

OLD TESTAMENT TIMECHART

c. 1200 B.C. Judges	Judges. Although the total number of years given for the judges in the book of Judges runs to more than 400 years, most if not all of them were local leaders, whose influence would have extended over only some of the tribes. In addition, the number 40 should be taken to mean "a long period" or "a lifetime". From the Exodus to Samuel is a period of roughly 200 years.
c.1050 Samuel	1 Samuel 1-10. In the later part of the period of the judges, the Philistines, who had arrived in Canaan at about the same time as Israel began to grow in power. They had discovered the secret of iron and with it more efficient agriculture and better weapons. In about 1050, the shrine at Shiloh where the ark of God was kept, was destroyed by the Philistines. At this point, the Israelite tribes decided to sink their differences and look for a king.
c.1020 Saul	1 Samuel 11-31. With victories over the Ammonites and Philistines, Saul began the task of building Israel's unity and strength. But he was distracted by his feud with his top general, David.
c.1000 David	2 Samuel, 1 Chronicles 10-29. David conquered Jerusalem, made it his capital and brought into it the ark of the covenant, thus making it a focus of Israelite unity and removing the monarchy from the power of any particular tribe. With his general Joab, he put an end to the power of the Philistines and incorporated them into the Israelite state. He inflicted defeats on most of his neighbours, expanded Israel's borders to the north, took over direct rule of Edom and imposed tribute on Moab and Ammon.
961-922 Solomon	1 Kings 1-11, 2 Chronicles 1-9. The "Golden Age" of Israelite history. By exploiting the trade route between Egypt and Mesopotamia and across the Mediterranean, developing the natural resources of the country, Solomon became incredibly wealthy and powerful. But he acted like a typical oriental ruler, building up alliances and expressing his power through multiple marriages and imposing crippling burdens of taxation on the country. During his reign discontent built up which led to the disintegration of his kingdom under his son, Rehoboam.
922 Rehoboam	1 Kings 12, 2 Chronicles 10-11. Rebellion of the ten northern tribes under Jeroboam against the Davidic dynasty and division of Solomon's kingdom into the two kingdoms, "Israel" and "Judah", which consisted of Judah and Benjamin. In Judah, the Davidic dynasty continued to reign until the exile in 587 B.C. In Israel a series of dynasties followed one another, each change marked by a bloody coup.
Southern Kingdom of Judah	Northern Kingdom of Israel

922 – 915 Rehoboam	<i>1 Kings 14:21-end, 2 Chronicles 12.</i> With his power diminished, Rehoboam quickly began to lose his wealth. Edom took the opportunity to rebel and Egypt began to extend its power.	<i>1 Kings 13:1-14:20.</i> Israel's first king, Jeroboam, set up his capital at Tirzah and instituted two official royal shrines at Bethel and Dan to prevent his people going to Jerusalem to worship. But without the strength of the united kingdom, Jeroboam could not prevent the rise of Syria in the territory to the north which had been part of Solomon's empire. The prophet Abijah was instrumental in Jeroboam's decision to rebel against Rehoboam, but became a critic when Jeroboam began to follow	922-901 Jeroboam I
915 – 913 Abijah	<i>1 Kings 15:1-8, 2 Chronicles 13.</i>		
913 – 873 Asa	<i>1 Kings 15:9-24, 2 Chronicles 14-16.</i> Continual war with Israel.	<i>1 Kings 15:25-26</i>	901-900 Nadab
		<i>1 Kings 15:28-16:7.</i> The first of several bloody coups and changes of dynasty in Israel. Baasha murdered Nadab and took the throne, going on to wipe out the whole family of Jeroboam. Opposed by the prophet Jehu.	900-877 Baasha
		<i>1 Kings 16:8-28.</i> Zimri, Baasha's chariot commander, conspired against his son and murders him. The rest of the army united around its commander, Omri, who attacked Zimri, defeated him in battle and took the throne. Omri moved the capital of Israel to Samaria, previously a Canaanite city. He strengthened his position against his northern neighbour Syria by allying with Sidon, marrying his son Ahab to Jezebel, a Sidonian princess. He also secured the protection of the rising power, Assyria, by paying tribute.	877-876 Elah 876 Zimri
873-849 Jehoshaphat	<i>1 Kings 22:41-50, 2 Chronicles 17-20.</i> Reversed his father's war policy and pursued peace with Israel.		876-869 Omri
		<i>1 Kings 16:29-22:40.</i> Jezebel promoted the worship the Sidonian god, Baal-Melkart and was opposed by the	869-850 Ahab

		prophet Elijah. Ahab allied with Jehoshaphat of Judah against Syria.	
		<i>1 Kings 22:51-52, 2 Kings 1</i>	850-849 Ahaziah
849-843 Jehoram	<i>2 Kings 8:16-27, 2 Chronicles 21</i> . Married to Athaliah, daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, as a result of his father's peace policy. Athaliah opposed Yahweh and promoted Baal worship.	<i>2 Kings 3,6,7,9</i> . Revolt of Moab. Continued pressure from Syria.	849-842 Joram
842 Ahaziah	<i>2 Kings 8:25-end, 9:14-29, 2 Chronicles 22:1-9</i> . Murdered by Jehu during the revolt against Joram of Israel	<i>2 Kings 9-10</i> . Inspired by the prophet Elisha, Jehu revolted against Joram and took the throne. He then killed the whole of Ahab's family and all his courtiers. By so doing, he left the country extremely weak and without the help of Sidon against his resurgent neighbour, Syria. The advance of Syria was only stopped when Jehu paid tribute to Assyria.	842-815 Jehu
842-800 Joash	<i>2 Kings 11-12, 2 Chronicles 22:10-24:end</i> . Athaliah took advantage of Ahaziah's death to rule directly and the Temple fell into disrepair as the worship of Baal was promoted. Joash was hidden until aged 7 by the high priest Jehoiada, who then staged a coup to remove Athaliah and put the young king on the throne. Judah weak and threatened by Syria.		
		<i>2 Kings 13:1-9</i> . Assyria weakened, Syria took its chance and Israel became virtually a vassal-state of Syria	815-801 Jehoahaz
800-783 Amaziah	<i>2 Kings 14:1-22, 2 Chronicles 25</i> . Unsuccessful war against Israel.	<i>2 Kings 13:10-end</i> . Assyria resumed its westward expansion by attacking and fatally weakening Syria. Jehoash defeated Syria and expanded his territory, following up with victory over Amaziah of Judah (<i>2 Kings 14:8-10</i>)	802-786 Jehoash
783-742 Azariah or Uzziah	<i>2 Kings 15:1-7, 2 Chronicles 26</i> . Like Israel, Judah prospered and pushed back her borders. With a modernised army, Uzziah took control of the coastal plain and its trading routes. He also developed agriculture. The reference in Isaiah 6:1 to the year in which he died is a look back to a time of stability contrasted with the uncertainty of the time the story is recorded.	<i>2 Kings 14:23-end</i> . Assyria went on the defensive once again and Jeroboam completed the job of bringing Syria under Israelite control, expanding Israel's territory to its fullest extent since Solomon. A time of great prosperity but also social inequality. Religious observance boomed but was not matched by loyalty to the laws of Yahweh. Israelite society and political policy were condemned by the	786-746 Jeroboam II

		prophets Amos and Hosea.	
742-735 Jotham	<i>2 Kings 15:32-end, 2 Chronicles 27.</i> Co-regency of 8 years with his father, Uzziah. Continued his father's policies.	<i>2 Kings 15:8-12.</i> Son of Jeroboam. Assassinated by Shallum, who brought the dynasty of Jehu to an end, as foretold by Hosea.	746-745 Zechariah
		<i>2 Kings 15:13-16.</i> Assassinated in turn by Menahem, who also committed other atrocities on his way to securing the kingdom.	745 Shallum
		<i>2 Kings 15:17-22.</i> Assyria turned its attention to the west again. Menahem submitted and paid tribute, which he raised by heavy taxation.	745-737 Mehahem
		<i>2 Kings 15:23-26.</i> Like his father, Pekahiah owed his throne to Assyrian support. Assassinated by Pekah, leader of anti-Assyrian faction.	737-736 Pekahiah.
735-715 Ahaz	<i>2 Kings 16, 2 Chronicles 28.</i> Faced immediately on taking the throne with the threat of invasion by Syria and Israel. At this time the prophet Isaiah first came to prominence urging a policy of trust in Yahweh rather than foreign alliances and predicting the rapid defeat of the invasion. Ahaz refused to listen and went Assyria for help instead. Israel was defeated, but Judah had become a vassal of Assyria	<i>2 Kings 15:27-31.</i> With Egyptian support, Pekah set about forming a coalition against Assyria (Hosea 7:11). Rezin of Syria joined, but Jotham of Judah refused. Rezin and Pekah then joined forces to invade Judah under Jotham's son, Ahaz. Alerted by Ahaz, Tiglath-Pileser of Assyria invaded Syria and Israel. Israel was virtually destroyed, leaving only the capital Samaria, and the hill country of Ephraim. Final destruction was averted when Pekah was killed by Hoshea, who took the throne and submitted to Assyria (Hosea 5:13).	736-732 Pekah
		<i>2 Kings 17:1-6.</i> Having come to the throne with Assyrian support, Hoshea tried to free himself by intriguing with Egypt (Hosea 9:3, 11:5, 12:1). When Shalmaneser V succeeded Tiglath-Pileser he withheld tribute. Shalmaneser invades Hoshea was captured (Hosea 13:10), Israel destroyed and her people exiled. Hosea's latest prophecy anticipated the downfall of Samaria (13:16).	732-724 Hoshea

<p>715-687 Hezekiah</p>	<p><i>2 Kings 18-20, 2 Chronicles 29-32.</i> Reversed his father's policy of dependence on Assyria. In 705 when Assyria seemed to be losing his grip, Hezekiah joined an alliance sponsored by Egypt. As a result in 701 Sennacherib of Assyria invaded, captured the towns of Judah and besieged Jerusalem. Hezekiah set about strengthening the city's defences, but Isaiah, who had opposed the rebellion, again counselled reliance on Yahweh. In the end, Jerusalem was saved, either because Hezekiah submitted to Assyria again (1 Kings 18:13-16) or by what seemed divine intervention (1 Kings 18:17-19:end). These competing accounts are a major problem of biblical history. Either way, Isaiah was unhappy about Jerusalem's lack of faith (Isaiah 22:1-14).</p>
<p>687-642 Manasseh</p>	<p><i>2 Kings 21:1-18, 2 Chronicles 33:1-20.</i> Discrepancy between dates given here and 2 Kings 21:1 due to co-regency with his father, Hezekiah. Assyria at the pinnacle of her power. Consistent policy of accommodation with Assyria, including syncretistic religious practices.</p>
<p>642-640 Amon</p>	<p><i>2 Kings 21:19-end, 2 Chronicles 33:21-end.</i> Continued his father, Manasseh's policies. Deposed by anti-Assyria faction.</p>
<p>640-609 Josiah</p>	<p><i>2 Kings 22:1-23:30, 2 Chronicles 34-35.</i> "Book of the Law" discovered by Hilkiah the priest during renovation of the Temple (probably all or part of Deuteronomy). Josiah set out on a thoroughgoing reformation of religious life, which he also took to the territory of Israel. This of course meant a policy of independence from Assyria and Egypt. Josiah was helped by the fact that Assyrian power was waning, but he was killed trying to stop Egypt from regaining its influence in the region.</p>
<p>609 Jehoahaz</p>	<p><i>2 Kings 23:31-35, 2 Chronicles 36:1-4.</i> Dethroned by Pharaoh Necho of Egypt, who had just defeated Josiah in battle.</p>
<p>609-598 Jehoiakim</p>	<p><i>2 Kings 23:36-24:7, 2 Chronicles 36:5-8.</i> Pro-Egyptian policy, becoming independent when the power of Egypt waned again. Babylon established supremacy in the region at the battle of Carchemish in 605. Jeremiah warned Judah of the danger from Babylon but the king and court took no notice.</p>
<p>598-597 Jehoiachin</p>	<p><i>2 Kings 24:8-17, 2 Chronicles 36:9-10.</i> Nebuchadrezzar invaded in response to Jehoiakim's attempt to rebel against Babylonian control. Jehoiachin and all the leading nobles, priests and officials were taken into exile, including the prophet Ezekiel. Jeremiah predicted the eventual return and that it would be from the exiles that the eventual regeneration of Israel would come. Ezekiel began his ministry in exile in Babylon.</p>
<p>597-587 Zedekiah</p>	<p><i>2 Kings 24:18-25:26, 2 Chronicles 36:11-end.</i> Weak and vacillating, Zedekiah eventually tried to escape from Babylonian control by alliance with Egypt. Jeremiah warned consistently against this policy and urged submission to Babylon. Jerusalem was besieged for eleven months and finally taken. Zedekiah was executed and all the remaining leading citizens exiled to Babylon. Jerusalem was left in the hands of the governor Gedaliah, but he was assassinated and the remaining Judaeans decided to flee to Egypt, taking Jeremiah with them (Jeremiah 40-44).</p>