Archaeological Chronology of the Biblical Period †

Neolithic
7500-4000BC

Called "Prehistory" due to lack of known documentation. Material remains at Jericho evidence developing urban socialization. Evidence of grain cultivation, domestication of sheep, goats & pigs, pottery production,

Neolithic Tower - Jericho

Chalcolithic
4000-3150BC

"Prehistory" due to lack of known docu-mentation. Copper is used & traded. Houses built in both square and round styles, and in some agricultural settlements are built

Early Bronze
3150-2200BC

I II III IV

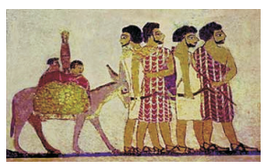
Flourishing urban culture, especially on coastal plain (e.g. Gezer), Jordan Valley (e.g. Beth Yerah) and the Negev (e.g. Arad). Culture blossoms: writing (religious, historical, mathematical, literary & dramatic, legal texts) found in Egypt & Mesopotamia. International trade routes established including across

Sumerian Mathematical Text

Mid. Bronze
2200-1550BC

I IIA IIB IIC

"Patriarchal Age" Western Semites establish small city-states. Hyksos invade Egypt & Canaan. Metals are used for tools & weapons. War-chariots introduced by the Hyksos. First alphabetic script found in Sinai & Canaan. Hittites, Amorites & other Semitic nomads migrate into



Asiatics in Egypt Tomb of Khnumhotep, Dyn. 12

Egyptian Mathematical Text 15-16th Dyn.

Late Bronze
1550-1200BC

I IIA IIB

Period of Exodus. Canaan is under Egyptian domination. Large fortified city-states established in Canaan. Israelite invasion & birth of Hebrew nation.

Merneptah stele (c.1220) cites Israel

Iron
1200-586BC

I IIA IIB

IronI: Israelite period. Iron widely used. Israel conquers Canaan. Philistines ("Sea Peoples") also invade & settle along coast setting the stage for protracted conflict between the two. Period of Judges. Alphabetic writing continues to spread.

Iron II: David captures Jebus & expands national control. Solomon builds temple c.960. Period of economic prosperity & political expansion. Civil war results is secession of northern tribes & formation of two kingdoms: Israel & Judah c.928.

Iron III: Prophetic period. Hebrew culture develops. Phoenician & Aramean influence grows. Assyrian expansion reaches

Persian
586-330BC

Persian Cyrus overcomes Median domination & forges an empire that extended from the Indus river in the E. (including what is now Afghanistan & the western half of Pakistan) to Macedonia & Thrace in the W. (what is now eastern Greece), and N. Africa (what is now Egypt & Lybia). Cyrus permitted exiles to be repatriated c.538. Yehud (Judah) is a Persian Province. The Second Temple was

City of David

Hellenistic
330-150BC

Alexander the Great conquers the Persian Empire. He does not touch Jerusalem but Hellenizes Judea. Hellensitic cities develop across the empire. Hebrew Bible is translated into Greek Septuagint. Seleucid king Antiochus IV persecutes Jews, defiles & plunders the Temple.

Cyrus' triumphal entry to Babylon

Alexander the Great

Hasmonean
150-37BC

Judea governed by Hasmonean dynasty (143-63). In 63 Pompey introduces Roman control in Jerusalem. Strong influence of Roman culture. Period of material

Roman
37BC-330AD

Roman-Herodian Roman

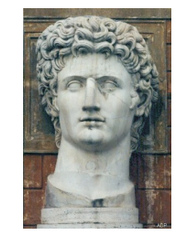
Herod the Great appointed King of the Jews by Rome c.40. Second Temple is refurbished and expanded c.20. Period of fomenting revolt against Rome, culminating in the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus c.70 and the fall of Masada c.73.

Mishanic & Talmudic period. Bar Kochba leads revolt & retakes Jerusalem, reinstating it as the Jewish capital c.132. Hadrian

Model of Herod's Temple (Avi Yonah)

Byzantine
330-440AD

Constantine conquers Jerusalem, establishing Christian rule over the city c.326. Persians invade in c.614 then Moslems c.630 marking the end of Byzantine rule and the beginning of Muslim/Arab dominance.



Emporer Constantine

†Paul W. Ferris, Jr., (2006)