

Time Line for Second Temple Judaism

Abbreviations

- BCE Before the Common Era (= BC)
CE Common Era (= AD)
ca. *circa* (around)
c. century

1000-586 BCE First Temple Period

- ca. 1000-960 David reigns in Jerusalem
ca. 960-930 Solomon reigns in Jerusalem
930 United Monarchy splits into Northern Kingdom of Israel and Southern Kingdom of Judah.
872-851 Ahab reigns in North.
727-698 Hezekiah reigns in South.
722 Samaria is destroyed by Assyrians and Northern Kingdom sent into exile.
701 Assyrians besiege Jerusalem, but fail.
639-609 Josiah reigns in South
609-604 Southern Kingdom under Egyptian vassalage.
604-587 Southern Kingdom under Babylonian vassalage.
597 Babylonians deport Jehoiachin and install Zedekiah as king of Southern Kingdom.
591 Zedekiah rebels against Babylonians.
586 Jerusalem destroyed after 18-month siege by Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar.

586-539 Exilic Period

- 539 Cyrus the Great conquers Babylonia for Persian empire; issues edict of Cyrus.
538 First wave of returnees led by son and grandson of Jehoiachin.
520 Second wave of returnees led by Zerubbabel, who becomes governor.
520-516 Second Temple constructed *without* Samaritan assistance.
458 Third wave of returnees led by Ezra.
445 Nehemiah is sent by Artaxerxes to govern Yehud.
Late 5th – early 4th c. Elephantine Papyri written.
411/10 Local Egyptians destroy Temple to Yahu at Elephantine.
mid-4th c. Probable date for writing of the book of Esther (though the story is set in 486).
336 Philip II of Macedon assassinated and succeeded by his son, Alexander.
336-334 Alexander secures rule of Greece.
334-332 Alexander defeats Darius and takes over Persian Empire.

332-167 Hellenistic Period in Palestine

- ca. 332 Samaritans revolt against Alexander's governor, Adromachus
323 Alexander dies, wars of succession break out.
301-198 Ptolemies rule in Palestine.
3rd c. Probable date of Qohelet/Ecclesiastes.

242	Joseph the Tobiad become tax-farmer for Ptolemies in Jerusalem.
223-187	Antiochus III “the Great” reigns as Seleucid king.
ca. 200-190	Simon II “the Just” is high priest in Jerusalem
early 2 nd c.	Probable date of Ben Sira/Ecclesiasticus.
190-175	Onias III is high priest in Jerusalem.
190	Battle of Magnesia: Seleucids are defeated by Romans and put under heavy tribute.
187-175	Seleucus IV reigns as Seleucid king. Heliodorus Affair.
175-163	Antiochus IV “Epiphanes” reigns as Seleucid king.
175	Hyrchanus the Tobiad (son of Joseph) commits suicide.
175-172	Yeshua-Jason is high priest in Jerusalem; Religious Reforms imposed.
172-167	Menelaus is high priest in Jerusalem; Zadokite line is broken.
168	Antiochus IV’s failed campaign in Egypt. Yeshua-Jason attempts to retake position in Jerusalem, resulting in massacre by Seleucids and construction of the Akra.
167	Hellenistic Reforms/Antiochan Persecutions imposed.
167-40	Hasmonean Period
167	Matthias and his five sons begin to rebel against Seleucid hegemony.
166	Matthias dies and Judah Maccabee succeeds his father as leader of revolt.
161	Judah Maccabee dies in battle; succeeded by brother Jonathan as general.
153	Jonathan becomes high priest and ethnarch.
142	Jonathan is assassinated; succeeded by brother Simon as high priest, general, and ethnarch. Receives permission by Seleucids to mint coins.
141	Hasmoneans capture the Seleucid Akra in Jerusalem.
134	Simon is assassinated; succeeded by son, John Hyrcanus I.
134-104	John Hyrcanus is high priest in Jerusalem. First evidence of clearly-developed sects in Judaism.
104-103	Aristobulus I is high priest and king in Jerusalem.
103-76	Alexander Jannaeus is high priest and king in Jerusalem.
late 2 nd c.	Probable date of the <i>Letter of Aristeas</i> .
ca. 100	Probable date of the original compositions of the <i>Community Rule</i> and the <i>Damascus Document</i> . Probable founding of the settlement at Qumran.
76-67	Salome Alexandra reigns as queen, with elder son, Hyrcanus II, as high priest.
67	Salome Alexandra dies and civil war between her sons breaks out.
66	Pompey the Great establishes the Roman province of Syria.
66-63	Aristobulus II rules as king and high priest. Civil war continues to rage, during which time Honi the Circle-Drawer is killed.
63	Pompey settles affairs of Judaea; Hyrcanus II becomes high priest (again).
49	Aristobulus II assassinated in Rome; Alexander II beheaded in Antioch.
48	Pompey assassinated, leaving Julius Caesar as sole dictator of Rome.
47	Julius Caesar makes Antipater procurator and his sons governors.
44	Julius Caesar is assassinated.

- 43 Antipater is assassinated.
- 42 Battle of Philippi: Octavian and Marc Antony defeat Julius Caesar's assassins.
- 40-31 Marc Antony (with Cleopatra) administers the East from Alexandria.
- 40 BCE - 70 CE Herodian Period**
- 40 Mathias Antigonus invades Judaea with help from Parthians.
Hyrchanus II's loses his ear; Phasaël commits suicide.
Herod flees and is declared king by Romans.
- 37 Herod, with Roman soldiers, defeats Mathias Antigonus, who is then beheaded in Antioch.
- 35 Aristobulus III is drowned at Jericho.
- 31 Battle of Actium: Octavian defeats Marc Antony and Cleopatra in naval battle.
Major earthquake rocks Judaea, destroying Qumran.
Herod executes Hyrchanus II.
- 30 Marc Antony and Cleopatra commit suicide in Alexandria, leaving Octavian as sole dictator.
Herod is confirmed as king of Judaea at Rhodes.
- 29 Herod executes Mariamme after rumors of infidelity.
- 28 Herod executes Alexandra after she makes a move for the throne.
- 27 Roman senate grants Octavian the name "Augustus" and makes him *imperator* for life.
- 22-9 Caesarea constructed
- 20 Reconstruction of Temple Mount begins in Jerusalem.
- 9/8 BCE Qumran destroyed by fire.
- 7 BCE Herod executes his sons by Mariamme (Alexander IV and Aristobulus IV).
- 4 BCE Herod executes his eldest son, Antipater.
- 4 BCE Herod dies.
- 4 BCE - 6 CE Archelaus rules Judaea, Samaria and Idumaea.
- 4 BCE - 39 CE Herod Antipas rules Galilee and Peraea
- 4 BCE - 34 CE Philip rules northern territories.
- 6-41 CE Roman prefects administer Judaea, Samaria, and Idumaea.
- 26-36 CE Pontius Pilate is prefect.
- 29 CE Herod Antipas executes John the Baptist.
- ca. 30 CE Pontius Pilate executes Jesus of Nazareth.
- 37-39 Herod Agrippa I rules northern territories.
- 39-41 Herod Agrippa I rules northern territories, Galilee and Peraea.
- 41-44 Herod Agrippa I rules all of Herod's old kingdom.
- 44-66 Roman procurators administer entire country.
- 48-52 Ventidius Cumanus is procurator; riots in Temple precinct; bribes by Samaritans following murder of Galilean pilgrims.
- 52-60 Felix is procurator; marries Drusilla the Judean princess.
- 66-70 First Jewish Revolt.
- 66 Riots in Caesarea following synagogue land dispute.

- Riots in Jerusalem following attempt by Florus to take Temple talents by force.
Sicarii occupy Masada.
 Imperial sacrifice is ceased through the prompting of Eleazar ben Ananias.
 During Sukkot, Cestius Gallus marches on Jerusalem but is forced to revolt.
 Nero dispatches Vespasian to put down the revolt.
- 67 Vespasian and Titus begin march through Galilee.
 68 Qumran destroyed.
 Nero commits suicide
- 69 Vespasian is declared Caesar by his troops and goes to Rome, leaving Titus to finish suppressing revolt.
 70 Following siege, Jerusalem is taken by force and the Temple is destroyed.
 OFFICIAL END OF SECOND TEMPLE PERIOD.
- 72-73 Siege of Masada.
- 70-324 Roman Period**
- 75-79 Flavius Josephus writes *War of the Jews*.
 80 Rabbinic council and school established at Yavneh.
 93/94 Flavius Josephus completes *Antiquities of the Jews*.
 ca. 100 Herod Agrippa II and Flavius Josephus die.
 115-117 Diaspora Revolt.
 132-135 Bar Kokhba Revolt.
 late 2nd c. Rabbinic centers move to Galilee.
 ca. 200 Mishnah is edited and completed.
 ca. 220 Rabbi Judah the Prince dies.
 End of the age of the *Tannaim*.
- 312 Battle of the Milvian Bridge: Constantine becomes emperor.
 313 Edict of Milan: Christianity legalized.
- 324-640 Byzantine Period**
- 324 Constantinople founded as new capital.
 Christianity becomes official imperial religion.
- 4th c. Tosefta edited and completed.
 ca. 425 Rabbinic Patriarchate dissolved.
 5th c. Talmud edited and completed.
 ca. 500 End of the age of the *Ammoraim*
 614 Sassanian invasion.
 638 Muslim Arabs begin rule in Palestine.
 9th-10th c. Date of earliest biblical manuscripts prior to discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls.
- Winter 1946/47 Bedouin discover Dead Sea Scrolls.
 April 1947 Kando buys seven scrolls from Bedouin in Bethlehem.
 July 1947 Kando sells four scrolls to Athenasius Yeshua Samuel for 24 pounds.
 Nov. 29, 1947 Eleazar Sukenik goes to Bethlehem to buy three scrolls from Kando.
 early 1950s Roland de Vaux leads expedition to Khirbet Qumran.

June 1, 1954 Athenasius Yeshua Samuel puts add in Wall Street Journal advertising scrolls; later purchased by Yigael Yadin on behalf of Hebrew University and the State of Israel.