

THE PRE-CHRISTIAN BACKGROUND

Selected Old Testament Dates (Approximate)

- 1800 BC – Abraham, Patriarchs
- 1250 BC – Moses
- 1050 BC – Beginning of Israelite monarchy (Saul, Samuel)
- 1000 BC – United Kingdom (David)
- 950 BC – Solomon builds First Temple in Jerusalem
- 850 BC – Elijah
- 722 BC – Northern Kingdom falls to Assyria, disperse ten tribes
- 586 BC – Babylonian Captivity (Southern Kingdom falls to Nebuchadnezzar)
- 538 BC – Persians overthrow Babylon
- 458 BC – Ezra restores worship in the temple
- 445 BC – Under Nehemiah's leadership, the walls of Jerusalem are rebuilt and completed
- 400 BC – prophetic ministry of Malachi ends (OT ends), Judea still under Persian rule

Intertestamental Period

- 427-347 BC – Plato
- 384-322 BC – Aristotle
- 332 BC - Alexander the Great conquers Persian Empire, Greek rule of Judea begins
- 322 BC - Death of Alexander the Great, Egyptian rule begins under Ptolemies
- 3rd Century BC – The Old Testament translated into Greek (Septuagint)
- 198 BC – Seleucid (Syria) rule
- 167 BC - Antiochus Epiphanes, Seleucidian ruler, desecrates Temple in Jerusalem
- 164 BC – Hasmonean (Maccabean) revolt against Seleucidian rule (celebrated by Hanukkah)
Pharisees and Sadducees
- 146 BC - Rome defeats the Greeks and begins expansion of its empire
- 63 BC - Rome (under General Pompey) captures Jerusalem, marking the beginning point of complete Roman rule over Judea
- 27 BC – The Reign of Caesar Augustus begins

THE FIRST CENTURY

New Testament Era

- 4 BC – The birth of Jesus Christ and the beginning of the New Testament
- AD 29 – Public ministry of Jesus
- 33 – Crucifixion, Resurrection, Pentecost
- 35 – Conversion of Paul (profound encounter with Christ)
- 41 – Gentiles admitted in fellowship (Acts 15) with James as head of the Church
- c. 45 – c. 100 – Writing of New Testament
- 48 – Beginning of Paul's three missionary journeys across Europe and Asia Minor (see map)
- 64 – Neronian persecution begins
- 70 – Jerusalem destroyed by Roman Emperor Titus, Antioch becomes center of Christianity