

BIBLE CHRONOLOGY

Bible chronology deals with fixing the exact dates of the various events recorded. For the earliest parts of Old Testament history we rely entirely on the scripture itself; but the Hebrew Bible, the Septuagint or Greek translation, and the Samaritan Pentateuch do not agree together, so that many dates cannot be fixed with certainty. From the time of David onwards we get much assistance from secular history, such as inscriptions on monuments and other state records. Much work has still to be done in this direction. The dates found at the top of many printed English Bibles are due to Archbishop Ussher (1581–1656). Some of them have been shown to be incorrect.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

B.C.	SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IN THE DAYS OF THE EARLY PATRIARCHS	
4000	Fall of Adam. Ministry of Enoch. Ministry of Noah; the Flood. Tower of Babel. Ministry of Melchizedek. Death of Noah (Gen. 9:28). Birth of Abram. Birth of Isaac. Birth of Jacob. Birth of Joseph. Joseph sold into Egypt (Gen. 37:2). Joseph stands before Pharaoh (Gen. 41:46). Jacob and his family go down to Egypt. Death of Jacob. Death of Joseph. Birth of Moses. The Exodus when Moses was 80 years old. Death (translation) of Moses. Death of Joshua. After the death of Joshua was the period of the Judges, of whom the first was Othniel and the last Samuel, but the arrangement and dates of the rest are very uncertain.	(Those desiring calculated dates on these events may wish to consult published chronologies.) In the days of Abram we meet with the names of Chedorlaomer, king of Elam, and Amraphel, king of Shinar. Egypt was manifestly a powerful kingdom before and during the patriarchal times, but the early annals of Egypt as they have come down to us help us to few synchronisms that can be relied on. The commencement of the Assyrian empire appears to have been somewhere in the period of the Judges, but much of the chronological data preserved in Assyrian tablets is of a mythical character.

In this section approximate dates are suggested, some help being derived from synchronisms with secular history, which become more numerous with every succeeding century.

B.C.	THE UNDIVIDED KINGDOM	PERSONS AND EVENTS OF EXTERNAL HISTORY
1095	Commencement of Saul's reign. <i>Samuel</i> lives for a great part of Saul's reign.	Nahash, king of Ammon. Tiglath-pileser I, king of Assyria. Agag, king of Amalek. Achish, king of Gath.
1063	David anointed by Samuel.	
1055	David king in Hebron.	
1047	David king in Jerusalem. <i>Nathan</i> and <i>Gad</i> , prophets.	Hiram, king of Tyre. Hadadezer, king of Zobah. Toi, king of Hamath. Hanun, son of Nahash, king of Ammon.

B.C.	THE UNDIVIDED KINGDOM	PERSONS AND EVENTS OF EXTERNAL HISTORY
1015	Solomon made king. Death of David.	
1012	Solomon begins to build the temple.	Hiram, king of Tyre.
1004	Solomon begins to build his own house.	
991	The buildings are finished.	Hadad the Edomite is protected in Egypt. Genubath, son of Hadad. Rezon, king of Zobah. Shishak, king of Egypt, shelters Jeroboam.
975	Death of Solomon. The ten tribes revolt from Rehoboam.	

In the following table the first column of dates follows the books of Kings and Chronicles; the third column contains a revised chronology derived from inscriptions on Assyrian and other monuments. The kings of Judah are printed in heavy type, and the kings of Israel in capitals.

B.C.	KINGS OF JUDAH AND ISRAEL	REV. CHR.	INTERNAL HISTORY	EXTERNAL HISTORY	SYNCHRONISMS
975	Rehoboam JEROBOAM I	953	Ahijah the Shilomite prophesies, also Shemaiah. Penuel built (1 Kgs. 12:25).	.....	Shishak, king of Egypt.
		949	Shishak plunders Jerusalem.		
957	Abijam	932			
955	Asa	929			
954	NADAB	927	Oded and Azariah prophesy.	Asa's war with Zerah the Ethiopian.	
953	BAASHA	925	War of Israel against Judah. Hanani and Jehu prophesy.		
930	ELAH	901	.....	Asa's alliance with Benhadad I.	
929	ZIMRI	899			
929	OMRI (at war with Tibni)	897			
925	OMRI (victorious)		Benhadad I conquers Omri (1 Kgs. 20:34).		
918	AHAB	875	Samaria built (1 Kgs. 16:24).	.....	Ethbaal (Eithobalus), king of Zidon.
914	Jehoshaphat	873	Elijah the Tishbite. Jericho rebuilt. Micaiah son of Imlah prophesies.	Syrian invasion of Samaria (1 Kgs. 20:34). Moab rebels against Israel.	Mesha, king of Moab.
898	AHAZIAH	853	Jahaziel prophesies (2 Chr. 20:14). Eliezer of Mareshah prophesies (2 Chr. 20:37).		

B.C.	KINGS OF JUDAH AND ISRAEL	REV. CHR.	INTERNAL HISTORY	EXTERNAL HISTORY	SYNCHRONISMS
897	JEHORAM	851	Elisha prophecies. Obadiah prophecies (?).	Battle of Ramoth-gilead.	Hazael, king of Syria.
893	Joram	848			
885	Ahaziah	844			
884	Athaliah	843			
	JEHU				
878	Joash	837	Joash buys off Hazael's invasion (2 Kgs. 12:18). Joel prophecies (?).	Syrian victories over Israel (2 Kgs. 10:32).	Sardanapalus dies.
856	JEHOAHAZ				
842	JEHOASH	798			
841	Amaziah	797	.....	.....	Shalmaneser II.
826	JEROBOAM II	790	Hosea prophecies. Jonah prophecies (2 Kgs. 14:25). Amos prophecies.	Amaziah subdues Edom (2 Kgs. 14:7).	Shalmaneser III.
811	Azariah or Uzziah	792			
773	ZECHARIAH	749	.....	.....	First Olympiad.
772	SHALLUM	748	.....	
772	MENAHEM	748	.....	<i>There is much uncertainty about the chronology of the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, and Pekah, and from 2 Kgs. 15:1-2, and 30-32, it is clear that there is some confusion in the biblical numbers. Uzziah's name is now thought to have been discovered in an Assyrian inscription 740 B.C. If that proves correct, the commencement of Isaiah's prophecy cannot date before that year, and the time of Jotham's regency may have been counted as regnal years. In these tables the biblical numbers have been adhered to, as far as possible, but they require further elucidation, which we may hope for as the Assyrian chronology becomes more assured.</i>	Pul, king of Assyria (= Tiglath-pileser III?).
761	PEKAHIAH				
759	PEKAH		.....		Rezin, king of Syria.
758	Jotham	740	Isaiah begins to prophesy.		Rome founded. Era of Nabonassar, 747.
	<i>Pekahiah (rev. chr.)</i>	737			Tiglath-pileser III, king of Assyria (747-734).
	<i>Pekah (rev. chr.)</i>	735			So, king of Egypt.
742	Ahaz	734	.....		Shalmaneser V, king of Assyria, 727.
730	HOSHEA	733	.....		Sargon.
726	Hezekiah	728	.....		Merodach-baladan, king of Babylon, 722.
721	End of the Northern kingdom	722	Micah prophecies.		Death of Sennacherib, 681. Esarhaddon. Median kingdom formed.
697	Manasseh	697	.....		Psammetichus, king of Egypt, 670.
642	Amon	642	Nahum prophecies (?).		Fall of No-amon (Thebes), 660. Assurbanipal (667-626).
640	Josiah	640	Huldah the prophetess. Jeremiah begins to prophesy, 628. Zephaniah prophecies.		Pharaoh Necho, king of Egypt. Nabopolassar, king of Babylon, 625-604.

B.C.	KINGS OF JUDAH AND ISRAEL	REV. CHR.	INTERNAL HISTORY	EXTERNAL HISTORY	SYNCHRONISMS
609	Jehoahaz	609	Obadiah prophe- sies (?).	Fall of Nineveh, 606. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, 604-561.
609	Jehoiakim	609	Daniel carried captive, 606.	.....
598	Jehoiachin	598	Habakkuk prophesies.		
598	Zedekiah	598	Ezekiel prophesies.		
587	Capture of Jerusalem	587			

B.C.	JEWISH HISTORY	EXTERNAL HISTORY	
561	Jehoiachin's captivity relaxed.	.....	Evil-merodach, king of Babylon.
559	.....	Commencement of the Persian Empire under Cyrus.	Neriglissar, king of Babylon, 559-555.
555	.....	.....	Belshazzar co-regent with Nabonidus.
538	.....	Union of Media and Persia under Cyrus.	Fall of Babylon.
537	Decree of Cyrus for the re- turn of the Jews.		
536	Joshua, high priest.		
529	Ahasuerus (Ezra 4:6).	=Cambyses, king of Persia, 529-521.	
525	.....	.....	Egypt conquered by Cambyses. Birth of Aeschylus.
521	Artaxerxes (Ezra 4:7).	=Pseudo-Smerdis.	
521	Darius I (Ezra 4:5).	=Darius Hystaspes.	
520	The hindered temple build- ing resumed. Haggai and Zechariah prophesy.	.....	Sophocles born, 495.
490	.....	.....	Battle of Marathon.
486	Ahasuerus (Esth. 1:1).	=Xerxes, 486-465.	Egypt revolts from Persia for 2 years.
483	Joiakim, high priest.	.....	Battles of Thermopylae and Salamis, 480.
465	Artaxerxes (Ezra 7:1).	=Artaxerxes Longimanus.	
458	Commission of Ezra.		
453	Eliashib, high priest.		
444	Nehemiah appointed gover- nor of Judea.		
432	Nehemiah's second mission to Jerusalem. Prophecy of Malachi.	.....	Plato born, 429.
424	Darius II.	=Darius Nothus.	
414	.....	.....	Egypt and Media both re- volt from Persia.
413	Joiada, high priest.		
404	.....	Artaxerxes Mnemon.	
401	.....	.....	Battle of Cunaxa. Demosthenes born, 382.

B.C.	JEWISH HISTORY	EXTERNAL HISTORY	
373	Johanan, high priest.		
359	.....	.....	Philip, king of Macedon.
358	.....	Darius Ochus.	Plato dies, 348.
341	Jaddua, high priest.		
337	.....	Arses.	
336	Darius III (Neh. 12:22).	=Darius Codomannus.	Philip of Macedon slain.
332	Jaddua goes out to meet Alexander.	.....	Alexander in Syria and Egypt.
331	.....	.....	Battle of Arbela.
330	.....	Darius slain. End of the Persian power.	
323	.....	Ptolemy Lagides obtains Egypt.	Death of Alexander the Great and dismemberment of his empire.

B.C.	JEWISH HISTORY	EGYPT	SYRIA
321	Onias I, high priest.		
320	Ptolemy (Lagides) Soter takes Jerusalem.		
314	Antigonus conquers Palestine from Ptolemy.		
312	.....	.....	Seleucus (Nicator).
311	Palestine by treaty assigned to Antigonus.		
302	Palestine retaken by Ptolemy.	<i>During this disturbed period many Jews migrated from Palestine and settled in Egypt and in parts of Asia Minor; they were held in much esteem by the rulers of those countries in which they settled.</i>	
301	Battle of Ipsus. Antigonus defeated by Seleucus.		
300	Simon the Just, high priest.		
292	Eleazar, high priest.		
284	.....	Ptolemy Philadelphus.	
280	.....	<i>About this time the Septuagint version of the Hebrew scriptures appears to have been commenced in Alexandria, though it was not finished for more than a century after.</i>	Antiochus (Soter).
277	Manasseh, high priest.		Antiochus (Theos).
260	.....	
250	Onias II, high priest.		
246	.....	Ptolemy Euergetes.	
245	.....	.....	Seleucus Callinicus.
225	Tribute due to Egypt not paid by Onias.	.....	Seleucus Keraunus.
223	.....	.....	Antiochus the Great.
221	.....	Ptolemy Philopator.	
217	Simon II, high priest.	Ptolemy's outrage in the Jewish temple.	
216	Battle of Raphia.	Treaty between Antiochus and Ptolemy.	
204	.....	Ptolemy Epiphanes.	
195	Onias III, high priest.		
187	.....	.....	Seleucus Philopator.
180	.....	Ptolemy Philometor.	
176	Heliodorus sent to plunder the temple.		

B.C.	JEWISH HISTORY	EGYPT	SYRIA
175	Onias deposed by Antiochus. Jason, high priest.	.....	Antiochus Epiphanes.
173	.....	Cleopatra, guardian of Philometor, dies.	
172	Menelaus, Jason's brother, nominated high priest.		
172	Onias III murdered about this time.		
170	.....	.....	Antiochus defeats the Egyptians.
169	Jason seizes Jerusalem, which Antiochus attacks on his return from Egypt and pollutes the temple.	.....	Second invasion of Egypt.
168	Daily sacrifice interrupted.	Ptolemy Physcon set up for a time in Egypt but soon makes common cause with his brother Philometor.	Third attack on Egypt.
167	Mattathias the Hasmonean revolts.		
166	Battle of Emmaus. Victory of Judas Maccabaeus.		
165	Dedication of the temple.		
164	.....	.....	Antiochus Eupator.
163	Lysias defeated by Judas at Bethsura. Alcimus, high priest. Menelaus put to death.		
162	.....	.....	Demetrius Soter.
161	Nicanor defeated at Capharsalama. Death of Judas Maccabaeus at Eleasa.	Contests between Philometor and Physcon. Appeals to Rome.	
160	Decree of the Roman Senate in favor of the Jews.		
159	Death of Alcimus.		
156	Jonathan, brother of Judas, ruler of Judea.		
153	Jonathan made high priest by Balas.	.....	Alexander Balas set up against Demetrius.
150	Jonathan honored by Philometor and Balas.	.....	Alexander Balas, king of Syria.
149	.....	Onias, son of Onias III, made commander-in-chief in Egypt.	
146	.....	Ptolemy Philometor opposes Alexander Balas.	
145	.....	Ptolemy Physcon (Euergetes II).	Demetrius Nicator.
143	Jonathan put to death by Tryphon. Simon, high priest.		
142	Simon, "Prince of the Jews." Jews allowed to coin money.		
139	.....	.....	Antiochus Sidetes. Tryphon put to death.
135	Murder of Simon. John Hyrcanus, high priest.		
130	.....	.....	Demetrius Nicator.

B.C.	JEWISH HISTORY	EGYPT	SYRIA
126	.....	.....	Zebina.
123	.....	.....	Antiochus Grypus.
116	.....	Ptolemy Lathyrus (Soter II).	
109	Hyrchanus wars on Samaria and destroys the temple on Gerizim.	Cleopatra and Alexander.	
106	Hyrchanus dies. Aristobulus (his son), first king of the Jews.		
105	Alexander Jannaeus made king of the Jews.		
96	Jannaeus captures Gaza.	Ptolemy, king of Cyrene, bequeaths his kingdom to the Romans.	Seleucus succeeds his father Grypus.
94	The Pharisees hostile to Jannaeus.		
93	War of Jannaeus in Gilead and Moab.		
92	.....	.....	Philip, brother of Seleucus, gains the throne.
88	Jannaeus defeated at Shechem.		
87	.....	Ptolemy Lathyrus recalled.	
83	.....	.....	Tigranes, king of Armenia, set over Syria.
80	.....	Ptolemy Alexander.	
78	Death of Jannaeus. Alexandra, his widow, rules after him. Hyrcanus II, high priest.		
69	Aristobulus II seizes the government.		
66	.....	.....	Pompey conquers Syria for the Romans. ROMAN AFFAIRS
65	.....	Ptolemy Auletes.	
64	Disputes between Aristobulus and Hyrcanus.		
63	Jerusalem taken by Pompey. Hyrcanus again high priest.		
54	Palestine divided into five districts.	.....	Crassus defeated by the Parthians at Carrhae, 53.
51	Crassus plunders the temple.	Cleopatra.	
48	Antipater made a governor over Judea.	.....	Battle of Pharsalia. Battle of Thapsus, 46.
44	Hyrcanus, "Prince of the Jews."	.....	Assassination of Caesar.
42	.....	.....	Battle of Philippi.
41	Herod and Phasael, joint te- trarchs of Judea.		
40	Herod flees to Rome. Antigonus set up in his stead.		
38	Herod marries Mariamne.		
37	Herod takes Jerusalem.		

B.C.	JEWISH HISTORY	EGYPT	SYRIA
31	Battle of Actium. Augustus, emperor, 31 B.C.–A.D. 14.
30	.....	Cleopatra dies. Egypt becomes a Roman province.
29	Mariamne put to death.		
25	Herod rebuilds Samaria.		
17	Herod restores the temple.		
6	Alexander and Aristobulus put to death.		

CHRONOLOGY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

A.D.	CHRISTIAN HISTORY	JEWISH HISTORY	CONTEMPORARY EVENTS
	Birth of Jesus Christ.	Death of Herod the Great. Archelaus obtains Judea, Samaria, and Idumea; Herod Antipas, Galilee; Herod Philip, Iturea, Trachonitis, etc. Banishment of Archelaus. COPONIUS prefect of Judea; Ananus high priest.	Death of Augustus.
	Jesus at Jerusalem in the temple.	Cyrenius completes “the taxing.” MARCUS AMBIVIUS, prefect. ANNIUS RUFUS, prefect.	
	.....	VALERIUS GRATUS, prefect. Caiaphas, high priest.
	Beginning of the ministry of the Baptist. The Crucifixion.	PONTIUS PILATE, prefect.	
33	.....	Death of Herod Philip.
35	Conversion of Paul.	Pontius Pilate exiled.	
37	Jonathan, high priest. Herod Agrippa obtains the tetrarchy of Herod Philip. MARCELLUS, prefect.	Death of Tiberius.
38	.....	Josephus born.
39	The churches have rest.	Antipas deposed. Agrippa made tetrarch of Galilee.	
41	Agrippa receives Judea.	Death of Caligula.
44	Death of James the brother of John.	Death of Herod Agrippa I. CUSPIUS FADUS, procurator.	
45	Paul’s first missionary tour.		

A.D.	CHRISTIAN HISTORY	JEWISH HISTORY	CONTEMPORARY EVENTS
46	.....	TIBERIUS ALEXANDER, procurator.	
48	.....	VENTIDIUS CUMANUS, procurator.	
49	Council of Jerusalem.		
50	1 and 2 Thessalonians written.	.....	Jews banished from Rome by Claudius.
51	.....	CLAUDIUS [<i>or</i> ANTONIUS (?)] FELIX, procurator.	
54	.....	.....	Death of Claudius.
55	1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Romans.		
57	Paul a prisoner at Caesarea.		
58	Paul sent to Rome.	PORCIUS FESTUS, procurator.	
59	Paul leaves Melita for Rome.	Joseph, son of Simon, high priest.	
60	Philippians, Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon.	ALBINUS, procurator.	
61	Close of the history of the Acts of the Apostles.		
62	.....	GESSIUS FLORUS, procurator.	Burning of Rome. Persecution under Nero.
		Completion of the temple.	
64	Titus, 1 and 2 Timothy.	Jewish war commences.	
65	Martyrdom of Peter and Paul.	Capture of Jotapata by Vespasian.	
68	.....	.....	Death of Nero. Galba proclaimed.
69	.....	.....	Otho, Vitellius, Vespasian, emperors.
70	Christians retire to Pella.	Siege and capture of Jerusalem.	
79	.....	.....	Death of Vespasian.
81	.....	.....	Death of Titus.
95	Persecution of Christians by Domitian.		
96	.....	.....	Death of Domitian.