A BRIEF HISTORY OF
BIBLICAL TIMES & THE FIRST
TEMPLE PERIOD

CA 17TH CENTURY BCE
Patriarchs settle in Israel; famine forces migration to Egypt

CA 13TH-12TH CENTURIES BCE
Moses leads exodus from Egypt; Israelites return to Israel

1010-970 BCE
King David’s reign; Jerusalem becomes capital of the kingdom

967 - 931 BCE
King Solomon’s, son of David, reign begins; First Temple built

930 BCE
Rehoboam’s, son of Solomon, reign begins amidst pressures; kingdom splits into Judah (south) and Israel (north, the 10 tribes)

922-720 BCE
Israel falls to Assyria, who deport Israelites; protodiaspora: the 10 tribes spread throughout the region and become essentially lost to history

722-705 BCE
Height of the Assyrian Empire

626-539 BCE
Neo-Babylonian Empire; significant defeat of Assyria at Nineveh in 612 BCE

586 BCE
Judah falls to Babylon; Jerusalem’s temple (the First Temple) destroyed and the population exiled
A BRIEF HISTORY OF
THE SECOND TEMPLE PERIOD

ca. 6th century BCE - 70 CE

538-515 BCE
Jews/Israelites return from Babylonian exile and rebuild the Temple, marking the beginning of the Second Temple period

509 BCE
Roman Republic established, ending the monarchical form of government and beginning a centuries-long quest for territory

332 BCE
Macedonian King Alexander the Great conquers the Persian Empire

323 BCE
Alexander dies, his generals Seleucus and Ptolemy succeed him, ushering in the Hellenistic Age across the eastern Mediterranean and Middle East region; Ptolemy reigns in Egypt

312 BCE
Seleucus takes reign in Babylonia and expands empire throughout the near-East, another major Hellenistic center

167-160 BCE
Maccabean revolt in the Seleucid Empire, protesting Hellenistic influence on Jewish life

142-63 BCE
Hasmonean Dynasty, a monarchy that allowed for Jewish autonomy within the Seleucid Empire - a direct result of the Maccabean revolt

49-45 BCE
Roman Civil War (Caesar’s Civil War); Pompey “the Great” challenges Julius Caesar for control over the Roman Republic

30 BCE
Hellenistic Age ends with Egypt’s fall to Rome

70 CE
Romans destroy Jerusalem and the Second Temple
A BRIEF HISTORY OF
THE HISTORICAL JESUS & THE JESUS
MOVEMENT

ca. 1st-3rd centuries CE

27 BCE
The beginning of the Roman Empire; Augustus Caesar becomes emperor

30 CE
Jesus’s death in Jerusalem

66-73 CE
First Jewish-Roman War, fought over Judean autonomy; ca 60s CE, the Apostle Paul is beheaded

70s CE
Gospel of Mark likely written

85-90s CE
Gospels of Matthew & Luke likely written

90s-110 CE
Gospel of John likely written

107 CE
The term “Christianity” first used by Ignatius of Antioch, a student of the Apostle John

132-136 CE
The Bar Kokhba Revolt, considered the Third Jewish-Roman War, fought over Judean autonomy

155-157 CE
The First Apology written by Justin Martyr; one of the earliest examples of Christian apologetics, philosophical treatises on the nature of (and in defense of) Christian beliefs

CA 180 CE
Irenaeus, the Greek bishop of Lugdunum of Gaul (now France), writes Against Heresies, a key proto-orthodox text

235-284 CE
Crisis of the Third Century, or the Imperial Crisis, sparked by the assassination of the emperor Alexander Severus; led to fundamental changes in political, economic, territorial, and religious aspects of life

325 CE
The First Council of Nicea marks the beginning of orthodox Christianity
Author Notes

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