

Approximate Dates

Dates for events and reigns in the ancient world are subject to levels of uncertainty that increase with age due to the difficulties of establishing firm evidence that can be co-related across different geographical areas. King lists are subject to errors due to co-regencies. Evidence from carbon dating has error-bands that increase with age. Dating archaeological layers by the ceramic styles found can only suggest a range of time at best. These factors mean that differences of opinion exist between scholars. The table below shows in bold those events which are referred to by more than one cultural entity and which therefore can be used to pin together related dates from each. Dates before 1000 BCE could be as much as 100 years in error whereas dates after 600 BCE could be 10 years in error. The "from-to" columns in the table have been used both to indicate the duration of a reign and, sometimes, the uncertainty regarding an event - although the absence of a 'to' date should not be taken as an indication of certainty. Dates approximately associated with biblical texts are in italics.

:	From	To
Events		
Astrahasis (includes Flood story)	2500	
Amorite Infiltration of Levant	2000	
Semitic people in Egypt. State has an 'Officer for Asiatics'	1900	1800
Hammurabi (produced an influential law code)	1792	1750
Alphabetic writing developed in Canaan	1700	
Canaanites (Hyksos) conquer Egypt	1650	
Hurrian dominance in NW Syria	1550	1450
Canaanites (Hyksos) driven out of Egypt	1535	
Egypt rules Canaan	1534	1200
Hurrians present in Haran (Nuzi tablets)	1500	
Egypt deports 90,000 out of southern coastal Levant. (The future Judah)	1420	1380
Canaanite library in Ugarit	1400	1300
Monotheist Akhenaten rules Egypt	1353	1323
The R'h'm tribe (possibly led by Ab-reham) present in Beth-Shean (Jezreel Valley)	1325	
Re-settlement of Judean Highlands	1300	1200
Ramses II reigns	1279	1213
Battle of Kadesh (Egypt v Hittites)	1274	
Ramses II raids Shalem (Jerusalem?)	1270	
Tale of Two Brothers (An Egyptian 'Joseph' Story)	1225	
Meremtah reigns (erects inscription mentioning Israel)	1213	1203
Sea People's infiltration commences (Philistines)	1200	
Philistines in Gaza area	1180	
Deborah's tribal coalition successful against Philistine Hazor	1150	
Arameans expand in Syria	1120	
Destruction of Shiloh	1050	
David: Conventional dates	1000	960
Babylonian story 'I will praise the Lord of Wisdom'; A 'Job' precursor?	1000	

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Events	From	To
Accession of Rehoboam (first King mentioned from 'annals' of Judah)	929	
Egypt's Sheshonk erects stele in Megiddo	925	
Omrive dynasty	882	842
Battle of Qarqar (Isrealite/ArameanCoalition v Assyria)	853	
Moabite independence from Israel	852	
Jehu's coup in Israel	842	
Athaliah's coup in Judah	842	
Isreal under control of Aramean Damascus	841	780
First material evidence of a state-like entity in Judah	800	750
<i>Amos</i>	760	750
<i>E text</i>	750	720
<i>Hosea</i>	750	720
Micah	740	700
Career of Isaiah	740	690
Life of Hezekiah	740	687
Syro-Israelite incursion into Judah	733	
Assyrian destruction of Samaria: exile of principle citizens	722	
<i>J text</i>	720	700
<i>P text</i>	705	701
Sennacharib	705	681
Assyrian siege of Jerusalem	701	700
<i>H text</i>	690	670
Esarhaddon	681	668
Assyria conquers Egypt	671	
Asurbanipal	668	627
Josiah, life of	648	609
<i>Jeremiah, life and works</i>	640	580
Egypt recovers coastal Levant	640	
<i>Early Zepthaniah</i>	632	628
Josiah's reforms commence	627	
Babylonian revolt against Assyria	623	
<i>Core Deuteronomy discovered</i>	622	
<i>First edition of Deuteronomy</i>	621	609
<i>First edition of Deuteronomic History</i>	621	609
Nineveh falls	621	
<i>Nahum</i>	621	
<i>Late Zepthaniah</i>	620	609
Battle of Megido (Judah v Egypt). Death of Josiah	609	
<i>Jeremiah's temple sermon</i>	609	
Battle of Carchemish (Babylonians. Medes & Persians v Assyria & Egypt)	605	
<i>Habbakkuk</i>	604	
First exiles taken to Babylon	597	
<i>Ezekiel, Career and works</i>	593	568
The Babylonian Siege of Jerusalem	588	586
Destruction of Temple: 2nd Babylonian Exile	587	586
<i>Obadiah</i>	585	

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Events	From	To
3rd Babylonian Exile	582	581
<i>Final edition of Deuteronomic History (Joshua - Kings)</i>	580	568
<i>Redaction of Primary Texts (Genesis - Numbers)</i>	580	540
<i>Lamentations</i>	580	
Cyrus the Great	559	539
<i>Job: the poetry</i>	550	500
<i>2nd Isaiah: Redemption Poem</i>	547	539
<i>2nd Isaiah: Songs of Zion</i>	540	538
Decree of Cyrus	539	538
<i>3rd Isaiah: Early poems</i>	530	515
Persian Conquest of Egypt	526	
Darius	522	486
<i>Song of Songs</i>	520	470
<i>Haggai</i>	520	
<i>1st Zechariah</i>	518	517
<i>3rd Isaiah: The Universal Poems</i>	515	500
Completion of the 2nd Temple	515	
<i>The Chronicler</i>	510	
<i>Malachi</i>	500	400
Battle of Marathon (Persia v Greeks)	490	
Xerxes	486	464
<i>Ezra in Jerusalem</i>	458	
<i>Memoirs of Nehemiah</i>	445	424
<i>Joel: the plague of locust</i>	400	375
<i>Jonah</i>	395	370
<i>Joel: the Day of Yahweh</i>	374	
<i>Esther; Hebrew edition</i>	370	330
Alexander the great: Conquests (Including Egypt & Persia)	334	323
Samaitan Temple Built	330	
<i>2nd Zechariah</i>	320	300
<i>Ezra: 2nd Edition</i>	320	250
<i>Septuagint translation of Hebrew Scriptures in Greek</i>	250	132
<i>Enoch</i>	250	0
<i>Daniel: The stories</i>	240	180
<i>Ecclesiastes</i>	240	
<i>Tobit</i>	200	
<i>Daniel: The visions</i>	169	164
Maccabean Insurgency	166	160
<i>2 Maccabees</i>	130	124
<i>1 Maccabees</i>	104	
Pompey enters Jerusalem	63	
Herod the Great	37	4