

# Old Testament Timeline

## Ancestral Period

These are the stories found in Genesis about Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and his wives and children.

## Judges

The people settle in the Promised Land, each tribe in its own area. They are ruled locally by Judges.  
Books: Judges, Ruth

## Divided Monarchy

After Solomon dies the kingdom divides into North and South. The northern part is called Israel and includes 10 tribes. The southern part is called Judah and has two tribes.  
Books: 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles, Isaiah, Hosea, Amos, Jonah

## Exile

The Babylonians kept trying to take over. 586 B.C.E., saw Jerusalem destroyed and the temple burned. The people, especially the leaders, were deported to Babylon.  
Books: Esther, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Daniel

## Judea during Hellenistic Rule

In 332 B.C.E Alexander the Great, the king of Macedonia in northern Greece captured Jerusalem ending Persian rule. "Hellenism" or Greek culture spread. Greek became the language used for trade, education, and politics.



## Egypt, Exodus, Land

There is a 400-year gap between the last chapter of Genesis and the first chapter of Exodus. During this period God saves the people from slavery, they wander in the wilderness, and then God gives them the Promised Land.  
Books: Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, and Joshua

## United Monarchy

The people ask God for a king so they can be like other nations. First God appoints Saul as king, then David. David's son Solomon is next. Solomon builds the temple in Jerusalem.  
Books: 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles

## Kingdom of Judah

The Assyrians invaded Israel in 722 and exiled the people. Now it's just Judah in the south with Jerusalem as the capital and the temple in Jerusalem. In 598 B.C.E., Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem and exiled the royal family leaving a puppet king.  
Books: Proverbs, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Obadiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah

## Judah during Persian Rule

In 539 B.C.E. the Neo-Babylonian Empire fell to the Persians under Cyrus the Great. Unlike the Babylonians, the Persians allowed the people to worship their own deities. The people were able to return and rebuild the temple.  
Books: Ezra, Nehemiah, Joel, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

## Maccabees

Judea was governed by the Seleucid kings, who were based in Syria. They were among the successors of Alexander the Great and patrons of Greek culture. Seleucid king Antiochus IV turned the temple into a temple to Zeus. Judah Maccabee led a revolt.