

# History of Israel and 3 Faiths – the Biblical Basis

June 2013

**Genesis 4: 10-16** - The beginnings of the “blessed” lines and the “cursed” lines

**Genesis 5** – the line of Seth down to Noah

**Genesis 6-9** – the flood – all lines destroyed, except Noah and his sons

**Genesis 9: 25-26** – Noah curses Canaan through Canaan’s father Ham, son of Noah – says Canaan will “be the slave of Shem,” another son of Noah, the “blessed” line

**Genesis 10: 13** – Mizraim, son of Ham, was father of the “Casluhites (from whom the Philistines came)”  
The Palestinians of today are NOT descendants of the Philistines!

**Genesis 10: 15** – Descendants of Canaan, son of Ham

**Genesis 10: 19** – borders of the land of Canaan, approximately (larger) the same as modern day Israel

**Genesis 11: 10-32** – line of Noah’s son Shem, the “blessed” line, down to Terah, father of Abram

Terah takes his family from Ur, (close to where the Tigris & Euphrates Rivers merge in modern day Iraq) to Haran, in northern modern day Syria.

## ~2000BC

**Genesis 12: 1-9** – God’s promise and blessing to Abram. Abram enters land of Canaan, modern day Israel

**Genesis 15** – God’s *covenant* with Abram, and the promise of a son. The covenant had to do with possession of the land (vs 7-8) that was inhabited by the same people (vs 18-21) that were the descendants of Canaan, (listed in **Genesis 10: 15**) – but the descendants of Abram would not take possession for another four generations (vs 16)

**Genesis 16** – Abram has a son (not God’s promised son) by his wife Sarai’s maidservant, Hagar. God promises to Hagar that her descendants, through this son, “will be too numerous to count” (vs 10), his name will be Ishmael (vs 11) and he and his descendants will have certain characteristics (vs 12). Today’s Arab peoples claim descendancy from Ishmael.

**Genesis 17** – God gives Abram a new name, Abraham, and Sarai’s name is changed to Sarah. God confirms His *everlasting* covenant with Abraham (possession of the land of Canaan, in vs 8) the covenant of circumcision, and again God promises a son to Abraham by his wife Sarah (vs 16). God names their future son Isaac (vs 19) and says “I will establish My covenant with him.” God still blesses Ishmael (vs 20), but says in vs 21, “But my covenant I will establish with Isaac.” The Jewish people have always claimed descendancy through Isaac.

**Genesis 21** – Isaac is born. God tells Abraham not to be distressed about Ishmael (vs 12), because He “will make the son of the maidservant (Hagar) into a nation also, because he is your offspring,” but “it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.”

**Genesis 22** – God tests Abraham by telling him to sacrifice his son Isaac on a mountain in the region of Moriah (modern day Jerusalem), and when Abraham is faithful, God restates His promise of descendants and possession of the land (vs 17-18).

**Genesis 25** – Abraham dies, leaving “everything he owned to Isaac.” But while still alive, he “*gave gifts to the sons of his concubines and sent them away from his son Isaac to the land of the east.*” (vs 5) The “land of the east” has always been used to describe the land to the east of the Jordan River, modern day Israel’s eastern land border. The twelve sons of Ishmael are listed in vs 13-16. Verse 18 describes the territory that his descendants dwelt in which is a description of the territory of today’s modern Arab nations. “And they lived in hostility toward all their brothers” fulfilling God’s promise to Hagar (Genesis 16: 12)

**Genesis 25, 27, 28, 32** – Isaac bears a son, Jacob. Jacob deceives Isaac and receives his fatherly blessing. Jacob dreams that God blesses him. Jacob wrestles with God and God gives Jacob the new name, *Israel*.

**Genesis 35: 9-15** – God blesses Jacob, (**Israel**) and extends His covenant through Israel and his descendants. Verse 12 says that God tells Israel “The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I also give to you, and I will give this land to your descendants after you.” **Genesis 35: 23-26** lists the twelve sons (tribes) of Israel. One of the sons, Judah, is where the term “**Jew**” began.

Biblical prophecy begins early telling of God’s blessed line through which the Messiah will come.

**Genesis 49:10** states “the *scepter* will not depart from *Judah*,” **Numbers 24:17** states “I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of *Jacob*; a *scepter* will rise out of *Israel*,” establishing the line of Jacob (Israel) and Judah as the line of the Messiah. All the way into future times we see in **Revelation 12: 5 and 19: 15** that Jesus will rule all nations with an iron *scepter*.

**Revelation 5: 5** describes Christ as the “*Lion of the tribe of Judah*.” **Isaiah 11:1** prophesies that “A shoot will come up from the stump of *Jesse*; from his roots a *Branch* will bear fruit.” One of the sons of Judah was a man named Perez (**Genesis 46: 12**). Then in **Ruth 4: 18-22**, we see the line goes from Perez to Jesse. Jesse was the father of David, who became the fulfillment of the prophecy of the “*Branch of David*” (see **Jeremiah 23: 5, Jeremiah 33: 15, Zechariah 3: 8, Zechariah 6: 12**) God has been working with His chosen, blessed lines for thousands of years!

## ~1900BC

**Genesis 37: 23-28** – Joseph’s brothers sell him to a wandering band of Ishmaelites (Midianites)

**Book of Exodus** - The Israelites begin their time in Egypt (~1800BC) and are gone for four generations (Genesis 15: 16) actually 430 years, Moses leads them out of Egypt, wanders for 40 years, and comes to the east side of the Jordan River, looking west into the Promised Land.

**Numbers 34: 1-12** – God lays out the boundaries of the Promised Land for Moses. Actually more land than we know today as Israel.

**Deuteronomy 7: 1-11** – God tells Joshua to drive out the seven nations that have been in the Promised Land, the descendants of Canaan. (see Genesis 15: 16 – evidently, the sin of the Amorites had “reached its full measure” after the four generations!)

## ~1440BC

**Joshua** – The conquest of the land of Canaan.

## 998BC

**II Samuel 5 & 6** – David conquers Jerusalem, makes it the capital of Israel, and brings the Ark of the Covenant into the City of David.

**II Samuel 24: 18-25** – David purchases the threshing floor from Araunah the Jebusite providing a place to build the new temple, God’s permanent home.

## 950BC

**II Chronicles 3: 1** – Solomon begins building the first temple, on *Mount Moriah*, (see Genesis 22) which was also *the threshing floor* purchased by David. (II Samuel 24: 18-25)

## 725BC –

Assyrians take the northern tribes of Israel captive – they become known as “the ten lost tribes of Israel”

## 586BC

**II Chronicles 36: 15-21** – Babylonians destroy temple (9<sup>th</sup> of Hebrew month of Av), take Jews into captivity – Kings of Israel cease

## ~516BC

After captivity, Zerubbabel rebuilds & dedicates the temple 70 years after its destruction, as prophesied in **Jeremiah 29:10**; Nehemiah rebuilds city walls, see **Ezra & Nehemiah**

## 480BC

Persian persecution of Haman – described in the book of Esther

**~330BC**

Greeks come into Israel

**~200BC**

Dead Sea Scrolls begin to be written by the Jewish sect of the Essenes, in Qumran, by the Dead Sea

**167BC**

Antiochus Epiphanes desecrates the temple by slaughtering a pig. Temple falls into disrepair.

**164BC**

Maccabean revolt – retakes temple & rededicates – begins Feast of Dedication, or Hanukkah

**First century BC**

Romans come into Israel

**~20BC**

Herod the Great begins refurbishing Zerubbabel's temple and the modern day Temple Mount.

This is the temple described in **Luke 2** which Jesus began visiting at an early age.

**Time of Christ**

Christ and His disciples frequent the temple of Herod the Great. In **Matthew 24: 1-2**, (about **32AD**)

Jesus prophesies that “not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”

**70AD**

Romans sack Jerusalem and (again) on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av, destroy the temple, not leaving one stone on another, every stone was thrown down. The temple and Israel, as a nation, cease to exist. The Jewish dispersion begins.

**135AD**

Emperor Hadrian occupies Jerusalem, changes its name to Aelia Capitolina, outlaws all Jewish worship, builds temple of Aphrodite on known site of Jesus' crucifixion and tomb. He renames Israel to a name that will remind the Jews of their historically worse enemy, the Philistines. Israel is now named Palaestina, which is the source of the name *Palestine*.

**320AD**

Emperor Constantine makes Christianity an official religion of the Roman Empire. He sends his mother, Helena, to Israel to find the holy Christian sites and mark them with churches. In Jerusalem, she tears down the temple to Aphrodite and builds the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. In Bethlehem, she builds the Church of the Nativity on the site of the grotto where Jesus was born. Parts of these original churches still exist today.

**425AD**

As the Jews disperse from the land of Israel because of persecution, the Jewish legal assembly, the Sanhedrin disbands. There were always some Jews living in the land, but not enough to warrant continuation of the Sanhedrin.

**570AD**

Muhammad is born in Mecca, Saudi Arabia (Islam's holiest site)

**610AD**

Muhammad begins receiving revelations that would later become the Koran, Islam's holiest book.

**620AD**

Muhammad's midnight journey where he is transported to a distant place (later tradition says it is Temple Mount in Jerusalem) He ascends into heaven to receive additional revelation. He claims to meet all the prophets, including Abraham, Moses, Ishmael, Jesus.

**622AD**

Muhammad's flight to Medina, Saudi Arabia (about 200 miles north of Mecca) to escape persecution. This is known as the hijra and began the first year of the Muslim calendar. The year 2013 is 1434 A.H. (After Hijra) on the Muslim calendar.

**632AD**

Death and burial of Muhammad in Medina. (Islam's 2<sup>nd</sup> holiest site) Conflict between the (future) Sunni & Shiite sects begins

**~690AD**

The Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa mosque are constructed on Temple Mount in Jerusalem. It was then decided that the outcrop of exposed rock (Mount Moriah, under the Dome of the Rock) was where Muhammad ascended into heaven on his midnight journey, 70 years earlier.

**868-874**

The 12<sup>th</sup> Imam disappears – the Imam Mahdi will be the Islamic messiah, appearing at a future date to bring justice and righteousness, and Islam, to the whole world.

**1099**

Crusades – Christian knights take control of holy sites from Muslims

**1187**

Muslim conqueror Saladin re-takes control of Palestine

**1450**

Ottoman Empire begins – Islamic caliphate seat in Istanbul until 1924

**1882-1920**

The rise of what came to be known as Zionism – the movement based in the Jewish desire for a homeland – naturally in the land given to them by God - Israel

**1917**

British Mandate (control) of Palestine – issuance of the Balfour Declaration that provided for immigration of Jewish people into Palestine

**1933-1945**

Rise of Nazi Germany, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reich, and WWII – extermination of 6 million Jews

**1947**

Dead Sea Scrolls discovered – manuscripts give evidence that the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) had endured unchanged for over a thousand years

**1947**

United Nations partitions Palestine into a Jewish state, Israel, and an Arab state, Palestine to take effect in May, 1948. Jerusalem is to be an internationally-controlled city. In the weeks leading up to May 14, 1948 (end of the British Mandate) Arab countries (Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, and Lebanon) tell Arab inhabitants to leave Palestine. The Arab nations plan to attack the new country of Israel, destroy them, and the refugees can return and claim the spoils. From 250,000 to 400,000 Arab people leave Palestine and go to neighboring Arab countries.

**For the last 2000 years, Israel and Jerusalem have been conquered, occupied, and controlled by about a dozen different foreign countries**

## **May 14, 1948**

Israel declares its statehood. After almost 2000 years (since 70AD) Israel exists again as a nation. See **Ezekiel 37, Isaiah 66: 7-11** for the prophecy concerning the rebirth of Israel. May 15, the Arab nations attack the fledgling nation of Israel. Outnumbered over 100 to 1, unorganized, ill-equipped, Israel repels the Arab attackers and takes back some of the land which had been allocated to the Arabs. Israel takes West Jerusalem, Jordan controls East Jerusalem, including the Old City and Temple Mount. The refugees are stuck in neighboring countries and in areas of what was to be Palestine.

## **1967 – Six Day War – June 5-10**

Syria, Jordan, and Egypt amass troops on their borders with Israel. Israel, still the military underdog launches a preemptive strike and again achieves victory over the Arab troops. Israel takes the Golan Heights from Syria; the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, and from Jordan, Israel takes more West Bank land and all of Jerusalem. For a day, Israel owns Temple Mount again. Israel, for the sake of peace, cedes control of Temple Mount to the Muslims, with the understanding that all people, including Jews, would be welcome to worship. To this day, the Muslims have never allowed Jews or Christians to pray or open a Bible on Temple Mount.

## **1973**

Yom Kippur war – Syria and Egypt attack Israel on the Jewish Day of Atonement, taking the Israel Defense Forces by surprise. Syria wanted to take back the Golan Heights – Egypt wanted the Sinai peninsula back. Israel beats back both armies, retaining both territories.

## **1978**

Israel & Egypt sign a peace treaty – Israel cedes the Sinai back to Egypt

## **1994**

Israel & Jordan sign a peace treaty

## **July 2000**

U.S. President Bill Clinton, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, and Palestinian Liberation Organization President Yassar Arafat meet at Camp David to negotiate a peace plan. Barak offers full control and ownership of 90+% of the West Bank to Palestine. Arafat walks out when Jerusalem is not offered as capital of Palestine with full control of Temple Mount. Also, the ‘right of return’ for the Palestinian refugees, which now number between 4-5 million, is not discussed.

Israel’s current population is almost 7.3 million; 76% Jewish, 20% Arab.

## **September 2000**

Ariel Sharon, (elected Prime Minister of Israel in February 2001) with permission from Muslim authorities, goes up on Temple Mount. A riot is started by Palestinian Muslims and has continued for 4 years, so far. From September 2000 to summer of 2004, no non-Muslim people were allowed on Temple Mount. The Muslims vehemently deny the existence of any previous Jewish temple at this location.

## **2004**

Sanhedrin reforms in Israel – because of the “ingathering” of the Jewish people to Israel, by Jewish law, there has to be a Sanhedrin

## **November 2012**

United Nations recognizes Palestine as a non-member observer state. There is no sovereign state of Palestine – no defined borders, no capitol, no constitution

## 1948-2013

The return. The ingathering. Approximately 3.5 million Jews have immigrated to Israel since 1948. About 1.3 million of these returned in the 1990's, coming from the former Soviet Union. In 2004, American Jews returned to Israel in their highest numbers ever. **May 2006** – there are now more Jews in Israel than in any other single location in the world.

Israel's population as of Independence Day 2013 was a little over 8 million – 75% Jewish.

See prophecy concerning God's gathering of His people in **Deuteronomy 30: 1-10, Jeremiah 31: 8-10, Ezekiel 11: 14-17, Amos 9: 11-15.**

## Will the 3<sup>rd</sup> Temple be built?

Jews and Christians agree for the most part that a 3<sup>rd</sup> Temple will be built. There seems to be a connection with a timeframe referred to as “the times of the Gentiles” that appears in the New Testament.

**Daniel 9:25-27** – shows that a future Temple will exist

Jesus – **Matthew 24:14-15** – prophesies about the “abomination of desolation” referred to in Daniel 9

He ties that event to the Gospel being preached to all NATIONS & then the end will come.

(NATIONS = Gentiles)

**Luke 21:20-24** – Jerusalem, Jews – prisoners to all NATIONS – Jerusalem trampled on *by the Gentiles* until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

**Romans 11:25-26** – “until the full number (or fullness) of Gentiles has come in” – then, all Israel will be saved (“all Israel” is qualified in **Romans 9:6-8; 11:5-6**)

**Revelation 11:1-2** – John measures the Temple, then Gentiles trample the holy city for 42 months (3-1/2 years – **Daniel 9:25-27** – “middle of the seven”)

Times of the Gentiles possibilities:

Israel ruled by Gentiles from 586BC – 1948AD – “times of the Gentiles” must not refer to “political” Israel

Jerusalem – ruled by Gentiles from 586BC – 1967AD – “times of the Gentiles” must not be specifically the city of Jerusalem

Temple Mount/Sanctuary – since 70AD, this area has been “ruled” by Gentiles

Jerusalem, the Holy City, *in its entirety* includes Temple Mount – are the “times of the Gentiles” tied to the point when the Jews regain control over the Holy City *including* Temple Mount?

## WHO builds the Temple?

**Jews** – Orthodox – believe Messiah will build the Temple - **Zechariah 6:12-13** – the “Branch” will build the Temple. As the Jews grow faithful and show obedience to God, Messiah comes & builds the Temple as “reward” to the Jews.

Other Jews believe that the Jews themselves build the Temple; and that act shows their faithfulness & obedience, and with the Temple built, Messiah will come – **Malachi 3:1** – Temple already exists for Messiah to enter

**Islam** – IF the Temple is rebuilt, it will be at the command of the Mahdi – Islamic Messiah (correlates with Biblical antichrist) Mahdi conquers Israel & Jerusalem – rules from Jerusalem for 7 years – it will be Mahdi's choice whether the Temple is built, or not.

**Christians** – antichrist coordinates a covenant between the Jews and “many” to facilitate building the Temple – it will function for 3-1/2 years at which point (midpoint) the “abomination of desolation” occurs (**Daniel 9:27, Revelation 11:2**)

**II Thessalonians 2:4** – “He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.”