

**Timeline of the History of Palestine
2500 B.C. – 1947 A.D.**

Source: The Israel Yearbook 1950/51

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Abstract of the History of Palestine 2500c to 1947

B.C.E.

- c. 2500 – Early Bronze Age. First Semitic immigration into Canaan.
- c. 2000 – Middle Bronze Age.
- c. 1900 – Abraham settles in Palestine.
- c. 1600 – Late Bronze Age.
- c. 1550 – Palestine overrun by Thutmose I.
- c. 1500 – Palestine conquered by Thutmose III and annexed by Egypt.
- c. 1480 – Amenhotep II of Egypt defeats the Syrians at Megiddo.
- c. 1450 – Exodus of Israel from Egypt. Desert Wanderings.
- c. 1400 – The Tel-el-Amarna Letters. Weakening of Egyptian rule. Revolt in Southern Palestine, which is overrun by the Habiru. The Hebrew tribes under Joshua cross the Jordan, and settle in Western Palestine.
- c. 1200 – Aegean tribes including the Philistines seize the coast of Palestine: Ashdod, Gaza, Ashkelon, Gath and Ekron become Philistine cities. The Philistines already have iron weapons; the Israelites, still in the Bronze Age, are driven into the hills. In the North, Canaanite oppression under Sisera. Led by Deborah and Barak, Hebrew tribes defeat the Canaanites at the battle of Kishon.
- c. 1150 – 1100 – Gideon, Abimelech, Jephthah.
- c. 1100 – 1060 – Philistine oppression. Samson, guerilla leader.
- c. 1020 – Philistine rule extends into the Emek (Plain of Esdraelon). Israel united under Saul as first King, fails to expel them.

c. 100 – David becomes King of Israel, takes Jerusalem from the Jebusites and makes it the national capital. In numerous victorious campaigns he breaks the power of the Philistines.

c. 970 – 935 – Reign of King Solomon. Building of the Great Temple in Jerusalem.
c. 935 – Death of Solomon. Disruption of the Kingdom: Israel in the North under Jeroboam I, and Judah in the South under Rehoboam.
c. 930 – Shoshenk (Shishak) of Egypt invades Palestine and captures and sacks Jerusalem.
c. 895. – Osorkon I of Egypt, defeated by Asa of Judah.

875. – Jehoshaphat of Judah becomes the vassal of Ahab of Israel, who marries Jezebel of Tyre; the prophets Elijah and Elisha oppose her Baal-worship. Benhadad king of Syria attacks Israel and besieges Samaria; Ahab submits to his over-lordship.

c. 850 – Ahab killed in battle against Benhadad. Moab revolts against Israel, and Edom against Judah.

c. 770 – Jeroboam II of Israel re-conquers Moab, Gilead, and part of Syria.

763. – Total eclipse of the Sun on June 15th.

743. – 737 – The prophet Hosea.

735 -732 – Gilead and Galilee conquered and annexed by Assyria. Ahaz of Judah becomes its vassal.

725 – 722 – Samaria besieged and taken by Shalmaneser IV of Assyria; the whole land of Israel annexed.

721 – Sargon of Assyria deports 30,000 Israelites to Mesopotamia.

715 – Samaria re-peopled by tribes deported from Assyria.

741-681 – the Prophet Isaiah.

705 – Death of Sargon. Hezekiah of Judah allies himself with Egypt and revolts against Assyria.

701 – Sargon’s successor Sennacherib overruns Palestine, defeats Hezekiah and besieges Jerusalem, but is persuaded to evacuate the country on payment of heavy ransom. During the siege Hezekiah builds the Siloam Tunnel to ensure the city’s water supply.

639 – Josiah becomes King of Judah.

627 – Western Palestine invaded by the Scyths. First appearance of Jeremiah.

621 – Discovery of the Book of the Law. Josiah initiates reforms.

603 – Necho II of Egypt defeats, and slays at Megiddo, Josiah who attempted to stop him from marching northwards to attack Assyria. Judah Egyptian vassal.

604 – Necho defeated by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon at Carchemish.

600 – Judah vassal of Babylon.

597 – Judah withholds tribute from Babylon and is invaded by Nebuchadnezzar and by Moab, Ammon, and Aram, allied with him. Jerusalem captured. First Great Exile to Babylonia. Zedekiah of Judah vassal of Babylon.

593 – Zedekiah prepares revolt against Babylon, but is restrained by Jeremiah

589 – Zedekiah concludes an alliance with King Uah-Ab-Ra (Hophra of the Bible) of Egypt and revolts against Babylon.

587 – 6 – Nebuchadnezzar takes Jerusalem, burns the Temple and the royal Palace, and carries the majority of the Jewish nation into captivity (Second Great Exile to Babylonia). The remnant, with Jeremiah, emigrate to Egypt.

c. 594 – 573 – The prophet Ezekiel.

538 -536 – Cyrus, King of Persia, takes Babylon. Judah a Persian province. Part of the deported Jews return from Babylon to Palestine under the leadership of Zerubabel. Restoration of the Altar. First attacks of Samaritans.

520 – The prophets Haggai and Zechariah. Rebuilding of the Second Temple started.

516 – Completion of the rebuilt Temple.

458 – Return of more Jewish exiles from Babylonia under Ezra.

445 – The Book of the Law given the force of State Law by King Artaxerxes I of Persia. Rebuilding of the City Walls.

432 – Nehemiah’s return to Jerusalem.

332 – Alexander the Great besieges and takes Tyre and Gaza, and conquers Syria and Palestine, but spares Jerusalem where he offers sacrifices in the Temple and grants privileges to the Jewish Nation.

323 – Death of Alexander.

320 – Ptolemy I (Soter), King of Egypt, conquers Palestine and Syria and enters Jerusalem.

286 – 247 – Under Ptolemy II (Philadelphia) large Greek-speaking Jewish colony in Alexandria. Jews translate the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek (Septuaginta).
 246 – Ptolemy III (Euergetes) overruns Palestine and Syria.
 218 – Palestine occupied by Antiochus III, the great, King of Syria.
 217 – Antiochus beaten at Raphia, on the Egyptian border, by Ptolemy IV. Palestine becomes an Egyptian province. Jews persecuted.
 202 – Palestine retaken by Antiochus.
 200 – Palestine retaken by Egypt.
 198 – Palestine retaken once more by Antiochus.
 175 Antiochus IV (Epiphanies) initiates attempts to Hellenize Judah.
 169 – Antiochus plunders the Temple and persecutes the Jews, to destroy their religion. Jerusalem turned into a Greek city; Syrian garrison and Altar to Zeus in the Temple.
 167 – Revolt of Mattathias and his five sons, against Syria.
 166 – Mattathias succeeded by his son Judas (“Maccabaeus”), who defeats the Syrian army in several battles and purifies the Temple.
 164 – The Jews acknowledges Syrian suzerainty, but are guaranteed freedom of conscience and worship.
 161 – Judas Killed in battle of Lower Bethhoron and succeeded by his brother Jonathan. First Treaty of Friendship between Judea and Rome.
 153 – Jonathan becomes High Priest.
 142 – Jonathan is assassinated; his brother Simon is proclaimed Hereditary Prince. The citadel of Jerusalem demolished. Syria acknowledges Judea’s independence.
 139 – The Jewish State recognized by Rome.
 135 – Simon Maccabaeus dies and is succeeded by Hyrcanus I.
 133 – Jerusalem besieged by Antiochus VII (Sidetes).
 103 – Hyrcanus I succeeded by Aristobulus I.

102 – Aristobulus I succeeded by Alexander Jannaeus.
 78 – Queen Alexandra.
 66 – Joint reign of Hyrcanus II and Aristobulus II. Civil war between them.
 63 – The Roman general Pompey invades Palestine and captures Jerusalem after a three month’s siege. He deprives Judea of all its recent acquisitions except Galilee and a narrow strip of Transjordan, and compels and the Jews to acknowledge Roman overlordship.
 45 – The Roman general Crassus plunders the Temple of Jerusalem.
 40 – The Parthian King Orodes invades Palestine and carries off its ruler Hyrcanus.
 37 – Herod recaptures Jerusalem and proclaims himself King of Judea.
 18 – Herod rebuilds the Temple. Herod builds the city and harbor of Caesarea, on the site of the fishermen’s village of Strato’s Tower.
 4 – Death of Herod.

C.E.

1 – Beginning of Christian Era.
 6 – Judea becomes a Roman province under Procurators.
 39 – Caligula (37-41) orders the Jews to set up his statue in the Temple, but revokes this order at the instance of Herod Agrippa, grandson of Herod.
 41 – Building of the Third Wall of Jerusalem.
 66 – Rebellion in Caesarea and Jerusalem. Cestius Gallus, Roman legate of Syria, besieges Jerusalem, but is compelled to retreat and suffers a disastrous defeat. Whole country in revolt.
 67 - The Roman general Vespasian reoccupies Galilee after heavy fighting. Destruction of the Jewish Navy off Jaffa.
 68 – On the death of the emperor Nero, civil war in Italy brings war in Judea to a standstill.
 69 – Vespasian proclaimed emperor, entrusts his son Titus with the prosecution of the war against the Jews.

70 – Titus conquers Jerusalem after six month’s siege. The Temple burnt. The population sentenced to death or to servitude.

73 – The capture of the last Jewish stronghold, Masada, ends the war.

130 – Jerusalem rebuilt by the emperor Hadrian as a Roman town, Aelia Capitolina, with a shrine of Jupiter Capitolinus on the site of the Temple, and another of Venus; he also prohibits the practice of circumcision.

132 – Revolt of the Jews under Bar-Cochba, who is proclaimed the Messiah by Rabbi Akiba.

134 – Jerusalem taken by assault by the Roman general Julius Severus.

135 – Fall of Bethar; death of Bar-Cochba.

335 – Completion of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

395 – Division of the Roman Empire; Palestine part of the Roman Empire of the East.

476 – Fall of the Roman Empire of the West.

611 – Syria conquered by the Persians under Chosroes II.

614 – Jerusalem taken and sacked by the Persians, after a siege of eighteen days; the churches burnt and plundered; the inhabitants largely massacred or carried into slavery.

634 – Siege and capture of Damascus by the Moslems.

637 – Siege and capture of Jerusalem by the Moslems under Caliph Omar.

640 – The whole of Palestine under Moslem domination.

691 – Caliph Abd-el-Malek completes building of the Dome of the Rock.

807 – Haroun-el-Rashid acknowledges Charlemagne as Protector of Jerusalem and owner of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. A decree by Haroun orders every Jew to wear the Yellow badge.

1009 – Destruction of the Holy Sepulcher by the Fatimid Caliph Hakim.

1021 – The Byzantine Empire acknowledged patron of the Holy Places.

1048 – Foundation of the Hospital of St John in Jerusalem.

1095 – Council of Clermont. Pope Urban II calls on the Christian princes to recover the Holy Land for Christendom.

1097 – 1098 – First Crusade, ending with the capture of Jerusalem and massacre of a large part of its population. The Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem.

1000 – 1118 – Baldwin, King of Jerusalem.

1118 – Founding of the Orders of the Knights Templar and the Knights of the Hospital of St. John in Jerusalem.

1146 – 1147 – Second Crusade under the German emperor Conrad III and Louis VII of France.

1187 – Sultan Saladin defeats the Christians in the Battle of Hattin, and captures Jerusalem after a fortnight’s siege. End of the Latin Kingdom.

1189 – 1192 – Third Crusade under the German Emperor Frederick Barbarossa, King Richard I (Lionheart) of England, and King Philip Augustus of France, fails to recover Jerusalem, but leads to a treaty by which Saladin leaves the coast from Jaffa to Acre to the Christians. Death of Saladin.

1202 – 1204 Fourth Crusade

1212 – The Children’s Crusade which fails to reach Palestine.

1216 – 1221 – Fifth, fruitless, Crusade, under John of Brienne, King of Jerusalem, and King Andrew of Hungary.

1228 – 1229 – Sixth Crusade. The German Emperor Frederick II, as son-in-law of John of Brienne, becomes King of Jerusalem, and obtains by treaty the cession of Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth to the Christians.

1244 – The Kharesmian Tartars invade Palestine, plunder the country, massacre a Christian army at Gaza together with the

Turks and take Jerusalem. Church of the Holy Sepulcher destroyed by fire.

1248 – 1252 – Seventh Crusade, during which, in 1249, King Louis XI of France rebuilds Sidon.

1268 – Beybars, Sultan of Egypt, marches into Palestine and captures the few remaining castles held by the Templars and the Hospitallers, leaving only Acre in Christian hands.

1270 – Eight, fruitless, Crusade.

1291 – Beybars' son, Sultan El-Ashraf, captures Acre. End of the Kingdom of Jerusalem.

1492 – Expulsion of the Jews from Spain. Jewish refugees settle in Jerusalem, Safad, Tiberias, and Hebron, and become the predominant element in the Yishuv (Palestine Jewry).

1516 – 1517 – The Turkish Sultan Selim I advances through Syria and Palestine into Egypt. Palestine a province of the Turkish Empire.

1542 – Sultan Suleiman (the Great) rebuilds the walls and fortifications of Jerusalem, restoring the Jaffa and Damascus Gates, and constructs the artificial reservoir “Birket es Sultan”.

1564 – Don Joseph Nassi (later Duke of Naxos) receives city of Tiberias and surroundings as gift from the Sultan Suleiman the Great; rebuilds city and introduces silk industry.

1799 – Napoleon Bonaparte invades Palestine, and issues an appeal to the Jews of Asia and Africa to rise against the Turks in return for a promise to restore Jerusalem to them. He captures Gaza and Jaffa, but fails to take Acre, and evacuates the country.

1808 – The Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem is completely destroyed by fire, but restored by Greeks (1810).

c. 1820 – John Adams, second President of USA, expresses the wish to see the Jews as an independent nation in Judea.

1831 – Mohammed Ali, the Turkish governor of Egypt, makes himself independent of Constantinople and takes possession of Palestine.

1837 – Town of Safad destroyed by earthquake.

1840 – Sir Moses Montefiore discusses with Lord Palmerston Jewish agricultural settlement in Palestine.

1841 – Palestine restored to the Turkish Empire.

1850 – Dispute in Palestine between the Greek and Latin Churches, which becomes one of the causes of the Crimean War.

1870 – The Alliance Israélite Universelle establishes the first agricultural school in Palestine, at Mikveh-Israel, near Jaffa.

1882 – Jews from Jerusalem establish the first agricultural settlement, Petah-Tiqvah.

1890 – The “Lovers of Zion” (Hovevei Zion) the first organization for Jewish colonization in Palestine, founded in Russia.

1895 – Theodor Herzl (1860- 1904) founds the Zionist Organization.

1897 – First Zionist Congress at Basle.

1903 – The British Government offers Uganda to the Zionist Organization. The 6th Zionist Congress rejects this offer, insisting on Palestine.

1917 – The British Government issues the “Balfour Declaration” favoring the establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine. General Allenby at the head of a British army, including a regiment of Jewish volunteers, marches into Palestine, occupies its southern part and enters Jerusalem.

1918 – The Turkish and German lines north of Jerusalem and Jaffa are broken, and the northern part of the country occupied by the British. A Zionist Commission, led by Dr. Chaim Weizmann, arrives to investigate and report on the steps to be taken for implementing the Balfour Declaration and setting up the Jewish National Home.

1919 – At the Peace Conference in Versailles, the Jewish representatives submit the demands of the Zionist Organization for the creation of the National Home.

1920 – First meeting of the League of Nations. Sir Herbert (now Lord) Samuel appointed first High Commissioner of Palestine. Anti-Jewish riots by Arabs on Easter Sunday in Jerusalem. On arrival of High Commissioner, Military regime replaced by Civil Administration.

1921 – Supreme Moslem Council established, and Haj Amin el-Husseini, a leader of the Arabs during the 1920 riots, made Mufti of Jerusalem. Anti-Jewish riots in Jaffa and in various parts of the country.

1922 – Transjordan separated from Palestine and excluded from the territory covered by the Balfour Declaration.

1925 – Field Marshal Lord Plumer succeeds to the High Commissionership.

1927 – Violent earthquake causes extensive damage in Nablus, Hebron and Jerusalem; 272 people killed and 833 injured almost exclusively Arabs. City of Tel-Aviv send medical aid and food supplies.

1928 – Sir John Chancellor becomes High Commissioner. Dispute over status quo at the Sailing Wall in Jerusalem.

1929 – Zionist and non-Zionist agree to set up Jewish Agency for Palestine. Widespread anti-Jewish riots. The Shaw Commission of Enquiry.

1930 – Sir John Hope-Simpson appointed to enquire into the problems of immigration, land settlement and development. “Passfield” White Paper (Cmd. 3692)

1931 – Moslem Congress in Jerusalem. General Sir Arthur Wauchope succeeds as High Commissioner.

1933 – Nazi persecution of Jews in Germany causes increased Jewish immigration into Palestine. Arab general strike; anti-Jewish riots.

1936 – Arab parties demand cessation of Jewish immigration. The British Parliament rejects the Arab demand. Violent anti-Jewish riots, developing into Arab rebellion. Arrival of Royal Commission, headed by Lord Peel.

1937 – Royal Commission Report (Cmd. 5479). Report rejected by Arabs; Arab violence intensified. Arab Higher Committee declared illegal. Mufti of Jerusalem flees to Lebanon. Five Arab political leaders exiled.

1938 – Sir Harold MacMichael succeeds to High Commissionership. Palestine under Military Administration in consequence of increasing Arab rioting. Palestine Partition Commission, under chairmanship of Sir John Woodhead, investigates conditions locally and issues Report (Cmd. 5854). Conference in London convened to find an agreed solution on future policy and immigration. Statement of Policy (Cmd. 5893).

1939 – British proposals at London Conference rejected by both Arabs and Jews. White Paper (Cmd. 6019) issued, reducing Jewish immigration to 75,000 persons over a period of five years. High Commissioner empowered to regulate and prohibit transfer of land. On eve of outbreak of war, Jewish authorities appeal for unanimous support of Great Britain. The Mufti of Jerusalem flees from Lebanon to Iraq and later to Rome and Berlin, where he takes prominent part in inciting to mass murder of European Jews.

1940 – In November, Government announces policy of deportation of unauthorized immigrants; as a reaction the refugee ship “Patria” blown up in Haifa port with loss of 250 lives. S/S “Atlantic” arrivals deported to Mauritius.

1942 – The tragedy of the s/s “Struma”. Zionist Convention in United States demands establishment of a Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine, rejects the White Paper of 1939, asks for unrestricted immigration, settlement and formation of a Jewish army (Biltmore Program). Renewed Arab unrest.

1943 – David Ben Gurion, Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, denounces White Paper and refuses cooperation with the Government of Palestine.

1946 – In May, an Anglo-American Committee of Enquiry recommends immediate authorization of 100,000 immigration certificates to be granted for victims of Nazi and Fascist persecution, the Mandatory to facilitate Jewish immigration as far as rights of other sections of the population are not prejudiced, land transfer regulations to be based upon free disposition of land and providing protection to small owners and tenant cultivators, large-scale development plans to be executed in cooperation with the Jewish Agency and with the governments of Arab States directly affected. General strike of Arabs in protest against the Anglo-American Committees report. In June, the Arab League decides to intensify boycott of Zionist goods. Jewish Agency building in Jerusalem occupied by British troops; mass arrests of Jews, Zionist leaders interned. In July, the Government offices in the King David Hotel at Jerusalem are blown up. In August, the British Government announces that in future unauthorized immigrants will be deported to Cyprus. In October, President Truman urges immediate solution of the immigration question; the Inner Zionist Council demands the establishment of a Jewish State and denounces terrorist activities. In November, eight Jewish leaders, detained since June, are released, together with Palestinian Arabs detained in the Seychelles, and amnesty granted to other Arabs sentenced to long-term

imprisonment for participation in 1936-39 riots. Train services throughout Palestine temporarily suspended following widespread Jewish sabotage. In December, the World Zionist Congress at Basle demands establishment of Jewish State and unrestricted immigration.

1947 – In January, Conference on Palestine in London between Foreign and Colonial Offices and representatives of the Arab Higher Committee and representatives of the Jewish Agency, separately, In February, evacuation of non-essential British subjects from Palestine. The British Government submits the “Bevin Plan” to the London Conference, providing for British trusteeship for a period of five years and limiting Jewish immigration to 15,000 yearly with an overall maximum of 75,000. Upon rejection of this plan by both Jews and Arabs, the British Government declares the Mandate to be unworkable and submits the matter to the United Nations Organization.

