

Timeline of Major Events in Jewish History

<i>BCE 2000 – 1700</i>	According to the Bible, Abraham is born in the city of Ur in southern Mesopotamia and brings his family to Canaan. Abraham's son, Isaac, remains in Canaan his entire life. During a famine Isaac's son, Jacob, moves to Egypt with his entire family and their possessions.
<i>BCE 1280</i>	According to the Bible, Moses leads the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt. An essential story for the Jewish people, the Exodus is commemorated through the festival of Passover.
<i>BCE 1250 – 1050</i>	Conquest of Canaan and settlement of the land, divided among the twelve tribes of Israel.
<i>BCE 1020 – 1004</i>	The Prophet and Judge Samuel anoints Saul as the first King of Israel.
<i>BCE 1004 – 965</i>	David rules over a united kingdom, conquers Jerusalem, and enlarges the empire of Israel.
<i>BCE 965 – 922</i>	The kingdom of Israel flourishes under Solomon, David's son. Known for his wisdom, Solomon builds the First Temple.
<i>BCE 722</i>	Assyria conquers the northern kingdom of Israel; the ten northern tribes are exiled.
<i>BCE 586</i>	Led by King Nebuchadnezzar, Babylonians conquer Assyria and the Kingdom of Judah. Jerusalem and the First Temple are destroyed and the people of Judah are exiled to Babylon.
<i>BCE 539</i>	Persia Conquers Babylon
<i>BCE 538</i>	Cyrus of Persia enacts a new policy which allows exiles, including Judeans, to return to their homeland. Some Jews return to Judea but many remain in Babylon, where there is a thriving Jewish community.
<i>BCE 515</i>	Second Temple Completed
<i>BCE 332</i>	Alexander the Great Defeats Persia, Conquers Israel
<i>BCE 63</i>	Rome Conquers Judea. Herod, appointed king of Judea by Rome, builds many projects including the renovation of the Second Temple and the fortification of Masada.
<i>CE 66 – 73</i>	Jewish Revolt Against Rome. Titus destroys Jerusalem & the Second Temple. Jews are sold into slavery and sent into exile. In 73 Masada falls to the Romans.
<i>CE 200</i>	The Mishnah, the codification of the Oral Law (interpretation of the Torah), is compiled and edited by Rabbi Judah ha-Nasi. The first great published rabbinic work, the Mishnah is a compilation of law, discussions, and debates which deal with all aspects of Jewish life.
<i>CE 212</i>	Jews Granted Citizenship by Roman Empire
<i>CE 313</i>	Edict of Milan Legalizes Christianity in Roman Empire
<i>CE 325</i>	First Legal Restrictions on Jews Anti-Jewish laws develop in the Roman Empire. Laws prohibit intermarriage between Christians and Jews, and possession of Christian slaves by Jews.
<i>CE 400</i>	The Talmud is the interpretation and elaboration on the Mishnah is completed. It includes aggadah (narratives) and halakhah (law).
<i>CE 500</i>	Babylonian Talmud Completed: More extensive than the Jerusalem Talmud, the Babylonian Talmud is known for its intellectual sharpness and ingenuity. It is the authoritative compilation of Oral Law.
<i>CE 638</i>	Muslim Conquest of Israel: Under Muslim rule, Jews are permitted to return to Jerusalem.
<i>CE 711</i>	Muslim invasion of Spain leads to Jewish settlements in newly conquered areas. Jews become involved in trade and administration in the new Muslim kingdom.
<i>CE 900</i>	Golden Age of Jews in Spain With the beginning of the Golden Age, Jewish life shifts towards Spain. Through the 1100s, Jews flourish as traders, merchants, doctors, poets, and philosophers within Muslim society. Sephardim are descendants of Jews who lived in Spain or Portugal.
<i>CE 1050</i>	Yiddish Language Develops Yiddish is used among the Ashkenazim, Jews living in Northern Europe. Written in Hebrew letters, the basic grammar and vocabulary of Yiddish is German, along with French, Italian, and Hebrew influences.
<i>CE 1215</i>	Magna Carta, England; Jews of Europe Forced to Wear Special Badge

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CE 1290	Jews Expelled from England
CE 1306	Jews Expelled from France
CE 1391	Forced Conversions of Jews in Spain Civil unrest effects Jews in Christian "Spain", Jewish prosperity is resented. Jewish property is destroyed and Jews are given the choice of embracing Christianity or death.
CE 1492	Expulsion of Jews from Spain
CE 1500	Rise of Ottoman Empire Ottoman Muslim Empire spreads across Anatolia, the Middle East, the Near East, North Africa, and into Europe. Jewish communities, including those in Israel, develop due to religious toleration and economic opportunity.
CE 1516	First Jewish Ghetto Established in Venice Jews are forced to live in a separate quarter of the city, "the ghetto," enclosed by walls and gates.
CE 1590	Conversos from Spain and Portugal settle in Amsterdam where they enjoy religious freedom and are free to practice professions.
CE 1655	Jews Readmitted to England by Oliver Cromwell
CE 1730	First Synagogue in North America Dedicated by Congregation Shearith Israel, New York
CE 1760	The Baal Shem Tov, Founder of Hasidism Israel Baal Shem Tov (1700-1760) founds Hasidism, known for its ecstatic worship, group cohesion, and charismatic leadership.
CE 1820	Start of Reform Movement Originating in Germany, the Reform movement conceives of Judaism as an evolving religion. Eliminating many traditional practices and beliefs, Reform Judaism grows in Europe and America.
CE 1894	Dreyfus Affair Alfred Dreyfus (1859-1935), Jewish officer in the French army, is accused of treason. His court-martial, conviction, and eventual acquittal develops into a significant political event with repercussions throughout the French and Jewish world.
CE 1909	Tel Aviv, the first modern, all-Jewish, Hebrew speaking city is founded in Israel.
CE 1924	U.S. Immigration Quotas By the time free immigration is ended in the U.S., approximately 2,300,000 Jews have settled in America, creating a vibrant Jewish and Yiddish culture.
CE 1935	The Nuremberg Laws revoke Jewish rights in Germany on the basis of race.
CE 1936 - 1937	Stalin Purges Stalin attempts to destroy Jewish culture in Russia; Jewish schools, theaters, and publications are closed.
CE 1938	Jewish property and synagogues in Germany and Austria are attacked on November 9th. This becomes known as Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass.
CE 1940	Ghettos Established Expelled from schools and professions, Jews are forced by Nazis to leave their homes and move into ghettos, cut off from the world and forced into labor.
CE 1942	The Final Solution Nazi officials implement the Final Solution, the plan for the extermination of the Jews. An assembly-line method of murder is devised through transports, death camps, and gas chambers.
CE 1943	Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Facing deportation to concentration camps, Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto initiate an armed uprising against the Nazis. After 28 days of fighting, the Ghetto is destroyed and the remaining Jews deported.
CE 1948	With the Declaration of Independence, the State of Israel is established on May 14th. The next day Arab armies attack, and the War of Independence lasts a year.