

(6)

However, Israel is gigantic when it comes to God. There is no greater nation on this earth. In fact, no other nation has had such an impact on the world, which is due to the very fact that Israel is special to God (Genesis 22:18). God has declared Israel to be His nation and He has made it so.

There is absolutely no debating the fact that when it comes to the God of the Bible, no nation is as special as Israel. In fact, in many passages God specifically identifies Himself as the God of Israel, including passages in the New Testament (Gal. 6:16).

- 1) God says in multiple passages too numerous to count that He is the LORD God of Israel (Ex. 5:1; 32:27; Joshua 7:13, 19, 20; Judges 5:3, 5; Ruth 2:12; I Sam. 23:10, 11; I Kings 8:23).
- 2) God says He is the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (I Chron. 29:18).
These obviously are three critical names in regard to the nation Israel. **Jacob is Israel-actually named by God Himself. Genesis 35:10**
- 3) God says that He is the LORD for Israel (I Sam. 7:9).
- 4) God says that He is the God in Israel (I Sam. 17:46).
- 5) God says that Israel is God's son (Ex. 4:22).
- 6) God says that He is the God of Israel (Ex. 24:10; Josh. 22:16; Judges 21:3; I Sam. 5:7, 8, 8, 8, 10, 11).
- 7) God says that He dwells among the children of Israel (Num. 35:34).
- 8) God says that Israel is the "apple of His eye (Zech. 2:8). What this actually means is that this nation is the focus of God's eye continually. She is central to God.

There is no other nation on earth that has this kind of national connection to the sovereign, almighty God. God has specifically promised that He will bless nations that bless her and curse nations who curse her (Gen. 12:3; Num. 24:9). In fact, God promises that He will actually prosper the economies of those nations who honor Israel (i.e. Isaiah).

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul said that every individual and every nation owes Israel a tremendous debt of gratitude. Through Israel came the Scriptures, the Law, worship, promises, prophecy and Jesus Christ (Romans 9:4-5).

Clearly to God, Israel is the most important nation in the world. Wise are those who recognize this fact.

QUESTION #3 – What is the Historical Timeline of Israel?

The Jewish people are the most important and traceable and verifiable people in all of history. The timeline of the nation Israel is like no other nation in the world. There is more data about Israel than any other nation in the world. We are actually able to track her history with timeline accuracy for the past 4,000 years.

(7)

We are actually able to document facts from her beginning in 2100 B.C. until today. We have attempted to track key moments in Israel's history from its inception until now. Our timeline starts with Abraham and continues to the present Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Because God has a national program with Israel, His hand is always on that nation; therefore, even modern things are important.

This chart is for the basic purpose of giving a general timeline overview of Israel's history from its beginning until today. The dates have been calculated as near as we are able to do so. We have tried to pinpoint key historical moments and our timeline consists of nearly 90 key historical events.

1) Abraham, Isaac and Jacob begin the story as the patriarchs of the Jewish people.

Date: 2100 B.C. - 1800 B.C.

The timeline for Israel starts with Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3). Actually, as this study will later show, we think the timeline actually starts with the pedigree and ancestral lineage of Abraham in Genesis 11. The name Abram means "exalted father." God changed the name to "Abraham" that means Father of Multitude (**Gen. 17:5**). **Everything in the plan of God shifts right here with Abraham.**

Abraham had a son, Isaac (2065 B.C.), and Isaac had a son Jacob (2005 B.C.), and Jacob had twelve sons (1921 B.C.-1804 B.C.), which is the beginning of the twelve tribes of Israel. Since God often identifies Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, their existence is key to the beginning of Israel.

Now the Abrahamic family is critical to developing a bloodline of the God/Savior/Messiah/King.

This God/Savior/Messiah/King is clearly established in Genesis through Abraham:

- 1) He would be a real man born of the seed of a woman. Gen. 3:15
- 2) He would come through the line of Seth. Gen. 4:25
- 3) He would come as a Noahic offspring of Shem. Gen. 9:26
- 4) He would come from the specific family of Abraham. Gen. 12:3
- 5) He would come from the seed of Isaac. Gen. 26:3
- 6) He would come as one of the sons of Jacob. Gen. 46:2-3
- 7) He would come from the tribe of Judah. Gen. 49:10

This lineage of Abraham is not only critical to God's nation, but also God's Son.

(8)

2) Jacob's family, which forms the twelve tribes of Israel, moves to Egypt because of Joseph.

Date: 1876 B.C.

Joseph was the son God gave to Jacob and Rachel (Gen. 30:22-24). Joseph is the reason Abraham's family ends up in Egypt. He was the "great-grandson of Abraham." There was a famine in the land where Abraham's family was living and Joseph, who had been sold by his brothers, was in charge of all the supplies in Egypt. He had been exalted in Egypt and he moved Jacob's entire family to Egypt. The year was **1876 B.C.**. This was 430 years before the Exodus.

3) Moses delivers Israel from Egypt and begins to lead Israel to Promised Land.

Date: 1446 B.C.

Moses was born somewhere near 1524 B.C. Moses becomes the first national prophet of God to Israel and the first national deliverer chosen by God to deliver Israel. Israel stayed in Egypt for over 400 years until God decided it was time to send Moses to get her out of there. When Moses was 80-years-old, he led the Israelites out of Egypt. It was in the aftermath of this that Moses wrote the Torah (first five books of the O.T also called Pentateuch) and he promised blessings and cursings on Israel, depending on her obedience to God. During this time in the wilderness the Tabernacle is built and the priesthood is established for Israel. **God Himself says that He is the One who brought Israel out of Egypt (Exodus 20:2). God used Moses to do it.**

This deliverance by Moses is a very specific date clearly discussed in the Bible. It is stated by God to Abraham that He would deliver Abraham's descendants 400 years after they had been enslaved (Gen. 15:13). Moses specifically said the exact date of deliverance was 430 years after captivity (Ex. 12:40). The Apostle Paul also said the specific number of years was 430 years (Galatians 3:17). **If Israel entered Egypt in 1876 B.C., and Moses delivered her in 1446 B.C., it is exactly 430 years.**

4) Joshua leads Israel into the Promised Land.

Date: 1406 B.C.

Israel goes into the Promised Land after 40 years of wandering in the wilderness after leaving Egypt. Joshua was put in charge and he led Israel across the Jordan. **Joshua becomes the second national deliverer of Israel chosen by God and sanctioned by Moses.**

Joshua led Israel to great victories: Jericho, Ai, Gibeon, Malkedah, Libnah, Lachish, Eglon, Hebron, Debir, Waters of Merom, Hazor, and other various cities. Israel would live in the land for the next several hundred years, but she would not drive out all her enemies.

(9)

During this time of Joshua, Israel faithfully served God (Josh. 24:31). But after Joshua died the nation spiritually declined to the point that “everyone was doing what was right in their own eyes” (Judges 21:25).

God raised up a series of Judges to communicate His word and will to the people. God raised up:

- 1) Othniel judged in Israel 40 years. Judges 3:7-11 **1373-1043 B.C.**
- 2) Ehud judged in Israel 80 years. Judges 3:12-30 **1316-1237 B.C.**
- 3) Shamgar judged in Israel for an unspecified time. Judges 3:31 **Dates unknown**
- 4) Deborah and Barak judged in Israel for 40 years. Judges 4:1-5:31 **1237-1198 B.C.**
- 5) Gideon judged in Israel 40 years. Judges 6:1-9:57 **1191-1151 B.C.**
- 6) Tola judged in Israel 23 years. Judges 10:1-2 **1149-1126 B.C.**
- 7) Jair judged in Israel 22 years. Judges 10:3-5 **1126-1105 B.C.**
- 8) Jephthah judged in Israel 6 years. Judges 10:6-12:7 **1087-1081 B.C.**
- 9) Ibzan judged in Israel 7 years. Judges 12:8-10 **1081-1075 B.C.**
- 10) Elon judged in Israel 10 years. Judges 12:11-12 **1075-1065 B.C.**
- 11) Abdon judged in Israel 8 years. Judges 12:13-15 **1065-1058 B.C.**
- 12) Samson judged in Israel 20 years. Judges 13:1-16:31 **1069-1049 B.C.**

Israel would respond to the judge and listen for a while and get back on track and revert back to her rebellion.

Finally God raised up Samuel, who was born in 1105 B.C. and would be God’s prophet, priest and judge from 1105 B.C. until 1015 B.C. Israel said they would prefer a king so God gave them one.

- 5) Saul becomes the first King of Israel.
Date: 1050 B.C.

For several years Israel did not have a king. A man of God led the nation in accordance with the word of God. But Israel wanted a king (I Samuel 8) and God gave her Saul. For the first three kings (Saul, David, Solomon), the nation Israel was united, but after Solomon, the kingdom divides and there are kings for Israel and there are kings for Judah.

The Kings of Israel will exist until the Assyrian captivity in 722 B.C.. The Kings of Judah will exist until the Babylonian Captivity in 586 B.C.. After these dates, the kings disappear.

Saul is the first of the Kings.

- 6) David becomes the second King of Israel. His total reign will be from **1010 B.C.-970 B.C.**
David is born in **1040 B.C.** - David is the 8th and youngest son of Jesse.
David becomes king of Judah in 1010 B.C.
David becomes king of Israel in 1003 B.C. - He rules over all Israel 33 years.