glass beads found here dated to this time period. Whether they were the accidental by-product of metal production or the intended product, they nevertheless have been found there.

2400 BCE: PRECISE ASTRONOMICAL CALENDAR

Used in Egypt into the Middle Ages for its accuracy.

Historical Images – India

c. 3300 BCE



"Priest King" of Indus Valley Civilization

2400 BCE



Ancient Lothal as envisaged by the Archaeological Survey of India

Historical Images – India

[continued]

c. 563 BCE



on the bank of river Falgu in Bodh Gaya, Bihar.

c. 599 BCE



The Birth of Mahavira

1792-1749 BCE: REIGN OF HAMMURABI



The upper part of the stele of Hammurabi's code of laws

2400 BCE: FIRST KNOWN SHIPYARD

–in Lothal, Indus Valley Civilization.

24th and 23rd centuries BCE: THE AKKADIAN EMPIRE

–At its peak (2300s–2280) pursuant to the conquests of King Sargon of Akkad (d. 2280 BCE).

Fuller span: 2334–2083 BCE; sometimes regarded as the first manifestation of empire in history; stretched from the Mediterranean at the northwest (modern day Syria) to the Persian Gulf in the southeast (modern day Kuwait). Hurrian kingdoms to the northeast; Elam kingdom to the southeast.

2000 BCE: EARLY CURRENCY EMPLOYED

Sumer, Ancient Mesopotamia: Silver ingots employed as a receipt for deliveries to temple granaries.

2000 BCE: MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

Babylonians develop a mathematical system based on units of 60. They divide the circle into 360 units/degrees.

1900 BCE: COTTON

Harappans in the Indus Valley (modern-day Pakistan) become the first to grow and weave cotton into fabric.

1792–1749 BCE: REIGN OF HAMMURABI

–son of Mubalit, in Babylon

The inscriptions glorifying his reign note the building of new temples and the restoration of old towers and temples

1790 BCE: THE HYKSOS, AN ASIAN PEOPLE, INVADE EGYPT



an image representing the Egyptian pharaoh Ahmose I defeating the Hyksos in battle.



in Babylon. Babylon – granted complete remission of debts with his accession – becomes the most important town and religious–cultural center of the entire region. As is well known, Hammurabi’s famous codex of laws was to have a major influence on the laws of the Torah. In his last years Hammurabi renews his conquests; he battles, amongst others, with the King of Mari, Zimri–Lim (1775–1761 BCE) and liquidates his kingdom. Hammurabi’s dynasty rules Babylon for 150 years after his death.



1790 BCE: THE HYKSOS, AN ASIAN PEOPLE, INVADE EGYPT

They gain control of the Nile Delta; as a result, many Egyptians migrate southward to escape them. The Hyksos adopt Egyptian customs and contribute to their diffusion outside Egypt. This could be the background to the story of Joseph, his arrival in Egypt, and his sojourn there.

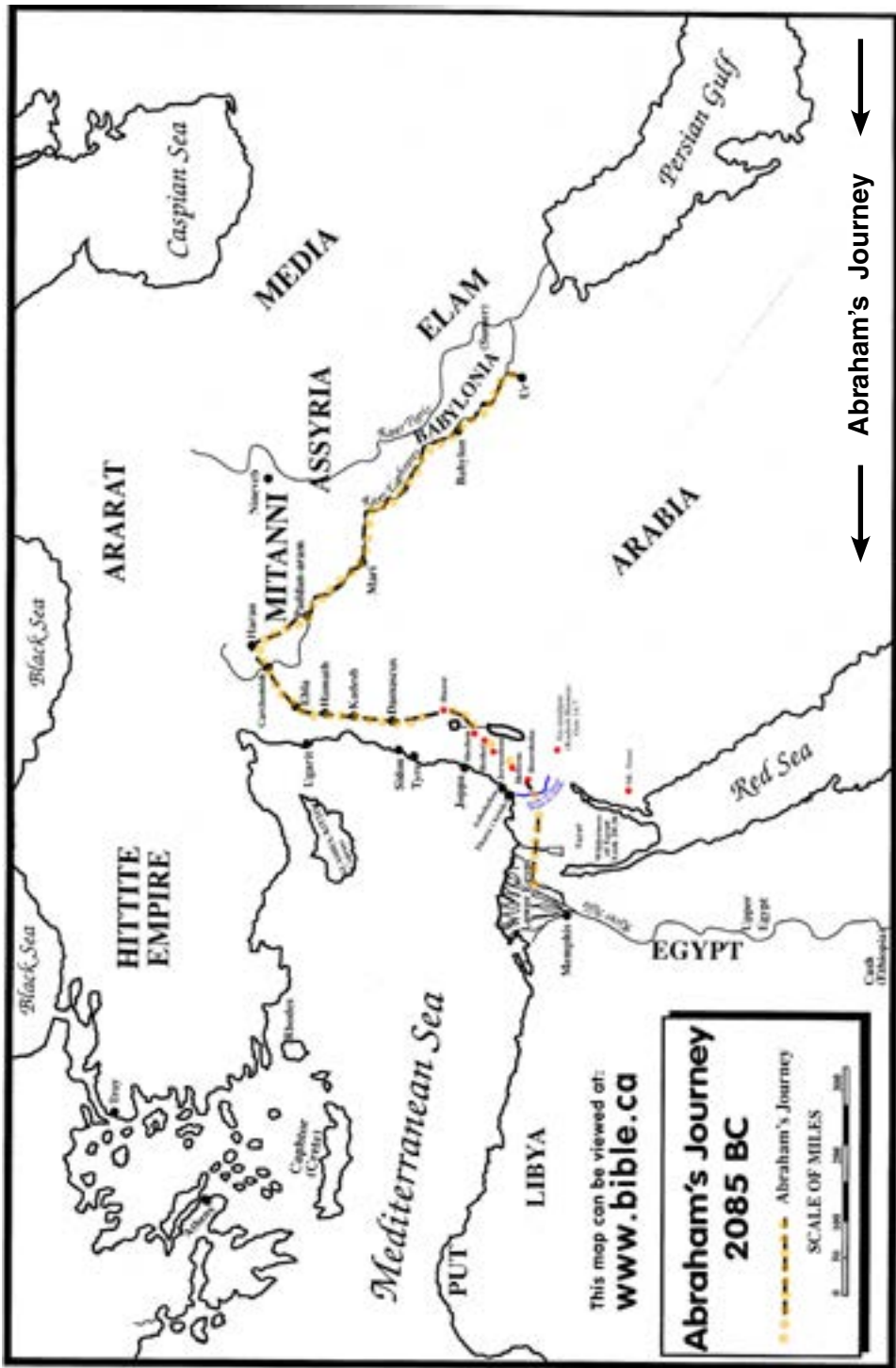
1790 BCE: CODE OF HAMMURABI

Enacted by the sixth Babylonian king, Hammurabi (1796–1750 BCE), in Old Babylonia.

Note: Possibly the earliest known collection of laws is the approximately 325–years–earlier codex of Ur–Nammu, king of Ur (c. 2050 BCE).

The Code of Hammurabi laws are engraved on a pillar found at Susa in 1901. Framed in a hymnic prologue that catalogues his conquests and an epilogue that stresses his concerns for justice, Hammurabi’s laws are partly based on older Sumerian and Akkadian codes. They contain 282 articles classified by subjects: property, commerce, family, etc. Among them is the principle of proportional punishment, an idea later expressed in Exodus as “an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.” This code is thus regarded as the starting

1700 BCE: "LECH L'CHAH"



source: The Ancient Near East Before the Exodus map from Bible Teacher Kit (c)1994 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

point for the understanding of all Near Eastern legal ideals. Many of its individual formulations are apparently paralleled by the legislation of Exodus and Deuteronomy to come.

1700s BCE: SHANG DYNASTY, CHINA

—Extending approximately 600 years, to the time of *Torah* at Sinai.

1700s BCE: “LECH L’CHAH”

Genesis: God said to Abraham, “Walk from your land...” (Ur Kasdim, Middle East)

“...and from the land of your forefathers, and go from your birthplace...unto Canaan...the land which God bequeaths unto thee.”

Middle Bronze Age (c. 2500–1600 BCE): Amorites, Hittites, Hurrians, Hyksos and Israelites in the Middle East and Near East.

“Great Stone Palace” of Knossos, Crete: extraordinary 1300–room edifice built over 300 years, 1700–1400 BCE (some contractors take longer than others).

Political and ceremonial center of Minoan civilization. Indoor plumbing, complex and highly sophisticated water and drainage systems. To keep it cool, the palace is mostly constructed of stone, hence its name.

1700s BCE: ABRAHAM PURCHASES HA-MACHPELAH

According to the Book of Genesis (*Bereshith*), subsequent to the death of Sarah, first Matriarch of Israel,

Abraham purchases the Cave of the Machpelah, the *Me'arat ha-Machpelah* (“the Cave of the Couples”) in the city of Hebron (in the current-day West Bank) as a burial chamber for his family.

All three Patriarchs and three of the four Matriarchs are buried here. The fourth Matriarch, Rachel, beloved wife of Jacob, is buried on the “Ephrath–BethLehem” (Beth-lehem) roadside, outside the current Jerusalem neighborhood of Gilo.

The Patriarchs are: Abraham, his son Isaac, and his grandson Jacob (Israel).

The Matriarchs are their primary wives: Sarah (wife of Abraham); Rebekah (wife of Isaac); and Leah and Rachel (wives of Jacob).

Hagar, handmaiden given by Sarah to Abraham, bears him Ishmael, who becomes the progenitor of the Arab world.

Jacob’s fraternal twin, Esau, emerges as the progenitor of the Edomites.

1700s BCE: ABRAHAM: PATRIARCH OF ISRAEL

Abraham lays the salient historical (and, the *Bible* would say, divine) claim to the land of Canaan for the unbroken line of his offspring, the Children of Israel.

1700s BCE: ABRAHAM: PHILOSOPHICAL REVOLUTIONARY

Abraham rejects idolatry and conceptualizes *monotheism*, belief in a single, unitary god.



Late 1700s BCE: ISAAC

"THE SACRIFICE OF ISAAC"

PAINTER: CARAVAGGIO



"Abraham Sacrificing Isaac"
(with angel of God interceding)

Abraham's ideological revolution transforms the Western world to this day.

Later 1700s BCE: ISHMAEL

Ishmael is a figure in the *Torah*, Bible, and in the Qur'an.

Jewish, Christian and Muslim believers regard Ishmael as Abraham's eldest son, born of his wife Sarah's hand maiden Hagar (Genesis 16:3). Though born of Hagar, according to Mesopotamian law, Ishmael was credited as Sarah's son (Genesis 16:2) [by Sarah's own suggestion]. Both Jewish and Islamic traditions consider Ishmael as the ancestor of northern Arab people.... The Qur'an views him as an Islamic prophet.

□ **Later 1700s BCE: ISAAC**

According to *Bereshith/Genesis*, Isaac was the second patriarch of Israel, the only son of Abraham and Sarah, and father of Esav and Yaakov (Esau and Jacob). Although Sarah was past the age of childbearing, God, according to the *Tanach*, promised Abraham and Sarah that they would have a son, and Isaac was born. Later, to test Abraham's obedience, God commands Abraham to sacrifice the boy. Abraham makes all the preparations for the ritual sacrifice (*Akedat Yitzchak*) but God spares Isaac at the very last moment.

Britannica –

“In the Old and New Testaments, God is called the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, because with them God's relationship of promise and purpose was fixed for all those who descended from them. The story of Abraham's acquiescence to God's command to sacrifice Isaac was used in the early Christian church as an example of faith (Heb. 11:17)



**1586-1556 BCE: SPOKED-WHEEL ASSAULT WAR CHARIOTS
EMPLOYED IN BATTLE**

“ST. KATHERINE”

PAINTER: CARAVAGGIO (1599)



Caravaggio - I'm fascinated by the whole "spoked-wheel" thing...

and of obedience (James 2:21). In later Jewish tradition, the sacrifice of Isaac was cited in appeals for the mercy of God.”

Encyclopaedia Britannica Online, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/294933/Isaac> (accessed July 1, 2009)

c. 1600 BCE: THE HEBREWS

–Migrate westward to Egypt to escape famine in Canaan. This migration sets the stage for the epochal drama to unfold.



1586–1556 BCE: SPOKE–WHEELED ASSAULT WAR CHARIOTS EMPLOYED IN BATTLE

Hittite Empire. By King Hattusili I. [Historians employ the span of his rule, 1586–1556 BCE as the time–frame for the introduction of the above–noted war chariots. Hattusili I apparently used the title “Labarna” and extended Hittite territory to the Mediterranean in the Syria region.... The Hittite Kingdom reached its height in the fourteenth century, meaning approximately 200 years after Hattusili I....

The Battle of Kadesh (on the Orontes River in modern–day Syria) in 1274 BCE noted below, in which Hittite chariot–innovations proved pivotal in besting the Egyptian armies, was likely to have been the largest chariot battle ever fought, involving over 5,000 war chariots in total. Thus, it would appear that the Hittite’s consistently parlayed technological advance in chariot design and battle tactics to best their adversaries – over more than a 300–year span. [Note: After the Hittites defeated the Egyptians at Kadesh, civil war imploded the Hittite empire.]

c. 1531 BCE: MURSILI I

King of the Hittites invades Babylon (after an unprecedented

Historical Images – Mexico

1500 BCE



A Jade Olmec Mask from Tabasco State, Mexico. The Olmec were a Pre-Columbian civilization living in the tropical lowlands of south-central Mexico, near the modern-day cities of Veracruz and Tabasco.

Historical Images – Mexico

[continued]

1000 BCE



The Cascajal Block, possibly the Earliest Mesoamerican Writing Discovered. [The Cascajal Block is a writing tablet-sized serpentinite (rock) slab which has been dated to the early first millennium BCE incised with hitherto unknown characters that may represent the earliest writing system in the New World.]

JEWS, CHURCH & CIVILIZATION



1322 BCE: "BITYA"

Painter: EDWIN LONG



The finding of Moses

↑
Bitya

2000 km march from the north) and puts an end to the Hammurabi dynasty. The Hittites adopt the Babylonian cuneiform script and Mesopotamian culture.

1522 BCE: JOSEPH

Joseph, now Viceroy of Egypt, reveals his identity to his brothers (who, jealous of him, and not particularly enamored of his outsized ego, had sold him into slavery two or three decades earlier).

1498–1483 BCE: THE FEMALE PHARAOH

Joint reign of Egyptian Queen Hatshepsut and Thutmose III. With the help of her favorite architect, Senmut, Hatshepsut erects the splendid burial temple in Deir el-Bahri near the Valley of the Kings.

1322 BCE: “BITYA”

BitYa, daughter of Pharaoh, rescues baby Moses from the bulrushes on the banks of Nile River in Egypt.

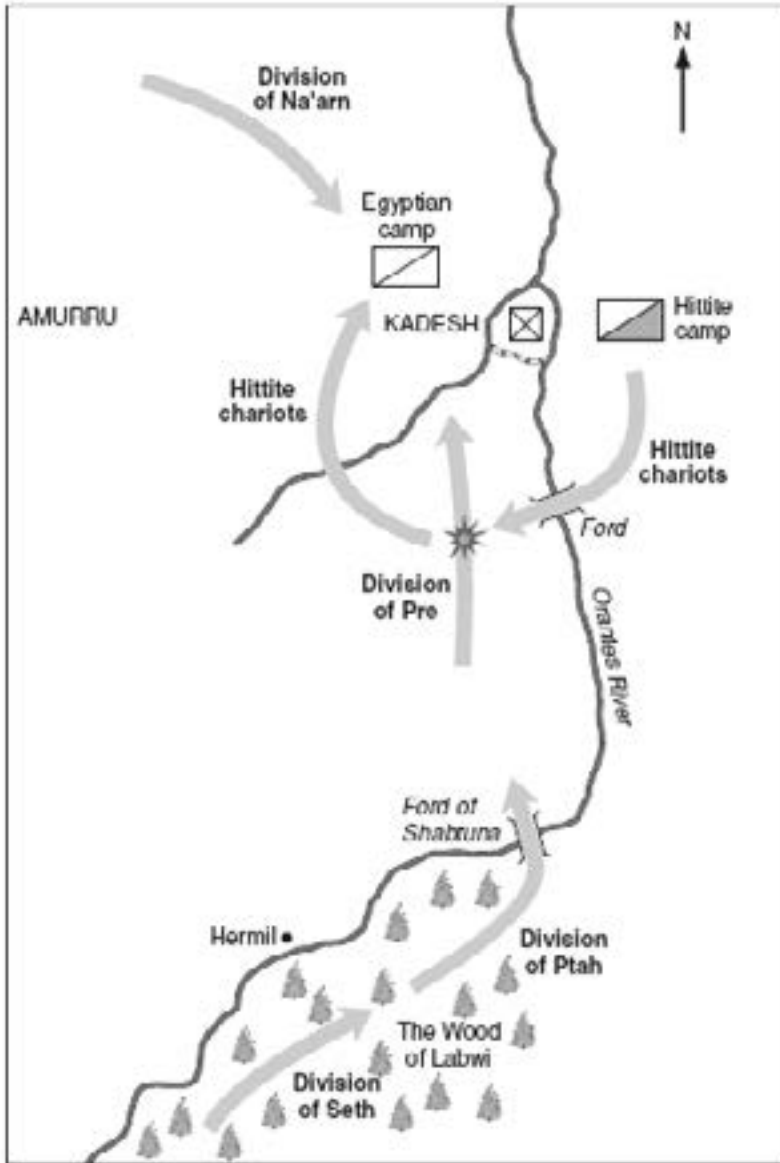
Note: BitYa’s rescue of baby Moses will significantly impact world history. Egyptian, Roman, Greek, Babylonian, Persian—and later British, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Muslim, Byzantine, Ottoman et al., empires are heavily impacted by the “giving of the *Torah*” by Moses and the unfolding of Judaism, then Christianity, Islam and Protestantism.

BitYa is referred to, in the *Torah* only, as “Pharaoh’s daughter”; she is later named BitYa (a.k.a. BatYa, “daughter of God”) by Jewish Midrashim.

It is noteworthy that this extraordinary name is given by the rabbis 3200 years ago, to a non-Jew, and a female at that.



1274 BCE: BATTLE OF KADESH



The Hittite attack

1290–1279 BCE: SETI I, KING OF EGYPT

–Conducts military campaigns in Canaan. Reliefs on a wall of the Amon temple at Karnak indicate the existence of fortified towns in Canaan and of Egyptian guard–posts in the Sinai Desert.

1279–1212 BCE: REIGN OF RAMSES II

–Known for conducting many wars and great building enterprises. It is possibly the memory of his reign which is reflected in the biblical description of cruel slavery: “Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens, and they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Ramses...and they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field” (Exodus, 1:11, 14).

1275 BCE: RAMSES II BUILDS

Ramses II builds throughout Egypt and Cush on an unprecedented scale. He erects the magnificent temples in Abu Simbel and enlarges the temples of Amon in Karnak and Luxor. A document dating from that time, describing the towns in Canaan, mentions “the head of the tribe of Asher” – perhaps an indication of an Israelite presence in Canaan at this early date.

**1274 BCE: BATTLE OF KADESH**

–Epochal battle for supremacy of the Levant region, on the banks of the Orontes River in modern–day Syria.

The region under contention stretches from the Egyptian Empire in the south, under Pharaoh and Commanding General Ramesses II, to the Hittite Empire in the north, under

c. 1250 BCE: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

עֲשֶׂרֶת הַדְּבָרִים

- א* אֲנֹכִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ
- ב לא יִהְיֶה לְךָ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים עַל פְּנֵי
- ג לא תִּשָּׂא אֶת-שֵׁם יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְשׁוֹא
- ד זְכוֹר אֶת-יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת לְקַדְּשׁוֹ
- ה כַּבֵּד אֶת-אָבִיךָ וְאֶת-אִמְךָ
- ו לא תִּרְצַח
- ז לא תִּנְאֹף
- ח לא תִּגְנוֹב
- ט לא תַעֲנֶה בְרֵעֶךָ עַד שֶׁקֶר
- י לא תִּחְמַד

see c. 1250 BCE (MOSES / "MATTAN TORAH") The Ten Commandments / Aseret ha-Dibrot for English translation

King Muwatalli II and Commanding General Hattusili II.

The forces were apparently each comprised of approximately 50,000 men.

Note: These were “chariot warfare” years, and the evolving expertise of the Hittites perhaps surpassed that of the Egyptians in this sphere.

Classically, two wheels were positioned at the back edge of the (Hittite) chariot, and each chariot carried two warriors. In the period leading into the epochal battle, however, Hittite engineers moved the wheels to the center of the chariot’s under-carriage. This forward-adjustment gave the chariot more strength—creating room for a crucial third warrior—that was the margin of victory as the war chariot drove into enemy lines. Apparently, this was one key component that helped tilt the balance of power towards the Hittites.

The Hittites prevail at The Battle of Kadesh, and in the subsequent treaty—the earliest known example of a written international agreement of any sort—the Egyptians are forced to refer to the Hittite King as “the Great King.”

But within decades, the awesome Hittite Empire implodes from civil war. Apparently, subsequent to the Battle of Kadesh, the Hittite king and the commanding general battle each other for supremacy of the empire. The denouement of this civil war is the implosion—and subsequent disappearance from history—of the Hittites.



c. 1250 BCE: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

The *Aseret Ha-Dibrot*: A list of ten key religious and moral directives/Precepts, which, according to the Bible (*Torah*), were given by God and transmitted via Moses.



**c. 1250 BCE: MOSES: SPIRITUALLY PIVOTING
THE WESTERN WORLD**



Moses delivers the Ten Commandments to the Jewish people.

Given on Mt. Sinai (Exodus–*Shemot* 19:23) or Mt. Horeb (Deuteronomy–*Devarim* 5:2), presumably one and the same. The Ten Commandments are one of the most salient defining components of the Jews—and of Western civilization.

The *Aseret Ha-Dibrot* is also known as “The Decalogue,” from the Greek “*dekalogos*.” There are, of course, parallel chapters in the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Bible composed between the First and Third centuries (see entry later).

c. 1250 BCE: MOSES: PRINCE OF EGYPT

–Born to Yocheved and Amram, a member of the Israeli tribe of Levi.

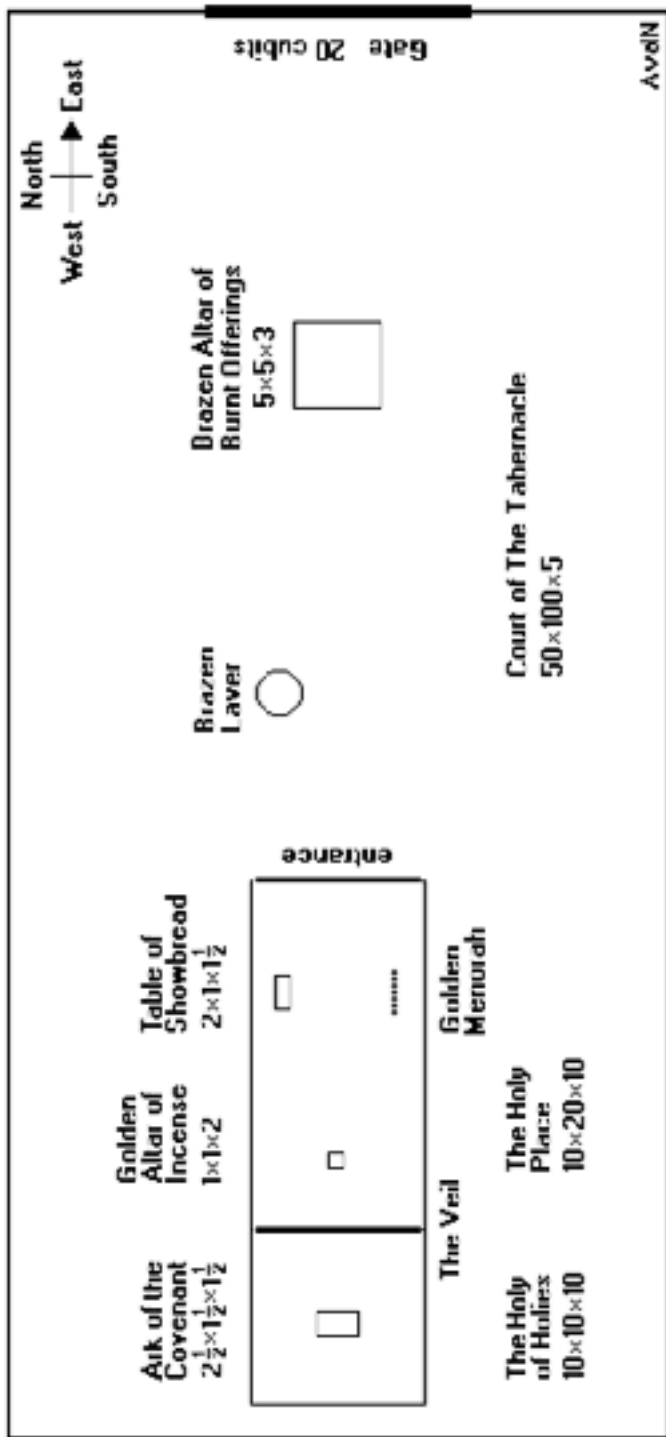
According to the Biblical account, Moses grows up in Pharaoh’s Court, having been saved from the Nile during infancy by Pharaoh’s daughter. In young adulthood Moses slays an Egyptian for beating a Hebrew slave. Moses flees to the desert, and subsequently marries Zipporah, daughter of Midianite priest Yitro.

Leading his flock of sheep on Mt. Horeb, Moses encounters the “burning bush.”

Eheyeh asher Eheyeh. I WILL BE THAT WHICH I WILL BE. The God of Israel then commissions reluctant Moses to go down to Egypt and command Pharaoh “Let my people go.” The prince (Moses) returns to his original palace to confront Pharaoh. Ten plagues later, Pharaoh temporarily agrees.

The Jews exit Egypt. THE EXODUS. Out of Egypt and into history.

c. 1250 BCE: MOSES AND THE EXODUS
MISHKAN: PORTABLE TEMPLE





c. 1250 BCE: MOSES: SPIRITUALLY PIVOTING THE WESTERN WORLD

Religious leader, lawgiver, and Prophet Moses delivers the *Torah* to the Jewish people, redefining religion as intellectually-grounded. In a straight trajectory from Abraham, Moses brings monotheism several quantum advances further. He prevails in motivating the Twelve Tribes of Israel to accept, in principle, the spiritual discipline of the *Torah*.

1260–1250 BCE: MOSES CONFRONTS PHARAOH (possibly Pharaoh Hatshepsut)



c. 1250 BCE: MOSES AND THE EXODUS

Four hundred and thirty years after the patriarch Jacob had arrived with his household of seventy (and the Pharaoh of Egypt at the time of the Exodus then possibly Amenhotep II), the Israelites exit Egypt with panache, organized into 12 tribes.

Six hundred thousand men, aside from boys and women, will assemble at Mt. Sinai shortly thereafter.

The Israelites are organized into three ceremonial levels: These “classes” come into play in ceremonial matters relating to the Temple, in particular. The progenitor “Temple” was the “mishkan” of the desert. So the three “temple” classes were/are:

- 1) Priesthood (*Ko-hen*) holds prime Temple ceremonial duties; descendants of Aaron, brother of Moses; exclusively from the Tribe of Levi.
- 2) “Levite class”: Levites (*Lai-vi*) hold a variety of Temple ceremonial duties; from the Tribe of Levi.



c. 1250 BCE: MOSES / "MATTAN TORAH"

תורה

TORAH THE FIVE BOOKS OF MOSES

BOOK I

בראשית

בראשית

נח

לך לך

וירא

חיי שרה

תולדות

ויצא

וישלח

וישב

מקץ

ויגש

ויחי

GENESIS

Bere'shit

Noah

Lekh Lekha

Va-yera'

Hayyei Sarah

Toledot

Va-yetse'

Va-yishlah

Va-yeshv

Mikkets

Va-yiggash

Va-yehi

BOOK II

שמות

שמות

וארא

בא

בשלח

יתרו

משפטים

תרומה

תצוה

כי תשא

ויקהל

פקודי

EXODUS

Shemot

Va 'era'

Bo'

Be-shallah

Yitro

Mishpatim

Terumah

Tetsavveh

Ki Tissa'

Va-yakhel

Pekudei

3) Nation as a whole: Israelites (*Yisrael*) – from the other eleven tribes.

*

So, to clarify: From the Tribe of Levi, if one were a descendant of Aaron (brother of Moses), one was a Kohen; if one was from the Tribe of Levi, but not a descendant of Aaron, one was a Levite. All other Jews are the “Israelite class” in ceremonial matters. However, the term “Israelites,” unless specifically referring to Temple matters, 99.9 percent of the time refers to all 12 tribes.

*

After 40 years in the desert, the Israelites finally establish themselves in Canaan through a series of military victories and political ententes.



c. 1250 BCE: MOSES / “MATTAN TORAH” (giving of the *Torah* at Mt. Sinai)

Monotheism is codified for the Jews in the 613 Precepts (mitzvot), including, but not limited to, the more complex laws of Kashrut and Shabbat and Temple-related regulations.... The *Torah* deals with the “dignity of man” (all men)...with focus on the God of Israel...including, of course, the Ten Commandments, noted above. There are numerous metaphysical themes embedded within the *Torah*.

There are 7 Precepts, known as the “Noahide Laws,” mandated for all mankind from the time of Noah.

Six of the Laws are prohibitions: These include prohibitions against idolatry, murder, theft, sexual promiscuity, blasphemy and cruelty to animals; one of the Laws is a “positive” requirement: just courts and laws.



c. 1250 BCE: MOSES / "MATTAN TORAH" [continued]

תורה

TORAH THE FIVE BOOKS OF MOSES

BOOK III

ויקרא
ויקרא
צו
שמיני
תזריע
מצרע
אחרי מות
קדשים
אמר
בהר
בחקתי

LEVITICUS

Va-yikra'
Tsav
Shemini
Tazria'
Metsara'
Aharei Mot
Kedoshim
'Emar
Be-har
Be-hukkotai

BOOK IV

במדבר
במדבר
נשא
בהעלתך
שלח לך
קרח
חקת
בלק
פינחס
מטות
מסעי

NUMBERS

Be midbar
Naso'
Be-ha'alotekha
Shelah-Lekha
Korah
Hukkat
Balak
Pinhas
Mattot
Mase'ei

BOOK V

דברים
דברים
ואתחנן
עקב
ראה
שפטים
כי תצא
כי תבוא
נעבים
וילך
האזינו
וזאת הברכה

DEUTERONOMY

Devarim
Va-'ethannan
'Ekev
Re'eh
Shofetim
Ki Tette'
Ki Tavo'
Nitsavim
Va-yelekh
Hu'azinu
Ve-zo'r
Ha-berakhu

The “Giving of the *Torah*” will change the world forever—more, a *sui generis* epochal event.

Over the centuries, the Jews will reach great heights—and then great depths—both as historical consequences, whether direct or indirect.

The Jews will protect the *Torah*; the *Torah* will anchor the Jews.

The Jews will have a uniquely stellar—dynamic journey and then an exceedingly tortuous and brutal fight for survival, equality, dignity. At some points, and for some Jews, both simultaneously.

Perspective: The extreme polar opposites are not coincidental. Having reached a zenith with the *Torah*, the Jews are permanently a subtle threat to claimants of cultural or spiritual primacy; thus, the more the Jews are degraded, it will be felt, the lower the threat. Other inter-related powerful and toxic dynamics will play major roles, as well.



c. 1250 BCE: MOSES: THE MILITARY COMMANDER

According to the *Torah*, Moses leads his people through the Red Sea (a.k.a. the Reed Sea). The Jews fend-off the pursuing Egyptians, beat back Amalekite raiders, reconnoiters Jericho, fights and overcomes Og (king of Bashan), and decimates the Midianites. In addition, the Israelites under Moses concomitantly defeat the five kings of Midian: Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur and Reba.

c. 1250 BCE: MOSES AND WOMEN’S RIGHTS

Via rulings concerning “*b’not Tz’laf–chad*,” Moses grants

c. 1250 BCE: MOSES / "MATTAN TORAH"

The Ten Commandments / *Aseret ha-Dibrot*

TORAH EXODUS

עֲשֵׂה

תורה שמורה ב' התנ"ך

20

God spoke all these words,^a saying:

¹I the Lord am your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, the house of bondage:
²You shall have no other gods besides Me.

³You shall not make for yourself a sculptured image, or any likeness of what is in the heavens above, or on the earth below, or in the waters under the earth. ⁴You shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I the Lord your God am an impassioned God, visiting the guilt of the parents upon the children, upon the third and upon the fourth generations of those who reject Me, ⁵but showing kindness to the thousandth generation of those who love Me and keep My commandments.

⁶You shall not swear falsely by^b the name of the Lord your God; for the Lord will not clear one who swears falsely by His name.

⁷Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. ⁸Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ⁹but the seventh day is a sabbath of the Lord your God: you shall not do any work—you, your son or daughter, your male or female slave, or your cattle, or the stranger who is within your settlements. ¹⁰For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth and sea, and all that is in them, and He rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it.

¹¹Honor your father and your mother, that you may long endure on the land that the Lord your God is assigning to you.

¹²You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁴You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female slave, or his ox or his ass, or anything that is your neighbor's.

כ' וידבר את כל הדברים
האלה לאמר: #

I
י' אבנני ה' אשתי הוצאתני
ממצרים ממצרים מביית עבדים: י' לא יהיה
לך אלהים אחרים: #

II
י' לא תעשה לך פסל: י' בלתי תמונה אשתי
בשמים בשמים בשמים ואלהי הארץ מתחת
ואשר בשמים מתחת לארץ: י' לא
תשחיתנה לחם: י' לא תעבדם כי אנכי
ה' אל שאן עמו עמו אלהי
עלבים על-שלישים הנל-יבנים
לשוא: י' ועשה חסד לאלפים לאהבי
ולשקבי סובתי: #

III
י' לא תשא את השם ה' לשוא
כי לא ינקה ה' את אשר יטא את-
שמו לשוא: #

IV
י' זכור את יום השבת לקדשו: י' ששת
ימים תעבוד תעבוד כל-שלאכתך: י' ויום
השביעי שבת ל' ה' אלהיך לא תעשה
כל-מלאכה אתה: י' ובני-יבתי עבדך
ואמתי יבדמתי וגרך אשר בשעריך:
י' כי ששת ימים עשה ה' את
השמים והאדמה ואת-הים ואת-הבאר
אשר-תחת תחת פניו השמימי על-פני פני
ה' את-יום השבת הקדשה: #

V
י' כבוד את-אביך ואת-אמך למען
יארבך ימך על הארץ אשר ה'
נתן לך: #

VI
י' לא תרצח: #

VII
י' לא תנאף: #

VIII
י' לא תגנוב: #

IX
י' לא תענה עד-לעברי: #

X
י' לא תחמד בית-רעה לא-תחמד אשה
רעה ונעמו ואמתו ושולי (חמדי) הכל
אשר לרעה: #

Exhibit source: JPS Hebrew-English Tanach

with the oblique inserted for God's name, and the Elokim-version removed/left blank.

rights to the five daughters—and only survivors—of their deceased father, *Tzlaf-chad*.

Back in the household of Moses, Miriam, sister of Moses, carps about Moses's "dark-skinned" wife, Zipporah. Miriam, as a consequence, is afflicted (by God, according to the *Torah*) with *tzora-ath*, a disease somewhat akin to leprosy.

c. 1250 BCE: AARON THE LEVITE

Britannica –

"The traditional founder and head of the Jewish priesthood, who, with his brother Moses, led the Israelites out of Egypt. The figure of Aaron as it is now found in the Pentateuch is built up from several sources of traditions. In the Talmud and Midrash; he is seen as the leading personality at the side of Moses. He has appeared in different roles in Christian thought.

Aaron is described in the Old Testament book of Exodus as a son of Amram and Jochebed of the tribe of Levi, three years older than his brother Moses. He acted together with his brother in the desperate situation of the Israelites in Egypt and took an active part in the Exodus. Although Moses was the actual leader, Aaron acted as his "mouth." The two brothers went to the pharaoh together, and it was Aaron who told him to let the people of Israel go, using his magic rod in order to show the might of Yahweh. When the pharaoh finally decided to release the people, Yahweh gave the important ordinance of the Passover, the annual ritual remembrance of the Exodus, to Aaron and Moses. But Moses alone went up on Mt. Sinai, and he alone was allowed to come near to Yahweh. Moses later was ordered to "bring near" Aaron and his sons, and they were anointed and consecrated to be priests "by a perpetual statute." Aaron's sons

c. 1250 BCE: MOSES: THE MILITARY COMMANDER



(parting the Reed Sea a.k.a. the Red Sea)

were to take over the priestly garments after him. Aaron is not represented as wholly blameless. It was he who, when Moses was delayed on Mt. Sinai, made the golden calf that was idolatrously worshiped by the people.”

Encyclopaedia Britannica Online, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/277/Aaron> (accessed June 24, 2009)

c. 1250–1200 BCE: PHILISTINES

–Arrive on Israel’s coastal plain.

Nomadic pagan warriors, possibly originally from Crete. They establish five city–states: Ashdod, Ashkelon, Ekron, Gath and, last but not least, Gaza.

The Philistines will be a thorn in the back of Israel for thousands of years.

Perspective: How did those battle–smart Israelites allow the Philistines to hold that strategic waterfront/*gateway to the sea* property?

Military historians believe that the Philistines had entered the Iron Age before the Israelites and possessed iron chariots [see *Shoftim* (Judges) 1:19] and iron swords—a major, and generally decisive, advantage.

So, from the perspective of Israel’s military leaders, battle during rain or floods, wherever possible, might neutralize the advantage of the Philistines’ chariots.

Shortly thereafter, against another iron chariot–enabled foe, rain did neutralize the advantage of Israel’s enemy.

King Ja’bin of Hazor brings to bear “900 chariots of iron” [*Shoftim* (Judges) 4:3] against the Israelites. It is possible



c. 1230 BCE: BATTLE OF NIHRIYA



Cult Pedestal of the God Nuska, Alabaster

H. 60 cm w. 57 cm

Ashur, Temple of Ishtar, Middle Assyrian, reign of Tukulti-Ninurta I

c. 1243-1207 BCE

Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Vorderasiatisches Museum

Photo: Sandra Steiss

that the flooding of River Kishon was pivotal in the overwhelming of Ja'bin's forces by Judge Deborah and General Barak [*Shoftim* (Judges) 5:1: "*The river of Kishon swept them away, that ancient river, the river Ki'shon*"].

(See 1100s BCE below for entry on Deborah)

c. 1230 BCE: BATTLE OF NIHRIYA

Tukulti–Nunurta I, King of Assyria, (1243–1207 BCE), successor to Shalmaneser I, vanquishes Babylon and the vestiges of the Hittite Empire. The statue of Marduk is brought from Babylon to Assyria; the “Epic of Creation” is written in celebration of this victory.

After his death (murder), the Assyrian Empire fell into decline.

c. 1230 BCE: PINCHAS HA–KOHEN

High Priest and grandson of Aaron.

Britannica —

“Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, is so incensed at the sight of an Israelite consorting with a Midianite woman that he kills them both, thus ending a plague that has broken out and earning God’s special favor: a covenant of perpetual priesthood with him and his descendants (a forward reference to the Zadokite priesthood of post–exilic times). This account is connected by the last two verses with God’s call for Israel to harass and smite the Midianites. After the plague ends, in chapter 26, a second census of arms–bearing men and of the Levites is taken, and again a fantastically large total, 601,730, is given, perhaps referring to a much later time. It is noted at the end that all of the previous 603,730 had died in the wilderness, as prophesied, except for Caleb and

□ 1200 BCE: ORACLE BONE SCRIPT



Oracle bone script of Shang

Joshua, who have been especially picked out by God. This census, coming at the end of the 40-year period of wilderness wanderings, is for the purpose of allotting lands to the various tribes and families. Hence the logical positioning of the passage in the first 11 verses of chapter 27 assuring that a family may inherit through a daughter when there is no son and through a brother when there are no children and through the closest relative when there are neither.

At this point (chapter 27, verse 12) comes the impressive and poignant passage in which Moses ascends the heights, at God's bidding, to look over the Promised Land, which he is not to enter, and calls on God to appoint a leader to succeed him. At God's command, Moses selects Joshua, and before the priest Eleazar and the whole community he lays his hands on him and commissions him to lead Israel. It is noteworthy that Joshua is invested only with some of Moses' authority and is to learn God's will through Eleazar and the sacred lot (*Urim*), not directly, as did Moses."

Encyclopaedia Britannica Online, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/456909/Phinehas> (accessed June 24, 2009)



1200 BCE: ORACLE BONE SCRIPT

Ancient Chinese characters found on oracle bones, which are animal bones or turtle shells used in Divination in Bronze Age China.

—a fully functional and fairly mature writing system, notwithstanding that it is highly pictorial.



c. 1200 BCE: JOSHUA

Joshua conquers Canaan, and “the walls of Jericho fall.”

First battle: Israelite leader Joshua, successor to Moses, camps outside the heavily-fortified city of Jericho, and



c. 1200 BCE: JOSHUA

"JOSHUA COMMANDING THE SUN TO STAND STILL"

PAINTER: JOHN MARTIN



Joshua and the Israelites defeat the Canaanites. (Joshua commands the sun not to set, until the Israelite victory is complete)

sends spies in to reconnoiter. Their main ally inside the city is an interesting woman, Rahab. Subsequent to the conquest of the city, only Rahab and her family are spared.

According to the Biblical account, Joshua and his army march around the city one time each day for six days, and then seven times on the seventh day. Then, subsequent to the Jewish priests' sounding their ram's horns and the Israelites shouting a battle cry, the city walls crumble. Interestingly, while Joshua "puts a curse" on anyone who might rebuild Jericho, Jericho is currently one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. Archaeologists have unearthed over twenty successive settlements there, dating back to 9000 BCE.

Contemporary note: Eight hundred feet below sea level, north of the Dead Sea and east of Jerusalem, a visit to Jericho today will find a casino, the "Oasis Casino."

1200 BCE: BATTLE OF TROY

Actual historical event which is the source of the legendary tale of Troy.

Historically, the Greeks, united under Agamemnon, captured the bulk of Asia Minor in 1184 BCE, and finally, the city of Troy.

The myth, Helen, the young wife of Agamemnon, deserts him for the younger Prince Paris of Troy. The myth revolves around the legendary torrid romance between Helen of Troy ("the face that launched a thousand ships") and (Prince) Paris, heir to the throne of Troy. Note that Prince Paris got Helen, but lost everything else. Helen got Prince Paris, but effectively destroyed Troy.



Late 1200s BCE: AMALEK



pictograph: Moses praying while Joshua fight the Amalekites

That myth is combined with the myth of the Trojan Horse from the epic Latin poem *The Aeneid*. In the poem, after a fruitless 10-year siege of Troy, *Greeks bearing gifts* construct a huge figure of a horse on rollers and leave it at the gates of Troy (with Greek warriors hidden inside); the Greeks pretend to sail away; the Trojans wheel their new-found victory trophy inside; at night the Greek warriors slither out of the horse; they overpower the surprised gate-keepers of Troy from the inside, and manage to open the city gates; the Greeks who had secretly sailed back under cover of night, now finally gain entry to the city; Troy falls.

Late 1200s BCE: AMALEK

Britannica –

“According to Genesis, Amalek is a son of Esau’s son Eliphaz and of the concubine Timna, a Horite and sister of Lotan. Genesis refers to him as the “chief of Amalek” thus his name can be understood to be a title derived from that of the clan or territory over which he ruled. Indeed an extra-Biblical tradition recorded by Nachmanides relates that the Amalekites were not descended from the grandson of Esau but from a man named Amalek after whom this grandson was later named.

The Amalekites existed as early as the time of Abraham, in the region that would later become the Roman province of Arabia Petraea. This view corroborates Nachmanides’ claim of an origin for the Amalekites earlier than Esau’s grandson.”

“The Amalekites – members of an ancient nomadic tribe, or collection of tribes, described in the Old Testa-

c. 1300-1075 BCE: INSTRUCTION OF AMENEMOPE



Amenemope (pharaoh)

ment as relentless enemies of Israel, even though they were closely related to Ephraim, one of the 12 tribes of Israel. The district over which they ranged was south of Judah and probably extended into northern Arabia. The Amalekites harassed the Hebrews during their Exodus from Egypt and attacked them at Rephidim near Mt. Sinai, where they were defeated by Joshua. They were among the nomadic raiders defeated by Gideon and were condemned to annihilation by Samuel. Their final defeat occurred in the time of Hezekiah.”

Encyclopaedia Britannica Online, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/18343/Amalekites> (accessed November 4, 2008)

“As the *Jewish Encyclopedia* put it, “David waged a sacred war of extermination against the Amalekites,” who may have subsequently disappeared from history. Long after, in the time of Hezekiah, five hundred Simeonites annihilated the last remnant “of the Amalekites that had escaped” on Mt. Seir, and settled in their place (1 Chr. 4:42–43).”

—*The Book of Genesis 36:12 and 1 Chronicles* (Jewish Tanach and Christian Old Testament). Accessed November 4, 2008

c. 1300–1075 BCE: INSTRUCTION OF AMENEMOPE

The alleged period (still disputed) of the composition of an Egyptian book of proverbs, (published in the last century by the British scholar Sir Wallis Budge in 1923). Passages from this book appear similar to the Hebrew Book of Proverbs c. 950 BCE, (connected with King Solomon’s reign 971–931 BCE) testimony to the close cultural ties between Israel and Egypt in the days of Solomon. At the same time, the wisdom articulated is generally quite universal. Furthermore, the *wisdom sayings* within the Book of Proverbs may have been assembled and collated by a literary (possibly Court) figure of

c. 1170 BCE: THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES (*SHOFTIM*) OF ISRAEL COMMENCES

PAINTER: GERBRAND VAN DEN EECKHOUT



Anna presenting her son Samuel to the priest Eli c. 1665





c. 1170 BCE: THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES (*SHOFTIM*) OF ISRAEL COMMENCES

Distinct from modern, merely judicial judges; the *shoftim* had the powers of both *political leader* and *spiritual leader* vested in their person.

12 exalted individuals are identified as *judges* by the Book of Judges. Most modern scholars list them in the following order:

1. Othniel, the son of Kenaz from the tribe of Judah
2. Ehud, the son of Gerah from the tribe of Benjamin
3. Shamgar, the son of Anath from the tribe of Levi
4. Deborah (and Barak)
5. Gideon (also named *Jerubbaal*), the son of Joash from the tribe of Manasseh
6. Tola, the son of Puah from the tribe of Issachar
7. Jair, from the tribe of Gilead
8. Jephthah, from the tribe of Gilead
9. Ibzan, from the tribe of Judah
10. Elon, from the tribe of Zebulun
11. Abdon, the son of Hillel, the *Piraton*, from the tribe of Ephraim
12. Samson, the son of Manoah, from the tribe of Dan

Of these, only Ehud, Deborah, Gideon/Jerubbaal, Jephthah, and Samson are given extensive Biblical narratives.

The First Book of Samuel describes two further personages as being judges:

13. Eli, who is more renowned as the iconic Priest of Shilo, as well as the teacher of the prophet Samuel.

14. Samuel, who is more renowned as the first Major Prophet inside the Land of Israel proper.

JEWS, CHURCH & CIVILIZATION

1126-1103 BCE: THE REIGN OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR I IN BABYLON
PAINTER: GRANT ROMNEY CLAWSON



Daniel Interpreting King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Ancient Israel, and either presented to Solomon for his final editing, flourish and publication – or simply published “in his honor.” In the TaNaKh Solomon himself never refers to the Book of Proverbs work.

Amenemope belongs to the literary genre of “instruction” (Egyptian *sebayt*). It is the culmination of centuries of development going back to the Instruction of Ptahhotep in the Old Kingdom but reflects a shift in values characteristic of the New Kingdom’s “Age of Personal Piety”: away from material success attained through practical action, and towards inner peace achieved through patient endurance and passive acceptance of an inscrutable divine will....

Amenemope counsels modesty, self-control, generosity, and scrupulous honesty, while discouraging pride, impetuosity, self-advancement, fraud, and perjury—not only out of respect for *Maat*, the cosmic principle of right order, but also because “attempts to gain advantage to the detriment of others incur condemnation, confuse the plans of god, and lead inexorably to disgrace and punishment.”

–*Wikipedia online*, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Instruction_of_Amenemope (accessed April 6, 2010)

1126–1103 BCE: THE REIGN OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR I IN BABYLON

He conquers the city of Shushan (of Purim fame) from the Elamites and recovers the statue of the god Marduk which was taken from Babylon by the King of Elam (Kudur Nehunde III, in the fourteenth century BCE). Elam, once an important power, declines and will not play a major role in Mesopotamia for the next 300 years.



c. 1100s BCE: RUTH

PAINTER: WILLIAM BLAKE (1795)



Naomi

Ruth

Orpah

Naomi entreating Ruth and Orpah to return to the land of Moab

1115 BCE: TIGLATH PILESER I ASCENDS THE THRONE IN ASSYRIA

The first chronicles in Assyrian history record the major events of his reign: Tiglath Pileser wages war against the peoples who threaten his kingdom, particularly the Arameans; according to these chronicles he crossed the Euphrates River twenty-eight times to fight against this people who were becoming a major force northwest of the Fertile Crescent.

c. 1100s BCE: RUTH

“Do not implore me to leave you
or to turn back from you;

For wherever you go, I will go;
Where you dwell, I shall dwell;

Your people will be my people;
And your God, my God;

Where you die, I will die;
And there I will be buried with thee’

...Nothing but death will ever separate us.”

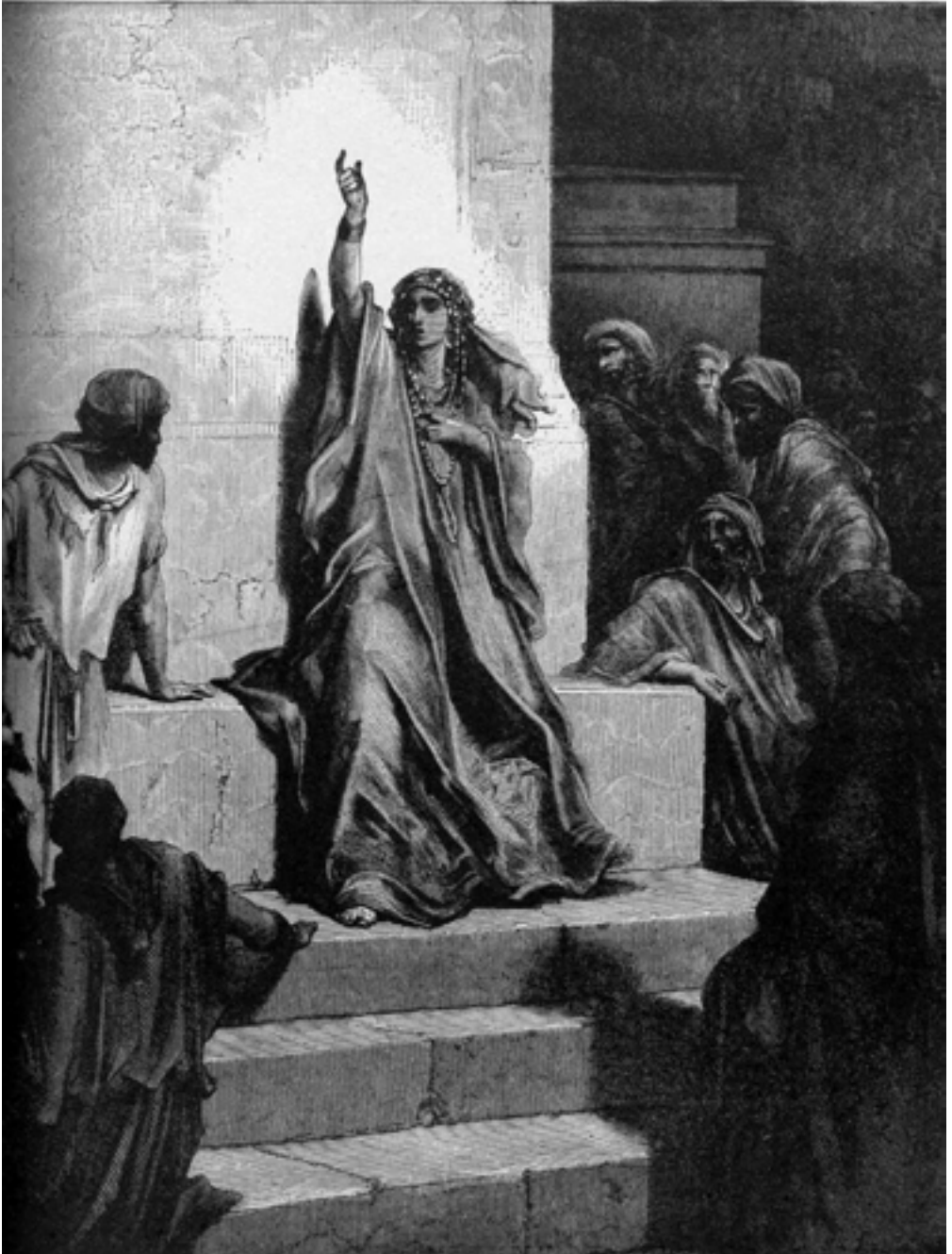
—the young widowed Ruth to her
mother-in-law, Naomi.

Imbued with loving kindness, gracious, and loyal to the death, Ruth will not leave center-stage so easily. Symbolizing, as well, sincere and dedicated conversion to Judaism (she is originally a Moabite), the Jews will name and devote a book of the Tanach in her honor. The Book of



1100s BCE: DEVORAH

ILLUSTRATOR: GUSTAVE DORE



Ruth is read annually on the Jewish festival of Shavuot (Tabernacles), commemorating the receiving of the *Torah* at Sinai.

Note: The date of the Book of Ruth is in wide dispute by scholars, as is its author.

Great-grandmother of King David, Ruth emerges, as well, as a key figure in Catholic and Protestant tradition.



1100s BCE: DEVORAH

Prophetess and Judge Devorah leads the Israelites.

Her commanding general is Barak who defeats the Canaanite/Assyrian General Sisera.

Devorah was the fourth Judge of Israel (the only female judge), a celebrated leader, poet and prophetess.

In celebration, Deborah and Barak compose their famous song, one of the earliest of Hebrew heroic poems:

“Praise ye the Lord for the avenging of Israel,
 When the people willingly offered themselves.
 Hear, O ye kings; give ear, O ye princes;
 I, even I, will sing unto the Lord;
 I will sing praise to the Lord God of Israel
 Lord, when thou wentest out of Seir
 when thou marchedst out of the field of Edom,
 the earth trembled,
 and the heavens dropped,
 the clouds also dropped water.
 The mountains melted from before the Lord,
 even that Sinai from before the Lord, God of Israel.
 In the days of Shamgar the son of Anath,
 in the days of Jael,
 the highways were unoccupied,

1100s BCE: GIDEON

"GIDEON DEFEATS THE MIDIANITES"

PAINTER: JULIUS SCHNORR VON CAROLSFELD (1851-60)



and the travelers walked through byways.
 The inhabitants of the villages ceased,
 they ceased in Israel,
 until that I Deborah arose,
 that I arose a mother of Israel.
 They chose new gods;
 then was war in the gates: . . .
 Awake, awake, utter a song:
 arise Barak, and lead thy captivity captive,
 thou son of Abinoam.
 Then he made him that remaineth
 have dominion over the nobles among the people:
 the Lord made me have dominion over the mighty . . .
 So let all thine enemies perish, O Lord:
 but let them that love him be as the sun
 when he goeth forth in his might” (Judges, 5:2–31).

Deborah appears in the narration of events as a national leader, as a “mother in Israel,” but it is clear from her song that she had the allegiance only of some of the Israelite tribes that came together for the purpose of defeating a common enemy. She is the only iconic “Israelite Judge” whose activities actually included some judicial functions.

An Israelite homemaker Yael, assassinates the retreating Assyrian general Sisera who had stopped by her home to rest while fleeing from the lost battle; Yael serves him milk and drives a stake through his head when he dozes-off.

After the victory and killing of Sisera, there were forty years of peace.

1100s BCE: GIDEON

He becomes Judge (and warrior-commander) of the Israelites.



1100s BCE: SAMSON



According to the Bible, God commands him to deliver Israel from the Midianites and the Amelekites.

Gideon chooses only a small cadre of 300 highly motivated, fearless warriors. (Note: Iconic King Leonidas of Greece will employ a similar stratagem at Thermopylae 675 years later with his immortal “300” (i.e. precisely the same number of warriors).

Gideon is also an important progenitor of “psychological warfare.” Arming his warriors with torches, trumpets and noise-making clay pots, and then attacking at night in full fury, trumpets blaring, torches alit, pots shattering, Gideon strikes fear into the enemy camp. His attacking and surrounding 300 seem to the Midianites like 3,000 and the Midianites retreat across Israel.

After prevailing over Israel’s enemies, master-strategist Gideon nevertheless declines to be king, telling the Jews that God is their ruler.



1100s BCE: SAMSON (*Shimshon ha-Gibor*)

According to the Book of Judges, Samson is betrayed by Delilah.

The temptress Delilah cuts his Nazir-ite hair, thereby eviscerating his strength. Samson is then enslaved by his mortal enemies, the Philistines. They bind, shackle, and torment him to a temple column during their pagan rites at the Temple of Dagon. Samson thereupon brings down the colossal temple roof upon the 3,000 assembled Philistines, their rulers and priests and upon himself.

Note: This will later become known as “the Samson Defense” (meaning taking your enemies down with you).



1007 BCE: KING DAVID [*Tanach* context for David-related]

1. The Torah, Five Books of Moses

- a) Bereishit (Genesis)
- b) Sh'mot (Exodus)
- c) Vayikra (Leviticus)
- d) Bamidbar (Numbers)
- e) Devarim (Deuteronomy)

2. The Nevi'im, Prophets

>>>

noted

- a) Yehoshua (Joshua)
- b) Shoftim (Judges)
- c) Shmuel (Samuel I & II)
- d) Melachim (Kings I & II)
- e) Yeshayah (Isaiah)
- f) Yirmiyah (Jeremiah)
- g) Yechezkel (Ezekiel)
- h) Trey Asar ("The Twelve," treated as one book)
 - 1) Hoshea (Hosea)
 - 2) Yoel (Joel)
 - 3) Amos (Amos)
 - 4) Ovadyah (Obadiah)
 - 5) Yonah (Jonah)
 - 6) Michah (Micah)
 - 7) Nachum
 - 8) Chavakuk (Habbakkuk)
 - 9) Tzefanyah (Zephaniah)
 - 10) Chagai
 - 11) Zecharyah (Zechariah)
 - 12) Malachi

>>>

author The Ketuvim, Writings

>>>

author

- a) Tehillim (Psalms)
- b) Mishlei (Proverbs)
- c) Iyov (Job)
- d) Shir HaShirim (Song of Songs)
- e) Rut (Ruth)
- f) Eichah (Lamentations)
- g) Kohelet (Ecclesiastes)
- h) Esther
- i) Daniel
- j) Ezra & Nechemyah (Nehemiah, treated as one book)
- k) Divrei Hayamim (Chronicles)

>>>

noted

c. 1050 BCE: THE PHILISTINE NEMESIS

Philistine expansion from the coastal plain into the interior. Following their victory in Eben Ezer, when they captured the Ark of the Covenant and destroyed the temple in the capital Shiloh, the Philistines appoint commissioners to govern over Israel in the hills of Ephraim, forbidding metal-forging in order to prevent the production of chariots by the Israelites.

1047–1012 BCE: SAUL

Saul, first king of Israel, conducts many wars against the Philistines, exhausting their power and slowing down their advance. His victories over the Ammonites in Gilead, the Moabites, Amalekites, Arameans, and Edomites, determine the boundaries of the kingdom of Israel. But, victorious abroad, the king faces serious problems within the land: his relations with the Prophet Samuel deteriorate, a fact which tarnishes his image among the people; furthermore, in a single combat against Goliath the Philistine giant, young David wins glory and popularity, as well as the friendship of Saul's son, Jonathan; these personal rivalries seriously undermine the young monarchy of King Saul.

1012 BCE: GOLIATH

The young David, the designated Jewish “champion” by King Saul, slays the Philistine “champion”—the giant Goliath (*Golyat*) with a slingshot in the one-on-one *winner takes all* conquest.

1008–1007 BCE: DEATH OF KING SAUL

King Saul is killed by the Philistines at the Battle of Mt.



1007 BCE: KING DAVID

Painter: CORNELIS DE VOS



Gilboa along with his son, Jonathan (platonic soul mate of David).

From the dirge of soon-to-be-king David:

*b'chayehem u'v'mosam
lo nifra-du...*

*m'nisharim ka-lu,
u'me-arayot ga-vei-ru...*

Eich naf-lu gi-bo-rim...

*

In life or in death!

Never parted,

They were swifter than eagles,
They were stronger than lions!...

How the mighty have fallen...

–Samuel B (Shmuel Beth)
1: 23...25 (quotes non-continuous)



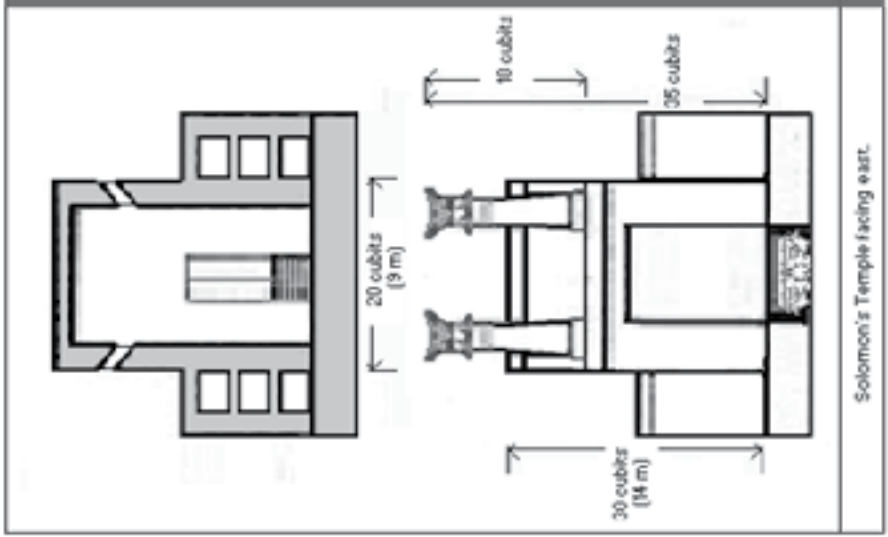
1007 BCE: COMMENCEMENT OF THE REIGN OF KING DAVID

–over Judea: 1007 > 967 BCE

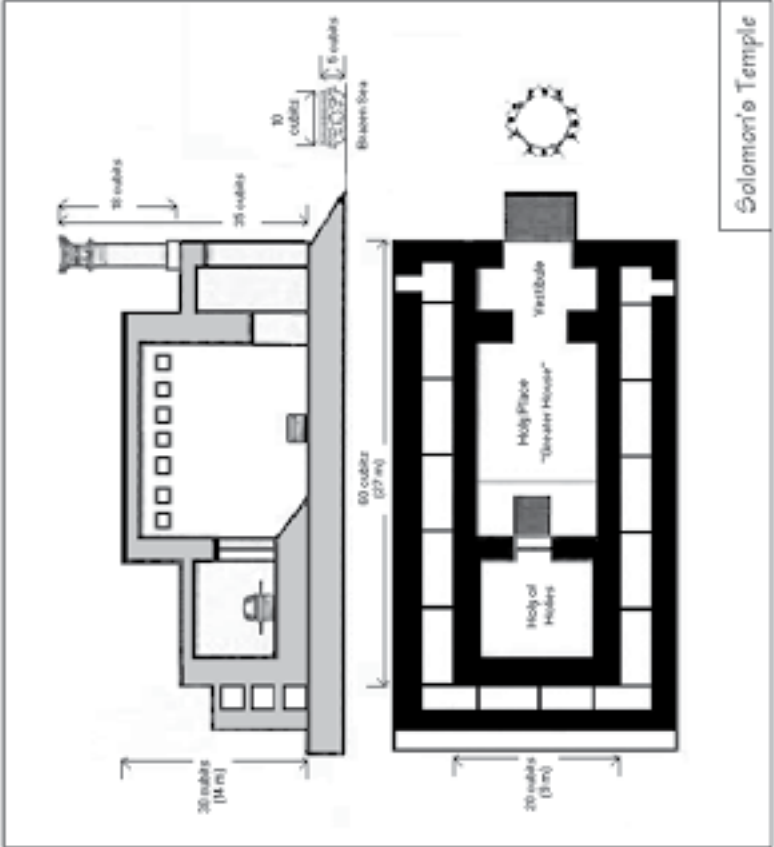
–over Judea and Israel combined: 1005 > 967 BCE
(meaning, he reigned over both until his death in 967 BCE)

JEWS, CHURCH & CIVILIZATION

c. 950 BCE: "FIRST TEMPLE" COMPLETED



Solomon's Temple facing east.



Solomon's Temple

SKETCHES OF SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

David attacks and captures Jerusalem; Jerusalem becomes the “City of David” (993 BCE) and capital of the Kingdom of Israel.

David is an acclaimed battle hero, musician and writer, credited with penning the majority of the Psalms, known as the “Psalms of David” (*Tehillim*).

David is depicted in extraordinary terms in both the Book of Samuel (Shmuel Aleph) and Chronicles (Sefer Divrei ha-Yamim)—along with his major character flaws. He is tenacious, phoenix-like, multi-faceted, and ultimately victorious.

Adroitly sets the stage for the golden successive kingdom of his son, Solomon.



c. 1005 BCE: MISHLĒ – PROVERBS

–by King David

(See Excerpts Exhibit)



c. 1000 BCE: TEHILLIM – PSALMS

–by King David

(See Excerpts Exhibit)



c. 950 BCE: THE FIRST TEMPLE (a.k.a. THE TEMPLE OF SOLOMON)

King Solomon completes Israel’s First Temple, in Jerusalem.

Solomon’s legendary temple will last approximately 364



c. 1005 BCE: MISHLĒ – PROVERBS – BY KING DAVID

Excerpts

Mishlê 22

22 Repute is preferable to great wealth,
 Grace is better than silver and gold.
 Rich man and poor man meet;
 The Lord made them both.
 The shrewd man saw trouble and took cover;
 The simple kept going and paid the penalty.
 The effect of humility is fear of the Lord,
 Wealth, honor, and life.
 Thorns and snares are in the path of the crooked;
 He who values his life will keep far from them.
 Train a lad in the way he ought to go;
 He will not swerve from it even in old age.
 The rich rule the poor,
 And the borrower is a slave to the lender.
 He who sows injustice shall reap misfortune;
 His rod of wrath shall fall.
 The generous man is blessed,
 For he gives of his bread to the poor.
 Expel the scoffer and contention departs,

כב
 נבחר שם מעשר רב
 מכסף ומזהב הן טוב:
 י עשיר ורש נפגשו
 י עשה ה' להם יתה:
 י עושה ו י אהו ו י עוה יסתר ו י נסתר
 י ופתחים עברו ו נעשו:
 י עקב ענוה יראת יתה
 י עשר וכבוד יחיים:
 י ענים פחים כנרף עקש
 י שומר נפשו ירחק מהם:
 י חנף לגער עלי פי רדפו
 י גם כר יחזיו לא יסור מפנה:
 י עשיר פרשים ימשול
 י ועבד לנה לאיש מלוה:
 י וזרע אלה יסור יקצר אנו
 י ועבט עברתו יכלה:
 י יטוב יצין הוא יברך
 י כי יתן מלחמו לכל:

Mishlê 1

1 The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:

- ²For learning wisdom and discipline;
- For understanding words of discernment,
- ³For acquiring the discipline for success, Righteousness, justice, and equity;
- ⁴For endowing the simple with shrewdness. The young with knowledge and foresight.
- ⁵—The wise man, hearing them, will gain more wisdom;
- The discerning man will learn to be astute;
- ⁶For understanding proverb and epigram. The words of the wise and their riddles.

⁷The fear of the Lord is the beginnings of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and discipline.

- ⁸My son, heed the discipline of your father, And do not forsake the instruction of your mother;
- ⁹For they are a graceful wreath upon your head, A nockhale about your throat.

א מִשְׁלֵי שְׁלֹמֹה בֶן־דָּוִד מֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל:

- ² לְקַחַת חִכְמָה וּמִצְוָה
- לְהִבִּין אִמְרֵי כִכְהָ:
- ³ לְקַחַת בְּחָסֵד הַשֶּׁבֶל
- צְדָק וּמִשְׁפָּט וּמִישְׁפָּחַת -
- ⁴ לְעוֹנֵי לְעוֹנֵי אֵיטָם עֲרוּמָה
- לְעוֹרֵי כֶּסֶף וּמִצְוָה:
- ⁵ וְשִׁמְעַת חֲכָם וְיִזְכֹּף לְקַחַת
- וּבִינֵי תַחְבֻּלוֹת יִקְוָה:
- ⁶ לְהִבִּין מִשְׁלֵי וּמְלִיצוֹת
- דְּבַרֵי חֲכָמִים וְחִידוֹתָם:

יִרְאֵת יְהוָה רֵאשִׁית בְּנֵי עַת
חֲכָמָה וּמוֹסֵר אֲוִילִים בָּזוֹ: ⁷

- ⁸ שִׁמְעֵת בְּנֵי מִוֶּסֶר אָבִיךָ
- וְאַל תִּשְׁכַּח הַיְרֵחַת אִמְךָ:
- ⁹ כִּי לִחְתּוֹת לֶחֶם לְרֵאשִׁיתָהָ
- וְעֲרוּמָה לְעִוְרֵי הַיְרֵחַת:



c. 1000 BCE: TEHILLIM – PSALMS –
BY KING DAVID

Excerpts

Psalms 23

23 A psalm of David.

The LORD is my shepherd;
I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me to ^awater in places of repose;⁴
He renews my life;
He guides me in right paths
as befits His name.
^aThough I walk through ^aa valley of deepest
darkness,⁴
I fear no harm, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me.

כג מִזְמוֹר לְדָוִד

יְהוָה רֹעִי
לֹא אֶחָסֵר.
בְּנֵינְאוֹת יָשָׂא יְרֻבְקִי
עַל־מַי מְנוּחֹת יַהֲלִיבֵנִי;
יְחַיֵּנִי יְשׁוּבֵב
יְתַנְּחֵנִי בַמַּעְגָּלִי-אֲדָק
לְמַיִן עֵשֶׂה.
יְגֵם כִּי אֶלֶן בְּעֵמֶת
לֹא אֵיכָא רָע כִּי אֲתָה עִמָּדִי
שׁוֹבֵט וְיִשְׁעֶנְתָּן הַמָּדָה יִנְחֵמֵנִי:

Psalms 1

1 Happy is the man who has not followed the counsel of the wicked, or taken the path of sinners, or joined the company of the insolent; rather, the teaching of the Lord is his delight, and he studies^a that teaching day and night.
^bHe is like a tree planted beside streams of water, which yields its fruit in season, whose foliage never fades, and whatever^b it produces thrives. †

^aNot so the wicked; rather, they are like chaff that wind blows away.
^bTherefore the wicked will not survive judgment, nor will sinners, in the assembly of the righteous.
^cFor the Lord cherishes the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked is doomed.

א אֲשֶׁר לֹא הִלֵּךְ
 בְּעֵצַת רְשָׁעִים
 וּבַדֶּרֶךְ חַטָּאִים לֹא עָמַד
 וּבְחַבְלֵי לִצְיִים לֹא יָשָׁב׃
 יִפְיֵא אִם בְּתוֹרַת יְהוָה חִפְצוֹ
 וּבַתּוֹרָתוֹ יִהְיֶה יוֹקֵם וְלַיְלָה׃
 יִהְיֶה כַּעֲרֵץ שְׂתוּלָה עַל־מַלְאֵי מַיִם
 אֲשֶׁר פְּרִי׃ יִתֵּן בְּעֵתוֹ
 תְּפִלְתּוֹ לֹא־יִבֹּל
 וְכָל אֲשֶׁר־יַעֲשֶׂה יִצְלִיחַ׃

׃ לֹא־יִכַן הַרְשָׁעִים
 כִּי אֲבִי־לֵמֶץ אֲשֶׁר־יִפְתְּנוּ רִיחֵ׃
 כִּי־עַל־בֵּן לֹא יִקָּם וְרָשָׁעִים
 בְּמִשְׁפַּחַת
 יִחְסְאוּ כַּעֲבֹת צְדִיקִים׃
 כִּי־יִתְנַע יְהוָה בְּרַךְ צְדִיקִים
 וּבְרַךְ רָשָׁעִים וְהִאֲבִד׃

c. 950 BCE: KOHELET – ECCELESIASTES
BY KING SOLOMON

Excerpts

Kohelet – Ecclesiastes 3

3	A season is set for everything, a time for every experience under heaven: ^a	ג	לְכֹל זְמַן וְעֵת לְכָל־חַפֵּץ תַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם: * ס
²	A time for ^b being born ⁺ and a time for dying.		עֵת לֵלְדוֹת וְעֵת לָמוֹת:
	A time for planting and a time for uprooting the planted;		עֵת לִטְעוֹת וְעֵת לְעַקּוֹר נִטְוֵי:
³	A time for ^c slaying and a time for healing, ^c		עֵת לְהַרְגוֹ וְעֵת לְרַפּוֹא:
	A time for tearing down and a time for building up;		עֵת לְפָרוֹץ וְעֵת לִבְנוֹת:
⁴	A time for weeping and a time for laughing.		עֵת לְבַבּוֹת וְעֵת לְשִׂחוֹךְ:
	A time for wailing and a time for dancing;		עֵת סִפּוֹד וְעֵת רִקְדוֹ:
⁵	A time for throwing stones and a time for gathering stones.		עֵת לְהַשְׁלִיךְ אֲבָנִים וְעֵת כְּנוֹס אֲבָנִים:
	A time for embracing and a time for shunning embraces;		עֵת לְחַבּוֹק וְעֵת לְרַחֵק מִחֻבֵּק:
⁶	A time for seeking and a time for losing.		עֵת לְבַקֵּשׁ וְעֵת לֵאבֹד:
	A time for keeping and a time for discarding;		עֵת לְשַׁמֹּר וְעֵת לְהַשְׁלִיךְ:
⁷	A time for ripping and a time for sewing.		עֵת לְקַרְוֵעַ וְעֵת לְתַפּוֹר:
	A time for silence and a time for speaking;		עֵת לְחֶשֶׁת וְעֵת לְדַבֵּר:
⁸	A time for loving and a time for hating;		עֵת לְאֹהֵב וְעֵת לְשֹׂא:
	A time for war and a time for peace.		עֵת מִלְחָמָה וְעֵת שְׁלוֹם: ס

Kohelet – Ecclesiastes 1

1 The words of Koheleth= son of David, king in Jerusalem.

Utter futility!—said Koheleth—
Utter futility! All is futile!
?What real value is there for a man:
In all the gains^b he makes beneath the sun?

⁴One generation goes, another comes,
But the earth remains the same forever.
?The sun rises, and the sun sets—
And glides^c back to where it rises.
^eSouthward blowing,
Turning northward,
Ever turning blows the wind:
On its rounds the wind returns.
?All streams flow into the sea,
Yet the sea is never full:
To the place [from] which they flow
The streams flow back again.^d
^fAll such things are wearisome:
No man can ever state them:
The eye never has enough of seeing,
Nor the ear enough of hearing,
^gOnly that shall happen
Which has happened,
Only that occur
Which has occurred:
There is nothing new
Beneath the sun!

א דברי קהלת בן דוד מלך בירושלים :

הכל הקלים אמר קהלת
הכל תכלים תכל תכל
י מנהיתרון לאדם
בכל צמלו שיצאל תחת השמש :

י דוד הלך ודוד בא
והארץ לשלם עמדת :
י וזרה השמש ובא השמש
ויאליסקומו שואף זרחה הוא נשם :
י חולף אל דרום
וסובב אל צפון
סובב א סובב חולף הרוח
י על סביבותיו סובב הרוח
י כל הנחלים הלכים אל הים
והים אינו מלא
אל מקום שזנחלים ולמים
ישם הם שבים ללכת :
י כל הזמן יגיע
לא יוכל איש לדבר
לא השמע עין לראות
י לא תמלא און משקע
י מה שהיה
הוא שיהיה
י מה שנגעה
הוא שישעה
י אין כל חדש
תחת השמש :



840 BCE: MINOR PROPHETS OF THE *TANACH*

Old Testament Timeline
Minor Prophets of the *Tanach* (Jewish Bible)

>>>

Date (B.C.)	Prophet	Meaning of Prophet's Name	Theme of Book in the Bible	Gave Prophecies To/About	Major Sins Addressed
	Major Sins Addressed	Worshipper of YHVH	Day of the Lord; Destruction of Edom; Israel's restoration	Against Edom	Edom had continual violence toward Jacob. Edom cheered when Judah taken captive.
830 – 750	Joel	YHVH is God	The Day of the Lord	Israel, Northern Kingdom	Adultery, drunkenness, idolatry, licentiousness.
780 – 740	Jonah	Dove	Sign of Commitment; Type of Jesus Christ; God's mercy to repentant	Nineveh, with implications to all peoples	Cruelty of the Assyrians
765 – 725	Hosea	Salvation	Salvation	Israel, Northern Kingdom	Adultery, drunkenness, idolatry, licentiousness.
760	Amos	Burden Bearer	The Day of the Lord; The Eternal will roar	Israel, Judah and Benjamin. All Nations.	Oppression of the poor; Sexual Immorality; Wanton Luxury; Corruption of law & men
740 – 700	Micah	Who is like YHVH?	The Eternal is just Judge	Samaria, Jerusalem and then the whole earth	Lack of justice in the land, injustice, oppression
640 – 620	Nahum	Consolation	Judgement on Nineveh; Comfort to Israel	Assyrians, primarily the city of Nineveh	Cruelty of the Assyrians, overstepped boundaries
640 – 609	Zephaniah	Hidden by YHVH	God's indignation on the earth; Who may be hidden?; Israel repents, God	Judah, Jerusalem, all Israel and all peoples, warning them of the Day of the Lord	Spiritual fornication
608 – 605	Habakkuk	Embrace	God Embraces Judah through destroying the Chaldeans	Babylon with implications for all peoples	Aggression/plunder; Greed/self-assertion; Graft/violence in building; Inhumanity; Idolatry
520	Haggai	Festival	The restoration Temple points to the Church	Zerubbabel, Joshua and the returned remnant	Neglect in building God's House. Procastration.
520 – 480	Zechariah	Remembered by YHVH	The coming of God's Kingdom preceded by building of Temple	Zerubbabel, Joshua and the returned remnant	Joshua had filthy garments. Lack of Judgment, mercy & peace. Living in evil ways.
420 – 400	Malachi	My Messenger	Be prepared for the messenger that is to come. (Elijah)	Israel (twelve tribes) and Israel of God today (Church)	Priests neglecting duties. People chided for divorce, adultery, robbing God and criticizing.

years, to be destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BCE.

The Temple is the *de facto* successor to the (portable) Tabernacle (*Mishkan*), which the Israelites used during the bulk of their 40-year exodus from Egypt. The Temple will be succeeded approximately 50 years later by the Second Temple, built in the early 500s BCE primarily under Persian–Jewish satrap Zerubavel.

The Second Temple will later undergo an extraordinary and historic renovation (if not total rebuilding) under King Herod the Great approximately 500 years later in the latter half of the first century BCE, only to be destroyed, in turn, by the Romans in 70 CE.

Clearly, with the erection of the First Temple under freedom, peace, prosperity and historically grand boundaries—as well as under a wise and benevolent ruler—Judaism reached an extraordinary apex.

However, the independent and spiritually uplifted state of King Solomon would set the bar high for succeeding generations, who would clash incorrigibly—and fatally—with the Roman rule of the first and second centuries.

c. 950 BCE: KOHELET ECCLESIASTES

–by King Solomon

(See Excerpts Exhibit)

c. 923 BCE: EGYPT INVADES PALESTINE/JUDEA

Shishak, King of Egypt (946–923 BCE), invades Palestine: He marches through southern Judah, the valley of Jezreel, the valley of Beth Shean, even crossing the Jordan to the east. A list of the cities he sacked is preserved in the



c. 825 BCE: ELIJAH THE PROPHET

"ELIJAH REVIVING THE SON OF THE WIDOW OF ZAREPHATH"

PAINTER: LOUIS HERSENT



temple of Amon at Karnak: it includes Gibeon, Jerusalem, Megiddo – where part of a stele bearing his name was found – Aijalon, Beth Shean, and many more. His campaign badly weakens Israel which has only recently split into two kingdoms.

850 BCE: HOMER

The very rough consensus is that a Greek, Homer, is the author—or transcriber—of the epic saga-poems the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.

Much hyper-obsessive academic warfare has always surrounded the identity or non-identity of Homer.

Homer's *Iliad* is considered by many to be the earliest extant work of Western literature. But biblical texts—for instance, Joshua, Judges, Kings I & II, and Samuel I & II, epic-saga texts themselves—clearly all precede it.



840–400 BCE: MINOR PROPHETS OF THE TANACH

(See Exhibit)



c. 825 BCE: ELIJAH THE PROPHET (*Eliyahu ha-Navi*)

Britannica –

“Elijah is a Hebrew prophet who ranks with Moses in saving the religion of Yahweh from being corrupted by the nature worship of Baal. Elijah’s name means “Yahweh is my God” and is spelled Elias in some versions of the Bible. The story of his prophetic career in the northern kingdom of Israel during the reigns of Kings Ahab and Ahaziah is told in 1 Kings 17–19 and 2 Kings 1–2 in the Old Testament. Elijah claimed that there was no reality except the

c. 800 BCE: ELISHA THE PROPHET

PAINTER: PIETER de GREBBER (1630)



Elisha refusing the gifts of Naaman



Elisha

God of Israel, stressing monotheism to the people with possibly unprecedented emphasis. He is commemorated by Christians on July 20 and is recognized as a prophet by Islam.”

Encyclopaedia Britannica Online, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/184625/Elijah> (accessed June 30, 2009)

c. 800 BCE: ELISHA THE PROPHET

Britannica –

“The popular traditions about Elisha (2 Kings 2–13) sketch a charismatic, quasi–ecstatic figure, very similar to Elijah. Like his mentor, Elisha was a passionate exponent of the ancient religious and cultural traditions of Israel, which both felt to be threatened by the ruling dynasty of Omri, which was in alliance with Phoenicia. (King Ahab’s wife, the Tyrian princess Jezebel, was then trying to introduce the worship of Baal into Israel.) As a prophet, Elisha was a political activist and revolutionary. He led a “holy war” that extinguished the house of Omri in Jerusalem as well as in Samaria (2 Kings 9–10).”

Encyclopaedia Britannica Online, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/184750/Elisha> (accessed June 30, 2009)

796 BCE: ISRAEL SPLIT INTO TWO KINGDOMS

- Jeroboam, King of Israel in the north
- Rehoboam, King of Judah, in the south

776–146 BCE: GREECE

Greek warfare, Olympics, democracy, math, philosophy, literature and architecture.

Alexander the Great, son of Philip, dies in 323 BCE at age 33 after a cross–continental swath of extraordinary

c. 770 BCE: YISHAYAHU

PAINTER: GIOVANNI TIEPOLO



“One of the seraphs flew to me, holding in his hand a live coal.” – The prophet Isaiah. (Isaiah on the left :)



Yishayahu

...Amar Ha-Shem...
(says God to the Jews...)

Ki he-harim ya-mu-shu
v'hag' vaot with-muu-te-nah,
v'chas-di mai-ee-taych

lo ya-mush

*

Even if the mountains themselves
may shift ground,

And even if the hilltops themselves
may implode,

My eternal countenance over thee
shall never waver

*

– Yishayahu (Isaiah) 54:10

PAINTER: BENJAMIN WEST



Isaiah's Lips Anointed with Fire

JEWS, CHURCH & CIVILIZATION



764 BCE: AMOS BEGINS TO PROPHESEIZE

ENGRAVER: GUSTAVE DORÉ



conquests, including the Iberian Peninsula, the Mediterranean, former Babylon, Persia and India.

Alexander was a conqueror of mythical stature, who, as far as these matters go, was benevolent to the conquered territories and, as a rule, benevolent even to the hitherto royal families of the respective conquered lands.



c. 770–700 BCE: YISHAYAHU (PROPHET ISAIAH)

8th century BCE: IRON SWORDS INTRODUCED IN EUROPE

—by the Proto–Celtic Halstatt Culture (in what is contemporary Western–Central Europe): Swords were made both in bronze and iron. It is possible that the Philistines had them several centuries earlier in Gaza/Palestine.



764 BCE: AMOS BEGINS TO PROPHECIZE

Amos is one of the twelve Minor Prophets in the Tanach. He was born in the town of Tekoa, south of Bethlehem. Amos prophesied in the days of King Jeroboam II of Israel, while Uzziah was King of Judah.

“The days are coming, declares the LORD,
when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman
and the planter by the one treading grapes.

New wine will drip from the mountains
and flow from all the hills.
I will bring back my exiled people Israel;
they will make gardens and eat their fruit.

I will plant Israel in their own land,
never again to be uprooted from the land

c. 750 BCE: ROMULUS

"ROMULUS AND REMUS GIVEN SHELTER BY FAUSTULUS"

Painter: PIETRO DA CORTONA



I have given them,
says the LORD your God.”

(*Amos 9:13–15*)

c. 760 BCE: JONAH’S RUN-IN WITH WHALE

755 BCE: HOSEA BEGINS TO PROPHECIZE

A contemporary of the Greek poet Hesiod, Amos is the first of the “literary prophets.” A herdsman from Tekoa in Judah, but active mainly in Israel, he castigates the rich subjects of Jeroboam II for oppressing the defenseless poor.

753 BCE: ZECHARIA LEADS ISRAEL AS KING

752 BCE: MENACHEM LEADS ISRAEL AS KING

c. 750 BCE: ROMULUS

Romulus founds Rome along with his younger brother—and doomed future victim of fratricide—Remus.

740 BCE: PEKACH BECOMES KING OF ISRAEL

739 BCE: YOTAM BECOMES KING OF JUDAH

736 BCE: MICAH BEGINS TO PROPHECIZE

735 BCE: AHAZ BECOMES KING OF JUDAH

732 BCE: HOSEA BECOMES KING OF ISRAEL

722 BCE: SHALMANESER V

Assyrians overrun the northern kingdom of Israel,

□ c. 700 BCE: SENNACHERIB



The Assyrian King Sennacherib attacking Judea.

initially under Shalmaneser V and then under Saragon II, father of Sennacherib. Shalmaneser V asserts in his *Annals* that he carried away 28,000 Israelite inhabitants from the Samaria region (central/northern Israel), i.e. “The Lost Ten Tribes.”

Saragon II repopulates the Samaria region with people from Cuthah in the Assyrian Mesopotamian area. These new inhabitants form a new Samaritan (or Samaritan) population known as the Cuthim. The Cuthim Samaritans practice a hybrid religion—part Jewish, part Pagan; however, the Jewish theological component of the hybrid religion does not quite evolve apace with mainstream Judaism over the centuries to come. Thus, there is a time-lag between their practices and that of normative Judaism. Their temple sits on Mt. Gerizim, which is about 40 percent of the distance from Jerusalem to the Sea of Galilee in the northeast.



c. 700 BCE: SENNACHERIB

Sennacherib attacks Jewish King Hezekiah’s rebellious Judea. He sacks 46 towns and villages, but fails to take Jerusalem. According to *Melachim Beth* (Kings II 19:35), God slayed the entire Assyrian camp of 185,000 troops the night before the anticipated battle. The Greek historian Herodotus (in his *Histories*, 450 BCE) relates a parallel divinely-appointed “mega disaster saga” befalling Sennacherib’s army the night before it faces the Jewish forces.

600s BCE: OX-DRAWN PLOUGHS

Indus Valley Civilization and Mesopotamia simultaneously: With the contemporaneous advent of the domestication of oxen in both civilizations, the stage was set for more advanced agriculture.

Historical Images – Buddhism

623 BCE



The Aśoka Chakra, an ancient Indian depiction of the Dharmachakra (also depicted on the national flag of India).

[Dharmachakra (Wheel of Dharma) is a symbol that has represented dharma, the Buddha's teaching of the path to enlightenment, since the early period of Indian Buddhism.]

c. 300 BCE

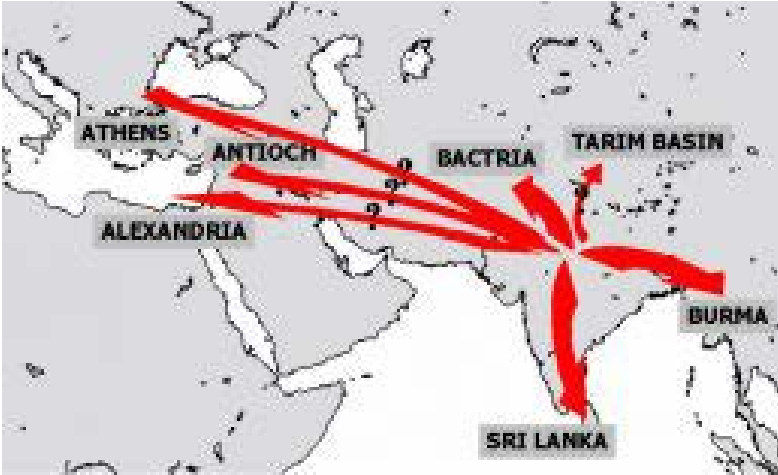


Great Stupa (Buddhist monument), Sanchi, India.

Historical Images – Buddhism

[continued]

260 BCE



Buddhist proselytism at the time of king Aśoka, according to the edicts of Aśoka (c. 260 BCE).

600 CE



The golden statue of Avalokiteśvara from Sri Lanka, 9th century.

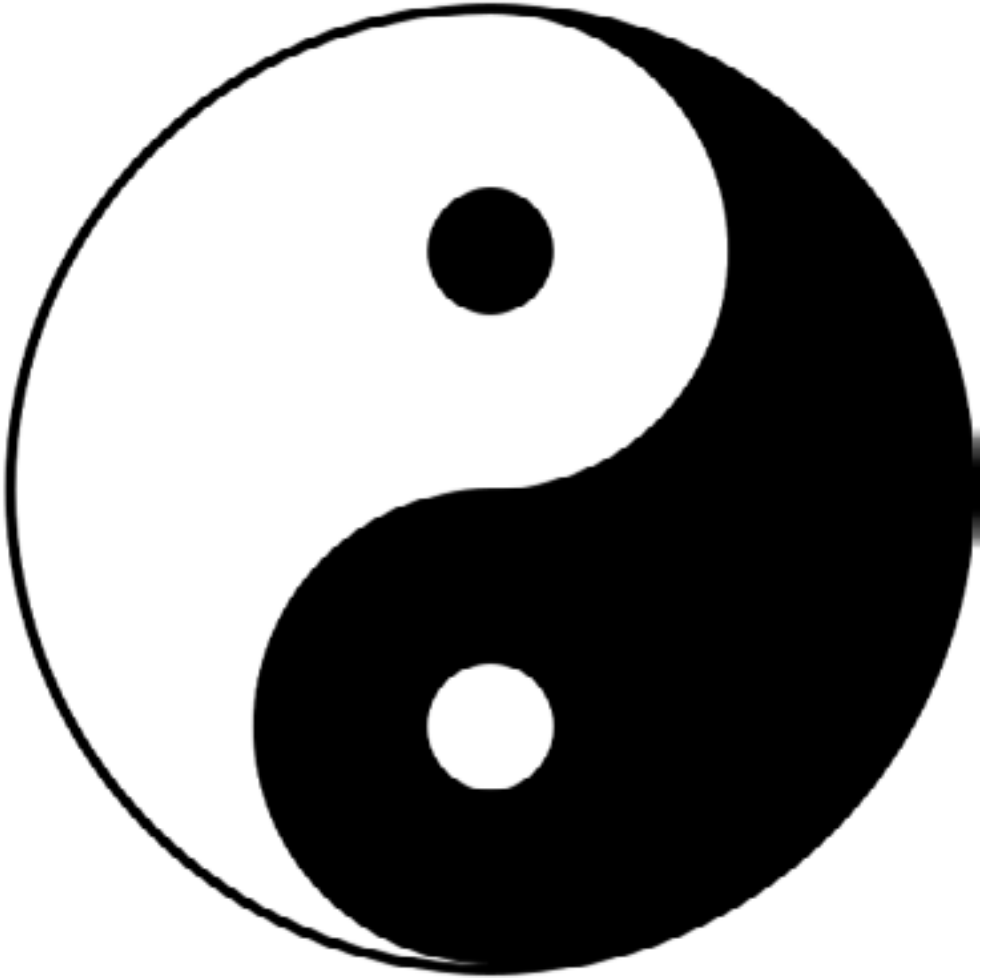
1000 CE



Buddha and Bodhisattvas, Pala Empire. (Pala Empire was a Buddhist dynasty as well as one of the major middle kingdoms of India that ruled from Bengal in the eastern region of the Indian subcontinent).



c. 600 BCE: LAO TZU / TAOISM / TAO TE CHING



Yin and Yang

660 BCE: JIMMU

Empire of Japan established by Jimmu Tenno. Successively and uninterrupted to this day, the Imperial house of Japan has traditionally based its claim on descent from Jimmu. The Japanese Imperial line is possibly the oldest surviving hereditary line. However, information about Jimmu's reign is historically very thin, straddling the boundary between myth and reality.

621 BCE: GREEK LAWGIVER DRACO

Greek lawgiver Draco drafts a proposed legal code for Athens with severe punishments (generally the death penalty) for all crimes, hence the word "draconian" (extremely harsh).

606 BCE: NEBUCHADNEZZAR

Babylonian Empire under Nebuchadnezzar defeats and eclipses the Assyrians.

c. 600 BCE: LEGEND OF JUDITH

Yahudith, a beautiful and daring widow who urges her countrymen to adhere to Mosaic law and to engage the enemy Assyrians, goes with her loyal, if recalcitrant, maid Abra to the camp of Assyrian General Holofernes. Judith gains his trust, enters his tent while he is sleeping, and decapitates him.

Ever-pure, Judith remains a faithful widow and never remarries.

The Book of Judith is not accepted by the Jews as part of the Jewish canon, as the details do not jive with the historical record. However, interestingly, the Book is

JEWS, CHURCH & CIVILIZATION

593 BCE: **YECHEZKEL (EZEKIEL)**

“THE PROPHET EZEKIEL, SISTINE CHAPEL FRESCO”

PAINTER: MICHELANGELO



accepted in the Septuagint (see below 250 BCE) and by the Roman Catholic canon in the Old Testament. (The Eastern Orthodox Church doctrinally accepts all the Septuagint as Old Testament.)

This means, ironically, that the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches accept at face value the saga and chronological details of a legendary Jewish heroine as accurate Jewish history, while the Jews do not.



c. 600 BCE: LAO TZU / TAOISM / TAO TE CHING



593 BCE: YECHEZKEL (EZEKIEL)

Prophesies pre–Destruction.

Prophet Ezekiel: originally, from Jerusalem then, Babylon. A prophet and priest who prophesied 22 years.

From *Sefer Yechezkel* (593 BCE):

As I looked
 there was a hand (of God)
 holding a written scroll.
 He (God) unrolled it before me,
 and it was inscribed on both the front
 and the back;
 On it were written lamentations, dirges, and woes.
 – Ezekiel 1:9–10

Then He said to me, “Mortal,
 go to the House of Israel
 and repeat My very words to them...”
 – Ezekiel 3: 4

By 586 BCE, Temple I is under siege by Babylonians.