

Chronological Companion To The Bible

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Introduction and Instructions

I love the Bible! Not just because “all Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;”¹ but also because it is absolutely full of all sorts of interesting reading! Yet amazingly, the Bible, as a whole work, is generally unread, even by those who claim a close personal relationship with the God who inspired its writing. They may know very well the key texts behind significantly important theological tenets, but otherwise they are altogether unfamiliar with the rest of this great literary and historical treasure.

It has been my experience as a Bible teacher that this biblical illiteracy generally stems, not from laziness, but from repeated, unsuccessful attempts to read the Bible “cover to cover,” “start to finish,” “Genesis through Revelation,” as one would read most books. Such readers generally do well until they reach Leviticus, where they get bogged down in the detailed instructions of sacrificial protocol, and many simply give up. Those who do press on may make it as far as 1 Chronicles, where, overwhelmed by the sheer number of unfamiliar names, more will abandon their worthy goal. Of those who survive the “name lists,” few are able to appreciate the messages of the various prophets, since these have long been arranged in a manner foreign to the average reader, completely divorced from their historical contexts. And I won’t even bother going into the problems that arise from trying to read the New Testament books in the order of their arrangement.

I have long believed that these hindrances to reading the whole Bible are best dealt with by helping people absorb Scripture progressively and in chronological order. It makes perfect sense to the average person that 2 Samuel should be read after 1 Samuel and that 2 Corinthians should be read after 1 Corinthians. Why not apply the same logic to the rest of Scripture?

The Old Testament prophets and wisdom books ought to be read in the order they were written and in the context of the Old Testament historical books. In the same way, the New Testament letters ought to be read in the order they were written and in the context of the historical book of Acts. And even though I am a very serious New Testament believer, I am thoroughly convinced that students of Scripture ought to read the entire Old Testament before seriously tackling the New Testament.

Over the past sixteen years, as I have taught through the Bible in this manner, many of my students have commented that the very things which once stymied their reading efforts now make perfect sense and that they have a renewed hunger and thirst for the entire Word of God. My intention in compiling this book is to offer this same means of encouragement to a much wider audience.

This book is basically a chronological outline of the Bible. To journey through the exciting world of sacred history, all you need to do is spend a few minutes of each day reading, in order, the indicated text references. As you read, take the time to mark and to date where you end each reading session. This will help you keep track of your progress and make it easier to resume your journey if a few days happen to pass between opportunities to read. Remember, it’s not really all that important how long it takes you to finish this journey, only that you do finish it.

Where more than one account of an event is available (as in the Divided Kingdom Period and in the Life of Christ), I have tried to make the assigned reading the most full, relatively significant or convenient account. References for parallel account(s) are then provided parenthetically.

If you have a particular interest in Biblical chronology, you’ll want to pay attention to the outline itself, including the footnotes and charts. I have tried to clearly indicate those places where I have made chronological or textual assumptions, indicating in a footnote or parenthetically how and/or why the assumption was made.

Finally, I have reduced many (but by no means all) of the “name lists” to chart form and have included them outside the reading assignments so that you can consider them at your leisure. There’s a lot of interesting information in these lists, so make sure that you don’t just pass them by.

So, after a few introductory charts, let’s get started on our journey!

Thomas J. Short
1 September 2001
Mishawaka, Indiana

¹ 2 Timothy 3:16. Unless indicated otherwise, all Scripture quotations are taken from the New American Standard Version.

For Deb

Je t'aime

Chart 1 The Ancient Israeli Calendar

The ancient Israeli day ran from sunset to sunset, with seven days in each week. The Israeli month, which was tied to the lunar cycle and varied between 29 and 30 days in length, began with the first visible crescent of each new moon. The 1st Month of the Israeli year began in the spring, around the time of the vernal equinox.² Differences between the solar and lunar cycles, made it necessary to insert a 13th Month every few years in order to keep the calendar in sync with the agricultural cycle.

Numerical Designation	Pre-Davidic Designation	Post-Babylonian Designation	Gezer Calendar ³ Agricultural Cycle
1	<i>Abib</i> ⁴	<i>Nisan</i>	Flax Hoeing
2	<i>Ziw</i> ⁵	<i>Iyyar</i>	Barley Harvest
3		<i>Siwan</i>	Wheat Harvest/Feasting
4		<i>Tammuz</i>	Vine Tending
5		<i>Ab</i>	Vine Tending
6		<i>Elul</i>	Summer Fruit
7	<i>Ethanim</i> ⁶	<i>Tishri</i>	Olive Harvest
8	<i>Bul</i> ⁷	<i>Heshwan</i>	Olive Harvest
9		<i>Kislew</i>	Grain Planting
10		<i>Tebeth</i>	Grain Planting
11		<i>Shebat</i>	Late Planting
12		<i>Adar</i>	Late Planting

² Josephus states that Passover took place while the sun was in Aries – the constellation of the ancient, vernal equinox (*Antiquities* 3.10.5). Ancient, Israeli authorities considered a number of subjective indicators before declaring the arrival of the 1st Month, in particular the maturity of the barley, which had to be ripe enough for the priests to offer a sheaf of it as a First Fruits Offering on the first day of the week immediately after the first day of Unleavened Bread on 1*15 (Leviticus 23:9-21). My dating assignments assume that the 1st Month began after (or, on rare occasions, very shortly before) the vernal equinox.

³ The Gezer Calendar appears to be a mnemonic poem from the late Tenth or early Ninth Century BC, probably intended to help young Israelis understand the progression of the agricultural year. The Gezer Calendar actually began with the 7th Month of the ancient Israeli year.

⁴ This word means “tender” or “green,” probably a reference to the maturity of barley.

⁵ This word means “prominent” or “brightness,” probably a reference to the flowering of plants.

⁶ This word means “continuing” or “permanent,” probably a reference to the permanent streams that ran even during the dry summer months.

⁷ This word means “produce” or “rain,” probably a reference to the start of the fall rainy season.

Chart 2 Key Dates in Israeli Chronology

The following events make up the essential framework of my O.T. dating system. Together, they form an unbroken chronological chain, from the well-established date for the Babylonian destruction of the Temple, backward, to Abram's arrival in Canaan.

5*7⁸ (or 5*10) in the 18th Year of Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon
[WED 26/27 (or SAT/SUN 29/30) JUL in 587 BC]

- ❑ Temple destroyed by the Babylonians (2 Kings 25:8-9; Jeremiah 52:12-13)
- ❑ Occurred after 390 years of Israeli iniquity (Ezekiel 4:4-5)⁹

2*2 in the 4th Year of Solomon of Israel/480th Year of the Exodus
[TUE/WED 15/16 APR in 977 BC]

- ❑ Temple foundation laid by Solomon (2 Chronicles 3:1-2)
- ❑ Occurred in the 480th Year of the Exodus (1 Kings 6:1)

1*15 in the 1st Year of the Exodus
[THU/FRI 14/15 APR in 1456 BC]

- ❑ Israelis departed from Egypt (Exodus 12:1-13:10)
- ❑ Occurred 430 years after Jacob/Israel migrated to Egypt (Exodus 12:40-41)

1886 BC

- ❑ Jacob/Israel migrated to Egypt at age 130 (Genesis 46:1-27; cf. Exodus 12:40-41)

2016 BC

- ❑ Isaac was 60 years old when Jacob was born (Genesis 25:26)

2076 BC

- ❑ Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born (Genesis 21:5)

2101 BC¹⁰

- ❑ Abram was 75 years old when he departed Haran for Canaan (Genesis 12:4)

⁸ Rather than use the Pre-Davidic or Post-Babylonian month designations, I have chosen to use a simple **Month*Day** format for all Israeli dates, with a modern-style date provided in a footnote or parentheses. (These modern-style dates have been assigned with the assistance of a long chain of ever-improving astronomical simulator software.) Because the ancient, Israeli day began at sunset, actually spanning two modern-style days, I have attempted to indicate this fact within my date assignments.

⁹ It is my conviction that the 390 years of Israel's iniquity, signified by the actions of Ezekiel, should be equated with the period of Solomon's Temple, during which time the Israelis themselves often defiled it. [On a related note, the 40 years of Judah's iniquity, also acted out by Ezekiel (4:6), should be equated with Jeremiah's ministry to Judah, during which time he often predicted the Temple's impending destruction.]

¹⁰ Event dating prior to Abram's entrance into Canaan is greatly impacted by differences between the Septuagint and Masoretic texts of the Old Testament. I have provided charts for each, but prefer the Septuagint dating myself.

Chart 3
Pre-Abrahamic Dating (Alexandrian Septuagint)

Event	Year From Creation	Year BC
Creation of Adam and Eve	0	5570
Birth of Seth	230	5340
Birth of Enosh	435	5135
Birth of Kenan	625	4945
Birth of Mahalalel	795	4775
Death of Adam	930	4640
Birth of Jared	960	4610
Birth of Enoch	1122	4448
Death of Seth	1142	4428
Birth of Methuselah	1287	4283
Death of Enosh	1340	4230
Birth of Lamech	1474	4096
Enoch Taken by God	1487	4083
Death of Kenan	1535	4035
Birth of Noah	1662	3908
Death of Mahalalel	1690	3880
Death of Jared	1922	3648
Birth of Shem	2164	3406
Death of Lamech	2227	3343
Death of Methuselah	2256	3314
The Flood	2262	3308
Birth of Arphaxad	2264	3306
Birth of Cainan	2399	3171
Birth of Shelah	2529	3041
Death of Noah	2612	2958
Birth of Eber	2659	2911
Death of Shem	2764	2806
Birth of Peleg	2793	2777
Death of Arphaxad	2829	2741
Death of Cainan	2859	2711
Birth of Reu	2923	2647
Death of Shelah	2989	2581
Birth of Serug	3055	2515
Death of Peleg	3132	2438
Death of Eber	3163	2407
Birth of Nahor	3185	2385
Death of Reu	3262	2308
Birth of Terah	3264	2306
Death of Serug	3385	2185
Death of Nahor	3393	2177
Birth of Abram	3394	2176
Death of Terah/Abram Enters Canaan	3469	2101

Chart 4
Pre-Abrahamic Dating (Masoretic Text)

Event	Year From Creation	Year BC
Creation of Adam	0	4185
Birth of Seth	130	4054
Birth of Enosh	235	3949
Birth of Kenan	325	3859
Birth of Mahalalel	395	3789
Birth of Jared	460	3725
Birth of Enoch	622	3562
Birth of Methuselah	687	3497
Birth of Lamech	874	3310
Death of Adam	930	3254
Enoch Taken by God	987	3197
Death of Seth	1042	3142
Birth of Noah	1056	3128
Death of Enosh	1140	3044
Death of Kenan	1235	2949
Death of Mahalalel	1290	2894
Death of Jared	1422	2762
Birth of Shem	1558	2626
Death of Lamech	1651	2533
Death of Methuselah/The Flood	1656	2528
Birth of Arphaxad	1658	2526
Birth of Shelah	1693	2491
Birth of Eber	1723	2461
Birth of Peleg	1757	2427
Death of Noah	2006	2178
Birth of Reu	1787	2397
Birth of Serug	1819	2365
Birth of Nahor	1849	2335
Birth of Terah	1878	2306
Death of Peleg	1996	2188
Death of Nahor	1997	2187
Birth of Abram	2008	2176
Death of Reu	2026	2158
Death of Serug	2049	2135
Death of Terah/ Abram Enters Canaan	2083	2101
Death of Arphaxad	2096	2088
Death of Shelah	2126	2058
Death of Shem	2158	2026
Death of Eber	2187	1997

GENESIS is the first of five books written by Moses during the wilderness experience of Israel. It begins with Creation and ends with Joseph's death in Egypt. It was probably intended as a means of reconnecting the Israelis with their heritage in Canaan, as well as correcting the many historical and spiritual errors that had crept into their culture during their four-century stay in Egypt.

Days One through Five of the Creation Week¹¹ – The Beginning of God's Creation

- Genesis 1:1-23 (cf. John 1:1-3; Job 38:4-7¹²)

Day Six of the Creation Week

The Creation of Land Animals

- Genesis 1:24-25

God's Intention to Create Man and Woman

- Genesis 1:26

The Creation of Man and the Establishment of the Garden of Eden

- Genesis 2:4-17¹³ (cf. Genesis 1:27a)

- Ezekiel 28:12b-15a¹⁴

The Creation of Woman and God's Blessing on Man and Woman

- Genesis 2:18-31 (cf. Genesis 1:27b)

Day Seven of the Creation Week – God's Designation of a Weekly Sabbath¹⁵

- Genesis 2:1-3

Between the Establishment of the Garden of Eden and the Birth of Cain

The Plot of *Heylel*¹⁶

- Isaiah 14:12-14¹⁷

The First Sin and the Resultant Curse

- Genesis 3:1-24

The Angelic Coup Led by "the Dragon"

- Revelation 12:3-4a¹⁸

- Ezekiel 28:15b-17a

¹¹ The Hebrew word for "day" (*yom*), when used with an accompanying number, always indicates a normal night/day cycle, therefore the Creation Week was a literal week.

¹² The "stars" and "sons of God" in this passage are the spirit beings more commonly known as angels.

¹³ Genesis 2:4-25 is a more detailed account of God's creation of Man and Woman than Genesis 1:26-31.

¹⁴ While specifically addressing the King of Tyre, this text was also directed against the power behind that throne – the *Kerub* (a type of angel) of Eden who later became known as *Satan* (Hebrew for "adversary").

¹⁵ Hebrew: *Shabbath*, from the verb "to rest."

¹⁶ Hebrew: *Heylel* = Latin: *Lucifer* = "day star" (i.e., the planet Venus), the brightest star in the sky and apparently the given name of the *Kerub* of Eden, later known as *Satan*.

¹⁷ While specifically addressing the King of Babylon, this text was also directed against *Satan* who had wanted to occupy a throne "above the stars (angels) of God," and thus to be "like the Most High."

¹⁸ "The Dragon" (*Satan*) swept down "a third" (a significant minority) of the "stars" (angels) at some point after the creation of Man. This angelic coup cannot predate Adam and Eve since *Heylel* (*Satan*) was the *Kerub* of Eden "until unrighteousness was found in" him (Ezekiel 28:15b).

Between the Birth of Cain and the Flood

The Story of Cain and Abel

- Genesis 4:1-16

The Pre-Flood Generations of Humanity

The First Six

- (Via Cain) Genesis 4:17-18
- (Via Seth) Genesis 5:1-20 (cf. Genesis 4:25-26)

The Unrighteous Life of Lamech, the 7th Generation (via Cain)

- Genesis 4:19-24

The Righteous Life of Enoch, the 7th Generation (via Seth)

- Genesis 5:21-22
- Jude 14-15
- Genesis 5:23-24

The Final Pre-Flood Generations (via Seth)

- Genesis 5:25-32

God Punishes the Angels Who Sinned¹⁹

- Genesis 6:1-4
- Jude 6 (cf. 2 Peter 2:4)

God's Decision to Flood the World

- Genesis 6:5-22

Noah's 600th Year/Year of the Flood²⁰ - God's Destruction of the Pre-Flood World

- Genesis 7:1-8:12

Noah's 601st Year/Year after the Flood - God's Covenant with the Post-Flood World

- Genesis 8:13-9:17

Shortly after the Flood - Noah's Prophecy Regarding the Canaanite Ethnic Group

- Genesis 9:18-27 (cf. Genesis 10:15-20)

¹⁹ It was the unanimous belief of antiquity that the "sons of God" who married the "daughters of men" were fallen angels who chose to take human form. Both Peter and Jude seem to reference this event with that understanding in mind. It should be noted that, while angels who remained loyal to God sometimes took human form (always male) after this event, there is no Scriptural record of rebel angels ever doing so. Instead, they are described as "evil" or "unclean" spirits who interact with humanity by means of various occult practices, including demonic possession. These facts, when compared to Jesus' comments in Matthew 22:30, seem to indicate some divine prohibition, put into place around the time of the Flood, which prevented fallen angels from ever taking human form again.

²⁰ It intrigues me that the dates included within the Flood account indicate a calendar year of exactly 360 days. This renders a perfect, seven-year, repeating calendar consisting of 30-day (lunar) months set within 12-month (solar) years. It seems likely that the catastrophic nature of the Flood resulted in a less-than-perfect lunar month of about 29.5 days and a less-than-perfect solar year of roughly 365.25 days. The seven-year Sabbatical Cycle of Israel is probably all that remains as testimony to this perfect, pre-Flood, seven-year cycle.

Between the Flood and Abram's Entry into Canaan

The Establishment of Ancient Civilization:

Nimrod, Grandson of Ham, Establishes Cities in the Land of Shinar

➤ Genesis 10:6-10

God Stops the Construction of the Tower of Babel²¹

➤ Genesis 11:1-9

Nimrod Establishes Cities in Assyria

➤ Genesis 10:11-12

Hamites Establish Themselves in Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean Basin

➤ Genesis 10:13-20

Japhethites Establish Themselves in Europe and Western Asia

➤ Genesis 10:1-5

Shemites Establish Themselves in Mesopotamia and the Arabian Peninsula

➤ Genesis 10:21-32

Terah, the Father of Abram, Attempts to Move His Family from Ur to Canaan

➤ Genesis 11:10-31

2101/00 BC

After Terah's Death at Haran, Abram (75 years) Continues on to Canaan

➤ Genesis 11:32-12:9

Between 2101 and 2091 BC

Abram Temporarily Moves to Egypt During a Famine in Canaan

➤ Genesis 12:10-13:1

After Returning to Canaan, Lot Separates Himself from Abram

➤ Genesis 13:2-13

Abram Moves to Hebron

➤ Genesis 13:14-18

2091/90 BC

Abram Rescues Lot

➤ Genesis 14:1-24

God's Land Covenant with Abram (85 years)

➤ Genesis 15:1-21

The Controversy over Ishmael's Conception

➤ Genesis 16:1-14

2090/89 BC – Ishmael Born to Abram (86 years)

➤ Genesis 16:15-16

²¹ Genesis 10:25 may indicate that the division of nations associated with the Tower of Babel happened around the time of Peleg's birth since his name means "division" in the Hebrew language. Peleg's father was Eber, the ancestral namesake of the "Hebrew" people.

2077/76 BC

Abraham (99 years) Accepts the Covenant of Circumcision

➤ Genesis 17:1-27

Abraham Intercedes with God²² on behalf of Sodom

➤ Genesis 18:1-33

Angels Rescue Lot before Destroying Sodom²³

➤ Genesis 19:1-38

After Moving from Hebron, Abraham Has Trouble with Abimelech of Gerar

➤ Genesis 20:1-18

2076/75 BC – Isaac Born to Abraham (100 years) and Sarah (90 years)

➤ Genesis 21:1-7

Probably in 2075 or 2074 BC

Ishmael and Hagar Dismissed from Abram's Camp²⁴

➤ Genesis 21:8-21

Abraham Establishes the Beersheba Covenant with Abimelech of Gerar

➤ Genesis 21:22-34

Between 2074 and 2039 BC - God Tests Abraham at Mt. Moriah

➤ Genesis 22:1-24

2039/38 BC - Abraham (137 years) Buries Sarah at Hebron

➤ Genesis 23:1-20

2036/35 BC - Isaac (40 years) Marries Rebekah²⁵

➤ Genesis 24:1-67 (cf. Genesis 25:19-20)

Probably Between 2036 and 2017 BC - Abraham Marries Keturah and Has More Sons

➤ Genesis 25:1-4

2016/15 BC – Easu and Jacob Born to Isaac (60 years)²⁶

➤ Genesis 25:21-26

²² The text makes it very clear this is one of those rare occasions when God Himself temporarily took human form in order to personally interact with Abraham, accompanied by two angels who also appeared as men.

²³ The conception of Moab and Ben-ammi probably happened very shortly after the destruction of Sodom, when Lot's fearful withdrawal of his family from society made it seem unlikely to his daughters that their family line would survive. The later religious practices of both the Moabite and Ammonite ethnic groups included drunkenness and sexual activity intended to lead to pregnancy, although the children born as the result of such activity were burned alive as sacrifices to their false god (1 Kings 11:7; 2 Kings 23:10).

²⁴ Ishmael would have been in his mid-teens at this time.

²⁵ Rebekah was Abraham's grandniece, and therefore Isaac's cousin (Genesis 22:20-24).

²⁶ Abraham was 160 years old when his twin grandsons were born.

Probably Between 2016 and 2001 BC - Abraham Sends His Other Sons Eastward²⁷

- Genesis 25:5-6

2001/00 BC - Isaac (75 years) and Ishmael (89 years) Bury Abraham at Hebron²⁸

- Genesis 25:7-11

Probably Between 2001 and 1977 BC

Esau Sells His Birthright as Firstborn to Jacob

- Genesis 25:27-34

Isaac Moves from Hebron to Gerar

- Genesis 26:1-17

Isaac Re-establishes the Beersheba Covenant with Abimelech of Gerar

- Genesis 26:18-33

Beginning in 1976/75 BC - Esau (40 years) Marries Canaanite Women

- Genesis 26:34-35

1953/52 BC – The Death of Ishmael²⁹

- Genesis 25:12-18

1939/38 BC

Jacob Deceives Isaac (137 years) To Gain the Firstborn Blessing

- Genesis 27:1-41

Jacob (77 years)³⁰ Sent to Haran To Find a Wife Among His Relatives

- Genesis 27:42-28:7

Esau Marries an Ishmaelite In Order To Please His Parents

- Genesis 28:8-9

Jacob Experiences a Vision of God at Bethel

- Genesis 28:10-22

Jacob Covenants with Laban To Acquire Rachel as His Wife³¹

- Genesis 29:1-19

1932/31 BC - Jacob (84 years) Deceived into Marrying Rachel's Sister Leah First

- Genesis 29:20-30

²⁷ In doing so, Abraham indicated that only Isaac's line had a legitimate right to the "Promised Land" of Canaan. Abraham's other descendants established their own territories east of the Jordan River.

²⁸ Abraham's twin grandsons were 15 years old when their grandfather died.

²⁹ Ishmael's descendants established and operated trade routes between the lands of Midian, Gilead, Canaan and Egypt [Genesis 37:25-28; 39:1; Judges 6:1-8:28 (noting specifically 8:24)].

³⁰ It would appear that the long lives of the patriarchs were accompanied by (according to our modern standards) a delay in both marriage and child rearing. Although Jacob seems to have delayed even longer than the norm for his generation (his father and brother both married at age 40), he should not be considered excessively old at age 77, since he lived on to be 147. This would be roughly equivalent to a modern man delaying marriage until age 37 and then living on to be 70.

³¹ Laban was Jacob's maternal uncle, making Rachel his cousin.

Between 1932 and 1925 BC - Many Children Born to Jacob in Haran

- Genesis 29:31-30:21

1925/24 BC

Joseph Born to Jacob (91 years)

- Genesis 30:22-24

Jacob Covenants with Laban to Continue Serving Him

- Genesis 30:25-36

Between 1925 and 1919 BC – Jacob Prospers by Divine Guidance

- Genesis 30:37-43 (cf. 31:9-13)

1919/18 BC

Jacob (97 years) Ends His Relationship with Laban

- Genesis 31:1-55

Jacob Reconciles with Esau near Penuel

- Genesis 32:1-33:15

Esau Returns to Mt. Seir³²

- Genesis 33:16

Jacob Camps at Succoth

- Genesis 33:17

Between 1919 and 1908 BC

Jacob Camps at Shechem

- Genesis 33:18-20

Trouble at Shechem³³

- Genesis 34:1-31

Jacob Returns to Bethel

- Genesis 35:1-15

Rachel Dies Giving Birth to Benjamin at Bethlehem

- Genesis 35:16-20

Jacob Moves to Hebron

- Genesis 35:21-27

1908/07 BC - Joseph (17 years) Sold into Slavery by His Brothers³⁴

- Genesis 37:1-36

While Joseph Was in Egypt - Judah Becomes the Father of Perez and Zerah

- Genesis 38:1-30

³² Esau was also known as Edom. He and his descendants occupied the territory south of the Dead Sea, which was formerly held by the descendants of Seir the Horite (Genesis 36:1-43), and which was later called Edom.

³³ Dinah was at least a teenager at the time of this incident.

³⁴ Jacob was 108 years old when Joseph was sold into slavery.

Between 1908 and 1897 BC

Joseph's Life as the Slave of Potiphar

- Genesis 39:1-20

Joseph's Life as a Prison Trustee

- Genesis 39:21-23

1897/96 BC - Joseph (28 years old) Interprets Dreams for Members of Pharaoh's Court

- Genesis 40:1-23

1896/95 BC - Esau and Jacob (120 years) Bury Isaac at Hebron

- Genesis 35:28-29

1895/94 BC - Joseph (30 years) Appointed Administrator of Pharaoh's Kingdom

- Genesis 41:1-46

Between 1894 and 1888 BC - Joseph Stores Grain

- Genesis 41:47-52

1887/86 BC = 1st Year of the Famine

Joseph (38 years) Sells Grain as the Seven Year Famine Begins

- Genesis 41:53-57

Joseph Keeps His Identity Secret from His Brothers

- Genesis 42:1-38

1886/85 BC = 2nd Year of the Famine

Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers

- Genesis 43:1-45:28

Jacob (130 years) Moves His Family to Egypt

- Genesis 46:1-47:12

Beginning in 1886 BC - Joseph Brings All of Egypt under the Authority of Pharaoh³⁵

- Genesis 47:13-26

1869/68 BC

Jacob's Final Words and Death in Egypt

- Genesis 47:27-49:33

Joseph (56 years) and His Brothers Bury Jacob at Hebron

- Genesis 50:1-14

Joseph Covenants To Care for His Brothers

- Genesis 50:15-21

1815/14 BC - Joseph's Final Words and Death in Egypt

- Genesis 50:22-26

³⁵ Sesostri III is generally credited with bringing all of Egypt under the control of the crown. His father, Sesostri II, inaugurated extensive irrigation works at Faiyum, which were finally completed by his grandson Ammenemes III. Joseph probably served all three of these Pharaohs.

JOB recounts the supernatural testing of Job, a resident of Uz (1:1).³⁶ Two of the men mentioned in this book were descendants of Abraham - Eliphaz the Temanite³⁷ and Bildad the Shuhite³⁸ - clearly indicating a date after the time of Abraham. Since there is no mention of the nation of Israel, it probably predates their exodus from Egypt.

➤ Job 1:1-42:17³⁹

We now return to the foundational books of Moses. **EXODUS** deals with events leading up to and during the first two years of Israel's Exodus from Egypt. **LEVITICUS** focuses upon the establishment of the Tabernacle and the Priesthood during the 2nd Year of the Exodus. **NUMBERS** tackles a variety of events and topics from the 2nd and 40th Years of the Exodus.

Sometime Between 1815 and 1536 BC – Israelis Enslaved by the Egyptians⁴⁰

➤ Exodus 1:1-14

1536/35 BC - Moses Rescued from the Nile by Pharaoh's Daughter⁴¹

➤ Exodus 1:15-2:10

1496/95 BC - Moses (40 years) Escapes to Midian after Killing an Egyptian⁴²

➤ Exodus 2:11-25

1457/56 BC - Yahweh⁴³ Commissions Moses To Lead the Exodus

➤ Exodus 3:1-4:26

Winter/Spring of 1456 BC – Demonstrations of Yahweh's Power⁴⁴

➤ Exodus 4:27-11:10

³⁶ Uz was located somewhere east of the Jordan (1:3), where Abraham sent all his sons, other than Isaac, in order for them to establish their own territories (Genesis 25:6). It may have been named by, or perhaps in honor of, the firstborn son of Abram's brother Nahor (Job 32:2; Genesis 22:20). According to Lamentations 4:21, it included the region of Mt. Seir/Edom (Lamentations 4:21).

³⁷ Either via Ishmael (Genesis 25:14) or via Esau (36:11).

³⁸ Via Keturah (Genesis 25:2).

³⁹ Despite what is indicated by footnotes in some modern Bible versions, the animals referred to by God as evidence of His unique creative abilities – *Behemoth* (40:15) and *Leviathan* (41:1) – have no English equivalent. Even though the Greek-speaking Jews who produced the Septuagint were certainly familiar with both the hippopotamus and the crocodile, they elected not to identify them as the creatures mentioned to Job, using instead the terms *therion* ("beast") and *drakon* ("dragon"). Given the descriptions, I think it very likely that these animals were two types of what we now call *dinosaurs*.

⁴⁰ Perhaps the Israelis were enslaved by the, so-called, *Huksoi* - foreigners who gained control of Egypt shortly after the death of Joseph. However, it is possible that the enslavement came during the *xenophobia* ("fear of foreigners") that arose when Ahmose expelled the *Huksoi* not long before the birth of Moses.

⁴¹ Amenophis was probably Pharaoh when Moses was born.

⁴² Thutmose III was probably Pharaoh at the time of Moses' escape to Midian.

⁴³ See Chart 5: *Yahweh* – The Covenant Name of God.

⁴⁴ Amenophis II was probably the Pharaoh of the Exodus.

Chart 5 *Y^aHW^eH* - The Covenant Name of God

During the Mosaic Period

When Moses asked which “god” he was to tell the Israelis had sent him to deliver them, the Creator instructed him to tell them that “*I AM*” had sent him to them, and furthermore, that this was to be His covenant name with the nation of Israel from then on (Exodus 3:13-15).

אֲדֹנָי *'hyh* - “*I AM (EXIST)*” = Imperfect, 1st Common Singular of הֵיְהִי *hyh* - “to be” or “to exist”

Instead of awkwardly referring to the Creator as “*I AM*,” the Israelis said of Him, “*HE EXISTS (IS)*.”

יְהוָה *yhwh* - “*HE EXISTS (IS)*” = Imperfect, 3rd Masculine Singular of הוּוֹה *hwh* = “to exist” or “to be”

Sometime Before the New Testament Period

At some point in their history, probably because of a strict understanding of Exodus 20:7, the Israelis began to verbally substitute a kingly title for the covenant name *Yahweh*.

אֲדֹנָי *'dn* = “Lord” or, more specifically, אֲדֹנָי *'dny* = “Lord of me” or “my Lord”

During the Masoretic Period

Until about AD 700, written Hebrew consisted of consonants. When the Masoretes (European, Jewish scribes) developed vowel markings (or “points”), they placed the vowel pointing for the kingly title with the four consonants of the covenant name (simply as a visual cue for readers to make the traditional substitution of *'dny* for *Yhwh*), producing a hybrid word that was never intended to be read as written.

The vowel points of אֲדֹנָי *'dny* plus the consonants of יְהוָה *yhwh* now become יְהוָה *Y^eH^wa^h*

At the Beginning of the Protestant Era

Unfortunately, when German scholars began translating the Hebrew Old Testament into their own language during the 1500’s, they simply transliterated the covenant name exactly as they saw it written in the Masoretic text. English scholars, building on the German work, also failed to differentiate between the Masoretic reading cue and the actual covenant name. In fact, they compounded the error by ignoring the phonetic fact that the German letters “J” and “V” are technically equivalent to the English letters “Y” and “W.” Thus, most English Bibles ended up with a completely incorrect pronunciation of the covenant name.

JEHOVAH

Today

Rather than using the actual covenant name of *Yahweh*, most of today’s versions designate it with a specially formatted typeset of an initial capital L, with the rest of the word in slightly smaller capitals.⁴⁵

LORD

I personally use the name *Yahweh* as my own means of conforming to the spirit of Exodus 3:15.

⁴⁵ You should check the introductory articles of your particular Bible version to see how its editors handled presentation of the covenant name.

Year Beginning 1*1 in 1456 BC = The Year of the Exodus

1*14⁴⁶ - Festivals of Passover and Unleavened Bread Established

- Exodus 12:1-28

1*15⁴⁷ - Moses (80 years) Leads Israel out of Egypt

- Exodus 12:29-13:19 (cf. Numbers 33:1-4)

1*16 = Sabbath⁴⁸ - Sabbath Rest at Succoth

- Numbers 33:5 (cf. Exodus 12:37)

Between 1*17 and 2*14⁴⁹

Israel Travels from Succoth to Migdol

- Exodus 13:20-14:4 (cf. Numbers 33:6-7)

Israel Miraculously Crosses the Red Sea

- Exodus 14:5-15:21 (cf. Numbers 33:8a)

Water Miraculously Provided by *Yahweh* at Marah

- Exodus 15:22-26 (cf. Numbers 33:8b)

Israel Travels from Marah to the Wilderness of Sin

- Exodus 15:27 (cf. Numbers 33:9)

Israel Camps Beside the Red Sea

- Numbers 33:10

2*15 - Sabbath⁵⁰ - Israel Encamps in the Wilderness of Sin

- Exodus 16:1-12 (cf. Numbers 33:11)

2*16⁵¹ – *Yahweh* Miraculously Provides Meat and *Manna*⁵²

- Exodus 16:13-19

2*17⁵³ - Leftover *Manna* Spoils

- Exodus 16:20

2*21⁵⁴ – Double Ration of *Manna* Provided

- Exodus 16:21-23

2*22 = Sabbath⁵⁵ – Sabbath Rest

- Exodus 16:24-36

⁴⁶ WED/THU 13/14 APR in 1456 BC.

⁴⁷ THU/FRI 14/15 APR in 1456 BC.

⁴⁸ FRI/SAT 15/16 APR in 1456 BC.

⁴⁹ Between SAT/SUN 16/17 APR and THU/FRI 12/13 MAY in 1456 BC.

⁵⁰ FRI/SAT 13/14 MAY in 1456 BC.

⁵¹ SAT/SUN 14/15 MAY in 1456 BC.

⁵² Hebrew for “What is it?”

⁵³ SUN/MON 15/16 MAY in 1456 BC.

⁵⁴ THU/FRI 19/20 MAY in 1456 BC.

⁵⁵ FRI/SAT 20/21 MAY in 1456 BC.

1456/55 BC = The Year of the Exodus (continued)

Between 2*23 and 2*30⁵⁶

Israel Travels from the Wilderness of Sin to Rephidim

- Numbers 33:12-14 (cf. Exodus 17:1)

Problems at Rephidim/Massah/Meribah

- Exodus 17:2-16

Moses' Father-in-law Arrives with Zipporah and Moses' Two Sons

- Exodus 18:1-23, 27

3*1⁵⁷ - Israel Encamps at Mt. Sinai

- Exodus 19:1-2 (cf. Numbers 33:15)

Probably 3*5⁵⁸ - Moses Prepares Israel to Meet with *Yahweh*

- Exodus 19:3-15

3*6 = Sabbath⁵⁹ – Sabbath Rest

Probably 3*7 = Pentecost⁶⁰

Yahweh Addresses Israel

- Exodus 19:16-20:21

Yahweh Gives Additional Instructions to Moses

- Exodus 20:22-24:4a

Probably 3*8⁶¹ - Covenant Confirmed with Blood and a Fellowship Meal

- Exodus 24:4b-12

Probably 3*8-13⁶² - Moses Waits for *Yahweh*

- Exodus 24:13-16a

Probably Between 3*14 and 4*23⁶³

Moses Spends 40 Days with *Yahweh*

- Exodus 24:16b-18

Moses Shown the Tabernacle Plan

- Exodus 25:1-27:21

Moses Given Instructions about the Priesthood

- Exodus 28:1-29:46

Moses Shown More of the Tabernacle Plan

- Exodus 30:1-31:11

Instructions Regarding the Sabbath

- Exodus 31:12-17 (cf. Numbers 15:35)

Sabbath Breaker Confined⁶⁴

- Numbers 15:32-34

⁵⁶ Between SAT/SUN 21/22 and SAT/SUN 28/29 MAY in 1456 BC

⁵⁷ SUN/MON 29/30 MAY in 1456 BC

⁵⁸ THU/FRI 2/3 JUN in 1456 BC.

⁵⁹ FRI/SAT 3/4 JUN in 1456 BC.

⁶⁰ SAT/SUN 4/5 JUN in 1456 BC. Jewish tradition places this event on Pentecost.

⁶¹ SUN/MON 5/6 JUN in 1456 BC.

⁶² SUN/MON 5/6 JUN – FRI/SAT 10/11 JUN in 1456 BC

⁶³ Between SAT/SUN 11/12 JUN and WED/THU 20/21 JUL in 1456 BC.

⁶⁴ This event probably took place on one of the five *Sabbaths* that transpired while Moses was on Mt. Sinai for his first 40-day conference with *Yahweh*. It happened after the *Sabbath* commandment was first given (Exodus 20:8-11), but before Moses could be consulted regarding the actual penalty for violating the Sabbath (Exodus 31:12-18).

1456/55 BC = The Year of the Exodus (continued)

4*23⁶⁵ – Aaron Makes a Golden Calf to Represent *Yahweh*⁶⁶

- Exodus 32:1-5

4*24⁶⁷ - Moses Returns from Mt. Sinai

Yahweh Gives Moses the Two Stone Tablets Containing the 10 Commandments

- Exodus 31:18

Moses Destroys the Two Stone Tablets and the Golden Calf

- Exodus 32:6-29

4*25 = **Sabbath**⁶⁸ - Moses Intercedes for Israel

- Exodus 32:30-34:3

Between 4*26 and 6*6⁶⁹ - Moses Spends 40 More Days with *Yahweh*

- Exodus 34:4-28

Probably 6*6⁷⁰

Moses Addresses Israel about the Covenant

- Exodus 34:29-35

Sabbath Breaker Stoned

- Exodus 35:1-3

- Numbers 15:36

Special Instructions Regarding Remembrance Tassels

- Numbers 15:37-41

Moses Addresses Israel about the Tabernacle

- Exodus 35:4-20

During the Second Half of the Year

Elements of the Tabernacle Manufactured

- Exodus 35:21-38:31

High Priestly Clothing Prepared

- Exodus 39:1-43

⁶⁵ WED/THU 20/21 JUL in 1456 BC.

⁶⁶ Aaron clearly intended the calf to be a physical representation of *Yahweh* - the unseen God who had brought Israel out of Egypt. This was an early attempt to worship *Yahweh* in the familiar manner of the idolatrous cultures of the world. Such attempts at syncretistic worship were never acceptable to *Yahweh*.

⁶⁷ THU/FRI 21/22 JUL in 1456 BC.

⁶⁸ FRI/SAT 22/23 JUL in 1456 BC.

⁶⁹ Between SAT/SUN 23/24 JUL and WED/THU 31 AUG/1 SEP in 1456 BC.

⁷⁰ WED/THU 31 AUG/1 SEP in 1456 BC.

Year Beginning 1*1 in 1455 BC = 2nd Year of the Exodus

1*1⁷¹

Tabernacle Assembled for the 1st Time

➤ Exodus 40:1-33 (cf. Numbers 7:1)

Aaron and His Sons Anointed as Priests

➤ Leviticus 8:1-36 (cf. Exodus 40:31-32)

➤ Numbers 8:1-4

Dedicatory Gift from the Tribe of Judah⁷²

➤ Numbers 7:2-17

1*2-7⁷³ - Gifts from Issachar, Zebulun, Reuben, Simeon, Gad and Ephraim

➤ Numbers 7:18, 24, 30, 36, 42, 48

1*8⁷⁴

Gift from the Tribe of Manasseh

➤ Numbers 7:54

Aaron Presents Offerings for the Tabernacle Dedication

➤ Leviticus 9:1-23a

Aaron Dedicates the Levites for Tabernacle Service

➤ Numbers 3:5-13

➤ Numbers 8:5-26

Aaron Blesses the People

➤ Leviticus 9:23b

➤ Numbers 6:22-27

The Glory of *Yahweh* Appears in the Tabernacle

➤ Leviticus 9:23c-24 (cf. Exodus 40:34-38; Number 9:15-23)

Nadab and Abihu Struck Down by *Yahweh* After Entering the Holy of Holies

➤ Leviticus 10:1-20 (cf. Numbers 3:1-5)

1*9-12⁷⁵ - Gifts from Manasseh, Benjamin, Dan, Asher and Naphtali

➤ Numbers 7:54, 60, 66, 72, 78, 84-89

1*14⁷⁶ – Israel Observes the Feast of Passover

➤ Numbers 9:1-14

2*1⁷⁷ - *Yahweh* Orders a Census of Israel

➤ Numbers 1:1-19

2*? – *Yahweh* Orders a Census of the Levites and Outlines Their Tabernacle Duties

➤ Numbers 3:14-16, 40-51

➤ Numbers 4:1-49

2*? – *Yahweh* Orders Two Silver Trumpets Made

➤ Numbers 10:1-10

⁷¹ TUE/WED 18/19 APR in 1455 BC.

⁷² The dedicatory gift from each tribe was exactly the same.

⁷³ WED/THU 19/20 – MON/TUE 24/25 APR of 1455 BC.

⁷⁴ TUE/WED 25/26 APR of 1455 BC

⁷⁵ WED/THU 26/27 – SAT/SUN 29/30 APR of 1455 BC

⁷⁶ MON/TUE 1/2 MAY in 1455 BC.

⁷⁷ THU/FRI 18/19 MAY in 1455 BC.

Chart 6
Sacrificial Guidelines For Priests

Summarized from Leviticus 1:1-7:38 (cf. Numbers 5:4-10; 15:1-31)

BURNT OFFERING	GRAIN OFFERING	PEACE OFFERING	SIN OFFERING	GUILT OFFERING
For Atonement	For Memorial	For Thanksgiving	For Confession	For Restitution
From Herd or Flock	Raw, Baked or Fried Fine Flour	From Herd or Flock	From Herd or Flock	Ram
Male		Male or Female	Male or Female	Male
Without Defect	Without Leaven or Honey	Without Defect	Without Defect	Without Defect
Blood: Sprinkled At the Altar		Blood: Sprinkled At the Altar	Blood: Sprinkled Before the Veil; Smeared on the Altar of Incense; Poured Out At the Altar Base	Blood: Sprinkled At the Altar
Washed Completely	Oil and Incense Added			Mandatory 120% Restitution
Entirely Burnt	Portion Burnt	Fat, Kidneys, & Gall Bladder Burnt	Fat, Kidneys, & Gall Bladder Burnt	Fat, Kidneys, & Gall Bladder Burnt
	Rest Eaten By Priests	Breast & Right Thigh Given to Priests, Rest Eaten By the Israeli	Rest Burnt Outside Camp	Rest Eaten By Priests, Hide Given to Officiating Priest
Poor May Substitute Doves			Poor May Substitute Doves/Grain	

Chart 7
1st Census, Encampment and Order of March For Israel

Summarized from Numbers 1:1-4:49 (cf. Numbers 10:14-28)

Tribe	Number of Males (over 20)	Tribal Leader	Encampment Site	Order of March
Levi: Aaron Clan (The Priests)		Aaron the High Priest	East of Tabernacle	
Judah	74,600	Nahshon Son of Amminadab	East of Tabernacle	1
Issachar	54,400	Nethanel Son of Zuar	With Judah	1a
Zebulun	57,400	Eliab Son of Helon	With Judah	1b
Levi: Gershon Clan	(20-50 years) ⁷⁸ 2,630	Eliasaph Son of Lael	West of Tabernacle	2
Levi: Merari Clan	(20-50 years) ⁷⁹ 3,200]	Zuriel Son of Abihail	North of Tabernacle	2
Reuben	46,500	Elizur Son of Shedeur	South of Tabernacle	3
Simeon	59,300	Shelumiel Son of Zurishaddai	With Reuben	3a
Gad	45,650	Eliasaph Son of Deuel	With Reuben	3b
Levi: Kohath Clan	(20-50 years) ⁸⁰ 2,750	Elizaphan Son of Uzziel	South of Tabernacle	4
Ephraim	40,500	Elishama Son of Ammihud	West of Tabernacle	5
Manasseh	32,200	Gamaliel Son of Pedahzur	With Ephraim	5a
Benjamin	35,400	Abidan Son of Gideon	With Ephraim	5b
Dan	62,700	Ahiezer Son of Ammishaddai	North of Tabernacle	6
Asher	41,500	Pagiel Son of Ocran	With Dan	6a
Naphtali	53,400	Ahira Son of Enan	With Dan	6b

⁷⁸ 7,500 over 1 month old.

⁷⁹ 6,200 over 1 month old.

⁸⁰ 8,600 over 1 month old.

1455/54 BC = 2nd Year of the Exodus (continued)

Perhaps During the 2nd Month

Moses Given Special Instructions Regarding:

Diet, Childbirth, Leprosy, Sexual Cleanliness, Blood and Illicit Sex

➤ Leviticus 11:1-18:30

Holy Conduct Expected of the Israelis

➤ Leviticus 19:1-20:27

Holy Conduct Expected of the Priests

➤ Leviticus 21:1-22:33

The Mandatory Observances

➤ Leviticus 23:1-44

The Priestly Maintenance of the *Menorah* and Bread of the Presence

➤ Leviticus 24:1-9

Execution of a Blasphemer

➤ Leviticus 24:10-23

The Sabbatical Cycle

➤ Leviticus 25:1-26:46

Yahweh Orders Water Prepared for Ceremonial Cleansing

➤ Numbers 19:1-22

All Unclean Persons Ordered Outside the Camp of Israel

➤ Numbers 5:1-4

Restitution

➤ Numbers 5:5-10

Suspected Adultery

➤ Numbers 5:11-31

Vows

➤ Numbers 6:1-21

➤ Leviticus 27:1-34

2*14⁸¹ - Alternate Passover Held (per Numbers 9:6-14)

2*20⁸²

After Sunset?

The Glory of *Yahweh* Moves from above the Tabernacle

➤ Numbers 10:11

Next Day

Israel Departs Mt. Sinai, Following the Glory of *Yahweh* Toward Paran

➤ Numbers 10:12-28

➤ Numbers 10:29-32 (cf. Exodus 18:27)

➤ Numbers 10:33-35 (cf. Numbers 33:16a)

⁸¹ WED/THU 31 MAY/1 JUN in 1455 BC.

⁸² TUE/WED 6/7 JUN in 1455 BC.

1455/54 BC = 2nd Year of the Exodus (continued)

2*21⁸³ - *Yahweh* Executes Complainers at Taberah⁸⁴

- Numbers 11:1-3

2*22⁸⁵ – Encampment at Kibroth-hattaavah after Three Days' Travel

- Numbers 10:36 (per Numbers 10:33; cf. Numbers 33:16b)

2*23 = Sabbath⁸⁶ - Sabbath Rest at Kibroth-hattaavah⁸⁷

Late 2nd and/or Early 3rd Month⁸⁸

Moses Establishes a Multi-Level Leadership Model

- Numbers 11:4-30
- Exodus 18:24-26 (cf. Deuteronomy 1:6-19)⁸⁹

Yahweh Executes More Complainers at Kibroth-hattaavah

- Numbers 11:31-35

During the 4th Month and 5th Months⁹⁰

Miriam Struck with Leprosy at Hazeroth

- Numbers 12:1-15 (cf. Numbers 33:17)

Encampment in the Wilderness of Paran/Kadesh-barnea

- Numbers 12:16

Spies Sent into Canaan from the Wilderness of Paran/Kadesh-barnea

- Numbers 13:1-20

6th Month⁹¹

After Forty Days, the Spies Return with Their Report

- Numbers 13:21-33

Yahweh Judges Israel for Their Rebellion

- Numbers 14:1-45

Probably Shortly After Israel Was Refused Entrance Into Canaan By *Yahweh*⁹²

The Rebellion of Korah and the Dedication of the Levites

- Numbers 16:1-18:32

Between 1455 and 1417 BC

Israel Wanders in the Wilderness

- Numbers 33:18-36a
- Psalm 90 Written⁹³

⁸³ WED/THU 7/8 JUN in 1455 BC.

⁸⁴ Taberah was the midway point between Mt. Sinai and Kibroth-hattavah, therefore this event must have taken place at this time.

⁸⁵ THU/FRI 8/9 JUN in 1455 BC.

⁸⁶ FRI/SAT 9/10 JUN in 1455 BC.

⁸⁷ Israel followed the ark three days journey from Mt. Sinai in order “to seek out a resting place” – a phrase which I take as a reference to the weekly *Sabbath*. Kibroth-hattaavah is listed as the first encampment site after Mt. Sinai (Numbers 33:16).

⁸⁸ 3*1 = FRI/SAT 16/17 JUN in 1455 BC. Although the text does not expressly state it, I think Israel may have remained at Kibroth-hattaavah for the entire month it took to consume the meat provided by *Yahweh*.

⁸⁹ Moses apparently delayed implementing his father-in-law's advice until Israel departed Mt. Sinai.

⁹⁰ 4*1 = SUN/MON 16/17 JUL in 1455 BC. 5*1 = MON/TUE 14/15 AUG IN 1455 BC.

⁹¹ 6*1 = WED/THU 13/14 SEP IN 1455 BC. The spies brought back a single cluster of grapes, indicating that it was the time of summer fruits, i.e., the 6th Month.

⁹² The exact placement of this event is uncertain.

Year Beginning 1*1 in 1417 BC = 40th Year of the Exodus

1st Month⁹⁴ – Israel Returns to Kadesh-barnea

- Numbers 20:1a (cf. Numbers 33:36b)

During the 1st through 4th Months

The Death of Miram

- Numbers 20:1b

Yahweh Rebukes Moses for His Attitude at Meribah

- Numbers 20:2-13

Edom Refuses Safe Passage to Israel

- Numbers 20:14-21

Israel Encamps at Mt. Hor

- Numbers 20:22 (Numbers 33:37)

5*1 = Sabbath⁹⁵ - Death of Aaron⁹⁶

- Numbers 20:23-29 (cf. Numbers 33:38-39)

During the 6th through 10th Months

Israel Repels an Attack by Arad

- Numbers 21:1-3 (cf. Numbers 33:40)

Complainers Killed by Serpents at Punon

- Numbers 21:4-9 (cf. Numbers 33:41-42)

Israel Travels from Punon, around Edom, to Mt. Pisgah/Nebo

- Numbers 21:10-20 (cf. Numbers 33:43-47)

Israel Defeats the Amorites and the Bashanites

- Numbers 21:21-35

Israel Encamps at Abel-shittim, beside the Jordan River

- Numbers 33:48-49 (cf. Numbers 22:1)

Toward the End of the Year

The Story of Balaam the Prophet

- Numbers 22:2-25:18

2nd Census Taken in Preparation for Allotment of the Land⁹⁷

- Numbers 26:1-4, 52-56, 63-65

- Numbers 27:1-11

Joshua Appointed to Succeed Moses

- Numbers 27:12-23

Further Instructions Regarding Offerings, Festivals and Vows

- Numbers 28:1-30:16

Retribution upon Balaam and the Midianites

- Numbers 31:1-54

Trans-Jordan Region Assigned to Gad, Reuben and ½ of Manasseh

- Numbers 32:1-42

Instructions Regarding the Occupation of Canaan

- Numbers 33:50-36:13

⁹³ This is apparently the oldest psalm in the book of Psalms. Note its focus upon sin, judgment and the mortality of humanity, all of which were part of the Israeli wilderness experience.

⁹⁴ 1*1 = SUN/MON 20/21 MAR in 1417 BC.

⁹⁵ FRI/SAT 15/16 JUL in 1417 BC.

⁹⁶ Aaron died at the age of 123, having been born in Egypt around 1540 BC.

⁹⁷ See Chart 8: 2nd Census for Israel.

Chart 8
2nd Census for Israel

Summarized from Numbers 26:5-65 (cf. Numbers 34:16-28)

Tribe	Number of Males (over 20 years)	Tribal Leader	Gain or Loss Since 1 st Census
Reuben (Trans-Jordan)	43,730	None listed	-2,770
Simeon	22,200	Samuel Son of Ammihud	-37,100
Gad (Trans-Jordan)	40,500	None listed	-5,150
Judah	76,500	Caleb Son of Jephunneh	+1,900
Issachar	54,300	Paltiel Son of Azzan	-100
Zebulun	60,500	Elizaphan Son of Parnach	+3,100
Ephraim	32,500	Kemuel Son of Shiphtan	-8,000
Manasseh	52,700	Hanniel Son of Ephod	+20,500
Benjamin	45,600	Elidad Son of Chislon	+10,200
Dan	64,400	Bukki Son of Jogli	+1,700
Asher	53,400	Ahihud Son of Shelomi	+11,900
Naphtali	45,400	Pedahel Son of Ammihud	+8,000
Levites	* ⁹⁸ *		+1,000

⁹⁸ 23,000 over 1 month.

1417/16 BC = 40th Year of the Exodus (continued)

11*1⁹⁹ - Moses Delivers His Farewell Address to Israel

DEUTERONOMY is the fifth and final book written by Moses. It is basically a transcript of his farewell address. Moses left specific instructions that it was to be read publicly during the Feast of Tabernacles at the start of each Sabbatical Year. His stated intention was that, through regular repetition of his summary of their wilderness experience, Israel would remain faithful to Yahweh (Deuteronomy 31:9-13).

➤ Deuteronomy 1:1-30:20

Before the End of the Year¹⁰⁰

The Song and Blessing of Moses

➤ Deuteronomy 31:14-33:29

The Death of Moses

➤ Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Year Beginning 1*1 in 1416 BC = 41st Year of the Exodus

1*6¹⁰¹ - Spies Escape from Jericho, Hiding for Three Days

➤ Joshua 2:1-22

1*7 = **Sabbath**¹⁰² - People Ordered to Prepare for Crossing the Jordan in Three Days

➤ Joshua 1:1-18

1*9¹⁰³

Probably after Sunset - Spies Report to Joshua

➤ Joshua 2:23-24

During the Day - Israel Moves from Abel-shittim to the Bank of the Jordan River

➤ Joshua 3:1-6

1*10¹⁰⁴ - Israel Miraculously Crosses the Jordan

➤ Joshua 3:6-4:24

1*? - Circumcision Reestablished

➤ Joshua 5:1-9

1*14-21¹⁰⁵ - 1st Passover/Unleavened Bread Observed in Canaan

➤ Joshua 5:10-12

⁹⁹ MON/TUE 9/10 JAN in 1416 BC.

¹⁰⁰ 12*1 = WED/THU 8/9 FEB in 1416 BC. 13*1 = THU/FRI 9/10 MAR in 1416 BC.

¹⁰¹ THU/FRI 13/14 APR in 1416 BC

¹⁰² FRI/SAT 14/15 APR in 1416 BC

¹⁰³ SUN/MON 16/17 APR in 1416 BC

¹⁰⁴ MON/TUE 17/18 APR in 1416 BC

¹⁰⁵ FRI/SAT 21/22 – FRI/SAT 28/29 APR in 1416 BC.

Chart 9 Israeli Seven-Year Sabbatical Cycle

Detailed in Leviticus 25 and Deuteronomy 15

Shortly after Israel entered the land of Canaan in the spring of 1416 BC, the *manna* on which they had subsisted for the past forty years ended (Joshua 5:12), necessitating the planting of their very first crops during the fall of that year. This meant that the 1st Sabbatical Year began on 7*1 in the 47th Year of the Exodus.

Subsequent Sabbatical Years began in the 7th Month of the following years:

1410	1403	1396	1389	1382	1375	1368	Jubilee 1 =	1367
1361	1354	1347	1340	1333	1326	1319	Jubilee 2 =	1318
1312	1305	1298	1291	1284	1277	1270	Jubilee 3 =	1269
1263	1256	1249	1242	1235	1228	1221	Jubilee 4 =	1220
1214	1207	1200	1193	1186	1179	1172	Jubilee 5 =	1171
1165	1158	1151	1144	1137	1130	1123	Jubilee 6 =	1122
1116	1109	1102	1095	1088	1081	1074	Jubilee 7 =	1073
1067	1060	1053	1046	1039	1032	1025	Jubilee 8 =	1024
1018	1011	1004	997	990	983	976	Jubilee 9 =	975
969	962	955	948	941	934	927	Jubilee 10 =	926
920	913	906	899	892	885	878	Jubilee 11 =	877
871	864	857	850	843	836	829	Jubilee 12 =	828
822	815	808	801	794	787	780	Jubilee 13 =	779
773	766	759	752	745	738	731	Jubilee 14 =	730
724	717	710	703	696	689	682	Jubilee 15 =	681
675	668	661	654	647	640	633	Jubilee 16 =	632
626	619	612	605	598	591	584	Jubilee 17 =	583
577	570	563	556	549	542	535	Jubilee 18 =	534
528	521	514	507	500	493	486	Jubilee 19 =	485
479	472	465	458	451	* ¹⁰⁶ * 444	437	Jubilee 20 =	436
430	423	416	409	402	395	388	Jubilee 21 =	387
381	374	367	360	353	346	339	Jubilee 22 =	338
332	325	318	311	304	297	290	Jubilee 23 =	289
293	276	269	262	255	248	241	Jubilee 24 =	240
234	227	220	213	206	199	192	Jubilee 25 =	191
195	178	171	* ¹⁰⁷ * 164	157	150	143	Jubilee 26 =	142
* ¹⁰⁸ * 136	129	122	115	108	101	94	Jubilee 27 =	93
97	80	73	66	59	52	45	Jubilee 28 =	44
* ¹⁰⁹ * 38	31	24	17	10	3	AD 5	Jubilee 29 =	AD 6
AD 12	AD 19	AD 26	AD 33	AD 40	AD 47	AD 54	Jubilee 30 =	AD 55
AD 61	AD 68	AD 75	AD 82	AD 89	AD 96	AD 103	Jubilee 31 =	AD 104

F.Y.I.¹¹⁰

1972	1979	1986	1993	2000	2007	2014	Jubilee 70 =	2015
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¹⁰⁶ Indicated by the public reading of *Deuteronomy* during the 7th Month (Nehemiah 8:1ff; cf. 2:1; 6:15ff).

¹⁰⁷ Specifically cited in 1 Maccabees 6:49,53 (cf. 1 Maccabees 6:20-63).

¹⁰⁸ Specifically cited in 1 Maccabees 16:14ff and *Antiquities* 13.8.1-2.

¹⁰⁹ Specifically cited in *Antiquities* 14.16.

¹¹⁰ If, like me, you're curious as to where we're at on this cycle today, here's the information.

1416 BC = 41st Year of the Exodus (continued)

During the Spring

- Destruction of Jericho
 - Joshua 5:13-6:27
- Israel Routed at the Battle of Ai
 - Joshua 7:1-26
- Destruction of Ai
 - Joshua 8:1-29
- Blessing/Cursing Ceremony at Mt. Ebal¹¹¹
 - Joshua 8:30-3
- Joseph's Bones Interred at Shechem
 - Joshua 24:32

Between 1416 and 1411 BC

- Story of the Gibeonites
 - Joshua 9:1-10:28
- Victories in Southern Canaan
 - Joshua 10:29-43
- Victories in Northern Canaan
 - Joshua 11:1-15
- Joshua's Continued Military Activities in Canaan
 - Joshua 11:16-12:24

Year Beginning 1*1 in 1410 BC = 47th Year of the Exodus¹¹²

- ?? - Joshua Allots Land to Judah, Ephraim and Manasseh¹¹³
 - Joshua 13:1-17:18

Year Beginning 7*1 in 1410 BC = 1st Sabbatical Year

Probably in the 7th Month - Israel Gathers at Shiloh¹¹⁴

- Joshua Allots Land to the Remaining Tribes of Israel
 - Joshua 18:1-21:45
- Trans-Jordan Tribes Released from their Military Commitment
 - Joshua 22:1-9
- Joshua Dismisses Israel
 - Judges 2:6
- Misunderstanding over a Duplicate Altar
 - Joshua 22:10-34

¹¹¹ Perhaps this covenant ceremony took place on Pentecost (3*5 = SAT/SUN 10/11 JUN in 1416 BC), the 40th anniversary of Israel's entrance into their covenant with *Yahweh*.

¹¹² This dating is based on Caleb's comments in Joshua 14:6ff. Caleb was forty years old during the middle of the 2nd Year of the Exodus. Forty-five years had passed since that time and he was now eighty-five years old, indicating that it was now the 47th Year of the Exodus.

¹¹³ There is a reason these three tribes receive special consideration in the allotment of land. Judah was Jacob's designated heir (Genesis 49:1-12), while Ephraim and Manasseh were Joseph's sons, whom Jacob adopted as his own, promising them special treatment as his heirs (Genesis 48:1ff).

¹¹⁴ I am of the opinion that this national gathering was in conjunction with Israel's 1st Sabbatical Year.

JUDGES recounts the sinful and turbulent period of Israeli history between the death of Joshua and the rise of the great prophet Samuel. The Twelve Tribes of Israel pretty much functioned as independent entities throughout this period.¹¹⁵ The only things that loosely bound them together were the rituals of the Tabernacle and the occasional military alliances they formed against common enemies under the leadership of Spirit-led leaders known as “judges.”

Approximately 1392 BC

Final Words and Death of Joshua¹¹⁶

- Joshua 23:1-24:31 (cf. Judges 2:7-9)

Death of Eleazar

- Joshua 24:33 (cf. Judges 2:10)

Military Activity Immediately after the Deaths of Joshua and Eleazar¹¹⁷

- Judges 1:1-26

Israel Rebuked for Leaving Areas Unoccupied

- Judges 1:27-2:5

Overview of the Period of the Judges¹¹⁸

- Judges 2:11-3:6

Approximated as 1391 through 1384 BC - 8 Years of Mesopotamian Oppression

- Judges 3:7-8

Approximated as 1384 through 1345 BC - 40 Years of Peace under Othniel

- Judges 3:9-11

Early in Israel’s Occupation of Canaan - Establishment of Northern Dan¹¹⁹

- Judges 17:1-18:31

During the High Priesthood of Phinehas – Near Extinction of Benjamite Tribe

- Judges 19:1-21:25

Approximated as 1344 through 1327 BC - 18 Years of Moabite Oppression

- Judges 3:12-14

¹¹⁵ In much the same way as our own Thirteen Colonies did prior to the American Revolution.

¹¹⁶ Scripture does not provide a date for Joshua’s death. According to *Antiquities* 5.1.29, Joshua died after leading Israel for 25 years beyond the death of Moses, so I will approximate his death at 1392 BC. Such a date would make him forty-five years old in the 2nd Year of the Exodus, just a few years older than Caleb, his partner in the exploration of Canaan (Joshua 14:6-7; cf. Numbers 14:6-9).

¹¹⁷ The Amarna tablets of this period contain warnings from the Canaanite vassals of Amenophis III and Amenophis IV (a.k.a. Ankhenten) that the region was being taken over by the *‘Apiru*. I believe that the military activities of Israel (“the Hebrews”) prompted these warnings.

¹¹⁸ Because the total years of the oppressors and judges of this period, as given in the book of *Judges*, exceeds the number of years known to have passed between the Conquest of Canaan and the anointing of King Saul, this period presents some chronological challenges. It appears certain that some of the judges had overlapping periods of leadership, making it nearly impossible to affix authoritative dates to any of them. However, Scripture and extra-biblical sources do offer enough chronological clues that approximate dates may be assigned.

¹¹⁹ The exact placement of this event is uncertain, but it appears to have occurred early in Israel’s history.

Approximated as 1327 through 1248 BC - 80 Years of Peace under Ehud and Shamgar

➤ Judges 3:15-31

Approximated as 1247 through 1228 BC - 20 Years of Canaanite Oppression

➤ Judges 4:1-3

Approximated as 1228 through 1189 BC - 40 Years of Peace under Barak and Deborah

➤ Judges 4:4-5:31

Approximated as 1188 through 1182 BC - 7 Years of Midianite Oppression

➤ Judges 6:1-6

Approximated as 1182 through 1143 BC - 40 Years of Peace under Gideon

➤ Judges 6:7-8:28

RUTH details the meeting and marriage of King David's great-grandparents "during the days of the judges" (probably sometime during the 12th Century BC).

➤ Ruth 1:1-4:22

Approximated as 1143 through 1141 BC - 3 Years of Oppression under Abimelech

➤ Judges 8:29-9:57

Approximated as 1141 through 1119 BC – 23 (22) Years of Peace under Tola (Jair)¹²⁰

➤ Judges 10:1-5

Approximated as 1118 through 1101 BC - 18 Years of Ammonite Oppression¹²¹

➤ Judges 10:6-9

Approximated as 1101 through 1096 BC - 6 Years of Peace under Jephthah

➤ Judges 10:10-12:7

Late in the Period of the Judges - Leadership of Ibzan, Elon and Abdon¹²²

➤ Judges 12:8-15

¹²⁰ I am of the opinion that Tola and Jair governed at the same time - Tola in the hill country of Ephraim (west of the Jordan) and Jair in Gilead (east of the Jordan).

¹²¹ I believe that Ammon invaded Gilead after the death of Jair, and the following year, after the death of Tola, Ammon began crossing the Jordan into Ephraim. Jephthah states that the Ammonite invasion of Gilead took place 300 years after Israel took over that territory in 1417 BC, i.e. 1118 BC (Judges 11:26).

¹²² I would suggest that these three men were regional judges in Israel proper (west of the Jordan), whose overlapping periods of leadership began around the same time as Jephthah's leadership in Gilead (east of the Jordan). Their leadership would have continued into the early years of Eli's High Priesthood and the Philistine oppression.

The next six books in our Old Testament represent about 500 years of Israeli history. 1 & 2 SAMUEL record the swift transition from the tribal independence so evident during the Period of the Judges into the amazing unity of the early Kingdom Period, while 1 & 2 KINGS and 1 & 2 CHRONICLES pick up the story of the Israeli Kingdom from its inception under the great prophet Samuel, right through its tragic split into two separate kingdoms,¹²³ and from thence into the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities.

Approximated as 1096/95 through 1057/56 BC

40 Years Under the High Priesthood of Eli¹²⁴ and Philistine Oppression

➤ (Per 1 Samuel 4:18b)

➤ Judges 13:1

Birth and Early Life of Samuel

➤ 1 Samuel 1:1-3:18

Birth of Samson

➤ Judges 13:2-24

Samuel's Prophetic Ministry at Shiloh

➤ 1 Samuel 3:19-4:1a

Between 1076 and 1057 BC - The Exploits of Samson¹²⁵

➤ Judges 13:25-15:20

Year Beginning 1*1 in 1057 BC = 400th Year of the Exodus

Probably During the Spring and Summer - Capture and Death of Samson

➤ Judges 16:1-31

9*?¹²⁶ - Capture of the Ark and the Death of Eli¹²⁷

➤ 1 Samuel 4:1b-22

Year Beginning 1*1 in 1056 BC = 401st Year of the Exodus

3*?¹²⁸ - Ark Returned to Israel and Housed at Kiriath-jearim¹²⁹

➤ 1 Samuel 5:1-7:2

Perhaps During the Summer or Fall - Samuel Ends the Philistine Oppression

➤ 1 Samuel 7:3-13a

¹²³ KINGS focuses mainly on events in the southern (Judean) kingdom, whereas CHRONICLES includes events in the northern (Israeli) kingdom as well.

¹²⁴ Eli's weakness as a spiritual leader probably contributed to the Philistine oppression that swept over Israel early in his High Priesthood.

¹²⁵ I believe that the judgeship of Samson took place during the second half of Eli's High Priesthood.

¹²⁶ 9*1 = WED/THU 21/22 NOV in 1057 BC.

¹²⁷ I am convinced that the Philistine mobilization during which the ark was captured was in direct retaliation for Samson's destruction of the Temple of Dagon at Gaza. The ultimate object of their wrath was the sacred city of Shiloh, where the Tabernacle had been located since the time of Joshua. Shiloh was subsequently destroyed (Psalm 78:58-64; cf. Jeremiah 7:12-15) and the Tabernacle eventually relocated to Gibeon (1 Chronicles 16:39).

¹²⁸ 3*1 = SAT/SUN 15/16 JUN in 1056 BC. The ark was returned during the wheat harvest, after being held in Philistia for seven months.

¹²⁹ The ark remained at Kiriath-jearim for the next 20 years, until it was brought temporarily to King Saul's military headquarters at Gibeon at the start of his war with the Philistines (1 Samuel 14:18).

Between 1055 and 1038 BC – Samuel Judges Israel

- 1 Samuel 7:13b-17

Year Beginning 1*1 in 1037 BC = 420th Year of the Exodus

Probably during the Spring or Summer

Israel Demands that Samuel Anoint a King¹³⁰

- 1 Samuel 8:1-22

Samuel Privately Anoints Saul of Gibeah

- 1 Samuel 9:1-10:16

Year Beginning 7*1 in 1037 BC = 1st Year of King Saul¹³¹

Probably in the 7th Month¹³² - Samuel Publicly Anoints Saul

- 1 Samuel 10:17-27

Year Beginning 1*1 in 1036 BC = 421st Year of the Exodus

Spring - Saul Defeats Nahash the Ammonite

- 1 Samuel 11:1-14

3*?¹³³ - Kingdom Reconfirmed at Gilgal

- 1 Samuel 11:15-12:25

Year Beginning 7*1 in 1036 BC = 2nd Year of King Saul

Fall - Saul Leads Israel in a Successful Campaign Against the Philistines¹³⁴

- 1 Samuel 13:1-14:46

¹³⁰ Scripture gives two reasons for Israel's sudden demand for a king – the unjust actions of Samuel's sons at Beersheba (1 Samuel 8:4), and the military activities of Nahash the Ammonite (1 Samuel 12:12).

¹³¹ Contrary to the impression given by modern translations of 1 Samuel 13:1, extant manuscripts of the Old Testament do not reveal the length of Saul's reign. I believe that the forty years cited in Acts 13:21 refers to the total number of years passed under the leadership of both Samuel and Saul. Twenty years passed under Samuel's leadership from the return of the ark until the time of King Saul (1 Samuel 7:2). Then, according to Josephus, Saul ruled 18 years during the life of Samuel and two after his death (Antiquities 6.14.9). [It should be noted that Josephus cites just 12 years of leadership for Samuel prior to Saul's anointing (Antiquities 6.13.5), a figure which renders only 32 years for both Samuel and Saul, and which directly contradicts my understanding of Acts 13:21.]

¹³² I subscribe to the thesis of Dr. Thiele that the Israeli regnal year was originally an accession, *Tishri* year (The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings, Chapter Two). I think it very likely that Saul was publicly anointed as king at the annual assembly of Israel in the 7th Month.

¹³³ 3*1 = SAT/SUN 4/5 JUN in 1036 BC. This ceremony of renewal took place during the wheat harvest, perhaps even during Pentecost = 3*8 (SAT/SUN 11/12 JUN in 1036 BC).

¹³⁴ The Hebrew text of 1 Samuel 13:1 seems to indicate, not how old Saul was when he began to reign, nor how long he reigned, but simply that this event happened in the 2nd Year of his reign.

Between 1036 and 1020 BC, During the Reign of Saul

Saul's Successful Military Campaigns

- 1 Samuel 14:47-52

Saul's Disobedience in the Amalekite War

- 1 Samuel 15:1-35

Samuel Privately Anoints David of Bethlehem

- 1 Samuel 16:1-13

David Contracted as Saul's Personal Attendant

- 1 Samuel 16:14-23

David Kills Goliath, Beginning His Military Career in Saul's Army

- 1 Samuel 17:1-54;¹³⁵ 18:1-30

Jonathan Saves David from Saul's Intention To Have Him Killed

- 1 Samuel 19:1-7

Year Beginning 7*1 in 1020 BC = 18th Year of King Saul

Probably Late in the Year

Michal Helps David Escape from Saul

- 1 Samuel 19:8-17

- Psalm 59¹³⁶

Samuel Helps David Escape from Saul

- 1 Samuel 19:18-24

Jonathan Attempts To Save David from Saul

- 1 Samuel 20:1-42

The High Priest Ahimelech Unwittingly Assists David and His Men

- 1 Samuel 21:1-10

David Fakes Insanity at Gath

- 1 Samuel 21:11-15

- Psalms 34 and 56

¹³⁵ The Masoretic narrative of 1 Samuel 17:55-58, in which Saul is completely unaware of the identity of David, although he had been his personal attendant for some time, is not found in the Septuagint text.

¹³⁶ Like this one, some of David's Psalms have ancient superscriptions tying them to historic events. I have placed these Psalms with those events.

Year Beginning 1*1 in 1019 BC = 438th Year of the Exodus

During the 1st Month¹³⁷

David Joined by Supporters at the Cave of Adullam

- 1 Samuel 22:1-5
- 1 Chronicles 12:8-18

Saul Oversees the Murder of the Priests at Nob

- 1 Samuel 22:6-20
- Psalms 52 and 63

During the Summer¹³⁸ **and Fall**

David Defends Keilah from the Philistines

- 1 Samuel 22:21-23
- 1 Samuel 23:1-6

David Forced to Depart Keilah by Saul's Pursuit

- 1 Samuel 23:7-14

Jonathan Meets Secretly with David

- 1 Samuel 23:15-18

David Forced to Depart Ziph by Saul's Pursuit

- 1 Samuel 23:19-29

- Psalm 54

David Spares Saul's Life

- 1 Samuel 24:1-22
- Psalms 57 (cf. Psalm 108:1-5) and 142

Some Undated Psalms of David¹³⁹

Psalms 4, 7, 17, 23, 26-28, 31, 35-36, 40, 55, 58, 62, 64, 70, 86, 109, 140, 141, 143

Year Beginning 1*1 in 1018 BC = 439th Year of the Exodus

Probably During the Spring or Early Summer

The Death of Samuel

- 1 Samuel 25:1

Time of Sheep Shearing¹⁴⁰ - The Story of Nabal and Abigail

- 1 Samuel 25:2-44

David Spares Saul's Life a 2nd Time

- 1 Samuel 26:1-25

David Seeks Asylum with Achish of Gath

- 1 Samuel 27:1-6

¹³⁷ Based on 1 Chronicles 12:15.

¹³⁸ Based on the fact that the Philistines were stealing grain from the threshing floors (1 Samuel 23:1).

¹³⁹ Most of David's Psalms have no superscription tying them to any datable, historic event. I have tried to place these "Undated Psalms of David" near key events in David's life that would have evoked their emotional content; e.g., in this first case, it is the distress of Saul's unjustified persecution of David.

¹⁴⁰ The shearing of sheep took place in the late spring or early summer.

During 1018 BC and 1017 BC - David's Military Activities in Philistia¹⁴¹

- 1 Samuel 27:7-12

Year Beginning 7*1 in 1018 BC = 20th Year of King Saul/57th Sabbatical Year

Year Beginning 1*1 in 1017 BC = 440th Year of Exodus

Late Summer or Early Fall - The Battle of Mount Gilboa

- 1 Samuel 28:1-2

- 1 Chronicles 12:19a

5 Days Before the Battle – David Dismissed by the Philistines

- 1 Samuel 29:1-10

4 Days Before the Battle – David Departs for Ziklag

- 1 Samuel 29:11

- 1 Chronicles 12:19b-20

2 Days Before the Battle – David Arrives at Ziklag

- 1 Samuel 30:1-9a

The Day Before the Battle

David Defeats the Amalekites

- 1 Samuel 30:9b-20

- 1 Chronicles 12:21-22

Saul Inquires of the Medium at Endor

- 1 Samuel 28:3-25

Day of the Battle

Saul and His Sons Killed

- 1 Samuel 31:1-7 (cf. 1 Chronicles 10:1-7)

David Returns to Ziklag

- 1 Samuel 30:21-31

1st Day After the Battle – Bodies of Saul and His Sons Displayed at Beth-shan

- 1 Samuel 31:8-10 (cf. 1 Chronicles 10:8-10)

2nd Day After the Battle

Bodies of Saul and His Sons Rescued by the Men of Jabesh-gilead

- 1 Samuel 31:11-13 (cf. 1 Chronicles 10:11-14)

David Informed of the Deaths of Saul and His Sons

- 2 Samuel 1:1-27

Shortly After the Battle of Mount Gilboa

David (30 years old)¹⁴² Anointed King of Judah at Hebron;

Ish-baal¹⁴³ (40 years old)¹⁴⁴ Anointed King over All Israel at Mahanaim in Gilead

- 2 Samuel 2:1-10

¹⁴¹ The Masoretic Text puts David's time in Philistia at 1 year and 4 months, but according to the Septuagint, David was only in Philistia for four months. The LXX reading is probably a scribal error since its own rendering of Achish's later testimony (1 Samuel 29:3) makes it clear that David spent part of two calendar years in Philistia.

¹⁴² David was born around 1047/46 BC, while Samuel was leading Israel as Seer. This would mean he was about ten years old when Saul became King of Israel.

¹⁴³ 1 Chronicles 8:33. Apparently, the name component *-ba'al* (the Canaanite word for "Lord," used in Saul's time in reference to *Yahweh*) was changed by later scribes to *-bosheth* (the Hebrew word for "shame") because of its later association with the Sidonian storm god.

¹⁴⁴ Ish-baal was born sometime in 1057/56 BC, during the final year of Eli's High Priesthood.

During 1017 and 1015 BC – Civil War between David and Ish-baal

- 2 Samuel 2:12-3:1

Year Beginning 7*1 in 1016 BC = 2nd Year of David and Ish-baal

Year Beginning 1*1 in 1015 BC = 442nd Year of the Exodus

Probably During the Spring or Summer

After Defecting to David, Abner Is Murdered by Joab

- 2 Samuel 3:7-39

Ish-Baal (42 years) Assassinated

- 2 Samuel 4:1-12

David (32 years) Declared King over All Israel

- 1 Chronicles 12:23-38
- 2 Samuel 5:1-5 (cf. 1 Chronicles 11:1-3)
- 1 Chronicles 12:39-40
- 2 Samuel 22:1-51 (cf. Psalm 18)

Year Beginning 7*1 in 1011 BC = 7th Year of David/58th Sabbatical Year

Year Beginning 1*1 in 1010 BC = 447th Year of the Exodus

Late Spring or Early Summer - Jebus Captured by Joab and Renamed Jerusalem

- 2 Samuel 5:6-10 (cf. 1 Chronicles 11:4-9)

During the Summer¹⁴⁵

Uzzah Killed in an Attempt to Bring the Ark to Jerusalem

- 1 Chronicles 13:1-14 (cf. 2 Samuel 6:1-11)

David Begins Building a Palace with the Help of Hiram of Tyre

- 2 Samuel 5:11-12 (1 Chronicles 14:1-2)

Philistines Encamp in the Valley of Rephaim¹⁴⁶

- 2 Samuel 5:17-18 (cf. 1 Chronicles 14:8-9)
- 1 Chronicles 11:15-19 (cf. 2 Samuel 23:13-17)

David Defeats the Philistines

- 2 Samuel 5:19-21 (cf. 1 Chronicles 14:10-12)

Philistines Encamp in the Valley of Rephaim a 2nd Time

- 1 Chronicles 14:13 (cf. 2 Samuel 5:22)

David Gains a Decisive Victory over the Philistines

- 1 Chronicles 14:14-17 (cf. 2 Samuel 5:23-25)

Late Summer or Early Fall - David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem

- 1 Chronicles 15:1-16:43 (cf. 2 Samuel 6:12-23)
- Psalms 24 and 30

¹⁴⁵ It was harvest time when the Philistines invaded the Valley of Rephaim (2 Samuel 23:13).

¹⁴⁶ I calculate that Solomon began construction on the Temple in the 4th year of his reign, immediately after his father's death. David ruled for seven years and six months at Hebron before capturing Jerusalem (in the first Sabbatical year of his reign) and making it the capital of all Israel. Civil war during the first two years of his reign made him little threat to the Philistines, and full consolidation of the tribes during the next five years was probably hampered by Joab's murder of Abner, so the Philistines probably adopted a wait and see attitude toward their former ally. However, the capture of the Jebus fortress, which had been under Canaanite control since the death of Joshua, signaled that David intended to fulfill the ancient Israeli directive to occupy all of Canaan – Philistia included. No doubt this would have prompted the Philistines to take immediate military action against the new Israeli capital.

During the Early Part of David's Reign at Jerusalem

David's Desire to Build a Temple

- 2 Samuel 7:1-29 (1 Chronicles 17:1-27)

David's Successful Military Campaigns

- 2 Samuel 8:1-14 (cf. 1 Chronicles 18:1-13)
- Psalm 60 (cf. Psalm 108:6-13)

Some More Undated Psalms of David

- Psalms 8, 19-21, 101, 103, 110, 139, 144
- Psalm 145 (An Acrostic Psalm)

Some Anonymous Acrostic Psalms

- Psalms 111, 112 and 119

Year Beginning 7*1 in 1004 BC = 14th Year of David/59th Sabbatical Year

Perhaps During 1004/03 BC – David Seeks Out Merib-baal¹⁴⁷

- 2 Samuel 9:1-13

Perhaps during the Summer of 1002 BC

David Inquires of *Yahweh* About a Three-Year Famine¹⁴⁸

- 2 Samuel 21:1-6

Saul's Sons and Grandsons Executed

- 2 Samuel 21:7-14

Approximated¹⁴⁹ as 998/97 BC = 1st Year of Israel's Campaign Against Ammon

David's Servants Insulted

- 2 Samuel 10:1-5 (cf. 1 Chronicles 19:1-5)

Israel Defeats the Armies of a Moab-Aram Alliance

- 2 Samuel 10:6-19 (cf. 1 Chronicles 19:6-19)

¹⁴⁷ 1 Chronicles 8:34. This man's proper name Merib-baal ("The Lord is my advocate") was probably changed by later scribes to Mephi-bosheth ("Shatter the shame[ful thing]") because the term *-ba'al* was later associated exclusively with the Baal of idolatry, as was done with his uncle Ish-baal (Ish-bosheth). He was five years old when his father Jonathan was killed in the fall of 1018 BC (2 Samuel 4:4). He was now a grown man with a young son of his own. David may have considered the Sabbatical Year as the perfect opportunity to demonstrate his loving regard for his late friend Jonathan.

¹⁴⁸ Exact placement of this event is uncertain. Because it is related to the crimes of King Saul it must have occurred early in the reign of King David. A significantly devastating type of three-year famine would have had a Sabbatical Year as its center year, so I imagine this famine as having ruined the pre-Sabbatical harvest of 1004 BC, having stunted the volunteer crop of 1003 BC, and finally being in the process of burning up the crop of 1002 BC whenever David made his inquiry.

¹⁴⁹ My approximations are based on backdating through all the events prior to David's appointment of Solomon as Crown Prince of Israel.

Chart 10 Prominent Leaders in David's Kingdom

From 2 Samuel 8:15-18; 20:23-26 (cf. 1 Chronicles 18:12-17)

Chief Advisors

- **Commander of the Army** - Joab the son of Zeruiah
- **Recorder** – Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud
- **Priests** - Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar
- **Scribe** – Seraiah (Later replaced by Sheva)
- **Head of David's Bodyguard** (*Kerethim*¹⁵⁰ and *Pelethim*¹⁵¹) - Benaiah the son of Jehoiada
- **Head of Forced Labor** – Adoram
- **David's Personal Priest** – Ira the Jairite

1st Tier of Army Leaders (2 Samuel 23:8-14; cf. 1 Chronicles 11:10-19)

These were the three men who broke through the Philistine lines just so David could have a drink of water from a well in Bethlehem (2 Samuel 23:17; cf. 1 Chronicles 11:15-19)

Jashobeam – Killed hundreds of men in a single battle.

Eleazar – One of three who stood fast with David in a battle where the majority fled.

Shammah – He and David defended a field against the Philistines.

2nd Tier of Army Leaders – Chiefs of "The Thirty" (2 Samuel 23:15-23; 1 Chronicles 11:13-25)

Abshai, Commander of "The Thirty" – Killed hundreds of men in a single battle, using only a spear.

Benaiah, Commander of David's Personal Guard – Used a club to disarm an Egyptian spearman, killing him with his own weapon.

Amasai (Amasa)¹⁵² – He later supported Absalom's coup, but was forgiven by David. He was made commander of the Israeli army after Joab killed Absalom in direct violation of David's orders. Joab promptly killed Amasa, retaining command of the army until the accession of Solomon.

¹⁵⁰ From the Hebrew verb *kareth* ("to cut"), often used in reference to the sacrificial ceremony sealing a covenant agreement. These men were probably the sworn bodyguards of King David.

¹⁵¹ From the Hebrew verb *peleth* ("to run fast"), used in the sense of running messages. These men were probably the military couriers of King David.

¹⁵² Only two names are given for the 2nd Tier of Three, but 1 Chronicles 12:18 identifies Amasai as a leader of "The Thirty."

3rd Tier of Army Leaders - "The Thirty"¹⁵³ (2 Samuel 23:24-39; cf. 1 Chronicles 11:26-47)

1. Asahel the brother of Joab
 2. Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem
 3. Shammah (Shammoth) the Harodite
 4. Elika the Harodite (not in 1 Chronicles)
 5. Helez the Paltite (Pelonite)
 6. Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite
 7. Abiezer the Anathothite
 8. Mebunnai (Sibbecai) the Hushathite
 9. Zalmon (Ilai) the Ahohite
 10. Maharai the Netophathite
 11. Heleb (Heled) the son of Baanah the Netophathite
 12. Ittai (Ithai) the son of Ribai of Gibeah of the sons of Benjamin
 13. Benaiah a Pirathonite
 14. Hiddai (Hurai) of the brooks of Gaash
 15. Abi-albon the Arbathite (not in 1 Chronicles)
 16. Azmaveth the Barhumite (Baharumite)
 17. Eliahba the Shaalbonite
 18. An unnamed son of Jashen (Hashem)
 19. An unnamed son of Jashen (Hashem)
 20. Jonathan
 21. Shammah (Shagee) the Hararite
 22. Ahiam the son of Sharar the Ararite (Sacar the Hararite)
 23. Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai (Eliphai the son of Ur)
 24. (Hephre) the son of the Maacathite (Mecherathite)
 25. Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite (Ahijah the Pelonite)
 26. Hezro the Carmelite
 27. Paarai the Arbite (Naari the Ezbai)
 28. Igal (Joel) the son of Nathan of Zobah
 29. Bani the Gadite (Mibhar son of Hagri)
 30. Zelek the Ammonite, armor bearer of Joab the son of Zeruah
 31. Naharai the Beerothite (Berothite), armor bearer of Joab the son of Zeruah
 32. Ira the Ithrite
 33. Gareb the Ithrite
 34. Uriah the Hittite
- At this point 2 Samuel 23:39b ends, citing "thirty-seven in all," which includes the three men in the 2nd Tier of Army Leaders. 1 Chronicles 11:41ff appends the following names:*
35. Zabad the son of Ahlai
 36. Adina the son of Shiza the Reubenite, a chief of the Reubenites, and thirty with him
 37. Hanan the son of Maacah
 38. Joshaphat the Mithnite
 39. Uzzia the Ashterathite
 40. Shama and
 41. Jeiel the sons of Hotham the Aroerite
 42. Jediahel the son of Shimri
 43. Joha his brother, the Tizite
 44. Eliel the Mahavite
 45. Jeribai and
 46. Joshaviah, the sons of Elnaam
 47. Ithmah the Moabite
 48. Eliel and
 49. Obed and
 50. Jaasiel the Mezobaite

¹⁵³ There are obviously more than thirty names on this list, indicating that the designation was probably first established when the group consisted only of thirty men.

**Approximated as 997/96 BC = 2nd Year of Israel's Campaign Against Ammon
During the Spring and Summer**

David Orders Rabbah Besieged

- 2 Samuel 11:1 (cf. 1 Chronicles 20:1a)

David's Affair with Bathsheba

- 2 Samuel 11:2-27

Probably During the Winter¹⁵⁴

David Repents Upon Confrontation by Nathan

- 2 Samuel 12:1-15a

- Psalm 51

David and Bathsheba's Son Dies Before Being Named

- 2 Samuel 12:15b-23

Another Undated Psalm of David

- Psalm 32

Approximated as 996/95 BC = 3rd Year of Israel's Campaign Against Ammon

Solomon Born¹⁵⁵

- 2 Samuel 12:24-25

Rabbah Captured

- 2 Samuel 12:26-31 (cf. 1 Chronicles 20:1b-3)

Approximated as the Spring or Summer of 994 BC - The Rape of Tamar¹⁵⁶

- 2 Samuel 13:1-22

Approximated as the Spring or Summer¹⁵⁷ of 992 BC - Absalom Kills Amnon

- 2 Samuel 13:23-37

Approximated as the Spring of 989 BC - David Allows Absalom to Return to Judah

- 2 Samuel 13:38-14:24

Approximated as the Spring of 987 BC - David Allows Absalom to Return to Court

- 2 Samuel 14:25-33

Approximated as 987 through 983 BC - Absalom Gains Wide Support

- 2 Samuel 15:1-6

¹⁵⁴ Nine months after Bathsheba became pregnant.

¹⁵⁵ Several sons were born to David after he established the new Israeli capital (1 Chronicles 14:3-7; 3:5-8; 2 Samuel 5:14-16), Solomon being the most significant among them. If, as I estimate, Solomon was born around 996/95 BC, he would have been about 15 years old when designated Crown Prince of Israel and about 18 years old when he assumed the full responsibilities of the throne after his father's death.

¹⁵⁶ David's sons, born to him at Hebron – Amnon, Absalom and Adonijah - were in their late teens or early twenties around this time.

¹⁵⁷ At the time of sheepshearing (2 Samuel 13:23)

Approximated as 983/82 BC¹⁵⁸

David Escapes Absalom's Coup

➤ 2 Samuel 15:7-17:29

➤ Psalm 3

Absalom Killed by Joab

➤ 2 Samuel 18:1-19:8

David Returns to Jerusalem

➤ 2 Samuel 19:9-43

Sheba of Benjamin Attempts a Coup against David

➤ 2 Samuel 20:1-22

Approximated as the Spring and/or Summer of 982 BC

David Almost Killed During Philistine Uprising¹⁵⁹

➤ 2 Samuel 21:15-22 (cf. 1 Chronicles 20:4-8)

David Orders an Illicit Census¹⁶⁰

➤ 2 Samuel 24:1-7 (cf. 1 Chronicles 21:1-4a)

Perhaps During the Winter of 982/81 BC - Abishag Becomes David's Nurse

➤ 1 Kings 1:1-4

Year Beginning 1*1 in 981 BC = 476th Year of the Exodus

Perhaps during the Spring or Summer

Israel Punished for King David's Sin

➤ 2 Samuel 24:8-25 (cf. 1 Chronicles 21:4b-30)

David Makes Preparations for the Building of the Temple by Solomon

➤ 1 Chronicles 22:1-19

Joab and Abiathar Declare Adonijah Crown Prince of Israel¹⁶¹

➤ 1 Kings 1:5-10

David Has Solomon Declared Crown Prince

➤ 1 Kings 1:11-53 (cf. 1 Chronicles 23:1)

David Prepares to Turn the Kingdom Over to Solomon¹⁶²

➤ 1 Chronicles 23:2

¹⁵⁸ The Year beginning 7*1 in 983 BC was the 62nd Sabbatical Year. I would not find it altogether surprising that Absalom's coup was timed to coincide with such an important Israeli event.

¹⁵⁹ I believe that the Philistines saw the turmoil surrounding the coups of Absalom and Sheba as the perfect opportunity to regain their independence from Israeli dominance.

¹⁶⁰ I place this event here because it seems very human for David, having just survived two coups, a Philistine uprising and being forced out of active military service, to give into Satan's temptation to evaluate the military strength of Israel.

¹⁶¹ Adonijah, as David's oldest surviving son, was the apparent heir to the throne. Perhaps because of the recent disasters associated with the aged king, Joab (the military leader of Israel), and Abiathar (the religious leader of Israel), were both willing to support his early coronation.

¹⁶² See Chart 11: David's Organization of the Kingdom.

Chart 11 David's Organization of the Kingdom

A. Temple Service (From 1 Chronicles 23:1ff; 24:1-25:31)

Sequence of Service	Priestly Division	Prophet/Musician Division (Clan)
1	Jehoiarib ¹⁶³	Joseph (Asaph)
2	Jedaiah	Gedaliah (Jeduthan)
3	Harim	Zaccur (Asaph)
4	Seorim	Izri (Jeduthan)
5	Malchijah	Nethaniah (Asaph)
6	Mijamin	Bukkiah (Heman)
7	Hakkoz	Jesharelah (Asaph)
8	Abijah ¹⁶⁴	Jeshaiah (Jeduthan)
9	Jeshua	Mattaniah (Jeduthan)
10	Shecaniah	Shimei (Jeduthan)
11	Eliashib	Azarel (Heman)
12	Jakim	Hashabiah (Jeduthan)
13	Huppah	Shubael (Heman)
14	Jeshebeab	Mattithiah (Heman)
15	Bilgah	Jeremoth (Heman)
16	Immer	Hananiah (Heman)
17	Hezir	Joshbekashah (Heman)
18	Happizzez	Hanani (Heman)
19	Pethahiah	Mallothi (Heman)
20	Jehezkel	Eliathah (Heman)
21	Jachin	Hothir (Heman)
22	Gamul	Giddalti (Heman)
23	Delaiah	Mahazioth (Heman)
24	Maaziah	Romamti-ezer (Heman)

Temple Security (From 1 Chronicles 23:1ff; 26:1-19)

	East Gate	North Gate	South Gate (And Storehouses)	West Gate (And Road)
Officer(s)-in-Charge	Shelemiah	Zechariah son of Shelemiah	Obed-edom (and his sons)	Shuppim & Hosah
Gate Guards Per Shift	Six	Four	Four	Two
Extra Guards Per Shift			Two (at storehouses)	Four (on the road)

¹⁶³ There is a Rabbinical tradition that the Jehoiarib Division was on duty when the Temple was destroyed on 7 (or 10) Ab [27 (or 30 July)] in 587 BC. If true, the rotational cycle could very well have begun with the Jehoiarib Division's first week of service being 12*29 in the 1st Year of Solomon (SAT/SUN 16/17 APR 980 BC) through 1*6 in the 1st Year of Solomon (FRI/SAT 22/23 APR 980 BC). This fits very well with my reconstruction of David's assistance to Solomon in the establishment of the Temple service schedules.

¹⁶⁴ Daily sacrifices, and weekly, divisional service ceased with the destruction of the 1st Temple. Daily sacrifices were resumed on 7*1 in 537 BC, but the cycle of weekly, divisional service was not reinstated until after the 2nd Temple was completed on 12*3 (WED/THU 9/10 FEB) in 515 BC (Ezra 6:15-18). If the cycle restarted the week after the Temple's completion, the Jehoiarib Division's first week of service would have been from 12*6 (SAT/SUN 12/13 FEB in 515 BC) until 12*12 (FRI/SAT 18/19 FEB in 515 BC). If this new cycle of service continued uninterrupted until the time of Zechariah - the father of John the Immerser - his Abijah Division would have been on duty from 12*5 (SAT/SUN 15/16 FEB) until 12*11 (FRI/SAT 21/22 FEB) in 8 BC. Had Elizabeth then become pregnant later in the 12th Month, she would have been in her sixth month at the start of the 6th Month in the following year. This also fits very well with my reconstruction of the earliest traditions regarding the timing of Jesus' birth.

B. Other Levitical Assignments (From 1 Chronicles 23:1ff; 27:20-32)

Duty	Officer(s)-in-Charge
General Temple Storage	Zetham and Joel, sons of Jehieli
Storage of Dedicated Battle Gifts	Shelomoth son of Zichri
Judges and Officers Throughout All Israel	Chenaniah and his sons (Izharites)
Levitical Duties (West of the Jordan)	Hashabiah and 1,700 relatives (Hebronites)
Levitical Duties (East of the Jordan)	Jerijah and 2,700 relatives (Hebronites)

D. Military Reserve Units on Duty in Jerusalem Each Month (1 Chronicles 27:1-12)

Sequence of Duty	Name of Commander (Compare to "The Thirty")	Number on Duty
1	Jashobeam the son of Zabdiel from the sons of Perez	24,000
2	Dodai the Ahohite	24,000
3	Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada the priest (succeeded by Ammizabad)	24,000
4	Asahel the brother of Joab (succeeded by Zebadiah)	24,000
5	Shamhuth the Izrahite	24,000
6	Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite	24,000
7	Helez the Pelonite of the sons of Ephraim	24,000
8	Sibbecai the Hushathite of the Zerahites	24,000
9	Abiezer the Anathothite of the Benjamites	24,000
10	Maharai the Netophathite of the Zerahites	24,000
11	Benaiah the Pirathonite of the sons of Ephraim	24,000
12	Heldai the Netophathite of Othniel	24,000

E. Tribal Leaders of Israel (1 Chronicles 27:16-22)

Tribe	Leader
Reuben	Eliezer the son of Zichri
Simeon	Shephatiah the son of Maacah
Levi	Hashabiah the son of Kemuel
Aaron	Zadok
Judah	Elihu, <i>one</i> of David's brothers
Issachar	Omri the son of Michael
Zebulun	Ishmaiah the son of Obadiah
Naphtali	Jeremoth the son of Azriel
Ephraim	Hoshea the son of Azaziah
Half-tribe of Manasseh	Joel the son of Pedaiah
Half-tribe of Manasseh in Gilead	Iddo the son of Zechariah
Benjamin	Jaasiel the son of Abner
Dan	Azarel the son of Jeroham

F. Overseers of the King's Property (1 Chronicles 27:25-31)

Assignment	Overseer
Storehouses in Jerusalem	Azmaveth the son of Adiel
Storehouses outside of Jerusalem	Jonathan the son of Uzziah
Agricultural workers	Ezri the son of Chelub
Vineyards	Shimei the Ramathite
Wine storage	Zabdi the Shiphmite
Olive and fig trees in the Shephelah foothills	Baal-hanan the Gederite
Olive oil storage	Joash
Cattle in the Sharon plain	Shitrai the Sharonite
Cattle in the valleys	Shaphat the son of Adlai
Camels	Obil the Ishmaelite
Donkeys	Jehdeiah the Meronothite
Sheep and goats	Jaziz the Hagrite

Year Beginning 7*1 in 981 BC = 37th Year of David/1st Year of Solomon

Probably During the 7th Month - Solomon's 2nd Coronation¹⁶⁵

- 1 Chronicles 28:1-29:25
- Psalm 2¹⁶⁶

More Undated Psalms of David

- Psalms 5-6, 9-16 (cf. 14 & 53), 25, 29, 37-39, 41, 61, 65-69, 122, 124, 131, 133, 138

More Anonymous Psalms

- Psalms 1, 33, 42-50, 71, 91-100, 104-107

Year Beginning 1*1 in 978 BC = 479th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 978 BC = 40th Year of David/4th Year of Solomon

Probably During the Late Winter and/or Early Spring

David's Final Instructions, Death and Burial

- 1 Kings 2:1-11 (cf. 1 Chronicles 29:26-30)
- Adonijah and Joab Executed; Abiathar Removed from the Priesthood
- 1 Kings 2:12-35 (cf. 2 Chronicles 1:1)
- Shimei Confined to Jerusalem
- 1 Kings 2:36-38

Year Beginning 1*1 in 977 BC = 480th Year of the Exodus

During the Spring

Yahweh Appears to Solomon in a Dream

- 1 Kings 3:1-15 (cf. 2 Chronicles 1:2-13)
- Psalm 72
- Solomon's Wisdom Demonstrated
- 1 Kings 3:16-28
- Solomon's Covenant with Hiram of Tyre
- 1 Kings 5:1-12 (cf. 2 Chronicles 2:1a, 3-16)
- Solomon's Labor Force
- 1 Kings 5:13-18 (cf. 2 Chronicles 2:2, 17-18)
- 2*2¹⁶⁷ - Foundation Laid**
- 1 Kings 6:1 (cf. 2 Chronicles 3:1-2)

Year Beginning 7*1 in 976 BC = 6th Year of Solomon/63rd Sabbatical Year

Year Beginning 1*1 in 975 BC = 482nd Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 975 BC = 7th Year of Solomon/9th Year of Jubilee

Three Years after David's Death - Shimei Executed

- 1 Kings 2:39-46

¹⁶⁵ Solmon's coronation was probably confirmed during the annual assembly of Israel in the 7th Month.

¹⁶⁶ While being prophetic of Jesus' coronation as Christ (Acts 4:23-31), I think it likely that this Psalm was originally composed for Solomon's coronation.

¹⁶⁷ MON/TUE 14/15 APR in 977 BC

Year Beginning 1*1 in 971 BC = 486th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 971 BC = 11th Year of Solomon

8*?¹⁶⁸ – Construction of Temple Completed; Finishing Work Begun

- 1 Kings 6:2-38; 7:13-51 (cf. 2 Chronicles 3:3-5:1)

Year Beginning 1*1 in 970 BC = 487th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 970 BC = 12th Year of Solomon

7*8¹⁶⁹ - Dedication of the Temple

Solomon Leads the Dedication Ceremony

- 1 Kings 8:1-64 (cf. 2 Chronicles 5:2-7:7)
- Psalm 127

Regular Temple Worship Begins

- 2 Chronicles 8:12-16 (cf. 1 Kings 9:25)

7*8-14¹⁷⁰ - Seven-Day Celebration

- 1 Kings 8:65a (cf. 2 Chronicles 7:9b)

7*15-21 = Feast of Tabernacles¹⁷¹

- 1 Kings 8:65b (cf. 2 Chronicles 7:8, 9c)

7*22¹⁷² - Solomon Blesses and Dismisses the People

- 1 Kings 8:66 (1 Chronicles 7:9a, 10)

??? - *Yahweh* Speaks to Solomon a 2nd Time

- 1 Kings 9:1-9 (cf. 2 Chronicles 7:11-22)

More Anonymous Psalms

- Psalms 121, 125, 128, 130, 132, 134-136

During the Reign of Solomon - The Fame of Solomon's Wisdom

- 1 Kings 4:29-34 (2 Chronicles 9:22-28)

For the most part, the book of **PROVERBS** is a collection of Solomon's own proverbs.¹⁷³ The first nine chapters climax in an allegory that portrays the wisdom of *Yahweh* as a faithful wife and the foolishness of sin as an adulteress.

- Proverbs 1:1-24:34

While it is relatively certain that the **SONG OF SONGS** was written around the time of King Solomon, its human author and divine purpose are matters of debate. Some consider it an allegory of *Yahweh's* love for Israel, while others see it simply as a poem (perhaps even an opera) about an Israeli romance.

- Songs of Songs 1:1-8:14

¹⁶⁸ 8*1 = FRI/SAT 31 OCT/1 NOV in 971 BC.

¹⁶⁹ TUE/WED 29/30 SEP in 970 BC.

¹⁷⁰ TUE/WED 29/30 SEP – MON/TUE 5/6 OCT in 970 BC.

¹⁷¹ TUE/WED 6/7 – MON/TUE 12/13 OCT in 970 BC.

¹⁷² TUE/WED 13/14 OCT in 970 BC.

¹⁷³ More of Solomon's proverbs, along with the selected proverbs of other wise men, were appended to this collection during the reign of King Hezekiah (Proverbs 25:1).

Chart 12

Solomon's Organization of the Kingdom

A. Chief Advisors (1 Kings 4:1-6)

- **High Priest** - Azariah the son of Zadok
- **Secretaries** - Elihoreph and Ahijah, the sons of Shisha
- **Recorder** - Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud
- **Head of the Israeli Army** – Benaiah the son of Jehoiada
- **Head Priests** - Zadok and Abiathar
- **Head of the Deputies** – Azariah the son of Nathan
- **King's Friend** - Zabud the son of Nathan, a priest
- **Head of the Royal Household** – Ahishar
- **Head of Forced Labor** – Adoniram the son of Abda

B. Regional Deputies Charged with Provisioning the Royal Household Each Month (1 Kings 4:7-19)

Sequence of Duty	Deputy	Region
1	Ben-hur	Hill country of Ephraim
2	Ben-deker	Makaz, Shaalbim, Beth-shemesh and Elonbeth-hanan
3	Ben-hesed	Arubboth, Socoh and all the land of Hephher
4	Ben-abinadab, married to Taphath the daughter of Solomon	The height of Dor
5	Baana the son of Ahilud	Taanach, Megiddo, Beth-shean, and to Abel-meholah as far as the other side of Jokmeam
6	Ben-geber	Ramoth-gilead, the towns of Jair, the region of Argob in Bashan
7	Ahinadab the son of Iddo	Mahanaim
8	Ahimaaz, married to Basemath the daughter of Solomon	Naphtali
9	Baana the son of Hushai	Asher and Bealoth
10	Jehoshaphat the son of Paruah	Issachar
11	Shimei the son of Ela	Benjamin
12	Geber the son of Uri	Gilead (the only deputy who was in the land)

Year Beginning 1*1 in 958 BC = 499th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 958 BC = 24th Year of Solomon

Solomon Completes His Own Palace¹⁷⁴

- 1 Kings 7:1-12
- 1 Kings 9:10-11a, 24 (cf. 2 Chronicles 8:1, 11)
- Hiram of Tyre Insulted by the Galilean Cities Given to Him by Solomon
- 1 Kings 9:11b-14 (cf. 2 Chronicles 8:2)
- Other Projects
- 1 Kings 9:15-28 (cf. 2 Chronicles 8:3-18)

Sometime After the Completion of Solomon's Palace, But Before His Apostasy

Solomon Visited by the Queen of Sheba

- 1 Kings 10:1-13 (cf. 2 Chronicles 9:1-12)
- Description of Solomon's Kingdom at the Time of the Queen's Visit
- 1 Kings 4:20-25 (cf. 2 Chronicles 9:26)¹⁷⁵
- 1 Kings 10:14-29 (cf. 2 Chronicles 1:14-17; 9:13-25, 27-28; 1 Kings 4:26-28)

The Final Years of Solomon's Reign – His Apostasy and Adversaries

- 1 Kings 11:1-40

Year Beginning 7*1 in 942 BC = Solomon's 40th Year

Year Beginning 1*1 in 941 BC = 516th Year of the Exodus

Spring or Summer - Death and Burial of Solomon

- 1 Kings 11:41-43 (cf. 2 Chronicles 9:29-31)

Year Beginning 7*1 in 941 BC = Rehoboam's 1st Year/68th Sabbatical Year

Perhaps During the 7th Month¹⁷⁶

- Rehoboam (41 years)¹⁷⁷ Declared King of Israel at Shechem
- Kings 12:1-2 (cf. 2 Chronicles 10:1; 12:13b-14; 1 Kings 14:21)
- Jeroboam Leads the Tribes of Israel in Rebellion against Rehoboam
- 1 Kings 12:2-24 (cf. 2 Chronicles 10:2-11:4)
- Rehoboam Begins To Fortify Judah and Benjamin
- 2 Chronicles 11:5-12, 18-23
- 8*15¹⁷⁸ - Jeroboam Inaugurates an Alternate Religious System**
- 1 Kings 12:25-13:34

¹⁷⁴ It took seven years for Solomon to build the Temple (4th–11th Years of his reign) and another thirteen years to build the palace (11th–24th of his reign) - a total of 20 years for these two, major building projects.

¹⁷⁵ Having gained control of all the land promised to Abram (Genesis 15:18), Israel reached its physical zenith during the reign of Solomon.

¹⁷⁶ It is possible that Rehoboam's kingship was confirmed at Shechem during Israel's 7th Month celebrations.

¹⁷⁷ Rehoboam was born around 982/81 BC, shortly before his father's coronation as Crown Prince.

¹⁷⁸ SAT/SUN 12/13 NOV in 941 BC.

Year Beginning 1*1 in 940 BC = Jeroboam's 2nd Year¹⁷⁹

Priests and Levites Move from Israel to Judah

- 2 Chronicles 11:13-17

Year Beginning 1*1 in 937 BC = Jeroboam's 5th Year/520th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 937 BC = Rehoboam's 5th Year

After 3 Years of Levitical Support - Rehoboam Rebels Against God

- 2 Chronicles 12:1
- 1 Kings 14:22-24

Year Beginning 1*1 in 936 BC = Jeroboam's 6th Year/521st Year of the Exodus

Probably During the Spring - Pharaoh Shoshenk Invades Judah

- 1 Kings 14:25-28 (cf. 2 Chronicles 12:2-13a)

Later in Jeroboam's Reign - Death of Jeroboam's Son Abijah

- 1 Kings 14:1-18

Year Beginning 7*1 in 925 BC = Rehoboam's 17th Year

Year Beginning 1*1 in 924 BC = Jeroboam's 18th Year/533rd Year of the Exodus

Spring or Summer - Death of Rehoboam/Accession of Abijah

- 1 Kings 14:29-15:6 (2 Chronicles 12:15-13:2)

Sometime Between 924 and 922 BC - Abijah Captures Territory from Jeroboam

- 2 Chronicles 13:3-21

Year Beginning 1*1 in 922 BC = Jeroboam's 20th Year/535th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 922 BC = 3rd Year of Abijah

Fall or Winter - Death of Abijah/Accession of Asa

- 1 Kings 15:7-10 (2 Chronicles 13:22-14:1a)

Year Beginning 1*1 in 920 BC = Jeroboam's 22nd Year/537th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 920 BC = 2nd Year of Asa/71st Sabbatical Year

Fall or Winter - Death of Jeroboam/Accession of Nadab

- 1 Kings 14:19-20
- 1 Kings 15:25-26

Year Beginning 1*1 in 919 BC = Nadab's 2nd Year/538th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 919 BC = 3rd Year of Asa

Fall or Winter - Nadab Assassinated by Baasha/Accession of Baasha

- 1 Kings 15:27-31

Between 919 and 908 BC - Continued State of War between Israel and Judah

- 1 Kings 15:32 (cf. 1 Kings 15:16)

¹⁷⁹ I agree with Theiele's view that the northern kingdom established a non-accession, *Nisan* regnal year.

Year Beginning 7*1 in 907 BC = 15th Year of Asa

Year Beginning 1*1 in 906 BC = 14th Year of Baasha/551st Year of the Exodus

Spring - Judah Defeats Ethiopian Invaders

➤ 2 Chronicles 14:8-15:7

3*?¹⁸⁰ – Asa Leads a Ceremony of Covenant Renewal

➤ 2 Chronicles 15:8-15

Year Beginning 7*1 in 906 BC = 16th Year of Asa/73rd Sabbatical Year

Between 906 and 896 BC - Asa's Reforms during Ten Years of Peace

➤ 2 Chronicles 14:1b-7 (cf. 2 Chronicles 15:19; 1 Kings 15:11-12)

➤ 2 Chronicles 15:16-18 (cf. 1 Kings 15:13-15)

Year Beginning 1*1 in 896 BC = 24th Year of Baasha/561st Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 896 BC = 26th Year of Asa¹⁸¹

Fall or Winter

Israel Blockades Judah at Ramah

➤ 1 Kings 15:17-22 (cf. 2 Chronicles 16:1-6)

Asa Persecutes Hanani the Seer and Others

➤ 2 Chronicles 16:7-10

Prophecy of Jehu, son of Hanani, against Baasha of Israel

➤ 1 Kings 16:1-4

Death of Baasha/Accession of Elah

➤ 1 Kings 16:5-8

Year Beginning 1*1 in 895 BC = 2nd Year of Elah/562nd Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 895 BC = 27th Year of Asa

Fall or Winter

Elah Assassinated by Zimri/Accession of Zimri

➤ 1 Kings 16:9-14

Besieged by Omri, Zimri Commits Suicide/Accession of Omri

➤ 1 Kings 16:15-20

Between 895 and 890 BC - Civil War between Omri and Tibni

➤ 1 Kings 16:21-22a

Year Beginning 7*1 in 891 BC = 31st Year of Asa

Year Beginning 1*1 in 890 BC = 6th Year of Omri/567th Year of the Exodus

Spring or Summer - Tibni Dies/Omri's Kingdom Firmly Established At Samaria

➤ 1 Kings 16:22b-26

¹⁸⁰ 3*1 = TUE/WED 9/10 MAY in 906 BC. (Pentecost fell on 3*5 = SAT/SUN 13/14 MAY.)

¹⁸¹ Since it is known that Baasha died in the 26th year of Asa, after 24 years of rule, 2 Chronicles 15:19 and 16:1 apparently contain unattested scribal errors which read the "35th" and "36th" Years of Asa rather than the "25th" and "26th" Years.

Year Beginning 1*1 in 884 BC = 12th Year of Omri/573rd Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 884 BC = 38th Year of Asa

Fall or Winter - Death of Omri/Accession of Ahab

- 1 Kings 16:27-30

Beginning About 884 BC - Ahab and Jezebel Establish Baal Worship in Israel¹⁸²

- 1 Kings 16:31-34

Year Beginning 1*1 in 883 BC = 2nd Year of Ahab/574th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 883 BC = 39th Year of Asa

??? - Asa Contracts a Foot Disease

- 2 Chronicles 16:11-12 (cf. 1 Kings 15:23)

Year Beginning 1*1 in 881 BC = 4th Year of Ahab/576th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 881 BC = 41st Year of Asa

Fall or Winter - Death of Asa/Accession of Jehoshaphat (35 years)¹⁸³

- 2 Chronicles 16:13-14 (cf. 1 Kings 15:24)
- 2 Chronicles 17:1-6 (cf. 1 Kings 22:41-43)

Year Beginning 1*1 in 878 BC = 7th Year of Ahab/579th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 878 BC = 3rd Year of Jehoshaphat/77th Sabbatical Year

Probably in the 7th Month - Religious Teachers Sent Throughout Judah¹⁸⁴

- 2 Chronicles 17:7-9
- 1 Kings 22:46

Year Beginning 1*1 in 877 BC = 8th Year of Ahab/580th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 877 BC = 4th Year of Jehoshaphat/11th Year of Jubilee

During the Reigns of Ahab of Israel and Jehoshaphat of Judah

Military Might of Judah Under Jehoshaphat

- 2 Chronicles 17:10-19

Jehoshaphat's Son Jehoram Marries Ahab's Daughter Athaliah

- 2 Chronicles 18:1 (cf. 1 Kings 22:44; 2 Kings 8:18; 2 Chronicles 21:6)

Events During and Immediately After Elijah's Three-Year Drought

- 1 Kings 17:1-19:21

¹⁸² Jezebel was the daughter of Eth-baal (meaning "with Baal"), the King of the Sidonians, who became the wife of Ahab of Israel. Evidently she brought the worship of Baal - the Sidonian storm god - to Israel with her. After her husband's accession to the throne, she took the lead in attempting to replace the worship of *Yahweh* with the worship of Baal.

¹⁸³ Jehoshaphat was born around 916/15 BC - the 6th Year of his father's reign.

¹⁸⁴ The 3rd Year of Jehoshaphat, which was also the 77th Sabbatical Year, was immediately followed, in the 4th Year of Jehoshaphat, by the 11th Year of Jubilee. It seems quite appropriate that religious teachers were sent throughout Judah during this time in Jehoshaphat's reign.

Year Beginning 7*1 in 867 BC = 14th Year of Jehoshaphat
Year Beginning 1*1 in 866 BC = 19th Year of Ahab/591st Year of the Exodus
Spring or Summer - Israel Defeats an Invading Aramean Army
➤ 1 Kings 20:1-25

Year Beginning 7*1 in 866 BC = 15th Year of Jehoshaphat
Year Beginning 1*1 in 865 BC = 20th Year of Ahab/592nd Year of the Exodus
Spring or Summer - Israel Defeats Aram a 2nd Time
➤ 1 Kings 20:26-43
Probably Summer - Jezebel Acquires the Vineyard of Naboth for Ahab
➤ 1 Kings 21:1-29

Between 865 and 863 BC - Three Years of Peace between Israel and Aram
➤ 1 Kings 22:1

Year Beginning 7*1 in 864 BC = 17th Year of Jehoshaphat/79th Sabbatical Year
Year Beginning 1*1 in 863 BC = 22nd Year of Ahab/594th Year of the Exodus
Spring or Summer
Jehoshaphat Visits Ahab
➤ 1 Kings 22:2 (cf. 2 Chronicles 18:2a)
Jehoshaphat Agrees to Assist Ahab against Ramoth-gilead
➤ 1 Kings 22:3-28 (cf. 2 Chronicles 18:2b-27)
Ahab Killed in Battle/Accession of Ahaziah
➤ 1 Kings 22:29-40, 51-53 (cf. 2 Chronicles 18:28-34)
Jehu, son of Hanani the Seer Rebukes Jehoshaphat Regarding Ahab
➤ 2 Chronicles 19:1-4
Jehoshaphat Reorganizes the Kingdom
➤ 2 Chronicles 19:5-11

Year Beginning 7*1 in 863 BC = 18th Year of Jehoshaphat
Year Beginning 1*1 in 862 BC = 2nd Year of Ahaziah/595th Year of the Exodus
Probably Late Spring and/or Summer¹⁸⁵

Mesha of Moab Rebels against Israel

➤ 2 Kings 1:1 (cf. 2 Kings 3:4-5)

Yahweh Saves Judah from an Invasion by a Moab/Ammon/Meun¹⁸⁶ Alliance

➤ 2 Chronicles 20:1-30

Eliezer Rebukes Jehoshaphat for His Shipping Alliance with Ahaziah

➤ 2 Chronicles 20:35-37 (cf. 1 Kings 22:48-49)

Ahaziah Fatally Injured

➤ 2 Kings 1:2-16

Death of Ahaziah/Accession of Jehoram

➤ 2 Kings 1:17-18

➤ 2 Kings 3:1-3

Elijah Taken Away by *Yahweh*

➤ 2 Kings 2:1-25

The Allied Armies of Israel, Judah and Edom¹⁸⁷ Defeat Moab

➤ 2 Kings 3:6-27

Undated Events Probably During the Reign of Jehoram of Israel - Ministry of Elisha

➤ 2 Kings 4:1-8:6

Year Beginning 1*1 in 859 BC = 5th Year of Jehoram/598th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 859 BC = 22nd Year of Jehoshaphat

Perhaps 7*1 - Jehoram (32 years)¹⁸⁸ Designated Crown Prince of Judah¹⁸⁹

➤ 2 Kings 8:16-17 (cf. 2 Chronicles 21:2-3, 5)

Year Beginning 1*1 in 856 BC = 8th Year of Jehoram/601st Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 856 BC = 25th Year of Jehoshaphat/4th Year of Jehoram

Death and Burial of Jehoshaphat

➤ 2 Chronicles 21:1 (cf. 1 Kings 22:45, 50)

Jehoram (35 years) Eliminates Rival Heirs

➤ 2 Chronicles 21:4, 6-7 (cf. 2 Kings 8:18-19)

¹⁸⁵ Perhaps after the time of sheep shearing, if Mesha's rebellion was demonstrated by his failure to pay the annual wool tribute.

¹⁸⁶ The "Meunites" lived south of Judah (2 Chronicles 26:7) and west of Edom (1 Chronicles 4:41-43).

¹⁸⁷ According to 1 Kings 22:47, Edom was a semi-independent part of the Judean kingdom at this time.

¹⁸⁸ Jehoram was born around 891/90 BC, during his grandfather Asa's reign.

¹⁸⁹ 2 Kings 8:16 makes it very clear that Jehoshaphat was still living when Jehoram ascended to the throne.

Between 856 and 853 BC

Edom and Libnah Rebel against Judah

- 2 Chronicles 21:8-10 (cf. 2 Kings 8:20-22)

Jehoram's Sin Prompts a Prophetic Letter from [Elisha?¹⁹⁰]

- 2 Chronicles 21:11-15

Philistines and Arabs Kidnap All Jehoram's Heirs Except Jehoahaz/Ahaziah

- 2 Chronicles 21:16-17

Year Beginning 7*1 in 855 BC = 5th Year of Jehoram

Year Beginning 1*1 in 854 BC = 10th Year of Jehoram/603rd Year of the Exodus

Spring or Summer -Jehoram of Judah Contracts a Disease of the Bowels

- 2 Chronicles 21:18

Year Beginning 1*1 in 852 BC = 12th Year of Jehoram/605th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 852 BC = 8th Year of Jehoram

During the Fall and/or Winter

Jehoram Dies/Accession of Ahaziah (22 years)¹⁹¹

[In the 11th Year of Jehoram of Israel]¹⁹²

- 2 Chronicles 21:19-22:4 (cf. 2 Kings 8:23-27; 9:29)

Israel and Judah Attack Ramoth-gilead, Where Jehoram of Israel Is Wounded

- 2 Kings 8:28 (cf. 2 Chronicles 22:5)

Ahaziah Visits Jehoram at Jezreel

- 2 Kings 8:29 (cf. 2 Chronicles 22:6)

A Messenger from Elisha Anoints Jehu as King of Israel at Ramoth-gilead

- 2 Kings 9:1-16

Jehu Assassinates Jehoram, Ahaziah and Jezebel; Purges Israel of Baal Worship

- 2 Kings 9:17-27, 30-10:31 (cf. 2 Chronicles 22:7-9a)

Ahaziah Buried at Jerusalem

- 2 Kings 9:28 (cf. 2 Chronicles 22:9b)

Athaliah Attempts to Eradicate the Davidic Line

- 2 Kings 11:1-2 (cf. 2 Chronicles 22:9b-11)

Year Beginning 1*1 in 846 BC = 7th Year of Jehu/611th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 846 BC = 6th Year of Athaliah

7*1? - Jehoash (7 years)¹⁹³ Declared King of Judah/Athaliah Executed

- 2 Chronicles 22:12-24:3 (cf. 2 Kings 11:3-12:3)

Between 845 and 843 BC – Ben-hadad of Aram Assassinated by Hazael

- 2 Kings 8:7-15

¹⁹⁰ Since Elijah had been gone for quite some time, and since his name is very similar to that of his successor Elisha, perhaps some scribe accidentally copied the wrong name - something very easily done.

¹⁹¹ Ahaziah was born around 874/73 BC, probably shortly after his father, Prince Jehoram of Judah, married his mother, Princess Athaliah of Israel, as part of an alliance agreement between their two countries. Compare 2 Chronicles 18:1; 1 Kings 22:44; 2 Kings 8:18; 2 Chronicles 21:6)

¹⁹² According to 1 Kings 9:29. This is a clear-cut example of alternate dating from this period. An accession, *Nisan* regnal year for the northern kingdom appears to be cited.

¹⁹³ Jehoash was born around 853/52 BC, the year before his father's accession and assassination.

During the Reign of Jehu - Israel Loses Control of Its Territory East of the Jordan

- 2 Kings 10:32-33

Jonah was a prophet from Gath-hepher in the northern kingdom of Israel. He correctly prophesied the return of the Israeli territories captured during the reign of Jehu (2 Kings 14:25). The book of JONAH recounts some other significant events in his life.

- Jonah 1:1-4:11

Year Beginning 7*1 in 826 BC = 21st Year of Jehoash

Year Beginning 1*1 in 825 BC = 28th Year of Jehu/632nd Year of the Exodus

?? - Jehu Dies/Accession of Jehoahaz [In the 21st Year of Jehoash]¹⁹⁴

- 2 Kings 10:34-36; 13:1-2

Year Beginning 7*1 in 824 BC = 23rd Year of Jehoash

Fall and/or Winter - Temple Still Not Repaired

- 2 Kings 12:4-16 (cf. 2 Chronicles 24:4-14)

During the Reign of Jehoahaz - Israel Repents under Intense Oppression by Aram

- 2 Kings 13:3-7

Year Beginning 7*1 in 810 BC = 37th Year of Jehoash

Year Beginning 1*1 in 809 BC = 17th Year of Jehoahaz/648th Year of the Exodus

Spring or Summer - Jehoahaz Dies/Accession of Jehoash¹⁹⁵

- 2 Kings 13:8-11

Year Beginning 7*1 in 808 BC = 39th Year of Jehoash/87th Sabbatical Year

?? - Jehoash Rebels against *Yahweh*¹⁹⁶ after the Death of Jehoiada¹⁹⁷

- 2 Chronicles 24:15-22

Year Beginning 1*1 in 807 BC = 2nd Year of Jehoash/650th Year of the Exodus

Spring - *Yahweh* Permits Aram to Defeat Judah

- 2 Chronicles 24:23-24 (cf. 2 Kings 12:17-18)

Year Beginning 7*1 in 807 BC = 40th Year of Jehoash

7*1? - Jehoash of Judah Assassinated/Accession of Amaziah (29 years)¹⁹⁸

- 2 Kings 12:19-21 (cf. 2 Chronicles 24:25-27)

- 2 Kings 14:1-6 (2 Chronicles 25:1-4)

¹⁹⁴ According to Antiquities 9.8.5, Jehoahaz came to the throne in the 21st and not the 23rd Year of Jehoash. This seems to indicate a variant between Josephus' copy and extant copies of the Septuagint. The number 21 fits better into the overall chronology of the period.

¹⁹⁵ Around this time the northern kingdom of Israel evidently adopted an accession, *Nisan* regnal year like that used by all the nations around them.

¹⁹⁶ Perhaps part of Jehoash's rebellion was the failure to observe the Sabbatical Year.

¹⁹⁷ Jehoiada was born shortly after Israel split into two kingdoms.

¹⁹⁸ Amaziah was born around 836/35 BC, about ten years into his father's reign.

Between 806 and 794 BC

Final Words, Death and Burial of Elisha

- 2 Kings 13:14-21

Israel Recovers Some Territory from Aram

- 2 Kings 13:22-25

Judah Defeats Edom

- 2 Chronicles 25:5-16 (cf. 2 Kings 14:7)

Judah Defeated and Amaziah Captured in a Failed Attack upon Israel

- 2 Chronicles 25:17-24 (cf. 2 Kings 14:8-14)

Year Beginning 1*1 in 793 BC = 16th Year of Jehoash/664th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 793 BC = 15th Year of Amaziah

Fall or Winter - Jehoash Dies/Accession of Jeroboam II

- 2 Kings 14:15-16, 23-24

Year Beginning 1*1 in 790 BC = 3rd Year of Jeroboam II/667th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 790 BC = 18th Year of Amaziah

7*1? – Azariah (4 years) Declared Crown Prince of Judah¹⁹⁹

**Year Beginning 7*1 in 780 BC = 28th Year of Amaziah/11th Year of Azariah/
91st Sabbatical Year**

Year Beginning 1*1 in 779 BC = 14th Year of Jeroboam II/678th Year of the Exodus

**Year Beginning 7*1 in 779 BC = 29th Year of Amaziah/12th Year of Azariah/
13th Year of Jubilee**

Year Beginning 1*1 in 778 BC = 15th Year of Jeroboam II/679th Year of the Exodus

Spring or Summer

Amaziah Assassinated/Azariah (16 years)²⁰⁰ Declared King of Judah

[In the 14th Year of Jeroboam II]²⁰¹

- 2 Kings 14:17-21 (cf. 2 Chronicles 25:25-26:1, 3-4)

During the Reigns of Jeroboam II and Azariah

Amos was a shepherd/fig picker from Tekoa in Judah. The book of AMOS includes his prophecies against the northern kingdom of Israel which he began to make “two years before the earthquake” (date unknown), during the reigns of Azariah of Judah and Jeroboam II of Israel.

- Amos 1:1-9:15

Israel Fully Recovers the Trans-Jordan Territories of Israel

- 2 Kings 14:25-27

Azariah Revitalizes Judah

- 2 Chronicles 26:2, 5-15 (cf. 2 Kings 14:22)

¹⁹⁹ I make this assumption based on my terminal dates for Amaziah and Azariah.

²⁰⁰ Azariah was born around 794/93 BC, when his father had reigned about 14 years.

²⁰¹ According to Antiquities 9.9.3. This agrees with Scriptural information that Amaziah survived Jehoash of Israel by only 15 years. Perhaps this is another example of an unattested textual variant.

During the Reigns of Jeroboam II and Azariah

The prophet Hosea also began prophesying the impending doom for the northern kingdom of Israel during the reigns of Azariah of Judah and Jeroboam II of Israel. In the book of **HOSEA** he used his adulterous wife and his children of questionable paternity as symbols of Israel's spiritual adultery. His ministry continued until the reign of Hezekiah of Judah, who was king when Israel went into Assyrian captivity.

➤ Hosea 1:1-14:9

Year Beginning 7*1 in 753 BC = 38th Year of Azariah

Year Beginning 1*1 in 752 BC = 41st Year of Jeroboam II/705th Year of the Exodus

Late Summer - Jeroboam II Dies/Accession of Zechariah

➤ 2 Kings 14:28-29; 15:8-9

Year Beginning 7*1 in 752 BC = 39th Year of Azariah/95th Sabbatical Year

Year Beginning 1*1 in 751 BC = 1st Year of Zechariah/706th Year of the Exodus

Spring

Zechariah Assassinated by Shallum/Accession of Shallum

➤ 2 Kings 15:10-13

Shallum Assassinated by Menahem/Accession of Menahem

➤ 2 Kings 15:14-18

Year Beginning 7*1 in 751 BC = 40th Year of Azariah

Year Beginning 1*1 in 750 BC = 1st Year of Menahem/707th Year of the Exodus

Spring – Pekah Governs Gilead²⁰²

Year Beginning 1*1 in 749 BC = 2nd Year of Menahem/708th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 749 BC = 42nd Year of Azariah

7*1? - Jotham Designated Crown Prince of Judah

[In the 2nd Year of Pekah]

➤ 2 Kings 15:32-35a (cf. 2 Chronicles 27:1-2)

Sometime Between 745 and 741 BC - Menahem Pays Tribute to Tiglath-pileser III

➤ 2 Kings 15:19-20

²⁰² Thiele speculates that Pekah established a rival kingdom in Gilead at this time (pages 124-131). I think it much more likely that Pekah was the Israeli officer in charge of Gilead during the reigns of both Pekah and Pekahiah. This would not be all that surprising since Gilead was often viewed as a semi-autonomous region from the days of the judges onward. When Pekah and his Gileadite supporters assassinated Pekahiah, he could very naturally have counted his reign from the time of his earlier appointment.

Year Beginning 1*1 in 741 BC = 10th Year of Menahem/716th Year of the Exodus
**Year Beginning 7*1 in 741 BC = 50th Year of Azariah/9th Year of Jotham/
1st Year of Ahaz**

Perhaps 7*1²⁰³

Azariah Contracts Leprosy/Jotham Reigns
➤ 2 Chronicles 26:16-21 (cf. 2 Kings 15:5)

Ahaz Declared Crown Prince of Judah

Fall or Winter - Menahem Dies/Accession of Pekahiah

➤ 2 Kings 15:21-24

Year Beginning 1*1 in 739 BC = 2nd Year of Pekahiah/718th Year of the Exodus
**Year Beginning 7*1 in 739 BC = 52nd Year of Azariah/11th Year of Jotham/
3rd Year of Ahaz**

??- Pekah Assassinates Pekahiah/Accession of Pekah

➤ 2 Kings 15:25-28

Year Beginning 1*1 in 738 BC = 13th Year of Pekah/719th Year of the Exodus

Death and Burial of Azariah

➤ 2 Chronicles 26:22-23 (cf. 2 Kings 15:6-7)

The Throne Vision of Isaiah

➤ Isaiah 6:1-13

Between 738 and 735 BC

Jotham Commissions Major Construction Projects

➤ 2 Chronicles 27:3-4 (cf. 2 Kings 15:35b)

Over A Three-Year Period- Jotham Brings Ammon under Judean Control

➤ 2 Chronicles 27:5-6

²⁰³ While the 7*1 date is pure speculation on my part, the actual year is based on my terminal dates for Jotham and Ahaz. Jotham's full elevation to the throne because of Azariah's leprosy would certainly explain Ahaz's appointment as Crown Prince at this time. Azariah's insistence that he be allowed to burn incense, the action that brought on his leprosy, could be explained by his celebration of some significant event, such as the beginning of his 50th year on the throne.

Year Beginning 7*1 in 735 BC = 16th Year of Jotham/8th of Ahaz

Year Beginning 1*1 in 734 BC = 17th Year of Pekah/723rd Year of the Exodus

Spring or Summer

Ahaz Exerts Control in Judah²⁰⁴

➤ 2 Kings 16:1-4 (cf. 2 Chronicles 28:1-4)

Israel and Aram Invade Judah, Taking Captives and Territory

➤ 2 Chronicles 28:5-15 (cf. 2 Kings 15:37; 16:5-6; Isaiah 7:1)

Isaiah Prophesies to Ahaz

➤ Isaiah 7:2-25

Ahaz Requests the Assistance of Tiglath-pileser

➤ 2 Chronicles 28:16-21 (cf. 2 Kings 16:7-9a)

Year Beginning 7*1 in 734 BC = Year 9th of Ahaz/17th of Jotham

Fall or Winter - Prophecies of Isaiah During Tiglath-pileser's Assistance of Ahaz

➤ Isaiah 8:1-12:6

Year Beginning 1*1 in 733 BC = 18th Year of Pekah/724th Year of the Exodus

Probably Spring or Summer - Tiglath-pileser Invades Israel and Aram

➤ 2 Kings 15:29

➤ 2 Kings 16:9a

Year Beginning 1*1 in 732 BC = 19th Year of Pekah/725th Year of the Exodus

Probably Spring or Summer

Isaiah Prophesies Against Damascus

➤ Isaiah 17:1-14

Tiglath-pileser Captures Damascus and Executes Rezin

➤ 2 Kings 16:9b

Ahaz Visits Tiglath-pileser at Damascus

➤ 2 Kings 16:10

Ahaz Defiles the Temple

➤ 2 Kings 16:11-18 (cf. 2 Chronicles 28:22-25)

Year Beginning 1*1 in 731 BC = 20th Year of Pekah/726th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 731 BC = 12th Year of Ahaz/20th of Jotham/

98th Sabbatical Year

Fall or Winter - Pekah Assassinated by Hoshea/Hoshea Declared King of Israel²⁰⁵

➤ 2 Kings 15:30-31

➤ 2 Kings 17:1-2

²⁰⁴ This is based on two chronological items – first, that Ahaz came to the throne in Pekah's 17th Year, and second, that Hoshea came to the throne during the 12th Year of Ahaz and the 20th of Jotham, even though Jotham's reign was only 16 years in length. It is very likely that a pro-Assyrian stance by a newly enthroned Ahaz (however he came to power) would have triggered the Philistine/Edomite/Aramean/Israeli invasion of Judah that led to Tiglath-pileser's three-year (734-732 BC) military campaign in the region.

²⁰⁵ In the fragmentary text of an Assyrian document, Tiglath-pileser III claimed that he placed Hoshea on the Israeli throne after Pekah's assassination.

Sometime After 731 BC – Death and Burial of Jotham

- 2 Chronicles 27:7-9 (cf. 2 Kings 15:36, 38)

Year Beginning 7*1 in 730 BC = 13th Year of Ahaz/14th Year of Jubilee

Year Beginning 1*1 in 729 BC = 3rd Year of Hoshea/728th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 729 BC = 14th Year of Ahaz

Probably during the Fall or Winter - Hezekiah Declared Crown Prince²⁰⁶

- 2 Kings 18:1

MICAH was written by a prophet from the city of Moresheth, located in the hill country between Jerusalem and Philistia. His prophetic ministry occurred during the turbulent final days of the northern kingdom of Israel, during the reigns of the Judean kings Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah.

- Micah 1:1-7:20

ISAIAH was written by a prophet whose ministry began in the waning years of Azariah (a.k.a. Uzziah) and continued into the second half of Hezekiah's reign, after the northern kingdom of Israel had gone into Assyrian captivity.

- Isaiah 1:1-5:30

Year Beginning 1*1 in 727 BC = 5th Year of Hoshea/730th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 727 BC = 16th Year of Ahaz/3rd Year of Hezekiah

Probably Fall or Winter

Death of Ahaz/Hezekiah Continues as King

- 2 Chronicles 28:26-29:2 (cf. 2 Kings 16:19-20; 18:2-3)

Isaiah Prophecies Against Philistia

- Isaiah 14:28-32

²⁰⁶ This agrees with the dating in 2 Kings 18:9-10.

**Year Beginning 1*1 in 726 BC = 6th Year of Hoshea/731st Year of the Exodus
1st Year of Hezekiah (as sole ruler)**

1*1-16²⁰⁷ - Priests Cleanse the Temple

➤ 2 Chronicles 29:3-19

1*17²⁰⁸ – Hezekiah Reestablishes Worship at the Temple

➤ 2 Chronicles 29:20-36

1*? – Hezekiah Invites All Israel to an Alternate Passover²⁰⁹

➤ 2 Chronicles 30:1-12

2*14-21²¹⁰ - Alternate Passover/Unleavened Bread Held

➤ 2 Chronicles 30:13-22

2*22-28²¹¹ – Additional Celebration

➤ 2 Chronicles 30:23-27

From 2*29²¹² - Post Festival Purge

➤ 2 Chronicles 31:1 (cf. 2 Kings 18:4)

After 3*5 = Pentecost²¹³ - Reestablishment of the Tithe

➤ 2 Chronicles 31:2-7a

Year Beginning 7*1 in 726 BC = 4th Year of Hezekiah

7th Month²¹⁴ - Reestablishment of the Priests and Levites

➤ 2 Chronicles 31:7b- 21

**Year Beginning 1*1 in 725 BC = 7th Year of Hoshea/732nd Year of the Exodus
2nd Year of Hezekiah (as sole ruler)**

Spring and/or Summer - Samaria Besieged

➤ 2 Kings 18:9

➤ 2 Kings 17:3-5

²⁰⁷ SAT/SUN 31 MAR – SUN/MON 15/16 APR in 726 BC.

²⁰⁸ MON/TUE 16/17 APR in 726 BC.

²⁰⁹ I place this event immediately prior to Assyria's final assault upon Israel because my dating of the remaining Judean kings demands such placement. Most chronologists place it after the destruction of Samaria and the deportation of the Israeli population, but this seems unlikely to me since relocated non-Israelis inhabited the former territory of the northern kingdom at that time (2 Kings 17:6ff), and Hezekiah's invitation was clearly delivered to Israelis still living in their own land. In my estimation, this marks northern Israel's final opportunity for repentance before *Yahweh's* divine punishment. The Israelis who had "escaped" and were "left from the hand of the kings of Assyria" (2 Chronicles 30:6) were those who had been left behind in deportations such as that done by Tiglath-pileser around 733 BC (2 Kings 15:29).

²¹⁰ SUN/MON 13/14 – SUN/MON 20/21 APR in 726 BC.

²¹¹ MON/TUE 21/22 – SUN/MON 27/28 APR in 726 BC.

²¹² MON/TUE 28/29 in 726 BC.

²¹³ SAT/SUN 2/3 JUN in 726 BC. The wheat harvest officially began after Pentecost.

²¹⁴ 7*1 = MON/TUE 24/25 SEP in 726 BC.

Year Beginning 7*1 in 724 BC = 6th Year of Hezekiah
Year Beginning 1*1 in 723 BC = 9th Year of Hoshea/734th Year of the Exodus
4th Year of Hezekiah (as sole ruler)

Spring and/or Summer

Capture of Samaria

➤ 2 Kings 18:10 (cf. 2 Kings 17:6a)

The Assyrian Deportation of Israel

➤ 2 Kings 18:11-12 (cf. 2 Kings 17:6b)

➤ 2 Kings 17:6-41

Probably Between the Deportation of Israel and Assyria's Invasion of Judah

Hezekiah Rebels against Assyria and Recaptures Gaza

➤ 2 Kings 18:7b-8

Hezekiah Considered the Best King of Judah

➤ 2 Kings 18:5-7a (cf. 2 Chronicles 31:20-21)

Year Beginning 1*1 in 715 BC = 742nd Year of the Exodus

12th Year of Hezekiah (as sole ruler)

Spring and/or Summer – Sennacherib (On Behalf of Sargon II)²¹⁵ Invades Judah

➤ 2 Chronicles 32:1-8 (cf. 2 Kings 18:13-16; Isaiah 36:1)

➤ 2 Chronicles 32:30a (cf. 2 Kings 20:20a)

➤ Isaiah 36:2-37:37 (cf. 2 Kings 18:17-19:36; 2 Chronicles 32:9-21a, 22)

Additional Prophecies of Isaiah

➤ Isaiah 13:1-14:27

➤ Isaiah 15:1-19:25

➤ Isaiah 21:1-35:10

Year Beginning 7*1 in 715 BC = 15th Year of Hezekiah

Year Beginning 1*1 in 714 BC = 743rd Year of the Exodus

13th Year of Hezekiah (as sole ruler)

Summer – 1st Harvest of Isaiah's Prophecy (Per Isaiah 37:30)

Year Beginning 7*1 in 714 BC = 16th Year of Hezekiah

Year Beginning 1*1 in 713 BC = 744th Year of the Exodus

14th Year of Hezekiah (as sole ruler)

Summer – 2nd Harvest of Isaiah's Prophecy (Per Isaiah 37:30)

Year Beginning 7*1 in 713 BC = 17th Year of Hezekiah

Year Beginning 1*1 in 712 BC = 745th Year of the Exodus

15th Year of Hezekiah (as sole ruler)

Summer [3rd Harvest of Isaiah's Prophecy (Per Isaiah 37:30)]

Hezekiah Healed and Granted 15 More Years of Life

➤ Isaiah 38:1-22 (cf. 2 Kings 20:1-11; 2 Chronicles 32:24)

²¹⁵ As proposed by E. W. Faulstich in History, Harmony & the Hebrew Kings.

Perhaps in the Year Beginning 7*1 in 712 BC = 18th Year of Hezekiah

?? - Hezekiah Rebuked for His Pride

- Isaiah 39:1-8 (cf. 2 Kings 20:12-19; 2 Chronicles 32:25, 31)

Year Beginning 1*1 in 711 BC = 746th Year of the Exodus

16th Year of Hezekiah (as sole ruler)/14 years left

?? - Isaiah Instructed to become an Illustration for Egypt/Cush

- Isaiah 20:1-2

Year Beginning 7*1 in 710 BC = 20th Year of Hezekiah

Year Beginning 1*1 in 709 BC = 748th Year of the Exodus

18th Year of Hezekiah (as sole ruler)/12 years left

Spring or Summer – Isaiah Prophecies against Egypt/Cush

- Isaiah 20:3-6

During the Final Years of Hezekiah's Reign

Hezekiah Prospers Greatly

- 2 Chronicles 32:27-29, 30b

Additions to PROVERBS Made During the Reign of Hezekiah

- Proverbs 25:1-31:31

While long-standing tradition has attributed ECCLESIASTES to Solomon, it does not actually contain the name of its author. In my estimation the internal evidence points toward either Solomon or Hezekiah - the two most wealthy and wise kings of Israeli history. Given that the writer attempts to find meaning in a life where physical death is the ultimate fate of all, and that his final conclusion is that one must reverence God and keep His commandments during life, I consider Hezekiah the much more likely author.

- Ecclesiastes 1:1-12:14

Year Beginning 1*1 in 698 BC = 759th Year of the Exodus

29th Year of Hezekiah (as sole ruler)/Final year

Year Beginning 7*1 in 698 BC = 32nd Year of Hezekiah

During the Fall or Winter - Hezekiah Dies/Accession of Manasseh (12 years)²¹⁶

- 2 Kings 20:20b-21:1 (cf. 2 Chronicles 32:32-33:1)

Year Beginning 1*1 in 681 BC = 776th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 681 BC = 17th Year of Manasseh

?? - Sennacherib Assassinated as Prophesied by Isaiah

- Isaiah 37:38 (cf. 2 Kings 19:37; 2 Chronicles 32:21b)

²¹⁶ Manasseh was born around 710/09 BC, early in his father's additional fifteen years of life.

During the Early Reign of Manasseh

The Unrighteous Acts of Manasseh

- 2 Kings 21:2-16 (cf. 2 Chronicles 33:2-10)

Additional Prophecies of Isaiah

- Isaiah 40:1-66:24

During the Later Reign of Manasseh

Manasseh Repents After Being Captured by the King of Assyria

- 2 Chronicles 33:11-13

The Military and Religious Reforms of Manasseh

- 2 Chronicles 33:14-17

Year Beginning 7*1 in 643 BC = 55th Year of Manasseh

Year Beginning 1*1 in 642 BC = 815th Year of the Exodus

Manasseh Dies/Accession of Amon (22 years)²¹⁷

- 2 Kings 21:17-19 (cf. 2 Chronicles 33:18-21)

Between 642 and 641 BC - The Unrighteous Acts of Amon

- 2 Kings 21:20-22 (cf. 2 Chronicles 33:22-23)

Year Beginning 7*1 in 641 BC = 2nd Year of Amon

Year Beginning 1*1 in 640 BC = 817th Year of the Exodus

Amon Assassinated/Accession of Josiah (8 years)²¹⁸

- 2 Kings 21:23-22:2 (cf. 2 Chronicles 33:24-34)

Year Beginning 1*1 in 633 BC = 824th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 633 BC = 8th Year of Josiah/112th Sabbatical Year

Probably in the Fall - Josiah (15 years) Begins to Seek *Yahweh*

- 2 Chronicles 34:2-3a

Year Beginning 1*1 in 632 BC = 825th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 633 BC = 9th Year of Josiah/16th Year of Jubilee

Year Beginning 7*1 in 629 BC = 12th Year of Josiah

Year Beginning 1*1 in 628 BC = 829th Year of the Exodus

Probably in the Spring – Josiah (20 years) Begins Purging Judah of Idolatry

- 2 Chronicles 34:3b

Year Beginning 7*1 in 628 BC = 13th Year of Josiah

Year Beginning 1*1 in 627 BC = 830th Year of the Exodus

Spring - Jeremiah Begins His Ministry as a Prophet

- Jeremiah 1:1-10

²¹⁷ Amon was born around 664/63 BC, near the middle of his father's long reign.

²¹⁸ Josiah was born around 648/47 BC, during the final years of his grandfather's reign, when his father was only about 16 years old.

The book of **JEREMIAH** is a record of the prophetic ministry of a priest from Anathoth, a city just north of Jerusalem. It is possible that his father was the High Priest Hilkiah (cf. 1:1 to 2 Kings 22:4), which would have made his conflict with the Temple priests all the more remarkable. Jeremiah's ministry took place during the final 40 years of Judah, a period that I believe coincides with the 40 years of Judah's iniquity, as portrayed by the prophet Ezekiel (Ezekiel 4:6).

- Jeremiah 1:11-6:30

Year Beginning 1*1 in 623 BC = 834th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 623 BC = 18th Year of Josiah

Fall or Winter

Book of the Law Rediscovered during Restoration of the Temple

- 2 Kings 22:3-20 (cf. 2 Chronicles 34:8-28)

Josiah Leads Judah in a Renewal of the Covenant with *Yahweh*

- 2 Kings 23:1-3 (cf. 2 Chronicles 34:29-33)

Josiah Purges the Regions of Ancient Israel of Idolatry

- 2 Kings 23:4-20 (cf. 2 Chronicles 34:4-7)

Year Beginning 1*1 in 622 BC = 835th Year of the Exodus

1*14-21²¹⁹ - Passover/Unleavened Bread Observed

- 2 Chronicles 35:1-19 (cf. 2 Kings 23:21-24)

ZEPHANIAH was written during the reign of Josiah. The prophet may have been a great-great grandson of King Hezekiah (1:1). He also prophesies Judah's destruction.

- Zephaniah 1:1-3:20

NAHUM was written around the time of Nineveh's destruction in 612 BC.

- Nahum 1:1-3:19

Before 609 BC

- Jeremiah 47:1ff

Year Beginning 7*1 in 610 BC = 31st Year of Josiah

Year Beginning 1*1 in 609 BC = 17th Year of Nabopolassar/848th Year of the Exodus

Spring

Josiah Fatally Wounded by Pharaoh Necho II at Megiddo

- 2 Chronicles 35:20-23 (cf. 2 Kings 23:28-29)

Death and Burial of Josiah at Jerusalem/Accession of Jehoahaz (23 years)²²⁰

- 2 Chronicles 35:24-36:2 (cf. 2 Kings 23:30-32)

During the 4th Month²²¹ – Assyrian-Egyptian Alliance Attacks Babylonians at Haran

During the 6th Month²²² – Egyptians Retreat from Haran

²¹⁹ SAT/SUN 3/4 – SAT/SUN 10/11 APR in 622 BC.

²²⁰ Jehoahaz was born around 632/31 BC, only about a year after his father began seeking after *Yahweh*.

²²¹ According to the Babylonian Chronicles. 4*1 = SUN/MON 24/25 JUN in 609 BC.

²²² Also according to the Babylonian Chronicles. 6*1 = WED/THU 22/23 AUG in 609 BC.

Year Beginning 7*1 in 609 BC = 1st Year of Jehoahaz

- 6*? - Jehoahaz Taken into Egyptian Custody;
Eliakim/Jehoiakim (25 years)²²³ Appointed King by Necho II
➤ 2 Chronicles 36:3-5 (cf. 2 Kings 23:33-34)

Year Beginning 7*1 in 608 BC = 1st Year of Jehoiakim

Early in the Reign of Jehoiakim

- Jeremiah Prophesies Against the Temple
➤ Jeremiah 7:1-10:25 (cf. Jeremiah 26:1-6)
Jeremiah Barely Escapes Execution
➤ Jeremiah 26:7-24
➤ Jeremiah 11:1-12:17
Jeremiah Prophesies Against Jerusalem
➤ Jeremiah 13:1-17:27

JOEL may have been written shortly before Babylon's first invasion of Judah.

- Joel 1:1-3:21

Year Beginning 7*1 in 606 BC = 3rd Year of Jehoiakim

**Year Beginning 1*1 in 605 BC = 21st Year of Nabopolassar/852nd Year of the Exodus
23rd Year of Jeremiah's Ministry²²⁴**

Spring and Summer

- Prince Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon Defeats Necho II at Carchemish
Jeremiah Prophesies against Egypt
➤ Jeremiah 46:1-28
Nebuchadnezzar Plunders the Temple and Takes Royal Captives
➤ Daniel 1:1-2
5*8²²⁵ – Nabopolassar Dies
6*1²²⁶ – Nebuchadnezzar's Accession
?? - Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah Begin 3 Years of Babylonian Training
➤ Daniel 1:3-17

Year Beginning 7*1 in 605 BC = 4th Year of Jehoiakim/116th Sabbatical Year

- Probably During the Fall - Jeremiah Prophesies 70 Years of Babylonian Oppression**
➤ Jeremiah 25:1-38

HABAKKUK was probably written around the same time as Nahum. It prophesies the coming destruction of the Judean kingdom.

- Habakkuk 1:1-3:19

²²³ Eliakim was born around 634/33 BC, just about a year before his father began seeking after *Yahweh*.

²²⁴ According to Jeremiah 25:3.

²²⁵ According to the Babylonian Chronicle. FRI/SAT 15/16 JUL in 605 BC.

²²⁶ According to the Babylonian Chronicle. SUN/MON 7/8 AUG in 605 BC.

Other Prophecies of Jeremiah

- Jeremiah 35:1-19; 48:1-49:27

**Year Beginning 1*1 in 604 BC = 1st (2nd)²²⁷ Year of Nebuchadnezzar/
853rd Year of the Exodus**

Probably Late Summer - Jeremiah Dictates His Prophecies to Baruch

- Jeremiah 36:1-8
- Jeremiah 45:1-5

Year Beginning 7*1 in 604 BC = 5th Year of Jehoiakim

9*?²²⁸ – Jehoiakim Destroys Jeremiah's Scroll of Prophecies

- Jeremiah 36:9-26
- ?? - Jeremiah Re-dictates His Prophecies to Baruch
- Jeremiah 36:27-32

**Year Beginning 1*1 in 603 BC = 2nd (3rd) Year of Nebuchadnezzar/
854th Year of the Exodus**

After Three Years of Training

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah Begin Babylonian Service

- Daniel 1:18-21

Daniel Interprets Nebuchadnezzar's Dream about Four Kingdoms

- Daniel 2:1-49

After Three Years of Submission - Jehoiakim Rebels against Nebuchadnezzar

- 2 Kings 24:1-4

Other Prophecies of Jeremiah

- Jeremiah 49:28-33

**Year Beginning 1*1 in 598 BC = 7th (8th) Year of Nebuchadnezzar/
859th Year of the Exodus**

?? - Jeremiah Prophecies against the Kings of Judah

- Jeremiah 22:1-30

?? - Jeremiah Prophecies about the Messiah and against False Prophets

- Jeremiah 23:1-40

²²⁷ There is good evidence that the Judeans counted Nebuchadnezzar's reign from the year of his first assault against Jerusalem – the year of his accession to the throne of Babylon. Babylonian records indicate his second assault against Jerusalem took place in his 7th Year, while the Judean records show it as his 8th. Jeremiah chapter 52 includes examples of both systems, with the prophet dating the fall of Jerusalem in the 19th (Judean) Year, but at the same time incorporating an official record of captives taken from Jerusalem dated as the 18th (Babylonian) Year.

²²⁸ 9*1 = THU/FRI 23/24 NOV in 604 BC.

**Year Beginning 7*1 in 598 BC = 11th Year of Jehoiakim/113th Sabbatical Year
Perhaps During the 9th Month²²⁹ - Nebuchadnezzar Takes Jehoiakim Captive**

- 2 Chronicles 36:6-8 (cf. 2 Kings 24:5)

Perhaps 9*22²³⁰ - Jehoiakim Dies in Babylonian Custody/Jehoiachin Declared King

- 2 Kings 24:6
- 2 Kings 24:8-9 (cf. 2 Chronicles 36:9)

Perhaps 12*2²³¹ - Jehoiachin Surrenders to Nebuchadnezzar

- 2 Kings 24:11-12a

During the 12th Month

Jehoiachin and Thousands of Judeans Taken into Babylonian Captivity

- 2 Kings 24:12b-16 (cf. 2 Chronicles 36:10a)

- Jeremiah 52:28

Mattaniah (a.k.a. Zedekiah) Appointed King of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar

- 2 Kings 24:17-19 (cf. 2 Chronicles 36:10b-12)

**Year Beginning 1*1 in 597 BC = 8th (9th) Year of Nebuchadnezzar/
860th Year of the Exodus/
2nd Year of Jehoiachin's Exile²³²**

Probably during the Spring or Summer

Jeremiah's Fig Vision

- Jeremiah 24:1-10

Jeremiah Sends a Letter to the Judean Exiles

- Jeremiah 29:1-32

Year Beginning 7*1 in 597 BC = 2nd Year of Zedekiah²³³

Early in the Reign of Zechariah – Jeremiah Prophesies Against Elam

- Jeremiah 49:34-39

Year Beginning 7*1 in 595 BC = 4th Year of Zedekiah

²²⁹ According to the Babylonian Chronicle, Nebuchadnezzar moved his military forces into the region that included Judea during the 9th Month. 9*1 = SAT/SUN 18/19 NOV in 598 BC.

²³⁰ SAT/SUN 9/10 DEC in 598 BC, 3 months and 10 days prior to Jehoiachin's surrender.

²³¹ According to the Babylonian Chronicle, the Judean king of Jerusalem surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar on this date. WED/THU 14/15 FEB in 597 BC.

²³² Jehoiachin's exile is reckoned in accordance with the Babylonian calendar year.

²³³ Perhaps because King Jehoiachin was alive, although exiled in Babylon, the Judeans reckoned the years of Zedekiah's reign with a non-accession method.

**Year Beginning 1*1 in 594 BC = 11th (12th) Year of Nebuchadnezzar/
863rd Year of the Exodus/
5th Year of Jehoiachin's Exile**

?? - Jeremiah Sends a Prophecy to the Exiles Living in Babylon

➤ Jeremiah 50:1-51:64

4*5²³⁴ – Ezekiel (30 years old) Experiences His 1st Vision of *Yahweh's* Throne

➤ Ezekiel 1:1-3:15

4*12²³⁵ - Ezekiel Appointed as Israel's Watchman

➤ Ezekiel 3:16-4:17

?? – Jeremiah Demands Submission to Nebuchadnezzar

➤ Jeremiah 27:1-22

5*?²³⁶ - Jeremiah Rebukes the Prophet Hananiah

➤ Jeremiah 28:1-16

Year Beginning 7*1 in 594 BC = 5th Year of Zedekiah

7*?²³⁷ – Hananiah Dies as Jeremiah Predicted

➤ Jeremiah 28:17

**Year Beginning 1*1 in 593 BC = 12th (13th) Year of Nebuchadnezzar/
864th Year of the Exodus/
6th Year of Jehoiachin's Exile**

4*18²³⁸ - Ezekiel Finishes 390 Days on His Left Side²³⁹

➤ (Per Ezekiel 4:5)

5*28²⁴⁰ – Ezekiel Finishes 40 Days on His Right Side

➤ (Per Ezekiel 4:6)

6*? - Ezekiel Prophesies the Desolation of Jerusalem and Judah

➤ Ezekiel 5:1-7:27

6*5²⁴¹ – Ezekiel Experiences His 2nd Vision of *Yahweh's* Throne

➤ Ezekiel 8:1-11:25

Other Prophecies of Ezekiel (most likely from this time period)

➤ Ezekiel 12:1-13:23

²³⁴ SAT/SUN 12/13 JUN in 594 BC.

²³⁵ SAT/SUN 19/20 JUN in 594 BC.

²³⁶ 5*1 = FRI/SAT 6/7 AUG in 594 BC.

²³⁷ 7*1 = MON/TUE 4/5 OCT in 594 BC.

²³⁸ THU/FRI 13/14 JUL in 593 BC.

²³⁹ The exact chronology of Judah's final years is made certain by these unusual, prophetic actions by Ezekiel. There must be 430 days between 4*12 in the 5th Year of Jehoiachin's Exile and 6*5 in the 6th Year of Jehoiachin's Exile, indicating the presence of an intercalary 13th month. Such was the case in the year 594/93 BC, but not in the years immediately preceding or following it.

²⁴⁰ TUE/WED 22/23 AUG in 593 BC.

²⁴¹ TUE/WED 29/30 AUG in 593 BC.

Year Beginning 7*1 in 593 BC = 6th Year of Zedekiah
**Year Beginning 1*1 in 592 BC = 13th (14th) Year of Nebuchadnezzar/
865th Year of the Exodus/
7th Year of Jehoiachin's Exile**

5*10²⁴² – *Yahweh* Rebukes the Exiles for Inquiring of Him

➤ Ezekiel 20:1 (cf. 14:1)

➤ Ezekiel 14:1-11; 20:2-44; 14:11-23

Other prophecies of Ezekiel (most likely from this time period)

➤ 15:1-16:63

Year Beginning 7*1 in 591 BC = 8th Year of Zedekiah/118th Sabbatical Year
**Year Beginning 1*1 in 590 BC = 15th (16th) Year of Nebuchadnezzar/
867th Year of the Exodus/
9th Year of Jehoiachin's Exile**

Probably in the Spring

Zedekiah Rebels against Nebuchadnezzar

➤ 2 Chronicles 36:13-16 (cf. 2 Kings 24:20)

Prophecies of Ezekiel Relating to the Recent Rebellion of Zedekiah

➤ Ezekiel 17:1-24

Other prophecies of Ezekiel (most likely from this time period)

➤ Ezekiel 18:1-19:14

Zedekiah Rebuked for Violating the Redemption Laws of the Sabbatical Year

➤ Jeremiah 34:8-22

During the Spring and/or Summer

Jeremiah Arrested and Beaten after Prophesying in the Valley of Topheth

➤ Jeremiah 18:1-20:2

Jeremiah Prophecies Against Pashur

➤ Jeremiah 20:3-18

Ezekiel Prophecies against Jerusalem²⁴³

➤ Ezekiel 20:45-23:48

Year Beginning 7*1 in 590 BC = 9th Year of Zedekiah

10*10²⁴⁴

Jerusalem Besieged by Babylon

➤ Jeremiah 52:4 (cf. 2 Kings 25:1; 2 Chronicles 36:17a; Jeremiah 39:1)

Ezekiel Prophecies to the Exiles in Babylon

➤ Ezekiel 24:1-18a

10*11²⁴⁵ - Death of Ezekiel's Wife

➤ Ezekiel 24:18b-27

Probably Very Early in the Siege - Jeremiah Prophecies against Zedekiah

➤ Jeremiah 21:1-14

➤ Jeremiah 34:1-7

²⁴² WED/THU 25/26 JUL in 592 BC.

²⁴³ "Teman" in 20:46 should be understood as the direction "southward," i.e., toward Judah.

²⁴⁴ SAT/SUN 27/28 DEC in 590 BC.

²⁴⁵ SUN/MON 28/29 DEC in 590 BC.

**Year Beginning 1*1 in 589 BC = 16th (17th) Year of Nebuchadnezzar/
868th Year of the Exodus/
10th Year of Jehoiachin's Exile**

Probably during the Spring and/or Summer

King Zedekiah again asks Jeremiah to intercede with God

- Jeremiah 37:3-4

Jeremiah Encourages the People to Surrender to the Babylonians

- Jeremiah 38:1-5

Nebuchadnezzar Suspends His Siege To Fight Pharaoh Apries (a.k.a. Hophra)

- Jeremiah 37:5-10

Jeremiah Arrested, Beaten and Imprisoned in the House of Jonathan the Scribe

- Jeremiah 37:11-15a
- Jeremiah 38:6 (cf. Jeremiah 37:15b)
- Jeremiah 37:16

Ebed-Melech Intervenes on Jeremiah's Behalf

- Jeremiah 38:7-21 (cf. Jeremiah 37:17a)

Zedekiah Secretly Confers with Jeremiah

- Jeremiah 38:14a (cf. Jeremiah 37:17b)
- Jeremiah 37:17c
- Jeremiah 38:14b-23 (cf. Jeremiah 37:17d)
- Jeremiah 37:18-20
- Jeremiah 38:24-26

Zedekiah Confines Jeremiah to the Court of the Guardhouse

- Jeremiah 37:21
- Jeremiah 38:27-28

After Defeating Apries, Nebuchadnezzar Reinstates His Siege of Jerusalem

Year Beginning 7*1 in 589 BC = 10th Year of Zedekiah

10*12²⁴⁶ – Ezekiel Prophecies against Pharaoh

- Ezekiel 29:1-16

??? - Ezekiel Prophecies against Egypt

- Ezekiel 30:1-19

Year Beginning 1*1 in 588 BC = 17th (18th) Year of Nebuchadnezzar/

869th Year of the Exodus/

11th Year of Jehoiachin's Exile

1*7²⁴⁷ – Ezekiel Prophecies against Pharaoh

- Ezekiel 30:20-26

3*1²⁴⁸ – Ezekiel Prophecies against Pharaoh

- Ezekiel 31:1-18

??? - Jeremiah Redeems a Property in Anathoth

- Jeremiah 32:1-44

??? - Jeremiah Prophecies Judah's Restoration and the Righteous Branch of David

- Jeremiah 33:1-26

²⁴⁶ SAT/SUN 18/19 DEC in 589 BC.

²⁴⁷ SAT/SUN 9/10 APR in 588 BC.

²⁴⁸ WED/THU 1/2 JUN in 588 BC.

**Year Beginning 1*1 in 587 BC = 18th (19th) Year of Nebuchadnezzar/
870th Year of the Exodus/
12th Year of Jehoiachin's Exile**

1?*15²⁴⁹ – Ezekiel Prophecies against Egypt

- Ezekiel 32:17-32

Shortly Before the City's Fall - Jeremiah Prophecies Protection for Ebed-melech

- Jeremiah 39:15-18

4*9²⁵⁰ – Walls of Jerusalem Breached

- Jeremiah 52:5-7a (cf. 2 Kings 25:2-4a; Jeremiah 39:2-3)

4*10²⁵¹ – Zedekiah Captured

- Jeremiah 52:7b-9a (cf. 2 Kings 25:4b-6a; Jeremiah 39:4-5a)

4*? - Babylonians Rescue Jeremiah

- Jeremiah 39:11-14a

?*? - Zedekiah Blinded after Seeing His Sons Executed

- Jeremiah 52:9b-11a (cf. 2 Kings 25:6b-7a; Jeremiah 39:5b-7)

5*7 (or 5*10)²⁵² – Nebuzaradan Burns the Temple, the Palace and Destroys the Walls

- Jeremiah 52:12-14 (cf. 2 Kings 25:8-10; 2 Chronicles 36:17b-19; Jeremiah 39:8)

5*? - Nebuzaradan Plunders the Temple

- Jeremiah 52:17-23 (cf. 2 Kings 25:13-17; 2 Chronicles 36:18)

5*? - Gedaliah Appointed Provincial Governor of Judah

- 2 Kings 25:22

During the Summer

Yahweh Instructs Jeremiah to Record His Prophecies

- Jeremiah 30:1-31:40

Nebuzaradan Releases Jeremiah at Ramah

- Jeremiah 40:1-6 (cf. Jeremiah 39:14b)

Captives Moved from Ramah to Riblah for Deportation to Babylon

- Jeremiah 52:15-16 (cf. 2 Kings 25:11-12; Jeremiah 39:9-10)

- Jeremiah 52:24-25 (cf. 2 Kings 25:18-19)

- Jeremiah 52:29

- 2 Chronicles 36:20-21

Key Religious and Governmental Leaders Executed by Nebuchadnezzar

- Jeremiah 52:26-27 (cf. 2 Kings 25:20-21)

Gedaliah Encourages the Remnant to Serve Babylon

- Jeremiah 40:7-16 (cf. 2 Kings 25:23-24)

LAMENTATIONS, traditionally written by Jeremiah after his release from custody, is a lament over the Jerusalem's desolation.

- Lamentations 1:1-5:22

²⁴⁹ FRI/SAT 7/8 APR in 587 BC.

²⁵⁰ WED/THU 28/29 JUN in 587 BC.

²⁵¹ THU/FRI 29/30 JUN in 587 BC.

²⁵² WED/THU 26/27 (or SAT/SUN 29/30) JUL in 587 BC.

Year Beginning 7*1 in 587 BC

- 7*?²⁵³ - Gedeliah Assassinated by Ishmael
 - Jeremiah 41:1-15 (cf. 2 Kings 25:25)
- 7*? - Johanan Forces Jeremiah to Accompany Him into Egypt
 - Jeremiah 41:16-43:7 (cf. 2 Kings 25:26)
- ?*? - Jeremiah Prophesies Doom for the Remnant in Egypt
 - Jeremiah 43:8-44:30
- ?*? - *Yahweh* Reminds Ezekiel of His Responsibilities as Israel's Watchman
 - Ezekiel 33:1-20
- 10*5²⁵⁴ – Ezekiel Prophesies after Refugees from Judah Arrive in Babylon
 - Ezekiel 33:21-39:29
 - Psalm 137
- 12*1²⁵⁵ – Ezekiel Prophesies against Egypt
 - Ezekiel 32:1-16

Year Beginning 1*1 in 582 BC = 23rd (24th) Year of Nebuchadnezzar/ 875th Year of the Exodus/ 17th Year of Jehoiachin's Exile

- ?*? - 745 Judeans Taken into Babylonian Custody
 - Jeremiah 52:30

OBADIAH warns Edom that their gloating over Jerusalem's destruction would be short-lived since the day of the *Yahweh's* judgment upon all nations, including Edom (cf. Ezekiel 35), was drawing near.

- Obadiah 1:1-18

During the Reign of Nebuchadnezzar

- Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah Miraculously Rescued from the Furnace
 - Daniel 3:1-30
- Nebuchadnezzar's Period of Insanity
 - Daniel 4:1-37

Year Beginning 1*1 in 574 BC = 31st (32nd) Year of Nebuchadnezzar/ 883rd Year of the Exodus/ 25th Year of Jehoiachin's Exile/ 14th Year of Jerusalem's Desolation²⁵⁶

- 1*10²⁵⁷ – Ezekiel Experiences a Vision about the Temple and the Land of Israel
 - Ezekiel 40:1-48:35

²⁵³ 7*1 = SUN/MON 17/18 OCT in 587 BC.

²⁵⁴ TUE/WED 19/20 DEC in 587 BC.

²⁵⁵ MON/TUE 12/13 FEB in 586 BC.

²⁵⁶ According to Ezekiel 40:1.

²⁵⁷ SAT/SUN 28/29 MAR in 574 BC.

**Year Beginning 1*1 in 572 BC = 33rd (34th) Year of Nebuchadnezzar/
885th Year of the Exodus/
27th Year of Jehoiachin's Exile**

1*1²⁵⁸ – Ezekiel Prophecies against Egypt

➤ Ezekiel 29:17-21

Some Anonymous Psalms

➤ Psalm 73-89, 120, 123, 129

**Year Beginning 1*1 in 562 BC = 43rd (44th) Year of Nebuchadnezzar/
895th Year of the Exodus/
37th Year of Jehoiachin's Exile**

??? – Nebuchadnezzar dies; Amel-Marduk becomes King of Babylon

12*25 (or 12*24, per LXX) (or 12*27)²⁵⁹ – Jehoiachin Released from Custody

➤ Jeremiah 52:31-34 (cf. 2 Kings 25:27-30)

**Probably 549/48 BC = 7th Year of Nabonidus/908th Year of the Exodus/
1st Year of Belshazzar, Crown Prince of Babylon²⁶⁰**

??? - Daniel's Vision about Four Kingdoms

➤ Daniel 7:1-28

**Probably 547/46 BC = 9th Year of Nabonidus/910th Year of the Exodus/
3rd Year of Belshazzar, Crown Prince of Babylon**

??? - Daniel's Vision about the Median/Persian and Grecian Empires

➤ Daniel 8:1-27

²⁵⁸ WED/THU 7/8 APR in 572 BC.

²⁵⁹ SUN/MON 20/21 MAR (or SAT/SUN 19/20 MAR, per LXX) (or TUE/WED 22/23 MAR) in 560 BC. Jehoiachin was apparently released as part of the celebration marking the start of Amel-Marduk's 1st Year.

²⁶⁰ From about the 7th Year of Nabonidus onward, Belshazzar ruled Babylon while his father remained at the Arabian oasis of Tema. This is why Belshazzar could only offer Daniel the third place in the kingdom, not the second place, since that was his own position (Daniel 5:16).

Chart 13
Regnal Years of the Median/Persian Kings of Babylon

538 BC	Darius the Mede
537-530 BC	Cyrus the Great
529-522 BC	Cambyses
[522 BC]	Pseudo-Smerdis
521-486 BC	Darius
485-465 BC	Xerxes ²⁶¹
464-424 BC	Artaxerxes
423-405 BC	Darius II
404-359 BC	Artaxerxes II
358-338 BC	Ochus (a.k.a. Artaxerxes III)
337-336 BC	Arses (a.k.a. Artaxerxes IV)
335-330 BC	Darius III

²⁶¹ The regnal dating of Xerxes, Artaxerxes, Darius II and Artaxerxes II have been confirmed through double-dated (Egyptian/Jewish) letters found on the Nile island of Elephantine.

**Year Beginning 1*1 in 539 BC = 17th Year of Nabonidus/918th Year of the Exodus
11th Year of Belshazzar, Crown Prince of Babylon**

7*16²⁶²

Daniel Prophesies the Imminent Capture of Babylon

➤ Daniel 5:1-29

Darius the Mede²⁶³ (62 years old) Captures Babylon for Cyrus the Persian

➤ Daniel 5:30-31

8*3²⁶⁴ – Cyrus the Persian Enters Babylon With Great Pomp

8*? – Darius the Mede Appoints *Satrap*s, Including Daniel²⁶⁵

➤ Daniel 6:1-2

??? - Daniel Miraculously Rescued from the Lion Pit

➤ Daniel 6:3-28

**Year Beginning 1*1 in 538 BC = 1st Year of Darius the Mede/
919th Year of the Exodus/
68th Year of Daniel's Captivity/
50th Year of Jerusalem's Desolation**

??? - Gabriel Informs Daniel about the Timing of Messiah's Coming²⁶⁶

➤ Daniel 9:1-27

8*?²⁶⁷ – Darius the Mede dies²⁶⁸

Year Beginning 1*1 in 537 BC = 1st Year of Cyrus/920th Year of the Exodus

??? - Cyrus Issues a Decree Permitting the Rebuilding of the Temple

➤ Ezra 1:1-11 (cf. 2 Chronicles 36:22-23)

??? – Many Judeans Return with Zerubbabel and Jeshua

➤ Ezra 2:1-2a, 64-69

➤ Psalm 126

Year Beginning 7*1 in 537 BC

7*1²⁶⁹ – Judeans Reinstate Burnt Offerings on a Rebuilt Altar

➤ Ezra 2:70-3:6

²⁶² According to the Chronicle of Nabonidus. SUN/MON 11/12 OCT in 539 BC.

²⁶³ According to the Chronicle of Nabonidus this man was named Gobryas (or Ugbaru). He was *Satrap* of Gutium and Darius' point man in the capture of Babylon.

²⁶⁴ According to the Chronicle of Nabonidus. WED/THU 28/29 OCT in 539 BC.

²⁶⁵ The Chronicle of Nabonidus indicates that Cyrus granted Gobryas the right to govern Babylon on his behalf, including the appointment of *satrap*s.

²⁶⁶ Daniel's inquiry rose from the fact Jeremiah prophesied that Babylon would keep Jerusalem and the Temple desolate for 70 years (Jeremiah 25:8-14 and 29:10). In the clarification of this prophecy, Daniel also learned the timing of Messiah's coming and a subsequent desolation of Jerusalem and the Temple, that by the Romans in AD 70. See Chart 15: The 70 Sabbatical Cycles of Daniel 9:24-27.

²⁶⁷ According to the Chronicle of Nabonidus. 8*1 = FRI/SAT 15/16 OCT in 538 BC.

²⁶⁸ After Gobryas' death, Cyrus added the title "King of Babylon" to his many titles.

²⁶⁹ WED/THU 4/5 OCT in 537 BC.

**Year Beginning 1*1 in 536 BC = 2nd Year of Cyrus/921st Year of the Exodus/
70th Year of Daniel's Captivity/
52nd Year of Jerusalem's Desolation**

2*?²⁷⁰ – Foundation Laid for New Temple

➤ Ezra 3:7-13

?? – Zerubbabel Refuses the Assistance of Those Living in and around Samaria

➤ Ezra 4:1-3

From 536 BC Until 519 BC – Judean Rebuilding Efforts Impeded

➤ Ezra 4:4-5, 24

Year Beginning 1*1 in 535 BC = 3rd Year of Cyrus/922nd Year of the Exodus

1*5²⁷¹ – Daniel Begins a Prolonged Fast

➤ Daniel 10:1-3

1*24²⁷² – Daniel Experiences His Final Vision

➤ Daniel 10:4-12:13

Year Beginning 7*1 in 535 BC = 125th Sabbatical Year

Year Beginning 7*1 in 534 BC = 18th Jubilee

Year Beginning 7*1 in 521 BC = 127th Sabbatical Year

**Year Beginning 1*1 in 520 BC = 2nd Year of Darius/937th Year of the Exodus/
68th Year of Jerusalem's Desolation**

6*1²⁷³ – Judeans Urged to Finish the 2nd Temple

➤ Haggai 1:1-13

6*24²⁷⁴ – Work on 2nd Temple Resumes

➤ Haggai 1:14-15

➤ Ezra 5:1-2

7*21²⁷⁵ – Haggai Encourages Israel

➤ Haggai 2:1-9

?? – Tattenai Writes to Darius about the Rebuilding Project

➤ Ezra 5:3-17

8*?²⁷⁶ – Zechariah Warns Israel

➤ Zechariah 1:1-6

9*24²⁷⁷ – Haggai Encourages Israel

➤ Haggai 2:10-23

11*24²⁷⁸ – Visions of Zechariah

➤ Zechariah 1:7-6:15

²⁷⁰ 1*1 = SAT/SUN 28/29 APR in 536 BC.

²⁷¹ SAT/SUN 23/24 MAR in 535 BC.

²⁷² THU/FRI 11/12 APR in 535 BC.

²⁷³ MON/TUE 28/29 AUG in 520 BC.

²⁷⁴ WED/THU 20/21 SEP in 5120 BC.

²⁷⁵ MON/TUE 16/17 OCT in 520 BC.

²⁷⁶ 8*1 = THU/FRI 26/27 OCT in 520 BC.

²⁷⁷ SUN/MON 17/18 DEC in 520 BC.

²⁷⁸ WED/THU 14/15 FEB in 519 BC.

Chart 14 Census of Returnees in 537 BC

Nehemiah 7:5 makes it clear that Nehemiah 7:6-68 was a copy of Ezra 2:1-69. Variants between these two texts are good examples of the most common type of scribal error, involving long lists of names and/or numbers. The Nehemiah variants are shown in parentheses

The main leaders of this return were Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah (Azariah), Reelaiah (Nahamani), Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar (Mispereth), Bigvai, Rehum (Nehum), and Baanah.

A. Israelis

Ancestral City or Village	Census
Parosh	2,172
Shephatiah	372
Arah	775 (652)
Pahath-moab, Of the sons of Jeshua <i>and</i> Joab	2,812 (2,818)
Elam	1,254
Zattu	945 (845)
Zaccai	760
Bani (Binnui)	642 (648)
Bebai	623 (628)
Azgad	1,222 (2,322)
Adonikam	666 (667)
Bigvai	2,056 (2,067)
Adin	454 (655)
Ater of Hezekiah	98
Bezai	323 (324)
Jorah (Hariph)	112
Hashum	223 (328)
Gibbar (Gibeon)	95
Bethlehem	123
Netophah	56
Bethlehem	123
(Total for Bethlehem and Netophah)	(188)
Anathoth	128
(Beth-)Azmaveth	42
Kiriath-arim, Chephirah, and Beeroth	743
Ramah and Geba	621
Michmas	122
Bethel and Ai	223 (123)
(The other) Nebo	52
Magbish	156 (None Given)
The other Elam	1,254
Harim	320
Lod, Hadid, and Ono	725 (721)
Jericho	345
Senaah	3,630 (3,930)

B. Priests

Clan Name	Census
Jedaiah of the house of Jeshua	973
Immer	1,052
Pashhur	1,247
Harim	1,017

C. Levites

Clan Name	Census
Levitical Leaders: Jeshua and Kadmiel of Hodaviah (Hodevah)	74
Singers: Clan Asaph	128 (148)
Gatekeepers: Shallum, Ater, Talmon, Akkub, Hatita and Shobai	139 (138)
Temple Servants: Ziha, Hasupha, Tabbaoth, Keros, Siaha (Sia), Padon, Lebanah (Lebana), Hagabah (Hagaba), Akkub, Hagab (not in Nehemiah), Shalmal, Hanan, Giddel, Gahar, Reaiah, Rezin, Nekoda, Gazzam, Uzza, Paseah, Besai, Asnah (not in Nehemiah), Meunim, Nephisim (Nephushesim), Bakbuk, Hakupha, Harhur, Bazluth (Bazlith), Mehida, Harsha, Barkos, Sisera, Temah, Neziah and Hatipha	392
“Solomon’s Servants”: Sotai, Hassophereth (Sophereth), Peruda (Perida), Jaalah (Jaala), Darkon, Giddel, Shephatiah, Hattil, Pochereth-hazzebaim and Ami (Amon)	

D. Undocumented Levites and Priests

Clan Name	Census
Undocumented Levites: Delaiah, Tobiah and Nekoda	652 (642)
Undocumented Priests: Habaiah Descendants of Barzillai the Gileadite	None Given

E. Overall Totals

	Census
Total Men Counted in Census	42,360
<i>Personal</i> Servants, Male and Female	7,337
<i>Non-Temple</i> Singers, Male and Female	200 (245)
Horses	736
Mules	245
Camels	435
Donkeys	6,720
Gold, in <i>drachmas</i> ²⁷⁹	61,000
Silver, in <i>minas</i> ²⁸⁰	5,000
Sets of priestly clothing	100

²⁷⁹ 1 *drachma* or *daric* = 40 days of wages for a common worker.

²⁸⁰ 1 *mina* = approximately 1.25 pounds (weight).

Probably 519/18 BC = 3rd Year of Darius/938th Year of the Exodus

?? - Darius Replies to Tattenai about the Rebuilding Project

- Ezra 6:1-13

**Year Beginning 1*1 in 518 BC = 4th Year of Darius/939th Year of the Exodus/
70th Year of Jerusalem's Desolation²⁸¹**

9*4²⁸² - Instructions Regarding Fasts Commemorating the Temple's Desolation

- Zechariah 7:1-8:23

**Year Beginning 1*1 in 516 BC = 6th Year of Darius/941st Year of the Exodus/
72nd Year of Jerusalem's Desolation**

12*3²⁸³ - Temple Construction Completed

- Ezra 6:14-18

Year Beginning 1*1 in 515 BC = 7th Year of Darius/942nd Year of the Exodus

1*14-22²⁸⁴ - Passover/Unleavened Bread Observed

- Ezra 6:19-22

Other Prophecies of Zechariah

- Zechariah 9:1-14:21

Early in the Reign of Xerxes - Enemies of Judah Lodge Another Official Complaint²⁸⁵

- Ezra 4:6

Year Beginning 7*1 in 484 BC = 3rd Year of Xerxes (Jewish)

Year Beginning 1*1 in 483 BC = 3rd Year of Xerxes /974th Year of the Exodus

?? - Xerxes Deposes Queen Vashti

- Esther 1:1-22

Year Beginning 7*1 in 481 BC = 6th Year of Xerxes (Jewish)

Year Beginning 1*1 in 480 BC = 6th Year of Xerxes/977th Year of the Exodus

Xerxes Decides to Replace Vashti

- Esther 2:1-15

²⁸¹ According to Zechariah 7:5.

²⁸² FRI/SAT 6/7 DEC in 518 BC.

²⁸³ WED/THU 9/10 FEB in 515 BC.

²⁸⁴ WED/THU 20/21 – THU/FRI 28/29 APR IN 515 BC.

²⁸⁵ This may explain Mordecai's insistence that Esther keep her Jewish heritage a secret (Esther 2:10).

Year Beginning 7*1 in 480 BC = 7th Year of Xerxes (Jewish)

10*?²⁸⁶ – Esther Presented to Xerxes

➤ Esther 2:16

?*? – Xerxes Officially Replaces Vashti with Esther

➤ Esther 2:17-20

Before the End of the Year - Xerxes Departs Susa for Sardis²⁸⁷

Year Beginning 1*1 in 479 BC = 7th Year of Xerxes/978th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 479 BC = 8th Year of Xerxes (Jewish)

11*29²⁸⁸ - Xerxes Departs Sardis for His Disastrous Invasion of Greece²⁸⁹

Probably 478/77 BC = 8th Year of Xerxes/979th Year of the Exodus

?*? - Mordecai Informs Xerxes of an Assassination Plot²⁹⁰

➤ Esther 2:21-23

Year Beginning 7*1 in 475 BC = 12th Year of Xerxes (Jewish)

?*? - Haman Decides To Purge the Kingdom of All Jews

➤ Esther 3:1-6

Year Beginning 1*1 in 474 BC = 12th Year of Xerxes/983rd Year of the Exodus

1*1²⁹¹ – Haman Determines the Date for His Purge

➤ Esther 3:7

1*13²⁹² – Haman Convinces Xerxes to Authorize His Purge

➤ Esther 3:8-15

3*20²⁹³ - Mordecai Warns Esther about the Purge Order

➤ Esther 3:16-4:17

3*22²⁹⁴ – Esther Petitions Xerxes for a Special Audience

➤ Esther 5:1-14

3*23²⁹⁵ - Haman Executed and the Jews Given the Right of Preemptory Defense

➤ Esther 6:1-8:17

Year Beginning 7*1 in 473 BC = 13th Year of Xerxes (Jewish)

12*13-15²⁹⁶ – Jews Defend Themselves Against Haman’s Purge

➤ Esther 9:1-32

²⁸⁶ 10*1 = SUN/MON 2/3 DEC in 480 BC.

²⁸⁷ Herodotus’ The Histories, 7.20.

²⁸⁸ Dated by a total solar eclipse on 17 February 478 BC.

²⁸⁹ Herodotus’ The Histories, 7.37.

²⁹⁰ This plot probably arose when Xerxes returned from his humiliating defeat by the Greeks in 478 BC.

²⁹¹ TUE/WED 3/4 APR in 474 BC.

²⁹² SUN/MON 15/16 MAR in 474.

²⁹³ THU/FRI 21/22 JUN in 474 BC.

²⁹⁴ SAT/SUN 23/24 JUN in 474 BC.

²⁹⁵ SUN/MON 24/25 JUN in 474 BC.

²⁹⁶ WED/THU 5/6 – FRI/SAT 7/8 FEB in 473 BC.

473-465 BC = Remainder of Xerxes' Reign

Mordecai Functions as Xerxes Advisor

- Esther 10:1-3

An Anonymous Psalm

- Psalm 102

**Year Beginning 7*1 in 458 BC = 137th Sabbatical Year/
7th Year of Artaxerxes (Jewish)**

Year Beginning 1*1 in 457 BC = 8th Year of Artaxerxes/1001st Year of the Exodus

1*1²⁹⁷ - Ezra Commissioned to Rebuild Jerusalem

- Ezra 7:1-7, 9-26

1*? - Ezra Assembles Leading Men of Israel to Return to Jerusalem

- Ezra 7:27-8:15

1*10²⁹⁸ - Ezra Proclaims a Fast and Accounts for the Sacred Items

- Ezra 8:16-30

1*11²⁹⁹ – *Sabbath* Rest

1*12³⁰⁰ - Ezra Departs for Jerusalem

- Ezra 8:31

5*1³⁰¹ - Ezra Arrives at Jerusalem

- Ezra 7:8

5*4³⁰² - Ezra Accounts for Sacred Items

- Ezra 8:32-36

Year Beginning 7*1 in 457 BC = 8th Year of Artaxerxes (Jewish)

??? – Ezra Orders the Walls of Jerusalem Rebuilt³⁰³

- [Per Ezra 4:13-14]

??? - The Enemies of the Jews Warn Artaxerxes That Jerusalem Is Being Rewalled

- Ezra 4:7-16

9*18³⁰⁴ – Ezra Inquires of *Yahweh* Regarding the Issue of Mixed Marriages

- Ezra 9:1-10:8

9*20³⁰⁵ – Ezra Establishes an Investigation Committee

- Ezra 10:9-15

10*1³⁰⁶ - Investigative Committee Convenes

- Ezra 10:16

²⁹⁷ TUE/WED 26/27 MAR in 457 BC.

²⁹⁸ THU/FRI 4/5 APR in 457 BC.

²⁹⁹ FRI/SAT 5/6 APR in 457 BC.

³⁰⁰ SAT/SUN 6/7 APR IN 457 BC.

³⁰¹ TUE/WED 23/24 JUL in 457 BC.

³⁰² FRI/SAT 26/27 JUL in 457 BC.

³⁰³ This event marks the starting point for Daniel's 70 Sabbatical Cycles.

³⁰⁴ FRI/SAT 6/7 DEC in 457 BC.

³⁰⁵ SUN/MON 8/9 DEC in 457 BC.

³⁰⁶ TUE/WED 17/18 DEC in 457 BC.

Chart 15

The 70 Sabbatical Cycles of Daniel 9:24-27

In my estimation, there are two keys to understanding this fascinating passage of Scripture - first, the “sevens” being referred to by Gabriel are Sabbatical cycles and not just seven-year periods; and second, the decree mentioned in verse 25 was made by Ezra.

When this prophecy came to Daniel in 538 BC, he was an old man who had been living in Babylon since his capture by the Babylonians 68 years earlier. After Babylon fell to the Median/Persian Empire, Daniel immediately turned his attention to Jeremiah’s prophecy that Jerusalem’s desolation would only last 70 years (Jeremiah 25). Perhaps Daniel hoped for divine confirmation that this time limit was to be counted from the start of his own exile and that it was now nearing completion. Instead, the aged prophet learned about another, future desolation of Jerusalem, which would follow the arrival of a Jewish king called Messiah.³⁰⁷

Here then, is my understanding of the major components of this prophecy

Prophecy	Fulfillment
Decree to Rebuild Jerusalem and Its Walls	Ezra Decreed the Rebuilding of Jerusalem and Its Walls in 457 BC (Ezra 7:6; 9:9; 4:6-23) This decree came at the end of one Sabbatical Cycle and at the beginning of another.
7 Sabbatical Cycles for Rebuilding Jerusalem	Fall of 457 BC – Fall of 408 BC
62 Sabbatical Cycles until Messiah	Fall of 408 BC – Fall of AD 27
The 70 th Sabbatical Cycle	Fall of AD 27 – Fall of AD 34
Messiah to be cut off during the 70 th Cycle. Sacrifices to end.	Jesus was crucified in the Spring of AD 33. This ended the need for sacrifice (Cf. <u>Hebrews</u>).
After Messiah, Jerusalem and the Temple were to be made desolate.	After Jesus, Jerusalem and the Temple were made desolate (in AD 70) by the Romans. Jesus predicted this event in his “Olivet Discourse,” even citing Daniel 9:26-27. (Matthew 24:4-28//Mark 13:5-23//Luke 21:10-24).

³⁰⁷ Hebrew: *masiyakh*, from the verb *mashakh* ("to anoint with olive oil"), in reference to a formal ceremony of consecration used to designate Israeli priests, kings and prophets.

Year Beginning 1*1 in 456 BC = 9th Year of Artaxerxes/1002nd Year of the Exodus

1*1³⁰⁸ – Investigative Committee Reports Its Findings

➤ Ezra 10:17-44

?*? - Artaxerxes Orders that Work on Jerusalem's Wall Cease Immediately

➤ Ezra 4:17-23

Year Beginning 1*1 in 445 BC = 20th Year of Artaxerxes/1012th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 445 BC = 20th Year of Artaxerxes (Jewish)

9*?³⁰⁹ – Nehemiah Responds to Reports on Conditions in Jerusalem

➤ Nehemiah 1:1-11

Year Beginning 1*1 in 444 BC = 21st Year of Artaxerxes/1013th Year of the Exodus

1*?³¹⁰ - Nehemiah Commissioned to Rebuild Jerusalem's Walls

➤ Nehemiah 2:1-8

Probably in the 4th Month - Nehemiah Inspects the Walls Shortly After His Arrival

➤ Nehemiah 2:9-16

5*4-6*25³¹¹ - Walls Rebuilt in 52 Days

➤ Nehemiah 2:17-6:19

?*? - Nehemiah's Census of Judah³¹²

➤ Nehemiah 7:1-5, 70-73a

Year Beginning 7*1 in 444 BC = 139th Sabbatical/21st Year of Artaxerxes (Jewish)

7*1³¹³

Wall Dedicated

➤ Nehemiah 12:27-47

Ezra Reads the Book of Deuteronomy to the Assembly³¹⁴

➤ Nehemiah 7:73b-8:12

➤ Nehemiah 13:1-3

7*2³¹⁵ - Ezra Continues Reading to the Assembly

➤ Nehemiah 8:13-15

7*15-22³¹⁶ - Tabernacles Celebrated

➤ Nehemiah 8:16-18

7*24³¹⁷ - Reestablishment of the Covenant

➤ Nehemiah 9:1-12:26

³⁰⁸ SAT/SUN 15/16 MAR in 456 BC.

³⁰⁹ 9*1 = FRI/SAT 5/6 DEC in 445 BC.

³¹⁰ 1*1 = THU/FRI 2/3 APR in 444 BC.

³¹¹ FRI/SAT 31 JUL/1 AUG – SUN/MON 20/21 SEP in 444 BC.

³¹² Nehemiah recites Zerubbabel's earlier census, but supplies no information from his own census. See Chart 14: Census of Returnees in 537 BC.

³¹³ FRI/SAT 25/26 SEP in 444 BC.

³¹⁴ This was done in accordance with Moses' own instructions in Deuteronomy 31:10-13, and marks the beginning of a Sabbatical Year.

³¹⁵ SAT/SUN 26/27 SEP in 444 BC.

³¹⁶ FRI/SAT 9/10 – FRI/SAT 16/17 OCT in 444 BC.

³¹⁷ SUN/MON 18/19 OCT in 444 BC.

Some More Anonymous Psalms

- Psalm 146-150

Year Beginning 1*1 in 433 BC = 32nd Year of Artaxerxes/1024th Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 433 BC = 32nd Year of Artaxerxes (Jewish)

Nehemiah Returns to Babylon

- [Per Nehemiah 13:6a]

Between Nehemiah's 1st and 2nd Tenure as the Persian Governor of Judah

Eliashib Permits Tobiah to Live in the Temple

- Nehemiah 13:4-5

MALACHI is the final prophetic writing of the Old Testament period. It reflects covenantal abuses (such as those corrected by Nehemiah during his 2nd tenure as Governor of Judah) and prophesies the coming of an Elijah-like predecessor to the Messiah.

- Malachi 1:1-4:6

During Nehemiah's 2nd Tenure as the Persian Governor of Judah

Nehemiah Evicts Tobiah from the Temple

- Nehemiah 13:6b-9

Nehemiah Incensed by Many Violations of the Covenant

- Nehemiah 13:10-30

Well done!

You have now completed your journey through the Old Testament! I have no doubt that you discovered a lot of things you never knew before, and perhaps rediscovered a few you had forgotten.

Now you're ready to move into the New Testament. Keep your eyes open for frequent references or allusions to the Old Testament period.

THE LIFE OF CHRIST

The four Gospels were written by different authors, to different audiences, at different times and with different purposes in mind. It is very important to consider these contextual facts when reading each of them. That is why you will be directed later to read all four gospels, in their entirety, at the point in the overall New Testament chronology where I believe they were written.

However, I am also of the very strong opinion that there is great value in reading through the life of Christ in a harmonized, chronological manner, seeing the teachings and acts of Jesus in their own historical context. For this reason, you will begin your journey through the New Testament with a harmonized reading through Jesus' life and ministry, based on my own research.

As was the case in your Old Testament readings, you will be given a primary reading for each event. References for parallel accounts are included parenthetically.

Perhaps the Year Beginning 1*1 in 9 BC = 1448th Year of the Exodus

Perhaps During the 12th Month³¹⁸ - Conception of John in Judea³¹⁹

➤ Luke 1:5-25

Perhaps the Year Beginning 1*1 in 8 BC = 1449th Year of the Exodus

1 JUL 8 BC – The 5-Year Imperial Census Was Due Within a Year of This Date³²⁰

Perhaps During the 6th Month³²¹ - Conception of Jesus at Nazareth³²²

➤ Luke 1:26-38

Perhaps During the 7th - 9th Months - Mary Visits Elizabeth in Judea³²³

➤ Luke 1:39-56

Perhaps During the 9th Month³²⁴ - Birth of John in Judea

➤ Luke 1:57-80

After Mary's Return to Nazareth - Joseph Takes Mary as His Wife

➤ Matthew 1:18-24

³¹⁸ 12*1 = TUE/WED 11/12 FEB in 8 BC.

³¹⁹ See my note about the timing of Zechariah's service in the Abijah Division of Priests on Chart 11: David's Organization of the Kingdom.

³²⁰ Roman records indicate that there was a regular, five-year census cycle during the time of Augustus and Tiberius. These censuses were apparently carried out during the emperor's annual term as *princeps senatus*, which ran from 1 July until 30 June.

³²¹ 6*1 = THU/FRI 7/8 AUG in 8 BC.

³²² This dating is based on my own research into the phrase “in the sixth month” as used in Luke 1:26. The Greek construction appears to be a technical reference to the 6th Month of the Jewish year, using definite articles with both the word “sixth” and the word “month.” In direct contrast, Luke 1:36 gives the current length of Elizabeth's pregnancy as “*the* sixth month,” using no definite article whatsoever.

³²³ According to Luke 1:56, Mary remained with Elizabeth for about three month. It is very likely that she stayed until after the birth of John.

³²⁴ 9*1 = MON/TUE 3/4 NOV in 8 BC.

Chart 16
The First Ten Roman Emperors³²⁵

Octavian (a.k.a. <i>Augustus</i> ³²⁶)	March 44 BC - 19 August AD 14 ³²⁷
Tiberius	August AD 14 - 16 March AD 37 ³²⁸
Gaius (a.k.a. <i>Caligula</i> ³²⁹)	March AD 37 - 24 January AD 41
Claudius	January AD 41 - 13 October AD 54
Nero	October AD 54 – 9 June AD 68
Galba	June AD 68 – 15 January AD 69
Otho	January AD 69 – April AD 69
Vitellius	April AD 69 – 21 December AD 69
Vespasian	1 July AD 69 ³³⁰ - 23 June AD 79
Titus	June AD 79 - 1 September AD 81

³²⁵ The specific dates listed are those given by ancient historians. Because of significant differences between the ancient Roman calendar and that used today, these dates do not exactly coincide with modern style dating.

³²⁶ “Revered One,” a title conferred on him by the Senate in 27 BC.

³²⁷ Beginning on 13 January 27 BC, *Augustus* adopted the practice of exercising authority in ten-year grants from the Roman Senate. The years of each *dekete* (Greek for “ten years”) were reckoned in accordance with his authority as Tribune, exercised annually, 1 July through 30 June. *Augustus*' fifth and final *dekete* began on 1 July AD 13.

³²⁸ Because the years of Tiberius' authority were patterned after those of *Augustus*, I am certain that his 15th Year began on 1 July AD 28 (Luke 3:1). Contrary to the theories of many modern historians, the ancient records indicate no overlap between the regnal years of *Augustus* and Tiberius.

³²⁹ “Little Boot” was a name given to Gaius as a child because he grew up among the Roman troopers, often wearing a miniture uniform.

³³⁰ On this date the Roman Legions of Egypt swore their allegiance to Vespasian.

Perhaps the Year Beginning 1*1 in 7 BC = 1450th Year of the Exodus

Perhaps During the 1st Month³³¹

Joseph and Mary Travel to Bethlehem for an Imperial Census

- Luke 2:1-5³³²

1*14-21 = Passover/Unleavened Bread³³³

Perhaps During the 2nd Month³³⁴

?? - Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem³³⁵

- Luke 2:6-21 (cf. Matthew 1:25)

Perhaps During the 3rd Month³³⁶

3*8 = Pentecost³³⁷

40 Days After His Birth - Jesus Dedicated at the Temple

- Luke 2:22-38

30 JUN 7 BC – The 5-Year Imperial Census Was To Be Completed By This Date

Probably During 6 or 5 BC³³⁸

?? - The Magi Consult with King Herod at Jerusalem

- Matthew 2:1-8

Probably the Next Day (After Sunset)

The Magi Present Their Gifts to Jesus at a House in Bethlehem

- Matthew 2:9-12

Joseph Immediately Takes Mary and Jesus to Egypt

- Matthew 2:13-15

?? - Herod Orders the Slaughter of All Baby Boys in the Bethlehem Area

- Matthew 2:16-18

³³¹ 1*1 = WED/THU 1/2 APR in 7 BC.

³³² I interpret Luke 2:2 as, "This was an enrollment previous to *that* which happened while Quirinius was governing Syria." The enrollment carried out in AD 6 by Quirinius was necessitated by the removal of Archelaus as Ethnarch, the subsequent absorption of his former territories into the province of Syria and the appointment of Coponius as the first Praefect of Judea. It effectively marked the beginning of direct Roman rule over the Jewish nation and sparked a Jewish resistance movement that continued right through the destruction of Jerusalem 64 years later. It is not surprising that Luke uses it as a chronological marker, indicating that the enrollment he was writing about predated the infamous enrollment.

³³³ TUE/WED 14/15 - TUE/WED 21/22 APR in 7 BC. Perhaps Joseph and Mary's inability to secure lodging at Bethlehem was due to the huge crowds that gathered in and around Jerusalem during the spring festivals of Passover/Unleavened Bread and Pentecost.

³³⁴ 2*1 = THU/FRI 30 APR/1 MAY in 7 BC.

³³⁵ Clement's Stromata 1.21 (written in Alexandria around 200) references the conviction of some that Jesus was born on either 24 or 25 *Pharmuthi* (the 8th Egyptian month) or 25 *Pachons* (the 9th Egyptian month). At the time of Jesus' birth, these dates occurred in mid-April and mid-May, the latter being exactly where a conception date in the Jewish 6th Month would place it. It is interesting to note that the Constitutions of the Holy Apostles 5.13 (written after the Stromata, but before the 6th Century) orders that the birthday of Christ be celebrated on the 25th day of the 9th (Jewish) month – in my estimation a misapplication of the earlier Egyptian date. Since 9*25 in the Jewish calendar almost always falls during the Roman month of December, it was only one more, small step to our modern celebration of 25 December.

³³⁶ 3*1 = SAT/SUN 30/31 MAY in 7 BC.

³³⁷ SAT/SUN 6/7 JUN in 7 BC.

³³⁸ Based on the fact that something said by the Magi caused Herod to think that the child he wanted dead might have been born as much as two years earlier (Matthew 2:16).

Year Beginning 1*1 in 5 BC = 1452nd Year of the Exodus

1 JAN 4 BC = Herod's 34th (37th) Year as "King of the Jews"³³⁹

Late in the 12th Month³⁴⁰ - Herod Dies at Jericho/Accession of Archelaus³⁴¹

Year Beginning 1*1 in 4 BC = 1453rd Year of the Exodus

Perhaps Early in the 1st Month

Joseph Prepares to Take Mary and Jesus Back to Judea

➤ Matthew 2:19-20

Archelaus Ends a Riot With Extreme Violence³⁴²

Joseph Decides to Take Mary and Jesus to Nazareth Instead

➤ Matthew 2:21-23 (cf. Luke 2:39-40)

1*14-21 = Passover/Unleavened Bread³⁴³

Year Beginning 1*1 in 5 = 1462nd Year of the Exodus

Year Beginning 7*1 in 5 = 203rd Sabbatical Year

1 JAN 6 = Archelaus's 10th Year as Ethnarch

Year Beginning 1*1 in 6 = 1463rd Year of the Exodus

Probably During the Summer

Judea Made Part of the Roman Province of Syria³⁴⁴

Judas of Galilee Becomes the Leader of the Jewish Resistance Movement³⁴⁵

Year Beginning 7*1 in 6 = 29th Year of Jubilee

Sometime After SEP in 6 - Annas Becomes High Priest³⁴⁶

Perhaps the Year Beginning 1*1 in 7 = 1464th Year of the Exodus

1*14-22 = Passover/Unleavened Bread³⁴⁷

1*? - Jesus (12 years old) Left Behind at Jerusalem

➤ Luke 2:41-52

³³⁹ As a Roman appointee, Herod's reign was reckoned in accordance with the Roman civil year. He was appointed "King of the Jews" by the Roman senate in 40 BC (Antiquities 14.14.5), a date made certain by the citation of both the Olympiad and Roman Consuls. He actually took possession of Jerusalem in the summer of 37 BC (Antiquities 14.16-15.1), a date also made certain by the citation of several chronological markers. Because of these facts, Josephus acknowledged that there were two methods of dating Herod's reign, although he seemed to prefer the method which began in 37 BC.

³⁴⁰ 12*1 = MON/TUE 26/27 FEB in 4 BC.

³⁴¹ In the final days of his life, Herod left Jerusalem and went to Jericho, where he died (Antiquities 17.6.5). His death came shortly after he removed Matthias from the priesthood on 12*15, a date made certain by a lunar eclipse that occurred just after midnight on 13 MAR in 4 BC (Antiquities 17.6.4).

³⁴² Antiquities 17.9.3. This blood-letting at Jerusalem would certainly explain the fearful response of Joseph when he learned that Archelaus had replaced his father as the ruler of Judea (Matthew 2:22).

³⁴³ TUE/WED 10/11 – TUE/WED 17/18 APR in 4 BC.

³⁴⁴ This change was brought about by Augustus's banishment of Archelaus after repeated complaints about his cruel style of governance (Antiquities 17.13.2).

³⁴⁵ Quirinius (Luke 2:2) was sent from Rome with instructions to oversee all aspects of absorbing Archelaus's former holdings into Syria, including the establishment of direct taxation of the Jews. It was this assessment procedure that gave birth to the resistance (Antiquities 18.1; Acts 5:37).

³⁴⁶ Coponius was the first Roman prefect of Judea. It was he who first appointed Annas as High Priest in the 37th Year of Caesar's Victory at Actium (Antiquities 18.2.1; Luke 3:2).

³⁴⁷ WED/THU 20/21 – WED/THU 27/28 APR in 7.

Year Beginning 1*1 in 28 = 1485th Year of the Exodus

1 JUL 28 = 15th Year of Tiberius Caesar

Beginning in the 15th Year of Tiberius

- John Begins His Ministry in the Judean Wilderness
 - Luke 3:1-6 (cf. Matthew 3:1-6; Mark 1:2-6)
- John Rebukes the Pharisees and Sadducees
 - Luke 3:7-9 (cf. Matthew 3:7-10)
- John Instructs the Crowds in Acts of Repentance
 - Luke 3:10-14
- John Proclaims the Coming of Messiah/Christ
 - Luke 3:15-18 (cf. Matthew 3:11-12; Mark 1:7-8)

Year Beginning 1*1 in 29 = 1486th Year of the Exodus

Perhaps During the 10th Month³⁴⁸ - John Immerses Jesus³⁴⁹

- Matthew 3:13-17 (cf. Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-23a)

During a 40 Day Period After Jesus' Immersion³⁵⁰ - Jesus Tempted by Satan

- Matthew 4:1-11 (cf. Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13)

During the Remainder of the Year

First Day - John Answers Questions from Priests and Levites at Bethany in Perea

- John 1:19-28

Next Day - John Testifies to His Disciples about His Recognition of Christ

- John 1:29-34

Next Day - John Identifies Jesus as the Christ to Two of His Own Disciples

- John 1:35-42

Next Day - Jesus and His New Disciples Depart for Galilee

- John 1:43-51

Third Day Thereafter - Jesus Arrives for a Wedding at Cana in Galilee

- John 2:1-2

Sometime During the Wedding Feast - Jesus Turns Water into Wine

- John 2:3-11

After the Wedding Feast - Jesus Goes With His Family to Capernaum in Galilee

- John 2:12

³⁴⁸ 10*1 = SUN/MON 25/26 DEC in 29. Stromata 1.21 indicates that the followers of Basilides taught Jesus was immersed on 15 *Tubi* (the 5th Egyptian month) = 10*4 (WED/THU 28/29 DEC in 29). This timing agrees well with what is known about Jesus' itinerary in the Gospels.

³⁴⁹ If, as I believe the ancient evidence indicates, Jesus was born in the spring of 7 BC and immersed in the winter of 29, he would have been about 35 years old at the time he began his ministry. This fits well with Luke's vague statement that he was "about thirty" (cf. the modern American slang of "thirtysomething") at the time of his immersion (Luke 3:23).

³⁵⁰ Perhaps 10*4 - 11*14 (WED/THU 28/29 DEC in 29 – SUN/MON 5/6 FEB in 30 BC).

Year Beginning 1*1 in 30 = 1487th Year of the Exodus

1*14-21 = Passover/Unleavened Bread³⁵¹

Jesus Cleanses the Temple at Passover³⁵²

- John 2:13-22

Many Put Their Faith in Jesus

- John 2:23-25

Jesus Speaks to Nicodemus about the New Birth

- John 3:1-21

During the Spring, Summer and Fall - Jesus Makes Many Disciples in Judea

- John 3:22-36

During the 11th and 12th Months³⁵³

John the Immerser Arrested by Herod

- Luke 3:19-20 (cf. Matthew 14:3-5; Mark 6:17-20)

Jesus Decides to Return to Galilee³⁵⁴

- John 4:1-3 (cf. Matthew 4:12; Mark 1:14a)

Jesus Ministers Two Days at Sychar in Samaria

- John 4:4-44

Sabbath - Jesus Nearly Stoned at Nazareth

- Luke 4:16-30

While at Cana, Jesus Heals a Boy in Capernaum

- John 4:45-54

During the Next Week

Jesus Moves to Capernaum

- Matthew 4:13-17 (cf. Mark 1:14b-15; Luke 4:31a)

Jesus Provides a Miraculous Catch of Fish and Recalls³⁵⁵ Four of His Disciples

- Luke 5:1-10a (cf. Matthew 4:18; Mark 1:16)
- Mark 1:17-20 (cf. Matthew 4:19-22; Luke 5:10b-11)

Next Sabbath

Jesus Expels a Demon during a Synagogue Teaching Service

- Mark 1:21-28 (cf. Luke 4:14-15, 31b-37)

Jesus Heals Simon's Mother-in-law

- Mark 1:29-31 (cf. Matthew 8:14-15; Luke 4:38-39)

First Day of the Week (Beginning at Sunset)

Jesus Heals Many Others at Being Brought to Simon's House

- Mark 1:32-34 (cf. Matthew 8:16-17; Luke 4:40-41)

Jesus Tells Simon He Intends to Depart on a Preaching Tour

- Mark 1:35-39 (cf. Luke 4:42-44; Matthew 4:23)

³⁵¹ THU/FRI 6/7 – THU/FRI 13/14 APR in 30.

³⁵² This cleansing took place during the forty-sixth anniversary year (John 2:20) of Herod the Great's Sanctuary renovations, which were completed in the summer of 18 BC (Antiquities 15:11).

³⁵³ 11*1 = SAT/SUN 13/14 JAN and 12*1 = MON/TUE 11/12 FEB in 31.

³⁵⁴ Jesus left for Galilee roughly four months before Pentecost [3*9 (SAT/SUN 19/20 MAY in 31)], the official beginning of the wheat harvest (John 4:35). Scripture gives two reasons for his departure from Judea – first, the arrest of the Immerser by Herod; and second, that the Pharisees realized he was making even more disciples than the Immerser.

³⁵⁵ This is a “recall” because these four men had begun their relationship with Jesus just over a year earlier.

Year Beginning 1*1 in 31 = 1488th Year of the Exodus

Probably 1*14-21 = Passover/Unleavened Bread? - Festival Visit to Jerusalem³⁵⁶

- John 5:1-47

Probably During the Spring and Summer

Sabbath - Pharisees Confront Jesus about Breaking Sabbath³⁵⁷

- Luke 6:1-5 (cf. Matthew 12:1-8; Mark 2:23-28)

Next Sabbath - Pharisees Confront Jesus about Sabbath Healing

- Luke 6:6-11 (cf. Matthew 12:9-14; Mark 3:1-6)

During the First Part of the Next Week - Great Crowds Gather to Jesus

- Mark 3:7-12 (cf. Matthew 4:24-25; 12:15-16; Luke 6:17b-19)

Probably the Third Day of the Week (Beginning at Sunset)

After a Night of Prayer, Jesus Appoints Twelve of His Disciples as Apostles

- Mark 3:13-19a (cf. Matthew 5:1a; Luke 6:12-16)

The So-called "Sermon on the Mount"³⁵⁸

- Luke 6:17a

- Matthew 5:1b-2 (cf. Luke 6:20a)

Jesus Pronounces Blessings and Woes

- Matthew 5:3-12 (cf. Luke 6:20b-23)

- Luke 6:24-26

Jesus Likens His Disciples to Salt and Light

- Matthew 5:13-14

- Matthew 5:15 (cf. Luke 11:33)

- Matthew 5:16

Jesus Urges Righteousness Surpassing the Legalism of the Pharisees

- Matthew 5:17-20

In Personal Relationships

- Matthew 5:21-24

- Matthew 5:25-26

In Marriage and in Oaths

- Matthew 5:27-37

In Retaliation

- Matthew 5:38-42 (cf. Luke 6:29-30)

Toward Enemies

- Matthew 5:43-48 (cf. Luke 6:27-28, 32-36)

In Giving Alms, in Prayer and in Fasting

- Matthew 6:1-8

³⁵⁶ MON/TUE 26/27 MAR – TUE/WED 3/4 APR in 31 BC. The festival is not specifically identified as Passover/Unleavened Bread, although this designation certainly fits John's chronological context.

³⁵⁷ Because the disciples were eating ripe grain from an un-harvested field, this event must have occurred during the harvest season.

³⁵⁸ The traditional title for this part of Matthew's gospel is somewhat of a misnomer. Jesus' remarks were actually delivered to the people as they stood on a piece of level ground on the side of the mountain from which Jesus and his newly appointed apostles had just descended. In addition, interrelated passages from elsewhere in Matthew, Mark and Luke indicate a great deal of interaction during this "sermon."

31/32 = 1488th Year of the Exodus (continued)

Probably During the Spring and Summer (continued)

Probably the Third Day of the Week (continued)

Interaction During the So-called “Sermon on the Mount”

Disciples Ask Jesus To Teach Them How To Pray

- Luke 11:1
- Matthew 6:9-15 (cf. Luke 11:2-4)
- Matthew 6:16-18

Prompted by a Request from the Crowd, Jesus Warns Against Materialism

- Luke 12:13-21
- Matthew 6:19-34 (cf. Luke 11:34-36; 12:22-34)

Jesus Urges Equitable Treatment of Others

- Matthew 7:1-2 (cf. Luke 6:37-38)
- Luke 6:39-40
- Matthew 7:3-5 (cf. Luke 6:41-42)
- Matthew 7:6

Jesus Urges Persistence in Prayer

- Luke 11:5-8
- Luke 11:9-13 (cf. Matthew 7:7-11)
- Matthew 7:12 (cf. Luke 6:31)

Jesus Urges Care in Pursuing the Path of Righteousness

- Matthew 7:13-14
- Matthew 7:15-20 (cf. Luke 6:43-44)
- Matthew 7:21-27 (cf. Luke 6:46-49)

Crowd Awed by Jesus' Authoritative Teaching

- Matthew 7:28-8:1
- Luke 7:1a

Leper Cleansed at Capernaum

- Matthew 8:2-4 (cf. Mark 1:40-46; Luke 5:12-16)

Centurion's Servant Healed at Capernaum

- Matthew 8:5-13 (cf. Luke 7:1b-10)

Jesus Eats with Simon the Pharisee

- Luke 7:36 (cf. Luke 11:37)
- Luke 11:38
- Luke 7:37-50
- Luke 11:39-54 (cf. Matthew 23:4, 23-36)

Jesus Supported By Galilee Woman

- Luke 8:1-4

31/32 = 1488th Year of the Exodus (continued)

Probably During the Spring and Summer (continued)

Probably the Third Day of the Week (continued)

Events Immediately After the "Sermon on the Mount"

Controversy Arises After Jesus Expels a Demon from a Blind Mute

- Matthew 12:22-24 (cf. Mark 3:22; Luke 11:14-15)
- Mark 3:19b-21
- Matthew 12:25-37 (cf. Mark 3:23-30; Luke 6:43-45; 11:17-23; 12:10)

Pharisees Demand a Sign

- Matthew 12:38-45 (cf. Luke 11:16, 24-26, 29-32)

Jesus' Family Sends Him a Message through the Crowd

- Matthew 12:46-47 (cf. Mark 3:31-32; Luke 8:19-20)
- Luke 11:27

- Matthew 12:48-50 (cf. Mark 3:33-35; Luke 8:21; 11:28)

Jesus Teaches in Parables, Explaining Them Privately to His Disciples

- Luke 8:1-3
- Matthew 13:1-9 (cf. Mark 4:1-9; Luke 8:4-8)
- Matthew 13:10-11 (cf. Mark 4:10; Luke 8:9-10)
- Matthew 13:12 (cf. Mark 4:24a, 25; Luke 8:18)
- Matthew 13:13-15 (cf. Mark 4:10-12; Luke 8:9-10)
- Matthew 13:16-17 (cf. Luke 10:23-24)
- Matthew 13:18-23 (cf. Mark 4:13-20; Luke 8:11-15)
- Matthew 13:24-35 (cf. Mark 4:26-34) (cf. Luke 13:18-21)³⁵⁹
- Matthew 13:36-52

Jesus Prepares to Sail to the Other Side of the Sea

- Matthew 8:18-22 (cf. Luke 9:57-62)
- Matthew 8:23 (cf. Matthew 13:53; Mark 4:35-36; Luke 8:22)

Probably the Fourth Day of the Week (Beginning at Sunset)

Jesus Calms the Sea

- Matthew 8:24-27 (cf. Mark 4:37-41; Luke 8:23-25)

Jesus Expels a "Legion" of Demons from a Gaderene Demoniac

- Mark 5:1-20 (cf. Matthew 8:28-34; Luke 8:26-39)

Jesus Returns to Capernaum

- Matthew 9:1 (cf. Mark 5:21; 2:1; Luke 8:40)

Healing of the Paralytic Lowered Through the Roof

- Mark 2:2-12 (cf. Matthew 9:2-8; Luke 5:17-26)

Jesus Calls Matthew to Follow Him as an Apostle³⁶⁰

- Mark 2:13-14 (cf. Matthew 9:9; Luke 5:27-28)

³⁵⁹ As would be expected, Jesus apparently retold some of his parables on other occasions.

³⁶⁰ Jesus had designated Matthew as an apostle on the previous morning but now repeats that call at his Capernaum tax office beside the Sea of Galilee.

31/32 = 1488th Year of the Exodus (continued)

Probably During the Spring and Summer (continued)

Probably the Fifth Day of the Week (Beginning at Sunset)

Matthew Hosts a Banquet for Jesus

- Mark 2:15-17 (cf. Matthew 9:10-13; Luke 5:29-32)

Fasting Jews³⁶¹ Question Jesus about Fasting

- Mark 2:18-22 (cf. Matthew 9:14-17; Luke 5:33-39)

Resurrection of Jairus' Daughter

- Matthew 9:18-26³⁶² (cf. Mark 5:22-43; Luke 8:41-56)

Healing of Two Blind Men and a Mute Demoniac

- Matthew 9:27-34

Probably the Next Sabbath - Jesus Makes a Disappointing Visit to Nazareth

- Mark 6:1-6a (cf. Matthew 13:54-58)

Probably During the Summer and/or Fall

Jesus Travels Around Galilee with the Twelve

- Matthew 9:35 (Mark 6:6b)

Jesus Resurrects a Widow's Only Son at Nain

- Luke 7:11-17

Jesus Sends Out the Seventy [-two]³⁶³ and the Twelve, in Pairs³⁶⁴

- Luke 10:1

- Matthew 9:36-38 (cf. Luke 10:2)

- Matthew 10:1-6 (cf. Mark 6:7a; Luke 9:1)

- Matthew 10:7-8 (cf. Mark 6:7b; Luke 9:2; 10:9)

- Matthew 10:9-10 (cf. Mark 6:8-9; Luke 9:3; 10:4)

- Matthew 10:11-13 (cf. Mark 6:10; Luke 9:4; 10:5-8)

- Matthew 10:14-15 (cf. Mark 6:11; Luke 9:5; 10:10-12)

- Matthew 10:16 (cf. Luke 10:3)

- Matthew 10:17-20 (cf. Luke 12:11-12) (cf. Mark 13:9, 11; Luke 21:12-15)³⁶⁵

- Matthew 10:21-22 (cf. Mark 13:12-13; Luke 21:16-19)

- Matthew 10:23-33

- Luke 12:35-50³⁶⁶

- Matthew 10:34-39 (cf. Luke 12:51-53)

- Matthew 10:40 (cf. Luke 10:16)

- Matthew 10:41-42

³⁶¹ Some of the Jews in Jesus' time habitually fasted on the Second and Fifth Days of the week.

³⁶² Matthew very clearly reports (9:18) that Jairus arrived during the banquet he (Matthew) was giving in Jesus' honor. This chronological marker, which has been either ignored or outright contradicted by many harmonists, was the one that led me to begin work on my own harmony of the gospels in 1983.

³⁶³ Textual variants exist. More than likely, Jesus was appointing these 72 men as a new council of elders (Sanhedrin) for Israel. The first council of elders was made up of six men from each of the 12 tribes.

³⁶⁴ Because there are so many parallels between Jesus' commission of the Twelve apostles and that of the Seventy [-two] disciples, I have come to suspect that were given simultaneously. If that was not the case, then the latter, only mentioned by Luke, probably occurred during Jesus' final trip to Jerusalem.

³⁶⁵ Matthew 10:17-23 shows some serious overlap with that portion of Mark's and Luke's narratives of Jesus' "Olivet Discourse" that prepared the Apostles for persecution as they preached the Gospel prior to the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70.

³⁶⁶ Here we see more overlap with the "Olivet Discourse," this time emphasizing the need for vigilance in carrying out the commission amidst persecution.

31/32 = 1488th Year of the Exodus (continued)

During the Remainder of the Year

Jesus and His Disciples Travel Around Galilee Separately

- Matthew 11:1 (cf. Mark 6:12-13; Luke 9:6)

John the Immerser's Disciples Question Jesus³⁶⁷

- Luke 7:18-23 (cf. Matthew 11:2-6)

Jesus Addresses the Crowd about John the Immerser

- Luke 7:24-35 (cf. Matthew 11:7-13, 15-19)
- Matthew 11:20-30³⁶⁸

Jesus Warns the Crowd about the Leaven of the Pharisees

- Luke 12:1
- Luke 12:2-3 (cf. Matthew 10:27; Mark 4:22-23; Luke 8:17)
- Luke 12:4-9 (cf. Matthew 10:26b, 28-33)

John the Immerser Executed by Herod Antipas

- Matthew 14:6-12a (cf. Mark 6:21-29)

Herod Worries that Jesus is John the Immerser Resurrected

- Matthew 14:1-2 (cf. Mark 6:14-16; Luke 9:7-9)

³⁶⁷ I place this event here because, according to Matthew 12:1, it took place around the same time as the controversy over Jesus' disciples picking and eating grain on the Sabbath.

³⁶⁸ The comments and prayer of Jesus here are strikingly similar to those made by him later, in connection with the commissioning of the Seventy [-two] disciples (cf. Luke 10:13-16, 21-22).

Year Beginning 1*1 in 32 = 1489th Year of the Exodus

During the Spring

The Twelve and the Seventy [-two] Return to Jesus

- Mark 6:30 (cf. Luke 9:10a)
- Luke 10:13-24³⁶⁹

A Day at Bethsaida Julias

Jesus Informed about John the Immerser's Execution

- Matthew 14:12b

Jesus Secretly Travels to Bethsaida Julias with the Twelve

- Mark 6:31-32 (cf. Matthew 14:13a; Luke 9:10b; John 6:1)

Jesus Miraculously Feeds 5,000+ Shortly Before Passover

- John 6:2-13 (cf. Matthew 14:13b-21; Mark 6:33-44; Luke 9:11-17)

Crowd Intends to Crown Jesus as King of Israel

- John 6:14-15a

Jesus Dismisses His Disciples and the Crowd Before Praying Alone

- Mark 6:45-46 (cf. Matthew 14:22-23; John 6:15b)
- John 15:16-17

Next Day (beginning at sunset)

Jesus Walks on the Stormy Sea of Galilee

- Matthew 14:24-33 (cf. Mark 6:47-52; John 6:18-21)

Jesus Begins Healing Many

- Mark 6:53-56 (cf. Matthew 14:34-36)

Controversial Teaching on the Bread of Life

- John 6:22-71

Confrontation with the Pharisees Regarding Tradition

- Mark 7:1-23 (cf. Matthew 15:1-20)

Probably During the Spring or Summer

Jesus Heals a Gentile Woman's Daughter Near Tyre

- Mark 7:24-30 (cf. Matthew 15:21-28)

³⁶⁹ As mentioned earlier, the comments and prayer of Jesus here are strikingly similar to those made by him earlier, when he addressed the crowd about John the Immerser (Matthew 11:20-27).

32/33 = 1489th Year of the Exodus (continued)

Probably During the Summer and/or Fall

During Three Days - Jesus Heals Many on the Eastern side of the Sea of Galilee

- Mark 7:31-37 (cf. Matthew 15:29-31)

On the Third Day of Healings - Jesus Miraculously Feeds 4,000+

- Mark 8:1-9 (cf. Matthew 15:32-38)

Perhaps on the Next Day

Pharisees and Sadducees of Dalmanutha/Magadan Demand a Sign

- Mark 8:10-13 (cf. Matthew 15:39-16:4; Luke 12:54-57)

- Luke 12:58-13:9

Jesus Warns His Apostles about the Leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees

- Mark 8:14-21 (cf. Matthew 16:5-12)

Jesus Heals a Blind Man at Bethsaida Julias

- Mark 8:22-26

Shortly Thereafter

Jesus Discusses His Identity with the Twelve

- Matthew 16:13-20 (cf. Mark 8:27-30; Luke 9:18-21)

Jesus Explicitly Prophesies His Death and Resurrection for the First Time

- Matthew 16:21-23 (cf. Mark 8:31-33; Luke 9:22)

Jesus Calls for Absolute Discipleship

- Matthew 16:24-28 (cf. Mark 8:34-9:1; Luke 9:23-27; 14:25-27, 33)

- Luke 14:28-32

About a Week Later³⁷⁰ - Jesus Transfigured (on Mt. Hermon?)

- Matthew 17:1-8 (cf. Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36)

Next Day

Jesus Reveals that John the Immerser was the Prophesied "Elijah"

- Matthew 17:9-13 (cf. Matthew 11:14; Mark 9:9-13)

Jesus Expels a Demon That His Apostles Could Not

- Mark 9:14-29 (cf. Matthew 17:14-21; Luke 9:37-42)

Jesus Explicitly Prophesies His Death and Resurrection a Second Time

- Mark 9:30-32 (cf. Matthew 17:22-23; Luke 9:43-45)

³⁷⁰ Matthew and Mark place this event "six days later" while Luke places it "some eight days later." This variance is probably due to the former counting exclusively while the latter counted inclusively.

32/33 = 1489th Year of the Exodus (continued)

Probably During the Summer and/or Fall (continued)

Upon Jesus' Return to Capernaum

Jesus Miraculously Pays the 2 *drachma* Tax for Himself and Peter

- Matthew 17:24-27 (cf. John 7:1)

Jesus Rebukes the Twelve for Arguing Among Themselves

- Mark 9:33-35 (cf. Luke 9:46)

- Matthew 18:1

- Mark 9:36-37 (cf. Matthew 18:2-5; Luke 9:47-48)

Jesus Chides the Apostles for Rebuking a Non-Disciple

- Mark 9:38-41 (cf. Luke 9:49-50)

Jesus Warns About Sources of Sin and the Need for Forgiveness

- Matthew 18:6-9 (cf. Mark 9:42-48; Luke 17:1-2)

- Matthew 18:10

- Mark 9:49-50 (cf. Luke 14:34-35)

- Luke 15:1-3

- Luke 15:4-7 (cf. Matthew 18:12-14)

- Luke 15:8-16:17

- Matthew 18:15-20 (cf. Luke 17:3)

- Matthew 18:21-22 (cf. Luke 17:4)

- Matthew 18:23-35

- Luke 17:5-10

Probably During the First Half of the 7th Month

Jesus' Brothers Urge Him to go to Jerusalem

- John 7:2-9

7*? - Jesus Secretly Travels to Jerusalem

- John 7:10-13 (cf. Matthew 19:1a; Mark 10:1a)

7*15-22 = Feast of Tabernacles³⁷¹

Perhaps 7*17 = Sabbath³⁷² - Jesus Suddenly Appears, Teaching in the Temple

- John 7:14-36

7*22³⁷³ - Jesus Offers the "Water of Life" (i.e., the Spirit) to Those Who Believe

- John 7:37-52

Probably 7*23 - Pharisees Confront Jesus with an Adulterous Woman³⁷⁴

- John 7:53-8:11

Probably 7*24 = Sabbath³⁷⁵

Jesus Nearly Stoned for Claiming to be the "I AM" (i.e., *Yahweh*)

- John 8:12-59

Jesus has a Major Confrontation with the Pharisees over a Sabbath Healing

- John 9:1-10:21

³⁷¹ WED/THU 8/9 – WED/THU 15/16 OCT in 32.

³⁷² FRI/SAT 10/11 OCT in 32.

³⁷³ WED/THU 15/16 OCT in 32.

³⁷⁴ Although the oldest manuscripts do not include this section of John, the chronological information is contextually accurate, taking place on 7*23 (THU/FRI 16/17 OCT in 32), and should, in my opinion, be accepted as fact.

³⁷⁵ FRI/SAT 17/18 OCT in 32.

32/33 = 1489th Year of the Exodus (continued)

During the Fall - Jesus Teaches and Heals in Perea

- Matthew 19:1b-2 (cf. Mark 10:1b)

9*25³⁷⁶ = Feast of Dedication³⁷⁷ - Jesus Nearly Stoned During a Visit to Jerusalem

- John 10:22-39

Probably During the Winter

Jesus Continues His Work in Perea

- John 10:40-42

After Hearing about Lazarus' Illness, Jesus Cuts His Ministry in Perea Short

- John 11:1-16

Jesus Resurrects Lazarus at Bethany near Jerusalem

- John 11:17-53

Jesus and His Disciples Retreat to Ephraim

- John 11:54

Year Beginning 1*1 in 33 = 1490th Year of the Exodus

Early in the 1st Month

Passover Crowds Begin Gathering at Jerusalem

- John 11:55-57

Somewhere Along the Samaria-Galilee Border

Jesus Denied Samaritan Hospitality

- Luke 9:51-56

Jesus Heals Ten Lepers

- Luke 17:11-19

Question about the Kingdom from the Pharisees

- Luke 17:20-37³⁷⁸

- Luke 18:1-14

1*8³⁷⁹ – A *Sabbath* spent in Perea

Jesus Heals a Woman during a Synagogue Teaching Service

- Luke 13:10-21

Jesus Affirms Not Everyone will be Saved

- Luke 13:22-30

Jesus Predicts His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem³⁸⁰

- Luke 13:31-35 (cf. Matthew 23:37-39)

Jesus Eats Dinner at a Pharisee's House:

- Luke 14:1-24

³⁷⁶ WED/THU 17/18 DEC in 32.

³⁷⁷ This non-canonical feast was a celebration of Judas Maccabee's rededication of the Temple Sanctuary after its defilement by the infamous, 2nd Century BC, Macedonian ruler of Syria, Antiochus IV. For information on this period, see 1 Maccabees chapters 1-6 (as well as the entire book of 2 Maccabees).

³⁷⁸ Some of Jesus' comments here overlap those in the "Olivet Discourse."

³⁷⁹ FRI/SAT 27/28 MAR in AD 33.

³⁸⁰ According to his own testimony, Jesus would arrive at Jerusalem on the third day hereafter, i.e., on 1*10. He also predicted that he would be welcomed with the words, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord," which is exactly what happened during his triumphal entry.

33/34 = 1490th Year of the Exodus (continued)

1*9³⁸¹ – A Day of Travel from Perea to Bethany

Question about Divorce from the Pharisees

- Matthew 19:3-12 (cf. Mark 10:2-12; Luke 16:18)

Jesus Rebukes His Disciples for Barring Children from His Presence

- Matthew 19:13-15 (cf. Mark 10:13-16; Luke; 18:15-17)

Jesus' Answer to the Rich Young Ruler Sparks a Discussion on Service

- Matthew 19:16-20:16 (cf. Mark 10:17-31; Luke 18:18-30; 10:25-29)
- Luke 10:30-37

Jesus Explicitly Prophesies His Death and Resurrection a Third Time

- Mark 10:32-34 (cf. Matthew 20:17-19; Luke 18:31-34)

James and John Request Special Consideration

- Matthew 20:20-28 (cf. Mark 10:35-45)

Jesus Heals Two Blind Men near Jericho

- Matthew 20:29-34 (cf. Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43)

Jesus Lunches with Zaccheus at Jericho

- Luke 19:1-28

Jesus Arrives at Bethany near Jerusalem

- John 12:1 (cf. Luke 10:38a)

1*10³⁸²

After Sunset - Jesus Anointed by Mary at Martha and Simon's House³⁸³

- Luke 10:38b-42
- John 12:2-11 (cf. Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9)

Next Day - Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem³⁸⁴

- Psalm 113-118 (Psalms Traditionally Associated with Passover)³⁸⁵
- Luke 19:29-35 (cf. Matthew 21:1-7; Mark 11:1-7)
- Luke 19:36-40 (cf. Matthew 21:8-9; Mark 11:8-10; John 12:12-14)
- John 12:15-18
- Luke 19:41-44
- Matthew 21:10-11 (cf. Mark 11:11a)

Before Sunset - Jesus Returns to Bethany

- Mark 11:11b

³⁸¹ SAT/SUN 28/29 MAR 33.

³⁸² SUN/MON 29/30 MAR in AD 33.

³⁸³ It seems likely to me that Simon and Martha were married. Matthew and Mark identify the house in Bethany where the anointing took place as belonging to Simon, while John indicates that it was Martha who prepared and served the meal that night. I believe that Luke [who would have been the odd man out had he not recorded this very important event (Matthew 26:13//Mark 14:9)] offers some unique insight into Martha's intense preparation for that special dinner, which he says took place in Martha's house.

³⁸⁴ Despite longstanding tradition that designates the day of this event as "Palm Sunday," the triumphal entry of Jesus actually occurred on Monday afternoon. This is a very significant point in the chronology of the final week, because 1*10 was the day on which the Passover lambs were selected (Exodus 12:2-6), and Jesus was entering Jerusalem as the final Passover lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7).

³⁸⁵ The Hebrew for "Save us!" in Psalm 118:25, sounds something like *hoshiaghna*, which was slurred into Greek as *hosanna*. This shout, and "Blessed is He who comes in the name of *Yahweh!*" (Psalm 118:26), were part of a traditional greeting for the High Priest when he brought a Passover lamb into Jerusalem on 1*10. The application of this Psalm to Jesus fulfilled one of the requirements for his role as the final Passover lamb. As mentioned earlier, Jesus predicted both the date of and the exact response to his arrival.

33/34 = 1490th Year of the Exodus (continued)

1*11³⁸⁶

Jesus Curses the Fig Tree

- Mark 11:12-14 (cf. Matthew 21:18-19a)

Jesus Cleanses the Temple a 2nd Time³⁸⁷

- Matthew 21:12-16 (cf. Mark 11:15-17; Luke 19:45-46)
- Luke 19:47-48 (cf. Mark 11:18)

Jesus Responds to a Request from Greeks Attending Passover³⁸⁸

- John 12:20-50

Before Sunset - Jesus Returns to Bethany

- Mark 11:19 (cf. Matthew 21:17)

1*12³⁸⁹

Jesus Uses the Withered Fig Tree as an Illustration on Faith

- Mark 11:20-26 (cf. Matthew 21:19b-22)

Jewish Leaders Challenge Jesus' Authority

- Mark 11:27-33 (cf. Matthew 21:23-27; Luke 20:1-8)
- Matthew 21:28-32
- Matthew 21:33-46 (cf. Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-19)
- Matthew 22:1-14

Jewish Leaders Make Multiple Attempts to Trap Jesus

Question about the Imperial Tax from the Pharisees & Herodians

- Matthew 22:15-22 (cf. Mark 12:13-17; Luke 20:20-26)

Question about the Resurrection from the Sadducees

- Matthew 22:23-33 (cf. Mark 12:18-27; Luke 20:27-39)

Question about the Greatest Commandment from the Pharisees

- Matthew 22:34-40 (cf. Mark 12:28-34a)

Jesus Questions the Pharisees about the Son of David, Ending Questions

- Matthew 22:41-46 (cf. Mark 12:34b-37; Luke 20:40-44)

Jesus Warns the Passover Crowds about the Pharisees

- Matthew 23:1-36 (cf. Mark 12:38-40; Luke 20:45-47)

Jesus Remarks on a Widow's Gift

- Mark 12:41-44 (cf. Luke 21:1-4)

The Olivet Discourse

- Matthew 24:1-51 (cf. Mark 13:1-37; Luke 21:5-36; cf. 17:22-37)
- Matthew 25:1-46

Jesus Explicitly Prophesies His Death and Resurrection a Fourth Time

- Matthew 26:1-2 (cf. Mark 14:1a; Luke 22:1)

³⁸⁶ MON/TUE 30/31 MAR in AD 33.

³⁸⁷ The first time was three years earlier, at the start of his ministry.

³⁸⁸ The exact placement of this event within the final week of Christ is uncertain.

³⁸⁹ TUE/WED 31 MAR/1 APR in AD 33.

33/34 = 1490th Year of the Exodus (continued)

1*13³⁹⁰

Sanhedrin Plots to Kill Jesus after Passover/Unleavened Bread

➤ Matthew 26:3-5 (cf. Mark 14:1b-2; Luke 22:2)

Judas Offers To Betray Jesus to the Sanhedrin³⁹¹

➤ Luke 22:3-6 (cf. Matthew 26:14-16; Mark 14:10-11)

Probably Late Afternoon - Jesus Sends Peter and John to Prepare the Passover

➤ Luke 22:7-13 (cf. Matthew 26:17-19; Mark 14:12-16)

Probably Between Sunset and Midnight on 1*14³⁹²

Jesus Eats Passover³⁹³ with His Apostles

➤ Luke 22:14-18 (cf. Matthew 26:20; Mark 14:17)

Jesus Washes the Apostles' Feet

➤ John 13:1-20

Jesus Reveals that One of the Twelve is a Betrayer

➤ Luke 22:21-22 (cf. Matthew 26:21-24; Mark 14:18-21; John 13:21)

Apostles Debate the Identity of the Betrayer

➤ Luke 22:23-30 (cf. John 13:22)

Jesus Speaks Privately to John

➤ John 13:23-26a

Jesus Speaks Privately to Judas Prior to His Departure

➤ John 13:26b

➤ Matthew 26:25

➤ John 13:27-30

Jesus Establishes the "Lord's Supper"

➤ Matthew 26:26-29 (cf. Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:19-20)³⁹⁴

Jesus Predicts the Scattering of the Apostles and Simon Peter's Denials

➤ John 13:31-36

➤ Matthew 26:31-35 (cf. Mark 14:27-31; Luke 22:31-34; John 13:37-38)

➤ John 14:1-31a

➤ Luke 22:35-38

Departure from the Upper Room

➤ John 14:31b

➤ Matthew 26:30 (cf. Mark 14:26; Luke 22:39)

On the Way to the Mt. of Olives, Jesus Encourages His Apostles

➤ John 15:1-17:26

³⁹⁰ WED/THU 1/2 APR in AD 33.

³⁹¹ Judas' offer to betray Jesus privately, away from the festival crowds whom the Jewish leaders feared would defend him, advanced the Sanhedrin's timetable. Now they raced to have him convicted by the Roman authorities and on the cross before the people began to gather together on the morning of 1*14.

³⁹² THU/FRI 2/3 APR in AD 33.

³⁹³ How Jesus and the Twelve were able to eat the traditional Passover meal (per Matthew//Mark//Luke) and Jesus still be executed at the time the Passover lambs were traditionally slain (per John) is not made clear in the texts of the gospels. I imagine it had something to do with variances in the reckoning of time between the Galileans and the Judeans.

³⁹⁴ See also Paul's comments in 1 Corinthians 11:23-25.

33/34 = 1490th Year of the Exodus (continued)

Probably Between Midnight and Sunrise on 1*14

Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane

- Mark 14:32-42 (cf. Matthew 26:36-46; Luke 22:40-46; John 18:1)

Jesus Arrested and Taken to Annas

- John 18:2-9 (cf. Matthew 26:47; Mark 14:43; Luke 22:47a)
- Matthew 26:48-56 (cf. Mark 14:44-50; Luke 22:47b-53; John 18:10-11)
- Mark 14:51-52
- John 18:12-14 (cf. Matthew 26:57; Mark 14:53; Luke 22:54a)

John Gains Access to the High Priest's Courtyard for Himself and Peter

- John 18:15-16, 18 (cf. Matthew 26:58; Mark 14:54; Luke 22:54b-55)

Peter's 1st and 2nd Denials of Jesus

- Matthew 26:69-72 (cf. Mark 14:66-70a; Luke 22:56-58; John 18:17)

Jesus Interrogated by Annas

- John 18:19-24

Sanhedrin Hears False Testimony Against Jesus

- Matthew 26:59-63a (cf. Mark 14:55-61a)

Peter's 3rd Denial of Jesus

- Luke 22:59-62 (cf. Matthew 26:73-75; Mark 14:70b-72; John 18:25-27)

Jesus Beaten and Mocked

- Luke 22:63-65 (cf. Matthew 26:67-68; Mark 14:65)

High Priest Places Jesus Under Oath Regarding His Identity

- Luke 22:66-71 (cf. Matthew 26:63b-66; Mark 14:61b-64)

33/34 = 1490th Year of the Exodus (continued)

Between Sunrise and Mid-Morning on 1*14

Sanhedrin Officially Condemns Jesus, Taking Him to Pilate³⁹⁵

- Matthew 27:1-2 (cf. Mark 15:1; Luke 23:1; John 18:28a)

Judas Commits Suicide

- Matthew 27:3-10

Jesus Accused before Pilate

- John 18:28b-32 (cf. Luke 23:2)

Pilate Interviews Jesus Privately

- John 18:33-38a (cf. Matthew 27:11; Mark 15:2; Luke 23:3)

Pilate Declares Jesus Innocent

- John 18:38b (cf. Luke 23:4)

Jewish Leaders Continue Their Accusations

- Matthew 27:12-14 (cf. Mark 15:3-5)

- Luke 23:5-7

Pilate Sends Jesus to King Herod

- Luke 23:8-12

Pilate Declares Jesus Innocent a 2nd Time

- Luke 23:13-16

Crowds Request Pilate to Perform His Traditional Passover Amnesty

- Mark 15:6-8 (cf. Matthew 27:15-16)

Pilate Offers a Choice between Jesus and Barabas

- Mark 15:9-10 (cf. Matthew 27:17-18; John 18:39)

Pilate's Wife Warns Him not to Condemn Jesus

- Matthew 27:19

Jewish Leaders Incite the Crowds to Choose Barnabas

- Mark 15:11-15a (cf. Matthew 27:20-23; Luke 23:18-23; John 18:40)

Pilate Has Jesus Scourged

- John 19:1-3 (cf. Matthew 27:26a, 27-31a; Mark 15:15b, 16-20a)

Pilate Declares Jesus Innocent a 3rd Time

- John 19:4-8

Pilate Privately Interviews Jesus Privately

- John 19:9-11

Pilate Tries One Last Time to Release Jesus

- John 19:12

Pilate Publicly Condemns Jesus³⁹⁶

- John 19:13-15

- Matthew 27:26b (cf. Mark 15:15c; Luke 23:24-25; John 19:16)

Jesus Led Out to be Crucified

- Luke 23:26-32 (cf. Matthew 27:31b-32; Mark 15:20b-21; John 19:17a)

³⁹⁵ Although the Sanhedrin had already determined Jesus' guilt during the night, an official verdict was delivered after sunrise to fulfill the letter of proper procedure.

³⁹⁶ Pilate first heard the Jewish accusations against Jesus around the 6th Roman hour, i.e. 6 a.m. After much resistance, Pilate finally condemned Jesus to be crucified at the 3rd Jewish hour, approximately 9 a.m.

AD 33/34 = 1490th Year of the Exodus (continued)

Between Mid-Morning and Mid-Day on 1*14

Jesus Crucified at the 3rd (Jewish) Hour³⁹⁷

- Psalm 22 (A prophetic Psalm of David)
- Luke 23:33-38 (cf. Matthew 27:33-42; Mark 15:22-28; John 19:17b-20)
- John 19:21-27
- Matthew 27:39-44 (cf. Mark 15:29-32)

One of the Criminals Repents

- Luke 23:39-43

Between Mid-Day and Mid-Afternoon on 1*14

An Unnatural Darkness Falls at the 6th (Jewish) Hour³⁹⁸

- Matthew 27:45 (cf. Mark 15:33; Luke 23:44-45a)

Between Mid-Afternoon and Sunset on 1*14

Jesus' Cry to God is Mistaken as a Call to Elijah

- Matthew 27:46-47 (cf. Mark 15:34-35)

Jesus Asks for a Final Drink

- John 19:28
- Matthew 27:48-49 (cf. Mark 15:36; John 19:29)

Jesus Dies at the 9th (Jewish) Hour³⁹⁹

- John 19:30
- Luke 23:46 (cf. Matthew 27:50; Mark 15:37; John 19:30b)
- Matthew 27:51-52a, 54-56 (cf. Mark 15:38-41; Luke 23:45b, 47-49)

Pilate Orders the Executions Hurried

- John 19:31-37

Jesus Buried

- Luke 23:50-56a (cf. Matthew 27:57-61; Mark 15:42-47; John 19:38-42)

1*15 = Sabbath⁴⁰⁰

Sabbath Rest for the Women

- Luke 23:56b

Guard Posted at the Tomb

- Matthew 27:62-66

³⁹⁷ Midway between sunrise and midday, at the time of the morning sacrifice (Exodus 29:38-40).

³⁹⁸ High noon. In his Chronicle, Eusebius cites a passage from the writings of Phlegon of Tralles - a chronologist writing during the reign of Hadrian (117-138) - as support for his own assertion that Jesus was crucified in "the nineteenth year of Tiberius' kingdom," i.e. 1 July 32 - 30 June 33:

"In the fourth year of the two hundred and second Olympiad there was a great eclipse of the sun of unprecedented proportion, and it became night in the sixth hour of the day, so that even the stars in heaven shone." [translation mine]

There were absolutely no solar eclipses in the period indicated by Phlegon, so he must have been citing something similar to the darkness of an eclipse. On a related note, the darkness accompanying Jesus' crucifixion was most definitely not a solar eclipse, since the moon was full and solar eclipses only occur when the moon is new. However, on the evening of the crucifixion the moon actually rose while in eclipse.

³⁹⁹ Midway between noon and sunset, at the time of the evening sacrifice (Exodus 29:41-42).

⁴⁰⁰ FRI/SAT 3/4 APR in AD 33.

AD 33/34 = 1490th Year of the Exodus (continued)

1*16⁴⁰¹ – The Day of the Resurrection:

Women Discover the Empty Tomb

- Matthew 28:1-4 (cf. Mark 16:1-2; Luke 24:1; John 20:1a)
- Mark 16:3-4 (cf. Luke 2:2; John 20:1b)

Mary Magdalene Runs Away to Inform Peter

- John 20:2a

Angels Appear to the Remaining Women after They Enter the Tomb

- Luke 24:3 (cf. Mark 16:5a)
- Mark 16:5b-8⁴⁰² (cf. Matthew 28:5-8; Luke 24:4-9a)

Jesus Appears to the Women after They Flee from the Tomb

- Matthew 28:9-10

Tomb Guards Bribe by the Jewish Leaders

- Matthew 28:11-15

Peter and John Run to Inspect the Empty Tomb

- John 20:2b-10

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

- John 20:11-17

Women Tell the Apostles about Seeing Jesus

- Luke 24:9b-11 (cf. John 20:18)

Resurrected Believers Seen in Jerusalem

- Matthew 27:52b-53

Jesus Appears to Two Disciples on the Road to Emmaus

- Luke 24:13-33a

Jesus Appears to Cephas (Peter)

- 1 Corinthians 15:5a⁴⁰³

Jesus Appears to the Apostles for the 1st Time after His Resurrection

- Luke 24:33b-35
- John 20:19 (cf. Luke 24:36; 1 Corinthians 15:5b)
- Luke 24:37-48 (cf. John 20:20)
- John 20:21-23

⁴⁰¹ SAT/SUN 4/5 APR in AD 33.

⁴⁰² In the oldest manuscripts, Mark's gospel ends abruptly with verse 8. I do not consider the so-called "longer ending" of Mark (verses 9-20) to be the authentic ending of Mark's original text, for the simple reason that it directly contradicts Luke's undisputed account. According to Luke 24:33-35, the apostles had already accepted Peter's testimony about the resurrection before the two disciples for Emmaus could relate their own experience, while in the "longer ending" of Mark (verses 12-13), the apostles refused to believe the testimony of these two men. Although it is possible that the authentic ending of Mark is irretrievably lost, the testimony of the other gospels provide more than enough information to support faith in the bodily resurrection of Jesus.

⁴⁰³ Paul's account of the resurrection appearances seems to be in chronological order and includes three appearances not recorded in the gospels – to Cephas (*kefas*, Aramaic equivalent to "Peter"), to "The 500" and to James, Jesus' half brother.

AD 33/34 = 1490th Year of the Exodus (continued)

During the Week Between 1*16 and 1*23

Ten Apostles Tell Thomas about Seeing Jesus

➤ John 20:24-25

Jesus Appears to 500 Believers

➤ 1 Corinthians 15:6

Jesus Appears to James (His Half-brother)

➤ 1 Corinthians 15:7a

Probably 1*23⁴⁰⁴ - Jesus Appears to the Apostles a 2nd Time after His Resurrection

➤ John 20:26-31 (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:7b)

Sometime Between 1*23 and 2*25

After the Apostles Travel to Galilee

Jesus Appears to the Apostles a 3rd Time after His Resurrection

➤ John 21:1-25

Jesus Commissions the Apostles

➤ Matthew 28:16-20

Probably 2*25⁴⁰⁵ - **After the Apostles Return to Jerusalem**

Jesus Commands the Apostles to Remain in Jerusalem

➤ Acts 1:1-8 (cf. Luke 24:49)

Jesus Ascends to the Father

➤ Luke 24:50

➤ Acts 1:9-11 (cf. Luke 24:51)

Apostles Return to Jerusalem

➤ Acts 1:12-13 (cf. Luke 24:52)

Shortly after the Ascension - Apostles Select Matthias to Replace Judas

➤ Acts 1:14-26

➤ Luke 24:53

⁴⁰⁴ SAT/SUN 11/12 APR in AD 33, if counted inclusively.

⁴⁰⁵ WED/THU 13/14 MAY in 33, if counted inclusively.

ACTS is basically a sequel to Luke's gospel (Acts 1:1-3). It provides an historical framework for the remainder of the New Testament. I have placed the various letters of the New Testament where I believe they most likely occurred in the Acts timeline. Each letter will be preceded by a brief introductory overview.

33/34 = 1490th Year of the Exodus (continued)

3*6 = Pentecost⁴⁰⁶ - Establishment of the Church at Jerusalem

➤ Acts 2:1-41

Life Within the Early Church

➤ Acts 2:42-47

Sanhedrin's Persecution of Peter & John

➤ Acts 3:1-4:31

Sharing within the Early Church

➤ Acts 4:32-37

Deaths of Ananias & Sapphira

➤ Acts 5:1-11

Sanhedrin's Continued Persecution of the Apostles

➤ Acts 5:12-42

Year Beginning 7*1⁴⁰⁷ in 33 = 207th Sabbatical Year

Perhaps During the Fall and/or Winter

Appointment of the 1st Servants⁴⁰⁸ (a.k.a. Deacons⁴⁰⁹)

➤ Acts 6:1-7

Stoning of Stephen

➤ Acts 6:8-8:2

Church Scattered by Persecution Led by Saul of Tarsus

➤ Acts 8:3-4 (cf. Acts 22:3-5a; 26:4-11; Galatians 1:13-14)

➤ Acts 11:19

Philip Evangelizes Samaria

➤ Acts 8:5-13

Peter and John Impart Supernatural Gifts of the Spirit at Samaria⁴¹⁰

➤ Acts 8:14-25

⁴⁰⁶ SAT/SUN 23/24 MAY in 33.

⁴⁰⁷ SUN/MON 13/14 SEP in 33.

⁴⁰⁸ The need for men to oversee food distribution may have been precipitated, in part, by the Jewish observance of the Sabbatical Year in the Fall of 33. This would have been especially important for the poor and destitute believers who, after confessing faith in Jesus as Messiah, would have been denied access to the Sabbatical food stores by the Jewish leadership.

⁴⁰⁹ The English word Deacon comes from the Greek root *diakon-*, the various forms of which deal with physical service done by an individual for someone else.

⁴¹⁰ I think it particularly instructive that while Philip [upon whom the Apostles had earlier laid their hands (Acts 6:5-6)] displayed supernatural abilities, Philip's converts [who obviously already had the indwelling gift of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9; Acts 2:38)] had to receive the supernatural gifts of the Spirit by Peter and John laying hands on them. It appears to me that these supernaturally gifts were imparted by the laying on of the Apostles' hands.

Year Beginning 1*1 in 34 = 1491st Year of the Exodus/2nd Year of the Church

Possibly During the Spring and/or Summer

Philip Evangelizes the Treasurer of Ethiopia

- Acts 8:26-39

Philip Evangelizes the Cities Between Azotus and Caesarea

- Acts 8:40

Probably During the Summer - Saul's Conversion at Damascus

- Acts 9:1-19a (cf. Acts 22:5b-16; 26:12-18; Galatians 1:15-16)

Between 34 and 36

Saul Makes a Brief Visit to Arabia⁴¹¹

- Galatians 1:17a

Saul Returns to Damascus, Defending Jesus as Messiah in the Synagogues

- Galatians 1:17b

- Acts 9:19-22 (cf. Acts 26:19-20a)

James was one of Jesus' four half-brothers (Matthew 13:55). Although James still did not believe that Jesus was Messiah just six months prior to the crucifixion (John 7:5), actually seeing the resurrected Christ made a believer of him (1 Corinthians 15:7). Almost immediately he became the most influential leader within the newly established Church at Jerusalem (Acts 12:17; 15:13; 21:18; Galatians 1:19; 2:9; 2:12). He faithfully served the Lord in this capacity until his illegal execution by the Jewish leadership shortly before the Israeli revolt against Roman rule in 66 (Antiquities 20.9.1).

As an Israeli, leading an Israeli congregation in the ancient Israeli capital, he addressed the book of JAMES as a general letter to the Twelve Tribes of Israel scattered throughout the Roman Empire. Because Gentile believers are not mentioned anywhere in the letter, I am convinced it was written before the conversion of Cornelius, making it the earliest writing of the New Testament.

- James 1:1-5:20

Year Beginning 1*1 in 36 = 1493rd Year of the Exodus/4th Year of the Church

Probably During the Summer

Saul Escapes from Damascus⁴¹²

- Acts 9:23-25

Saul Visits Jerusalem

- Acts 9:26-29

- Acts 22:17-21 (cf. Acts 26:20b; Galatians 1:18-20)

Saul Returns to Tarsus

- Acts 9:30 (cf. Galatians 1:21-24)

⁴¹¹ It is possible that Saul, during this very significant crisis in his spiritual life, visited Mt. Sinai in Arabia (Galatians 4:25) for a time of private contemplation, even as Elijah did so many years before (1 Kings 19).

⁴¹² Paul, who was well-known for his gospel about a king from Galilee, probably had to flee Damascus when supporters of King Aretas of Arabia took control of the city (2 Corinthians 11:32) during Aretas' border war with Herod Antipas, the *tetrarch* of Galilee. This war occurred after Herod divorced Aretas' daughter so that he could marry his sister-in-law, Herodias (Antiquities 18.5.1). Josephus reveals that some Jews considered Herod's defeat as divine retribution for his execution of John the Immerser (Antiquities 18.5.2).

Probably Between 37 and 41⁴¹³

Ministry of Peter in Lydda and Joppa

➤ Acts 9:31-43

Conversion of Cornelius the Centurion

➤ Acts 10:1-11:18

Conversion of Many Gentiles at Antioch, Syria

➤ Acts 11:20-21

Year Beginning 1*1 in 42 = 1499th Year of the Exodus/10th Year of the Church

Perhaps During the Summer - Barnabas Ministers at Antioch

➤ Acts 11:22-24

Year Beginning 1*1 in 43 = 1500th Year of the Exodus/11th Year of the Church

Probably in the Spring - Barnabas Brings Saul to Antioch to Assist Him⁴¹⁴

➤ Acts 11:25-26

Year Beginning 1*1 in 44 = 1501st Year of the Exodus/12th Year of the Church

Spring - Financial Assistance Sent to Jerusalem via Barnabas and Saul

➤ Acts 11:27-30

1*14-22 = Passover/Unleavened Bread⁴¹⁵ - Agrippa Persecutes the Apostles

➤ Acts 12:1-19

Summer - Agrippa Dies at Caesarea⁴¹⁶

➤ Acts 12:20-24

Probably During the Summer - Barnabas and Saul Bring John Mark to Antioch

➤ Acts 12:25

Perhaps Late Summer or Early Fall - Barnabas and Saul Sent Out from Antioch⁴¹⁷

➤ Acts 13:1-3

Perhaps During the Winter - Barnabas and Saul Evangelize on Cyprus⁴¹⁸

➤ Acts 13:4-12

⁴¹³ This was roughly equivalent to the Emperor Gaius's reign who, during his final year of rule, unsuccessfully attempted to have his image placed within the Temple (Antiquities 18.8).

⁴¹⁴ Based on the fact that Barnabas and Saul were sent to Judea around Passover in 44, after spending a full year working together at Antioch.

⁴¹⁵ THU/FRI 31 APR/1 MAY – FRI/SAT 8/9 MAY.

⁴¹⁶ Josephus also describes the agonizing death of Herod Agrippa (Antiquities 19.8.2).

⁴¹⁷ Barnabas and Saul may have sailed to Cyprus before ship traffic ceased in the fall of 44 – i.e., prior the fast of *Yom Kippur* (cf. Acts 27:9).

⁴¹⁸ Barnabas and Saul may have passed the winter of 44/45 on Cyprus, preaching their way across the island. Take special note of how Saul became Paul after his part in the conversion of Sergius Paulus (Acts 13:9). Roman citizens sometimes adopted the name of a patron as their own. It is quite possible that Paulus lent some significant support to Saul, prompting him to begin using the name Paul in honor of that assistance.

Year Beginning 1*1 in 45 = 1502nd Year of the Exodus/13th Year of the Church

Perhaps During the Spring, Summer and Fall

John Mark Returns to Jerusalem⁴¹⁹

➤ Acts 13:13

Barnabas and Paul Evangelize at Antioch, Pisidia

➤ Acts 13:14-52

Barnabas and Paul Evangelize at Iconium

➤ Acts 14:1-6a

Barnabas and Paul Evangelize at Laconia and Lystra

➤ Acts 14:6a-20a

Perhaps During the Winter - Barnabas and Paul Evangelize at Derbe

➤ Acts 14:20b-21a

Year Beginning 1*1 in 46 = 1503rd Year of the Exodus/14th Year of the Church

Perhaps During the Spring and Summer

Barnabas and Paul Evangelize Appoint Elders in Lystra, Iconium & Antioch

➤ Acts 14:21b-24

Barnabas and Paul Evangelize at Perga

➤ Acts 14:25a

Barnabas and Paul Return to Antioch, Syria⁴²⁰

➤ Acts 14:25b-28

Matthew (a.k.a. Levi), son of Alphaeus, was a revenue agent at Capernaum in Galilee before being called by Jesus as an apostle. According to 2nd century writers, Matthew wrote his gospel in the mid-40's, before departing Palestine for ministry elsewhere. This seems reasonable, since the apostles were still in Jerusalem at the time of Herod Agrippa's execution of James in 44, but only Peter and John were present at the Jerusalem Council in 47 or 48 (Acts 15:1-30; Galatians 2:1-10).

The gospel of MATTHEW is very Jewish in character, but with a special focus on the evangelism of the Gentiles. Writing at a time when the idea of allowing Gentiles to become part of the Church was being opposed by some, Matthew took the opportunity to remind Jewish believers that Jesus himself had intended the gospel be preached among the Gentiles.

➤ Matthew 1:1-28:20

⁴¹⁹ Barnabas and Paul may have sailed from Cyprus to Perga when ship traffic resumed in the spring of 45. It was at this point that John Mark returned to Jerusalem, after about a year away from home.

⁴²⁰ The ministry of Barnabas and Paul in the interior of Asia Minor appears relatively short. It is likely that they passed the winter of 45/46 in the interior, sailing back to Antioch during 46.

Year Beginning 1*1 in 47 = 1504th Year of the Exodus/15th Year of the Church
Year Beginning 7*1 in 47 = 209th Sabbatical Year

Perhaps During the Sabbatical Year⁴²¹

Controversy About Circumcision of Gentile Converts Arises at Antioch

➤ Acts 15:1

Issue Discussed and Resolved at Jerusalem, Under the Direction of James

➤ Acts 15:4-29

Judas and Silas Deliver the Jerusalem Letter of Resolution to Antioch

➤ Acts 15:30-35

Year Beginning 1*1 in 48 = 1505th Year of the Exodus/16th Year of the Church

Perhaps During the Summer or Early Fall - Paul and Barnabas Split Up⁴²²

➤ Acts 15:36-40

Probably During the Fall and Winter

Paul and Silas Minister to the Congregations in Syria and Cilicia⁴²³

➤ Acts 15:41

Paul, Silas and Timothy Minister to the Congregations in Phrygia and Galatia

➤ Acts 16:1-6

Paul wrote GALATIANS to the congregations of southern Galatia, the Roman province in central Asia Minor where he and Barnabas had evangelized on their 1st Missionary Journey, and through which he and Silas passed on the 2nd Missionary Journey. Probably writing from somewhere between southern Galatia and the city of Troas in late 48 or early 49, Paul displayed his obvious displeasure that the controversy about Gentile circumcision, against which he had so recently fought in the Jerusalem Council, had made significant inroads into southern Galatia as well.

➤ Galatians 1:1-6:18

⁴²¹ I believe that the so-called Jerusalem Council was probably held in 47/48, during the Sabbatical Year.

⁴²² Since Barnabas and John Mark sailed away to Cyprus, the 2nd Missionary Journey must have begun prior to the cessation of ship traffic in the fall of 48.

⁴²³ Paul and Silas may have spent the winter of 48/49 in the interior of Asia Minor.

**Year Beginning 1*1 in 49 = 1506th Year of the Exodus/17th Year of the Church
Probably During the Spring, Summer and Fall**

Paul, Silas and Timothy Evangelize at Philippi⁴²⁴

➤ Acts 16:7-40

Paul, Silas and Timothy Evangelize at Thessalonica

➤ Acts 17:1-9

Paul, Silas and Timothy Evangelize at Berea

➤ Acts 17:10-14

Paul Evangelizes at Athens

➤ Acts 17:15-34

Before the End of the Year

Paul Travels on to Corinth⁴²⁵

➤ Acts 18:1-4

Paul, Silas and Timothy Evangelize at Corinth

➤ Acts 18:5-11

Paul wrote 1 THESSALONIANS from Corinth, after Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia (Acts 18:5; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-10).

➤ 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5:28

Paul wrote 2 THESSALONIANS during his ministry at Corinth in order to deal with false teaching that had apparently arisen from a forged letter (2 Thessalonians 2:1-2; 3:17).

➤ 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3:18

**Year Beginning 1*1 in 51 = 1508th Year of the Exodus/19th Year of the Church
Probably Early Summer - Paul Charged before Gallio at Corinth⁴²⁶**

➤ Acts 18:12-17

Sometime Between 51 and 54

Paul Returns to Antioch, Syria, via Ephesus & Jerusalem

➤ Acts 18:18-22

⁴²⁴ Luke, the author of Acts, traveled with Paul from Troas to Philippi, hence the change from the pronoun “they” in Acts 16:8 to “us” and “we” in Acts 16:10, 11. They probably arrived during the spring of 49, allowing for events in Macedonia and Achaia before Paul’s arrival at Corinth before the end of 49.

⁴²⁵ The edict that expelled Jews from Rome is dated to the 9th year of Claudius (49), and was precipitated by riots among the Jews regarding “Chrestus” (Suetonius Life of Claudius, 25), perhaps a Roman misunderstanding about debates over Jesus’ identity as Christ. Allowing for 18 months of ministry prior to Jewish accusations before Gallio, Paul probably arrived in Corinth before the end of 49.

⁴²⁶ The Jews, seeking to take advantage of a change in Roman administration, probably brought charges against Paul shortly after Gallio’s arrival in the province of Achaia in the early summer of 51. How much longer he spent in Corinth is unclear. Paul could have returned to Antioch in the next few years and still satisfied the periods of time referred to in Acts 18:18, 23.

Year Beginning 1*1 in 54 = 1511th Year of the Exodus/22nd Year of the Church
Year Beginning 7*1 in 54 = 210th Sabbatical Year

Perhaps during the Fall and Winter

Apollos Evangelizes in Ephesus and Corinth⁴²⁷

➤ Acts 18:24-28

Paul Visits the Congregations of Galatia & Phrygia⁴²⁸

➤ Acts 18:23

Probably Between 55 and 57

Paul Evangelizes at Ephesus⁴²⁹

➤ Acts 19:1-20

Year Beginning 1*1 in 57 = 1513th Year of the Exodus/25th Year of the Church

Paul Plans to Travel to Jerusalem (via Macedonia and Achaia) and then to Rome

➤ Acts 19:21-22

Paul wrote 1 CORINTHIANS in anticipation of a visit to Corinth later in 57, after which he planned to return to Judea (1 Corinthians 16:1-9). In it he addresses a number of very serious problems that had arisen within the Corinthian assembly.

➤ 1 Corinthians 1:1-16:24

57/58 = 1513th Year of the Exodus/25th Year of the Church (continued)

Fall

Riot at Ephesus

➤ Acts 19:23-20:1

Paul Visits the Congregations in Macedonia⁴³⁰

➤ Acts 20:2

Winter - Paul Visits the Congregations in Greece⁴³¹

➤ Acts 20:3a

Paul wrote ROMANS in anticipation that he would visit Rome shortly after his return to Judea from Corinth (Romans 1:15; 15:20-32). In it he addresses the basic aspects of faith in Jesus as Messiah, regardless of whether one is an ethnic Jew or not.

➤ Romans 1:1-16:27

⁴²⁷ Apollos may have used the Sabbatical Year as an opportunity to travel from his native Alexandria to Ephesus in order to teach the message of John the Immerser. This account, and the account of the twelve men encountered by Paul shortly hereafter, are amazing records of how, two decades after the resurrection of Christ, there were still some disciples of the Immerser who had not yet heard the full gospel.

⁴²⁸ Paul may have traveled overland to the interior of Asia Minor during the latter part of 54, spent the winter in Galatia and traveled on to Ephesus in the spring or summer of 55.

⁴²⁹ Paul spent at least two years and three months in Ephesus (Acts 19:8, 10), but referred to the period inclusively as three years (Acts 20:31). He was probably there from the spring or summer of 55 through the fall of 57.

⁴³⁰ Paul probably sailed from Ephesus to Macedonia before the end of ship traffic in the fall of 57.

⁴³¹ Paul evidently spent the three winter months of 57/58 in Greece. During this time he apparently made two visits to Corinth (2 Corinthians 12:14; 13:1).

Paul wrote **2 CORINTHIANS** in anticipation of a third and final visit to Corinth before his return to Judea (2 Corinthians 1:15; 12:14; 13:1-3). In it he defends his apostolic authority and readdresses some of the continuing problems within the Corinthian assembly.

➤ 2 Corinthians 1:1-13:14

Year Beginning 1*1 in 58 = 1514th Year of the Exodus/26th Year of the Church

Spring

Paul, Accompanied by Many Associates, Travels to Jerusalem⁴³²

➤ Acts 20:3b-21:16

Paul Arrested During a Temple Riot⁴³³

➤ Acts 21:17-22:29

Paul Addresses the Sanhedrin

➤ Acts 22:30-23:10

Paul Imprisoned at Caesarea

➤ Acts 23:11-24:26

According to Irenaeus (Against Heresies 3.14.1), the gospel of **LUKE** was written by Luke, a physician (Colossians 4:14), and companion of Paul. We know for certain that the author accompanied Paul from Troas to Philippi in the spring of 49, during the 1st Missionary Journey. He evidently remained at Philippi until the spring of 58, when, at the end of the 3rd Missionary Journey, he joined Paul as he sailed from that city, heading for Jerusalem.⁴³⁴ Luke's gospel was probably researched and written during Paul's two-year imprisonment at Caesarea, from the summer of 58 to the fall of 60.

➤ Luke 1:1-24:54

Year Beginning 1*1 in 60 = 1517th Year of the Exodus/28th Year of the Church

Summer

Paul Appeals to Festus for Imperial Review

➤ Acts 24:27-25:12

Paul Testifies before Agrippa II and Bernice

➤ Acts 25:13-26:32

Late Summer⁴³⁵ - Paul Taken from Caesarea to Crete, on the Way to Rome

➤ Acts 27:1-8

Winter – Paul Shipwrecked at Malta

➤ Acts 27:9-28:10

⁴³² Paul departed Philippi after the Feast of Passover/Unleavened Bread in 58 = 1*14-22 (TUE/WED 25/26 –WED/THU 3/4 MAY) (Acts 20:6). He hoped to arrive in Jerusalem before Pentecost = 3*9 (SUN/MON 18/19 JUN) (Acts 20:16).

⁴³³ The officer who arrested Paul assumed that he was the Egyptian Jew who had led a failed uprising at Jerusalem a few years earlier (Acts 21:38; cf. Antiquities 20.8.6).

⁴³⁴ Based on the change from the pronoun “they” in Acts 16:8 to “us” and “we” in Acts 16:10, 11, back to “they” in Acts 17:1, and finally back to “we” in Acts 20:6.

⁴³⁵ Based on the fact that the decision to find a better winter harbor on Crete came after the fast of *Yom Kippur* (TUE/WED 23/24 SEP in 60).

Year Beginning 1*1 in 61 = 1518th Year of the Exodus/29th Year of the Church

During the Spring - Paul Continues from Crete to Rome

- Acts 28:11-15

Until Sometime After the Spring of 63

Paul Remains Under House Arrest in Rome, Awaiting Imperial Review

- Acts 28:16-31

Paul wrote PHILIPPIANS as a letter of thanks and encouragement during his house arrest at Rome. The Philippians had apparently sent Paul financial support (Philippians 4:18) when they learned that he was incurring personal debt (Acts 28:30) as he awaited imperial review.

- Philippians 1:1-4:23

During his house arrest at Rome, Paul was involved in the conversion of Onesimus, the runaway slave of Philemon, the man in whose house the congregation at Colossae met. Paul wrote the letter of PHILEMON, urging Philemon to accept Onesimus back as a brother in Christ, charging any financial loss to the apostle. Because he anticipated being released soon (Philemon 1:22), Paul also took this opportunity to send two instructional letters into the same region - EPHESIANS⁴³⁶ and COLOSSIANS. These were entrusted to Tychicus, whom Onesimus accompanied on his way home (Ephesians 6:22-23; Colossians 4:7-9).

- Philemon 1:1-25
- Ephesians 1:1-6:24
- Colossians 1:1-4:18⁴³⁷

Paul wrote 1 TIMOTHY & TITUS shortly after his release from house arrest at Rome, some time after the spring of 63, but before his arrest, final imprisonment and execution at Rome between 64 and 68. In them he addresses the need for basic congregational instruction by Timothy (at Ephesus) and Titus (on Crete).

- 1 Timothy 1:1-6:21
- Titus 1:1-3:15⁴³⁸

Peter wrote 1 PETER from “Babylon” (5:13) - which was probably a reference to the city of Rome - and addressed it to the Christians living in the various Roman provinces of northern Asia Minor. Like the book of Hebrews, this book was probably written before serious Roman persecution of Christians began in 64.

- 1 Peter 1:1-5:14

⁴³⁶ Most ancient manuscripts do not include the phrase “in Ephesus” as part of the salutatory address in this letter. This letter may have been a circular letter that Paul intended to pass through Laodicea on its way to Colossae (Colossians 4:16).

⁴³⁷ As you read, take special note of the many parallels with Ephesians.

⁴³⁸ As you read, take special note of the many parallels with 1 Timothy.

Peter wrote **2 PETER** as a follow-up letter in anticipation of his death sometime between 64 and 68 (2 Peter 2:12-15). In it he warns believers to be on their guard against false teachers.

➤ 2 Peter 1:1-3:18

Paul wrote **2 TIMOTHY** - his final letter - in anticipation of his execution sometime between 64 and 68 (2 Timothy 4:6). In it he urges Timothy to continue the work of the gospel.

➤ 2 Timothy 1:1-4:22

HEBREWS is completely anonymous, with only a few clues as to who the author might (or might not) be. Since Timothy is mentioned in Hebrews 13:23, he is immediately ruled out. So too would be the apostles and early disciples with first hand testimony about Jesus, since the author specifically distinguishes himself from that esteemed group (Hebrews 2:3-4). Whoever he was, he was obviously an Israeli with a firm grasp on how the symbolism of the old covenant was fulfilled by Jesus in the new covenant.

It is my thesis that the author is concerned that the Jewish recipients are anxious enough about the systematic Roman persecution of Christians, which began after the burning of Rome (summer of 64), that they were actively considering a return to traditional Judaism, which was not being persecuted. The author demonstrates that this is a completely untenable position to take, since the Old Covenant had been fulfilled by Christ and was about to pass away completely (via the approaching destruction of the Temple in 70).

➤ Hebrews 1:1-13:25

Jude, the brother of James (probably the well-known leader of the Jerusalem congregation, the author of James and half-brother to Jesus), wrote **JUDE**, urging the energetic defense of the once-delivered Faith. A quotation of 2 Peter 3:3 in Jude 1:18 seems to indicate that this letter was written after 2 Peter, but how long after is uncertain.

➤ Jude 1:1-25

The testimony of Papias (Fragments 6, written during the early 2nd century and preserved in the 4th century writings of Eusebius), states that Mark served as Peter's interpreter and that the gospel of **MARK** is an accurate representation of Peter's eyewitness testimony. Irenaeus (Against Heresies, 3.1.1, written between 185-188) concurs with this tradition, further stating that Mark's gospel was completed after the deaths of both Paul and Peter.

In his youth, John Mark, son of Mary (Acts 15:12), and cousin of Barnabas (Colossians 4:10), had accompanied Barnabas and Saul on their 1st Missionary Journey only as far as Perga, before returning to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13). When Paul and Barnabas disagreed sharply about taking him on the 2nd Missionary Journey, Barnabas decided to take Mark with him to check on the congregations on Cyprus while Paul took Silas into Asia Minor (Acts 15:37-39). Mark was with Paul during the final days of his house arrest at Rome (Philemon 1:24; Colossians 4:10), but was living somewhere between Ephesus and Rome during Paul's final Roman imprisonment.⁴³⁹ Peter also testifies to John Mark's presence at "Babylon" (i.e., Rome), in 1 Peter 5:13.

➤ **Mark 1:1-16:8**

According to Irenaeus (Against Heresies 3.1.1, written between 185-188), John the apostle wrote the gospel of **JOHN** after he had taken up residence at Ephesus in Asia. Internal evidence indicates that it was written in the late 60's - after the execution of Peter, sometime between 64 and 68 (John 21:19), but before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 (John 5:2)⁴⁴⁰.

➤ **John 1:1- 21:25**

According to Irenaeus (Against Heresies 3.16.5, written between 182-188), John the apostle also wrote **1 JOHN**, **2 JOHN** & **3 JOHN**. They reflect the apostle's response to the rising threat of *Gnosticism*, a heresy that denied that Jesus Christ had come in the flesh,⁴⁴¹ something about which John had firsthand knowledge. Similarities between 1 John and 2 John, and between 2 John and 3 John, indicate that John wrote all three letters around the same time.

➤ **1 John 1:1-5:21; 2 John 1:1-13; 3 John 1:1-14**

According to Irenaeus (Against Heresies 5.30.3, written between 182-188), John the apostle also wrote **REVELATION** to "the seven churches of Asia" after experiencing the visions contained herein toward the end of Domitian's reign (81-96). While there has been great debate about the proper interpretation of this book, I believe that its primary purpose was the immediate preparation of the seven Asian churches for the massive Roman persecution that began early in the 2nd Century (1:1-3, 10-11, 19; 4:1). Regardless, the closing portion of the book (20:7ff), most definitely describes the final judgment and the eternal state of the righteous and unrighteous. As you read, be sure to take special note of the large amount of imagery drawn from the Old Testament prophets of Isaiah, Zechariah, Daniel and Ezekiel.

➤ **Revelation 1:1-22:21**

⁴³⁹ Based on Paul's request that Timothy bring John Mark along with himself to Rome (2 Timothy 4:11)

⁴⁴⁰ Based on the use of the present tense "is" rather than "was" in regard to a specific pool located in Jerusalem.

⁴⁴¹ This arose from their belief that the flesh was inherently evil and the spirit inherently good.

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