ARCHAEOLOGICAL TIME LINE

In this chronology I use the designations BP (Before the Present), BC (Before Christ) and AD (Anno Domini: Year of our Lord). While modern scholarship prefers to use BCE (Before the Common Era) and CE (Common Era) rather than BC and AD, I choose not to obscure an important fact of western civilization, namely that our calendars are shaped around the pivotal event of history, the incarnation of Jesus Christ.



Where authorities differ on a significant date, the authority is named in parentheses after the chronological entry. Also, when archaeological or geological ages pertain to different regions, the region is given in parentheses. The archaeological periods for Palestine, as given by Mazar, are in the margins. Use of the modern, geological chronology does not imply my endorsement of the "billions of years old universe" theory, but is used here for reference only.

THE BEGINNING

- **15** to **20** billion **BP** The Big Bang created the universe (Sandage); appearance of the oldest stars.
- **8** to **12** billion **BP** The Big Bang created the universe (Hubble Space Telescope findings, published 1995).
- **4.6** billion **BP** The Solar System appeared from a nebular cloud.
- **4.6** billion to **700** million **BP** Archaeozoic era (Precambrian period), rise of invertebrates and sea-weeds.
- 700 to 570 million BP Proterozoic era (Precambrian period).
- 570 to 245 million BP Palaeozoic ("ancient life") era.
- **570** to **505** million **BP** Cambrian period.
- 505 to 438 million BP Ordovician period.
- 438 to 408 million BP Silurian period.
- 408 to 360 million BP Devonian period; age of fishes and corals, rise of spore bearing plants.
- **360** to **286** million **BP** Carboniferous period; rise of amphibians.
- 286 to 245 million BP Permian period; rise of ancient seed plants.
- 245 to 66 million BP Mesozoic ("middle life") era.
- 245 to 208 million BP Triassic period; rise of reptiles.
- 208 to 144 million BP Jurassic period; rise of dinosaurs.
- **144** to **66** million **BP** Cretaceous period; rise of modern seed plants.
- 65 million BP to the present day Cenozoic ("recent life") era.
- 65 to 2 million BP Tertiary period; rise of mammals.
- 65 to 55 million BP Paleocene epoch; mild to cool climate, rise of primates.
- **55** to **40** million **BP** Eocene Epoch; characterized by warm climate, modern birds and mammals.
- **40** to **25** million **BP** Oligocene Epoch; browsing animals, saber-toothed tigers.
- 35 million BP Rise of "higher primates."
- ${\bf 25}$ to ${\bf 10}$ million ${\bf BP}$ Miocene Epoch; characterized by grazing animals, widespread grasslands.



14 million BP - Ramapithecus.

10 to 2 million BP - Pliocene Epoch; cool climate, increase of size and number of mammals.

3 million **BP** - The supposed beginning of human existence with the advent of Australopithecus.

3 million BP - 3000 BC - "Prehistory."

2.5 million **BP** - Beginning of Paleolithic period; earliest stone tools. This Lower Paleolithic Period is characterized by core and flake tools.

2 million BP to the present day - Quaternary period.

2 million - 10,000 BP - Pleistocene epoch.

2 million BP - Homo habilus.

1.5 million BP - Homo erectus.

250,000 BC - Homo Sapiens.

100,000 BC - Middle Paleolithic Period characterized by the predominance of flake tools. Rise of Homo Sapiens Sapiens (modern man).

28,000 BC - Earliest cave paintings. Disputed evidence for human occupation of Brazil.

12,000 BC - Humans make fire; first domesticated dogs. Supposed arrival of Asian humans on the American continent.

Pre-Pottery Neolithic A 8500-7500 BC

8300 BC - Beginning of Mesolithic ("middle stone") period in European prehistory, characterized by microlithic chipped stone tools.

8000 BC to the **Present Day** - Holocene (Recent) Epoch, or Flandrian interstadial (Britain).

8000 BC - Beginnings of agriculture and "Copper Age"; Neolithic settlement at Jericho, the world's oldest city.

Pre-Pottery Neolithic B

7350 BC - Supposed founding of Jericho.

6700 BC - Earliest dendrochronological date established by Schulman and Ferguson.

6500 BC - Sumerians invent the wheel. Earliest Neolithic evidence (food cultivation) in Europe.

Pottery Neolithic A 6000-5000 BC

5500 BC - Supposed date for founding of Nineveh.

Pottery Neolithic B 5000-4300 BC

4350 BC - Domestication of the horse.

Chalcolithic 4300-3300 BC

4004 BC - Creation of the world and man (Reiner Publications).

4000 BC - First phonetic writing.

3976 BC - Creation of the world and man (Klassen).

3760 BC - Creation of the world and man (Hebrew calendar).

3600 BC - Bronze age began.

3400 BC - Earliest hieroglyphics in Egypt.

Early Bronze I 3300-3050 BC

3100 to 2890 BC - Egypt's 1st dynasty begun under Menes.

3100 BC - Founding of Memphis.

Early Bronze II-III 3050-2300 BC

3000 BC - Origins of writing (Renfrew).

2900 BC - Birth of the world's oldest living organism, a bristlecone pine in the Wheeler Peak area of Nevada (Behme, Incredible Plants).

2890 to **2700 BC** - Egypt's 2nd dynasty.

2700 to 2200 BC - Old Kingdom period in Egypt; building of the pyramids.

2700 BC - First Sumerian cuneiform writing; rule of King Gilgamesh at Uruk (Erech).

2613 to **2589** BC - Reign of Snefru in Egypt and beginning of 4th dynasty.

2600 BC - Egyptian priests began using hieratic writing

2589 to 2566 BC - Reign of Khufu in Egypt; Great Pyramid of Giza built.

2568 BC - Noah's Flood (Peter Black, TTH).

2558 to **2533 BC** - Reign of Khafre in Egypt; building of Sphinx and second Great Pyramid at Giza.

2500 to 2345 BC - Egypt's 5th Dynasty; rise of sun worship centered at Heliopolis.

2500 BC - Iron Age began in the Middle East.

2348 BC - Noah's Flood (Reiner Publications).

2345 to 2200 BC - Egypt's 6th Dynasty founded by King Teti.

2343 to 2294 BC - Reign of Pepi I in Egypt.

2319 BC - Noah's Flood (Klassen).



2294 to 2200 BC - Reign of Pepi II in Egypt.

2188 BC - Confusion at Babel (Klassen).

2130 to 2000 BC - Egypt's 11th Dynasty.

2040 to 1786 BC - Egypt's Middle Kingdom period.

Middle Bronze IIA 2000-1800/1750 BC

2000 to 1786 BC - Egypt's 12th Dynasty, founded by Amenemhet I.

1997 BC - Life of Job (Reese).

1998 BC - Noah died.

1996 BC - Birth of Abram.

1970 to 1926 BC - Reign of Sesotris I in Egypt.

1927 BC - Call of Abram (Klassen).

1926 to 1897 BC - Reign of Amenemhet II in Egypt.

1849 to 1801 BC - Reign of Amenemhet III in Egypt.

1792 to 1750 BC - Reign of Hammurabi in Babylon.

Middle Bronze IIB-C 1800/1750-1550 BC

1689 BC - Death of Jacob.

1630 BC - Revised date for eruption of Thera (ARC 9501).

1570 to 1085 BC - Egypt's New Kingdom; 18-20th Dynasties.

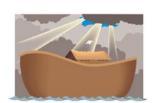
Late Bronze I 1550-1400 BC

1570 to 1546 BC - Reign of Ahmose in Egypt and expulsion of the Hyksos.

1500 BC - Traditional date for eruption of Thera.

1441 BC - Early date for the Exodus of Israel from Egypt.

1400 BC - Iron smelting became economically feasible in Asia Minor.





Late Bronze IIA-B 1400-1200 BC

1379 to **1362** BC - Reign of Akhenaton in Egypt; attempt to replace devotion to Amon with monotheistic worship of Aton.

1361 to 1352 BC - Reign of Tutankhamen in Egypt.

1348 to 1320 BC - Reign of Horemheb in Egypt.

1320 to 1200 BC - Egypt's 19th Dynasty.

1320 to 1318 BC - Reign of Ramses I in Egypt.

1318 to 1304 BC - Reign of Seti I in Egypt.

1304 to 1237 BC - Reign of Rameses II in Egypt (Wetterau).

1290 to 1224 BC - Reign of Rameses II in Egypt.

1288 BC - Ramses II fought the Hittites in Syria at the battle of Kadesh.

1250 BC - The Exodus (Comay).

1236 - 1223 BC - Reign of Merneptah in Egypt; earliest mentions of Israel in the records of his rule.

1220 to 1200 BC - Israelites conquered Canaan (Comay).

1210 to 1200 BC - Reign of Seti II in Egypt.

Iron IA 1200-1150 BC

1200 to **1085** BC - Egypt's 20th Dynasty.

1198 to 1167 BC - Reign of Ramses III in Egypt.

1190 BC - Trojan War.

Iron IB 1150-1000 BC

1115 BC to 1077 BC - Tiglath Pileser rebuilt Nineveh.

1100 BC - Aeolian Greeks occupy the site of Old Smyrna.

1085 to **945** BC - Egypt's 21st Dynasty.

1000 to 961 BC - Reign of David, king of Israel (Comay).

1000 BC - Colonization of Polynesia. Use of iron implements spread throughout Europe.

Iron IIA 1000-925 BC

961 to 922 BC - Reign of Solomon (Comay).

935 to 914 BC - Reign of Shishak, founder of 22nd Egyptian Dynasty.

933 to 912 BC - Jereboam I the Ephraimite reigned as the first king of the northern kingdom of Israel.

Iron IIB 925-720 BC

922 to 901 BC - Reign of Jeroboam in Israel (Comay).

922 to 915 BC - Reign of Rehoboam in Judah (Comay).

922 BC - Solomon died and kingdom of Israel divided (Comay).

915 to 913 BC - Reign of Abijah in Judah (Comay).

913 to 873 BC - Reign of Asa in Judah (Comay).

901 to 900 BC - Reign of Nadab in Israel (Comay).

900 to 877 BC - Reign of Baasha in Israel (Comay).

877 to 876 BC - Reign of Elah in Israel (Comay).

876 BC - Reign of Zimri in Israel (Comay).

876 to 869 BC - Reign of Omri in Israel (Comay).

872 to 870 BC - Asshurdaninpal besieged his father, Shalmaneser IV, in Nineveh.

869 to 850 BC - Reign of Ahab in Israel (Comay).

859 to 824 BC - Reign of Shalmaneser III (Comay).

853 to 840 BC - Reign of Jehoram in Israel (Douglas).

853 BC - Battle of Karkar.

850 to 849 BC - Reign of Ahaziah in Israel (Comay).

850 BC - Early date for ministries of Hebrew prophets Obadiah and Joel. The king of Moab inscribed the Mesha Stone.

849 to **842** BC - Reigns of Jehoram in Judah and Jehoram in Israel (Comay).

842 BC - Reign of Ahaziah in Judah.

842 to 837 BC - Reign of Athaliah in Judah (Comay).

842 to 815 BC - Reign of Jehu in Israel (Comay).

837 to 800 BC - Reign of Jehoash in Judah (Comay).

815 to 801 BC - Reign of Jehoahaz in Israel (Comay).

801 to 786 BC - Reign of Joash in Israel (Comay).

800 to **783 BC** - Reign of Amaziah in Judah (Comay). Shards attest to the take over of Smyrna from the Aeolians by the Ionians.

790 to 739 BC - Reign of Uzziah, king of Judah; ministry of Hebrew prophet Amos.

789 BC - Nineveh became a Babylonian dependency.

785 to **744** BC - Jereboam II ruled northern kingdom of Israel; ministry of the Hebrew prophet Jonah (2 Kings 14.25).

783 to 742 BC - Reign of Uzziah, king of Judah (Comay).

750 to 686 BC - Possible span for the ministry of Hebrew prophet Micah.

750 to 725 BC - Ministry of Hebrew prophet Hosea.

746 to 745 BC - Reign of Zechariah, king of Israel (Comay).

745 to 727 BC - Reign of Tiglath-Pileser III (Comay).

745 to 738 BC - Reign of Menahem in Israel (Comay).

745 BC - Reign of Shallum in Israel (Comay).

742 to 735 BC - Reign of Jothan in Judah (Comay).

739 to 697 BC - Ministry of Hebrew prophet Isaiah.

738 to 737 BC - Reign of Pekahiah in Israel (Comay).

737 to 732 BC - Reign of Pekah in Israel (Comay).

735 to 715 BC - Reign of Ahaz in Judah (Comay).

732 to 724 BC - Reign of Hoshea in Israel (Comay).

722 to 705 BC - Reign of Sargon II (Comay).

722 BC - Samaria destroyed by Assyrians: end of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

Iron IIC 720-586 BC



715 to 687 BC - Reign of Hezekiah in Judah.

705 to 681 BC - Reign of Sennacherib (Comay).

701 BC - Sennacherib threatened Judah; Assyrian army destroyed.

690 BC - Approximate date of the Hebrew prophet Nahum's ministry (cf. Keil).

687 to **642** BC - Reign of Manasseh in Judah.

681 to 669 BC - Reign of Esarhaddon (Comay).

669 to **633** BC - Reign of Asshurbanipal (Comay).

642 to 640 BC - Reign of Amon in Judah.

640 to 609 BC - Reign of Josiah in Judah.

627 to 626 BC - Ministry of Hebrew prophet Zephaniah.

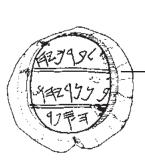
626 to 605 BC - Reign of Nabopolassar in Babylon.

626 to **585** BC - Ministry of Hebrew prophet Jeremiah.

625 to 585 BC - Reign of Cyaxares in Media.

623 BC - Cyaxares, king of the Medes, attacked Nineveh.

612 to 605 BC - Date range for ministry of Hebrew prophet Habakkuk.



Sargon



612 BC - Fall of Nineveh.

609 BC - Reign of Jehoahaz in Judah.

609 to 598 BC - Reign of Jehoiakim in Judah.

607 to 593 BC - Reign of Necho II in Egypt.

606 BC - Combined forces of Media, Babylon and Scythia destroyed Nineveh.

605 to 538 BC - Ministry of Hebrew prophet Daniel.

605 to 562 BC - Reign of Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon.

605 BC - Nebuchadnezzar defeated Egyptians at Carchemish.

600 BC - Moab disappeared as a state. Alyattes, father of Croesus of Sardis, conquers and destroys Smyrna.

598 to 597 BC - Reign of Jehoiachin in Judah.

597 to 587 BC - Reign of Zedekiah in Judah.

594 BC - Solon wrote new constitution for Athens.

593 to 588 BC - Reign of Psammeticus II in Egypt.

592 to 570 BC - Ministry of Hebrew prophet Ezekiel.

588 to 569 BC - Reign of Apries (Hophra) in Egypt.

586 BC - Destruction of Jerusalem, beginning of Babylonian captivity of the Jews. Late date for ministry of Hebrew prophet Obadiah.

585 to 550 BC - Reign of Astyages in Media.

569 to 525 BC - Reign of Amasis in Egypt.

568 BC - Nebuchadnezzar invaded Egypt.

556 to 539 BC - Reign of Nabonidus in Babylon.

555 to **539 BC** - Nabonidus, last native king of Babylon, excavated the foundation stone of a temple laid 2200 years earlier.

550 to 529 BC - Reign of Cyrus the Great of Persia after having overthrown Astyages.

539 BC - Cyrus, king of Persia, on the night of October 11, captured the city of Babylon, thus overthrowing Nabonidus and his co-regent Belshazzar.

538 BC - Edict of Cyrus to rebuild the Jewish temple; beginning of return of exiles to Judah.

536 BC - Jews began rebuilding their temple.

529 - 522 BC - Reign of Cambyses II of Persia.

525 BC - Cambyses conquered Egypt.

522 to **486** BC - Reign of Darius I Hystaspis (Darius the Great of Persia) who honored the decree of Cyrus allowing the Jews to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem.

520 BC - Jews resumed rebuilding their temple. Ministry of Hebrew prophets Haggai and Zechariah.

516 BC - Jews finished rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem.

510 BC - Democracy began in Athens with the exile of Tyrant Hippias.

490 BC - Greeks checked the Persian invasion at the Battle of Marathon.

486 to 465 BC - Reign of Xerxes of Persia.

465 to 424 BC - Reign of Artaxerxes of Persia.

458 BC - Ezra returned to Judaea.

444 BC - Nehemiah supervises Jews as they rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem.

433 BC - Nehemiah left Judaea to return to Artaxerxes.

423 BC - Reign of Xerxes II in Media.

423 to 404 BC - Reign of Darius II Nothus in Media.

404 to 358 BC - Reign of Artaxerxes II Mnemon in Media.

401 BC - Egypt revolted.

400 BC - Late date for ministry of Hebrew prophet Joel.

359 BC - Philip II of Macedon.

358 to 338 BC - Reign of Artaxerxes II Ochus in Media.

338 to 336 BC - Reign of Arses in Media.

336 to **330** BC - Reign of Darius III Codomannus, last king of the Persian Empire before its conquest by Alexander the Great.



336 to 323 BC - Career of Alexander the Great.

332 BC - Alexander the Great swept through Syria, Judea and Egypt; founding of Alexandria.

330 BC - Alexander the Great reached Persepolis after defeating Darius III at Gaugamela.

- 323 BC - Alexander dies in Babylon.

323 to 285 BC - Reign of Ptolemy I Lagi in Egypt.

323 to 281 BC - Rule of Lysimachus over Thrace.

323 to 200 BC - Ptolemies ruled over the Jews.

312 to 280 BC - Reign of Seleucus I in eastern Macedonian empire.

311 to 310 BC - Earliest dated Greek papyrus (Milligan).

 ${\bf 285}$ to ${\bf 246~BC}$ - Reign of Ptolemy II Philadephus in Egypt.

280 to **261 BC** - Reign of Antiochus I in Seleucid empire.

268 to 241 BC - First Punic War between Rome and Carthage.

261 to 246 BC - Reign of Antiochus II in Seleucid empire.

246 to 226 BC - Reign of Seleucus II in Seleucid empire.

246 to **221 BC** - Reign of Ptolemy III Euegetes in Egypt.

226 to 223 BC - Reign of Seleucus III in Seleucid empire.

223 to 187 BC - Reign of Antiochus II (the Great) in Seleucid empire.

221 to 203 BC - Reign of Ptolemy IV Philopater in Egypt.

218 to 201 BC - Second Punic War between Rome and Carthage.

203 to 181 BC - Reign of Ptolemy V Epiphanes in Egypt.

198 BC - The Seleucids (Syrian kings) added Judaea to their territory, until the reign of Antiochus IV.

187 to 175 BC - Reign of Seleucus IV after the death of Antiochus III.

181 to 146 BC - Reign of Ptolemy VI Philometor in Egypt.

175 to 164 BC - Reign of Antiochus IV (Epiphanes) over the Jews.

167 BC - Maccabeans revolt in Judaea after Antiochus IV Epiphanes profaned the Jerusalem temple in December. The Pharisees emerged as a clearly defined party. Libby's early date for the origin of the Dead Sea Scrolls (textual style dated to 100 BC).

166 to 161 BC - Career of Judas Maccabeus in Judaea.

165 BC - By this date the Maccabees had driven Greek rulers from Judaea.

164 BC - Jerusalem temple rededicated in December.

163 to 162 BC - Reign of Antiochus V Eupator over Seleucid empire.

162 to 150 BC - Reign of Demetrius I Soter over Seleucid empire, after he killed Antiochus V. Demetrius I was famous for his battles with the Maccabees, and finally fell in battle with Alexander Balas.

161 BC - Judas Maccabeus died.

160 BC - The Sadducees participated in the rule of the Jewish homeland until the destruction by Titus in A.D. 70.

151 BC - Jonathan Maccabeus became high priest in Jerusalem.

150 to 145 BC - Reign of Alexander Balas over Seleucid empire.

149 BC - Fall of Carthage to the Roman legions.

145 to 116 BC - Reign of Ptolemy VII in Egypt.

145 to 139 BC - Reign of Demetrius II Nicator over Seleucid empire.

145 to **142** BC - Antiochus VI Theos, (Antiochus Epiphanes Dionysus) the boy king and son of Alexander Balas and Cleopatra Thea, reigned under a regent in Antioch in opposition to Demetrius II.

142 to **135** BC - High priesthood of Simon Maccabeus, who was also named ethnarch, in Judaea.

139 to 129 BC - Reign of Antiochus VII Sidetes over Syria.



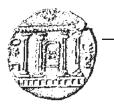
- 135 to 105 BC Reign of John Hyrcanus who assumed both royal and high-priestly authority over Judaea; first appearance of the name "Pharisee" as that religious group expressed their opposition to the secularization of the royal court.
- **129** to **125** BC Demetrius II Nicator regained his Syrian throne on the death of his brother and usurper, Antiochus VII.
- 125 to 96 BC Syrian reign of Antiochus VIII Philometor (Antiochus Grypus, the hooknosed), son of Demetrius II Nicator.
- **116 BC** Ptolemy VIII Lathyrus (Ptolemy Soter II) expelled from Egypt by his mother, Cleopatra III.
- 115 to 95 BC Antiochus IX Cyzicenus (Kyzikenos), rival Seleucid ruler to Antiochus VIII
- 108 to 88 BC Reign of Ptolemy IX and Cleopatra II in Egypt.
- 104 to 103 BC Aristobulus I, called Judah, high priest and king over Judaea.
- 103 to 76 BC Reign of Jonathan, also called Alexander Jannaeus, in Judaea.
- 88 to 80 BC Reign of Ptolemy VII Lathyrus restored in Egypt.
- 87 to 62 BC Reign of Aretas III in Nabatea.
- 80 BC Brief reign of Ptolemy X (Ptolemy Alexander II) in Egypt.
- 80 to 51 BC Reign of Ptolemy XI Auletes in Egypt.
- 76 to 67 BC Salome Alexandra ruled Judaea, succeeding her husband, Alexander Jannaeus and reversing his policy and supporting the Pharisees. High priesthood of Hyrcanus II, son of Salome Alexandra.
- 73 to 64 BC Syrian reign of Antiochus XIII.
- **66** to **63 BC** Judaean reign of Hyrcanus II's brother, Aristobulus II, who was supported by Pompey.
- 64 BC Pompey made Syria Roman province.
- **63 BC** Pompey captured Jerusalem; beginning of Roman rule over the Jews. Hyrcanus II retained as high priest and ethnarch under Roman control.
- **62** to **47 BC** Reign of Obedas II in Nabatea.
- 62 BC Marcus Aemilius Scaurus legate in Syria-Palestine.
- 60 BC Pompey, Caesar and Crassus formed first Roman Triumvirate.
- 58 to 51 BC Caesar's Gallic wars.
- 57 to 54 BC Aulus Gabinius, proconsul in Syria-Palestine.
- 51 to 48 BC Coregency of Ptolemy XII and his sister Cleopatra VII in Egypt.
- 49 to 46 BC War between Caesar and Pompey.
- 48 BC Pompey suffered defeat at Pharsalus.
- 47 to 30 BC Nabatean reign of Malchus.
- 47 to 43 BC Antipater the Idumaean Procurator of Judaea.
- **47** to **44** BC Coregency of Ptolemy XIII with his sister Cleopatra VII in Egypt until murdered by her to make room for her son.
- 47 BC Herod governor of Judaea.
- **44** to **30 BC** Coregency of Ptolemy XIV (Ptolemy Philopator Philometor Caesar, or Cesarion) with his mother, Cleopatra VII, until the battle of Actium after which he was executed by Octavianus.
- **44 BC** Julius Caesar assassinated on March 15th.
- 43 BC Antony, Octavian and Lepidus formed second Roman Triumvirate.
- 42 BC Brutus and Cassius defeated at Philippi.
- 41 BC Tetrarchies of brothers Herod and Phasael.
- 40 BC Phasael died, Herod made king of Judaea.
- 38 BC Parthians invaded Syria.
- 37 BC Marriage of Herod and Mariamne; fall of Jerusalem.
- 35 BC Murder of high priest Aristobulus.
- 34 BC Cleopatra visited Judaea.
- 31 BC AD 14 Reign of Octavian Augustus.



- **31 BC** Earthquake in Judaea. Battle of Actium, on September 2, left Octavian Augustus sole ruler.
- 30 BC Execution of Hyrcanus II.
- 25 BC Famine in Judaea.
- **20 BC AD 50** Jewish philosopher, Philo, one of the first writers to use the term "Palestine" to refer to Israel as a whole.
- 18 BC Herod began work on the Jerusalem temple.
- 10 BC Jerusalem temple dedicated.
- 9 BC AD 40 Nabatean reign of Aretas IV.
- 7 BC Executions of Alexander and Aristobulus.
- 6 to 4 BC Publius Quintilius Varus, Roman governor of Syria-Palestine.
- 4 BC to AD 39 Herod Antipas tetrarch of Galilee and Perea.
- 4 BC to AD 34 Philip tetrarch of Gaulanitis.
- 4 BC to AD 6 Reign of Archelaus, tetrarch of Judaea, Samaria and Idumaea.
- 4 BC Herod died; Antipater executed.
- 3 BC Varus burned Sepphoris; Herod Antipas began rebuilding it.
- **AD 6** Romans assumed direct rule of Judea; governorship and 2nd census of Publius Sulpicius Quirinius.
- AD 14 Augustus died.
- AD 14 to 37 Tiberius Caesar.
- AD 26 to 36 Pontius Pilate, Procurator of Judaea
- AD 30 Death and resurrection of Jesus.
- AD 32 to 35 L. Pomponius Flaccus, Roman legate.
- AD 35 Conversion of Saul of Tarsus.
- AD 37 to 41 Gaius Caligula.
- AD 41 to 54 Claudius Caesar. Jews expelled from Rome.
- AD 41 Herod Agrippa I gained authority over all of Palestine.
- AD 43 Rome conquered Southern Britain, Londinium founded.
- AD 44 to 46 Cuspius Fadus, Roman Procurator.
- AD 44 Herod Agrippa I died (Acts 12).
- AD 46 to 48 Tiberius Alexander, Roman Procurator.
- AD 46 Famine in Judea.
- AD 47 Plutarch born. Paul's missionary journeys began.
- AD 48 52 Ventidius Cummanus, Roman Procurator.
- AD 49 Jerusalem Council (Acts 15).
- AD 50 to 66 Paul's letters.
- AD 52 to 60 Antonius Felix, Roman Procurator.
- AD 60 to 62 Porcius Festus, Roman Procurator.
- AD 60 Boudicca destroyed Londinium, slaughtering half the 30,000 inhabitants
- AD 62 to 64 Lucceius Albinus, Roman Procurator.
- AD 64 to 66 Gessius Florus, Roman Procurator.
- AD 64 Burning of Rome.
- AD 66 to 73 Jewish-Roman War.
- AD 66 May riots against Jews in Caesarea.
- **AD 69** to **79** Vespasian.
- AD 70 Titus and his Roman legions destroyed Jerusalem and its temple.
- **AD 73** The Jewish revolt against Rome ended at Masada; Jewish nation ceased to exist.
- AD 79 to 81 Reign of Titus.
- **AD 79** Pompeii buried under pumice and ash from Mt. Vesuvius. Herculaneum buried in volcanic mud in the same cataclysm.







Bar-Kokhba Coin

AD 81 to AD 96 - Reign of Domitian.

AD 96 to AD 98 - Reign of Nerva.

AD 98 to AD 117 - Reign of Trajan.

AD 100 - Josephus died; traditional date of the Apostle John's death.

AD 106 - Rome made Nabatea a province.

AD 115 to AD 156 - Polycarp bishop of Smyrna (Blake).

AD 115 - Roman campaign against the Parthians. Jews revolted in Africa.

AD 116 to **AD 117** - Jewish uprisings in Egypt, Cyrenaica, Mesopotamia, Cyprus and Palestine.

AD 117 to AD 138 - Hadrian.

AD 132 to 135 - Bar-Kokhba Revolt.

AD 135 - Hadrian's Roman legions utterly destroyed Jerusalem, ploughing over the site; city rebuilt as Aelia Capitolina and Jews forever banned from it.

AD 138 to 61 - Antonius Pius.

AD 178 - Devastating earthquake in Smyrna.

AD 233 - Libby's late date for the origin of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

AD 330 - On May 11, Constantine founded Constantinople, his new capital.

AD 333 to 335 - The Bordeaux Pilgrim traveled from Gaul to Jerusalem and back to Milan describing the holy sites he visited.

AD 406 - Vandals invaded Gaul & crossed to Africa; Stilicho defeated the Goths.

AD 407 - Roman armies withdrew from Britain to defend Rome.

AD 410 - Rome sacked by Alaric's Goths: The Fall of Rome and the beginning of the Dark Ages. Alchemy appeared with the search for Philosopher's Stone and Elixir of Life as its chief objects.

AD 425 - Rome abolished the office of Nasi, or Patriarch.

AD 433 - Attila the Hun desolated northern Asia & Europe.

AD 449 - First Teuton tribes invade Britain under Hengst & Horsa: English history begins.

AD 600 - Finalization of the Babylonian Talmud in Iraq.

AD 610 - Earliest revelations of Mohammed: beginning of the Koran.

AD 613 to 617 - Persians conquered Syria, Palestine, Egypt and most of Western Asia.

AD 615 - "Burning water" (petroleum) used in Japan.

AD 622 - The Hegira of Mohammed (his flight to Medina), the Mohammedan calendar began.

AD 627 - The Persians defeated Byzantine forces at Nineveh.

AD 632 - Mohammed died. Medina became the seat of the first Caliph, Abu Bekr, who succeeded his son-in-law Mohammed. Buddhism became state religion in Tibet.

AD 634 - Omar conquered Syria, thus founding the Mohammedan empire.

AD 638 - Submission of Jerusalem to the Muslims; al-Aqsa mosque built.

AD 636 - Battle of Yarmuk.

AD 639 - The Arabs attacked Armenia.

AD 641- Fustat (Cairo) founded.

AD 640 - Christianity introduced into China.

AD 642 - The whole Persian empire won by the Mohammedans in the battle of Nehavend.

AD 650 - "Caliph Othman puts Mohammed's teachings (Koran) into 114 chapters.

AD 673 - First siege of Constantinople by the Mohammedans (who were defeated).

AD 675 - Masoretic notation began around this time.

AD 692 - Abd al-Malik built the Dome of the Rock; al-Walid rebuilt the al-Aqsa mosque.

AD 700 - Rise of the Sufi movement.

AD 709 - Mohammedans conquered North Africa & attacked Europe.

AD 732 - Charles Martel stopped the expansion of Islam in Europe at the battle of Tours/Poitiers.



AD 800 - Charlemagne crowned at Rome as "Emperor of the West," began the second (Holy) Roman Empire and Teutonic civilization. Rise of the Karaite movement.

AD 808 - Northmen began piratic raids on the new empire.

AD 814 - Death of Charlemagne and confusion of his empire.

AD 1050 - Musical notes received time values.

AD 1055 - First victories of Seljuk Turks who gradually won mastery of the Mohammedan world.

AD 1066 - William of Normandy conquered England at the Battle of Hastings.

AD 1071 - Seljuk Turks defeated Byzantine forces at the Battle of Manzikert and deprived the Eastern Empire of more than half its territory.

AD 1084 - The Normans plundered Rome.

AD 1095 - Peter the Hermit began preaching a crusade to re-open Jerusalem to Christians.

AD 1096 - Council of Clermont: Pope Urban II authorized the First Crusade. Indulgences became widespread phenomenon.

AD 1098 - Cistercian Reform. Siege of Antioch.

AD 1099 - Jerusalem captured by the Crusaders under Godfrey of Bouillon; a Crusader kingdom set up.

AD 1175 - Writing of the earliest extant account of the Holy Grail legend.

AD 1200 - University of Cambridge founded.

Jewish cabalistic philosophy developed in southern Europe.

Engagement rings came into vogue.

AD 1212 - Spaniards won victory over the Moors in Spain.

AD 1215 - Genghis Khan conquered northern China.

Magna Charta signed in England.

AD 1224 - Mongols invaded and gradually conquered Russia.

AD 1297 - The Chinese compass appeared.

AD 1440 - Printing from type invented by Koster, Gutenburg, and others.

AD 1446 - Alberti found two Roman ships beneath Lake Nemi, Italy.

AD 1517 - Luther launched the Protestant Reformation.

Hernandez de Córdoba discovered Maya cities in Yucatan.

AD 1539 - Hernando de Soto noted mounds in southeastern North America.

AD 1535 - Demarchi used an early diving suit to investigate the Lake Nemi ships.

AD 1553 - The "Chimera" and "Minerva" Etruscan bronzes found at Arezzo.

AD 1650 - Archbishop Ussher published his biblical chronology.

AD 1663 - Pietro della Valle described Mesopotamian sites.

AD 1669 - Nicholas Steno ascribed geological features to natural causes.

AD 1690 - John Conyers found the bones of an "elephant" in England associated with a stone ax.

AD 1707 - Edward Lhwyd published Archaeologia Britannica.

AD 1709 - Herculaneum discovered near Naples.

AD 1738 - Systematic excavations began at Herculaneum under Alcubierre.

AD 1748 - Alcubierre began excavations at Pompeii.

AD 1751 - Society of Antiquaries of London founded.

AD 1780 - Thomas Jefferson excavated an Indian burial mound near Monticello; L'Abbe de Beauchamp examined Mesopotamian mounds.

AD 1785 - James Hutton published his *Theory of the Earth*.

AD 1787 - Rufus Putnam studied mounds near Marietta, Ohio.

AD 1790 - A pot of Roman coins found in a Hindu temple near Madras.

AD 1797 - Frere found stone tools beneath strata containing fossils of extinct species.

AD 1798 - Napoleon's Egyptian expedition.







- **AD 1802** German philologist and epigrapher, Georg Friedrich Grotefend, presented his findings on the decipherment of the Old Persian Cuneiform script.
- **AD 1803** Lord Elgin began removing the Parthenon sculptures.
- AD 1805 Dupaix and Castaneda explored pre-Spanish ruins in Mexico.
- AD 1811 Cockerell and von Hallerstein excavated a Greek temple on the island of Aegina.
- **AD 1812** McCulloh examined mounds in Ohio; the American Antiquarian Society founded; Burckhardt discovered Petra.
- AD 1814 Thomas Young deciphered the hieroglyphic names of Cleopatra and Ptolemy.
- AD 1816 William Smith published Strata Identified by Organized Fossils.
- AD 1820 The Venus de Milo (Aphrodite of Melos) discovered.
- AD 1822 Champollion announced his decipherment of Egyptian Hieroglyphics.
- AD 1827 A diving bell used in pursuit of the Lake Nemi ships.
- **AD 1829** Institutio di Correspondenza Archaeologica founded in Italy; Schmerling found human bones associated with those of extinct species in a Belgian cave.
- **AD 1830** Charles Lyell published his epochal *Principles of Geology*.
- **AD 1836** Danish scholar C. J. Thomsen published his guide book to the Danish Museum in which he proposed arranging antiquities according to the Three Age system.
- **AD 1837** Greek Archaeological Society founded; Jaques Boucher de Perthes began excavating in the Sommes gravel deposits.
- AD 1842 The American Ethnological Society founded.
- AD 1845 Layard began excavating Nimrud.
- **AD 1846** The Smithsonian Institution founded; Rawlinson published a complete translation of the *Persian Cuneiform Inscription of Behistun*.
- **AD 1850** French Egyptologist, Edouard Auguste Mariette, discovered the Serapeum; W. Loftus worked at Warka in Mesopotamia.
- AD 1853 Rassam found Asshurbanipal's palace at Kuyunjik.
- AD 1857 J. Messikommer's excavation of a stilt-village in Switzerland provided stratigraphical support for the Three Age System; F. Schwab salvaged artifacts from the underwater mound, La Têne; Akkadian cuneiform texts deciphered; first Neanderthal skull found.
- **AD 1859** Impressed by Boucher de Perthes, British scholars John Evans and Joseph Prestwich conceded the antiquity of man; Charles Darwin published *Origin of the Species*.
 - Codex Sinaiticus discovered.
- **AD 1860** Giuseppe Fiorelli systematized the excavations at Pompeii.
- AD 1AD 1952 J. Cousteau excavated a Roman wreck off Grand Congloué island near Marseilles; K. Kenyon began her excavations at Jericho; M. Ventris announced his decipherment of the Mycenaean script, Linear B.
- **AD 1959** Mary and Louis Leakey found hominid remains in the Olduvai gorge, Tanganyika (now Tanzania).
- **AD 1871** C. Humann found altar of Zeus at Pergamon; Charles Darwin published *The Descent of Man*.
- AD 1872 George Smith discovered the Mesopotamian flood story.
- AD 1873 A. Conze excavated on Samothrace in the Aegean.
- AD 1874 Schliemann excavated Grave Circle "A" at Mycenae.
- AD 1878 Schliemann returned to Troy.
- **AD 1879** Paleolithic paintings found in a cave at Altamira, Spain; the Archaeological Institute of America founded.
- **AD 1880** Pitt Rivers began excavating Cranborne Chase; W. M. F. Petrie began his work in Egypt.
- AD 1882 The Egyptian Exploration Fund organized in London.
- AD 1884 Schliemann and Dörpfeld excavated at Tiryns.

- **AD 1868** Road builders, working in southern France, accidentally opened a prehistoric rock shelter at Cro-Magnon.
- **AD 1870** Schliemann began excavating Hissarlik (Troy) in Turkey.
- **AD 1871** C. Humann found altar of Zeus at Pergamon; Charles Darwin published *The Descent of Man*.
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- AD 1882 The Egyptian Exploration Fund organized in London.
- AD 1884 Schliemann and Dörpfeld excavated at Tiryns.
- AD 1886 Gospel of Peter discovered.
- AD 1887 Amarna tablets discovered.
- **AD 1888** University of Pennsylvania began its excavations at Niffar (Nippur) in Mesopotamia.
- AD 1890 Petrie excavated at Tell el-Hesi in Palestine.
- **AD 1891** Dutch anatomist and geologist, Eugene Dubois, discovered hominid fossils in central Java.
- AD 1895 Borghi retrieved some objects from the Lake Nemi ships.
- AD 1897 Cave drawings found at Pair-non-Pair, France.
- AD 1899 R. Koldewey began excavating Babylon.
- AD 1900 A. Evans began work at Knossos, Crete.
- AD 1902 W. Andrae began work at Asshur in Mesopotamia.
- AD 1904 G. Reisner began excavating the mastaba cemetery at Giza.
- **AD 1906** H. Winckler began excavating Boghazköy and discovered a Hittite cuneiform archive.
- AD 1911 H. Bingham discovered Machu Picchu in Peru.
- **AD 1915** C. Blegen excavated Korakou near Corinth; F. Hrozny announced his decipherment of Hittite.
- AD 1920 A. Wace began his work at Mycenae.
- **AD 1921** J. G. Andersson found the first evidence of "Peking Man" at Chou-koutien near Beijing.
- AD 1922 H. Carter discovered Tutankhamun's tomb in Egypt; C. L. Woolley began work at Ur in Mesopotamia.
 - **AD 1925** Bronze statue of Apollo dredged from the Bay of Marathon; the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago began its excavation of Megiddo.
 - AD 1926 W. F. Albright began his excavations at Tell Beit Mirsim, Palestine.
 - AD 1929 Excavations began at Ras Shamra (ancient Ugarit) in Syria.
 - AD 1932 C. Blegen began work at Troy; Lake Nemi ships exposed in Italy.
 - **AD 1934** Excavations began at Tell Hariri, Syria (ancient Mari), where a cuneiform archive would be found.
 - **AD 1939** C. Blegen discovered a Mycenaean palace and Linear B tablets at Pylos in Greece.
 - **AD 1945** Two brothers digging for fertilizer near limestone caves in upper Egypt discover the Nag Hammadi library in an earthenware jar.
 - AD 1947 Bedouin found ancient scrolls in a cave near the Dead Sea.
 - **AD 1948** Israel declared independence, establishing itself as a modern nation.







AD 1949 - W. Libby announced his discovery of radiocarbon (C14) dating.

AD 1952 - J. Cousteau excavated a Roman wreck off Grand Congloué island near Marseilles; K. Kenyon began her excavations at Jericho; M. Ventris announced his decipherment of the Mycenaean script, Linear B.

AD 1959 - Mary and Louis Leakey found hominid remains in the Olduvai gorge, Tanganyika (now Tanzania).

AD 1960 - Documents from the Second Jewish Revolt (A.D. 132 to 135) found in the Cave of Letters near the Dead Sea.

AD 1963 - Yigael Yadin began excavating Masada.

AD 1967 - S. Marinatos began excavating Akrotiri, a Minoan town on the volcanic island of Thera in the Aegean. Secret Israeli excavations began under the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

AD 1974 - Chinese archaeologists found a terra cotta army guarding the tomb of the first Ch'in emperor near the city of Xian.

AD 1975 - An archive of tablets found at Tell Mardikh (ancient Ebla) in Syria.

AD 1976 - D. Johanson found "Lucy," the remains of an early hominid, in Africa.

AD 1977 - The tomb of Philip II of Macedon found intact at Vergina in Greece.

AD 1979 - Underwater archaeologists began work in Herod's harbor at Caesarea.

AD 1987 - Excavation of the Villa of the Papyri at

Herculaneum resumed.

AD 1990 - The tomb of Caiphas found in Jerusalem.

AD 1991 - Maya hieroglyphs fully deciphered.

Martin Abegg uses a computer to reconstruct the unpublished Dead Sea Scrolls from data in an official concordance, forcing publication of all the scrolls. Scroll project director, E. Tov, announces lifting of all publication restrictions, allowing any scholar to examine the official scroll photos & publish whatever was discovered.

AD 1993 - Mention of "House of David" found on victory stele in Tel Dan.

AD 1995 - Rumors about important finds in Petra and Shiloh.

AD 2002 - Ossuary bearing the Aramaic inscription, "James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus," comes to light and stirs controversy.

AD 2003 - The National Museum of Iraq looted in April during war hostilities.

AD 2006 - Gospel of Judas restored and translated.

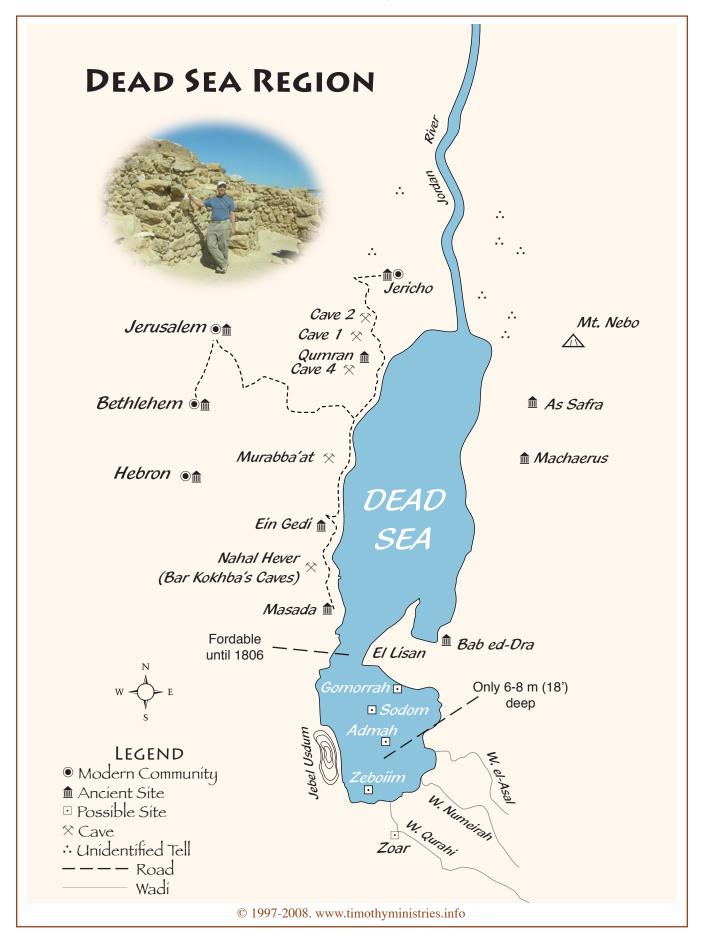
AD 2008 - Bulla with the name Gedalyahu ben Pashur, who served as minister to King Zedekiah (597-586 BCE) according to the Book of Jeremiah, found in City of David dig.

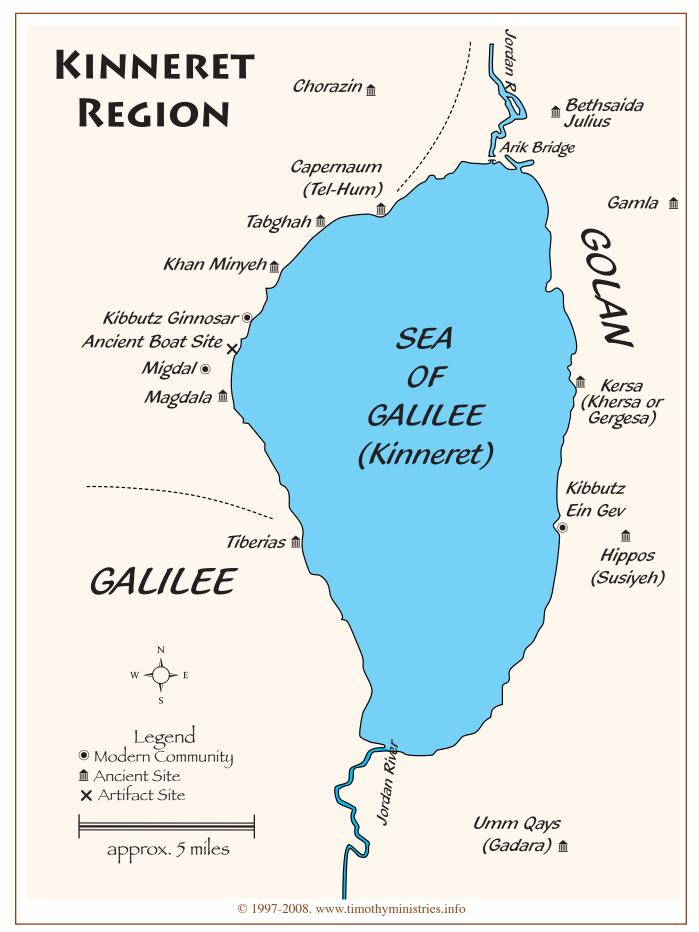


OF OF THE TIME LINE

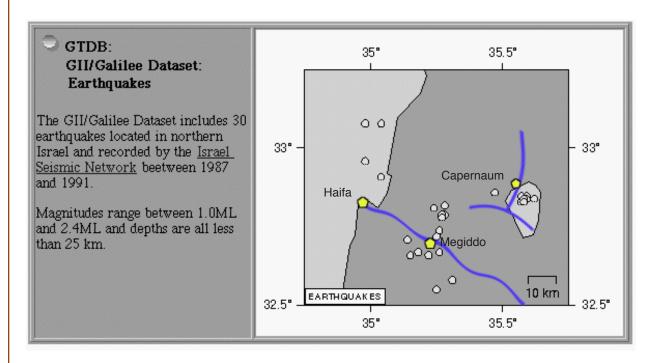


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Seismic Israel



he southern border of first-century Galilee was largely defined by the Carmel-Gilboa mountain range that stretches obliquely across Israel from Haifa toward the lower Jordan valley. This mountain range was lifted by activity of the Carmel fault along which it lies. A gap in the mountain range, the Nahal Iron Pass of the Via Maris, gave strategic importance to the city that controlled it in antiquity, namely Megiddo. Unfortunately, for Megiddo to control the pass meant building on the Carmel fault line and risking seismic activity. Archaeologists now believe that Megiddo was destroyed at least three times by earthquakes.

With regard to future seismic activity, Revelation 16.16-19 predicts an earthquake of unprecedented destruction as the armies of Antichrist gather at Armageddon, i.e., the mountain of Megiddo. Remember, however, that earthquake magnitude depends upon the length of the fault line along which the movement occurs. The relatively short length of the Carmel fault limits the potential magnitude of its earthquakes to M6 or M6.5 on the Richter scale. If the apocalyptic earthquake is a *natural* event, it will probably involve the longer fault system of the Dead Sea rift that stretches for more than 1,100 kilometers from southern Turkey to the Gulf of Aqaba. By way of comparison, the San Adreas fault in California is about 1,200 kilometers (800 miles) long, and the longest rift in the world, the Chile Trench, stretches for 5,900 kilometers. It was along the Chile Trench that the M9.5 earthquake occurred in 1960, the earthquake of greatest magnitude ever recorded. The earthquake of the apocalypse may not reach that magnitude, but the destructiveness of a quake also depends upon its proximity to population centers.

Risk Management Solutions, Inc. of Newark, CA, has assessed the earthquake risk in Israel and reports in its 2003 summary:

Though generally considered to have moderate seismicity, a large event in the northern half of Israel could create damaging ground motions in every major population center, all located within 70 km (44 miles) of the [Dead Sea] rift....the Jordan Valley fault in the north...has a high probability of generating a major earthquake....

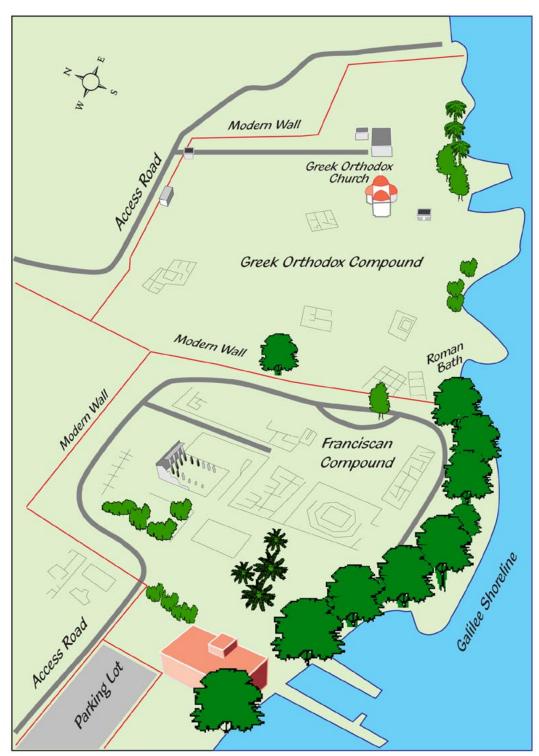
Research suggests that the Jordan Valley Fault generates magnitude 7 or larger earthquakes approximately every 1,000 years. The last major event on this segment occurred in 1033, increasing the current probability of a major earthquake. Jerusalem is the most populated city in Israel and is located less than 40 km (25 miles) from the fault. Other major cities in central and northern Israel would also be impacted by a large event on this fault. The RMS model estimates that a worst-case scenario in the region would be a magnitude 7.5* earthquake on the Jordan Valley Fault, causing over \$30 billion in economic losses.

We see that current natural science agrees with the Revelation that a powerfully destructive earth-quake could soon impact Jerusalem and its region. On the other hand, the apocalyptic earthquake may have *supernatural power* behind it, or may result from an unforeseen combination of cosmic disturbances. The apostle John who saw the event in a vision said that "Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found." John insisted that "no earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake." Jerusalem will "split into three parts, and the cities of the [surrounding] nations [will collapse]." This will be THE BIG ONE, the island sinker, mountain leveller and city demolisher.

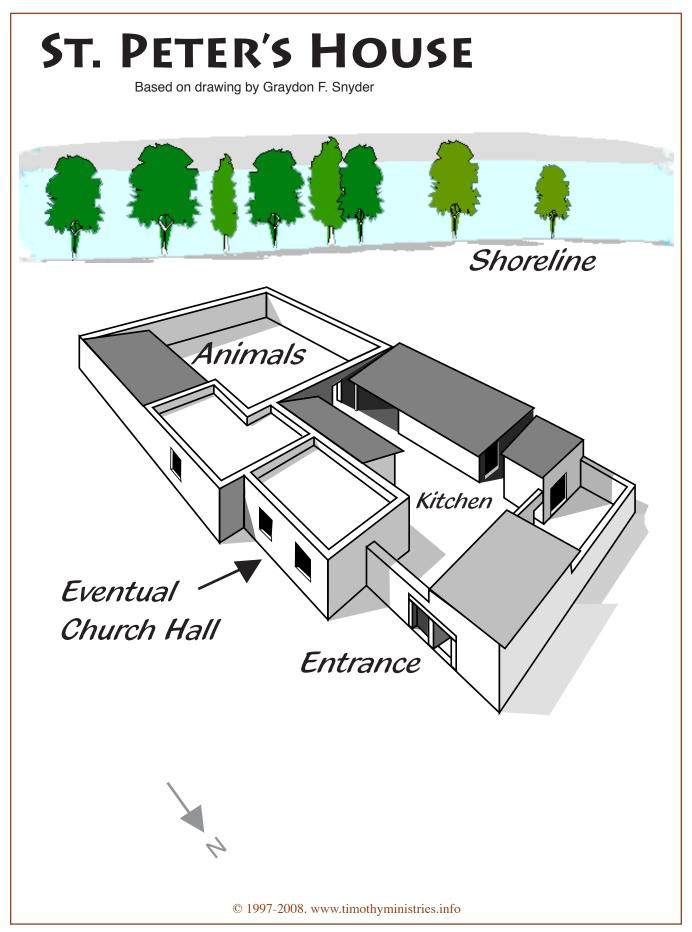
Trip to Israel, anyone?

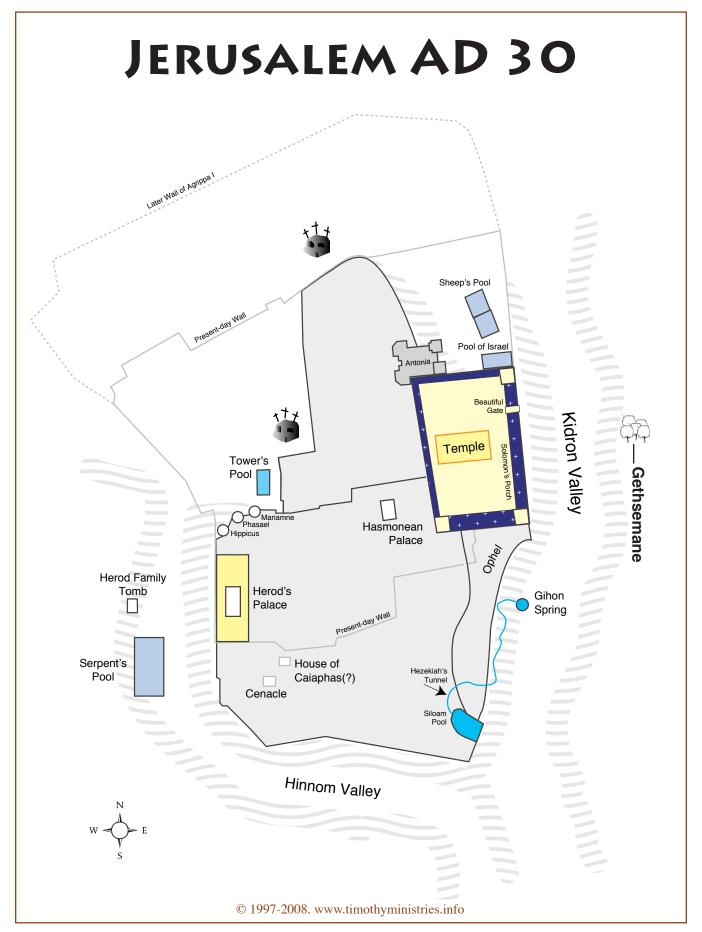
^{*}Remember that the magnitude numbers of the Richter scale increase logarithmically, so an earthquake of M7.5 is close to ten times greater than a M6.5 quake. (See Queries and Comments in *Biblical Archaeology Review*, November/December 1997.)

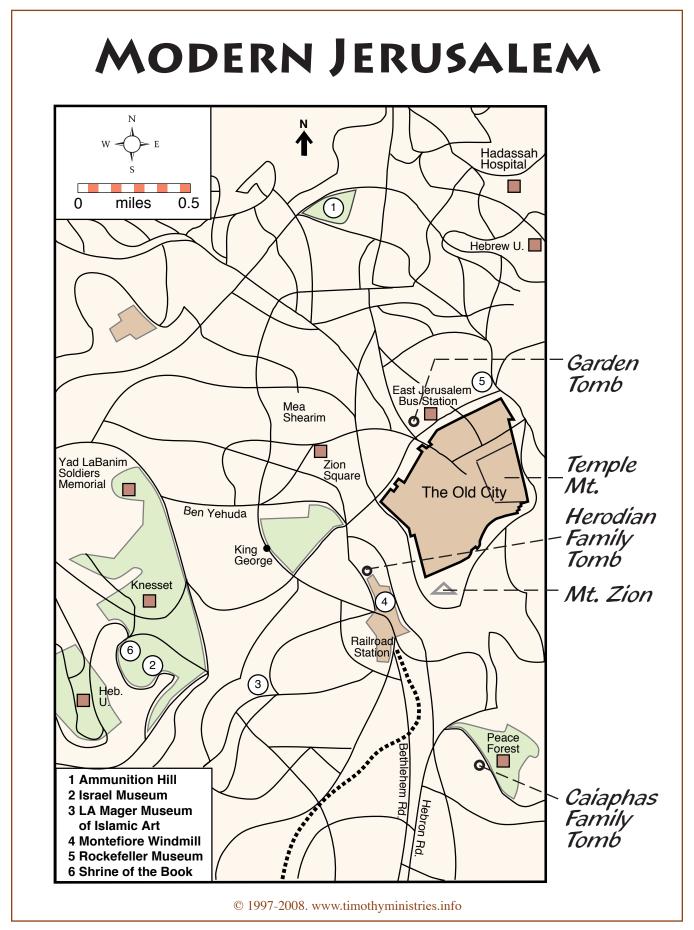
CAPERNAUM IN RUINS



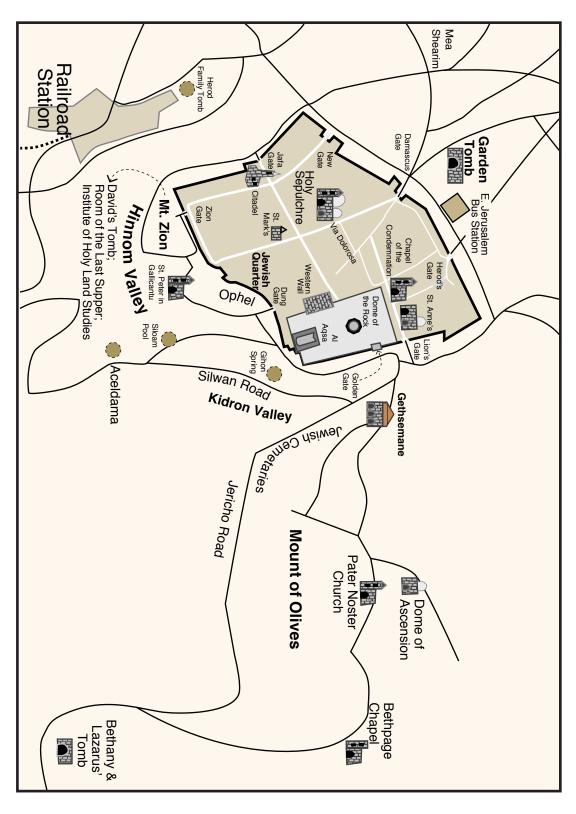
Drawing by Rod A. Graciano, based on photo by Richard Nowitz (Source: BAR 9309)







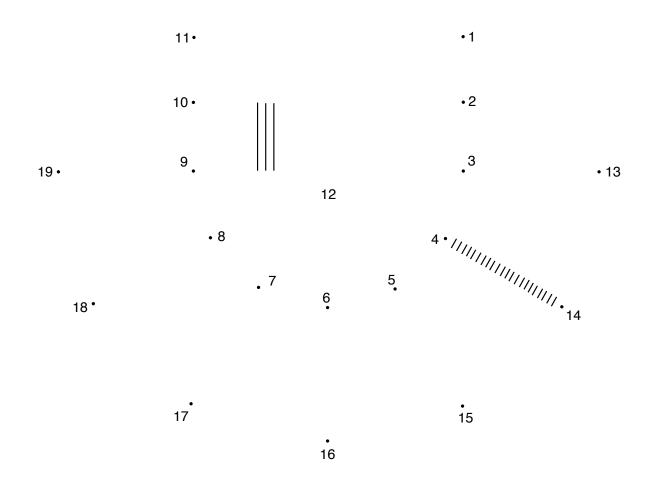
OLD CITY JERUSALEM



TELL AL-EUNO Level 6 Level 5 Level Level 2

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UNCOVER AN ANCIENT STRUCTURE



Clear the boundaries of an ancient structure by connecting the dots in the following order:

- 1. Connect dots 1 through 11.
- 2. Draw straight lines from 1 to 11, 2 to 10 and 3 to 9.
- 3. Draw a half circle by connecting the dots at numbers 13 to 19.
- 4. Draw straight lines to connect 3 to 13, 4 to 14, 5 to 15, 6 to 16, 7 to 17 and 8 to 18 and 9 to 19.
- 5. Sketch vertical lines (like the examples given) throughout the space between line segments 2-10 and 3-9.
- 6. Sketch hash marks across lines 5-15, 6-16, 7-17 and 8-18 like the example given for line 4-14.
- 7. Draw a small square around the number 12.

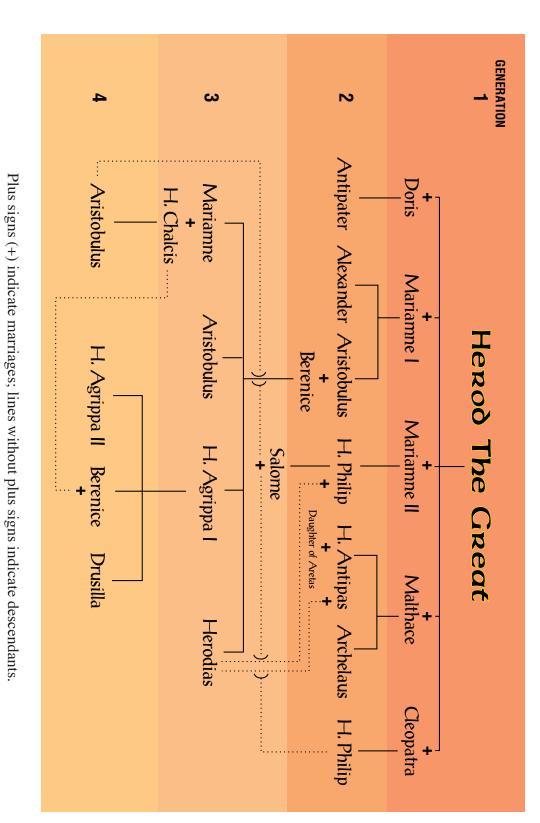
What have you defined the boundaries of?

ETHIOPIA

RESTING PLACE OF THE ARK OF THE COVENANT?



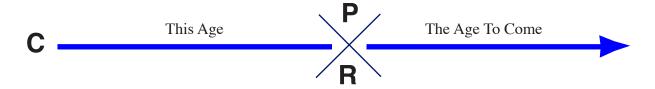
DESCENDANTS OF HEROD THE GREAT



THE PROGRESSIVE REVELATION OF THE FUTURE

Rabbinical Eschatology

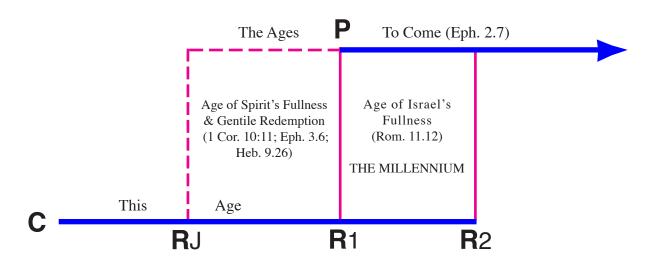
Adapted from George Eldon Ladd, The Gospel of the Kingdom



One reason first-century Judeans rejected Jesus was that His mission did not fit their eschatology. The Rabbis understood the future in very simple terms: The present age began at Creation (C) and would end at the Parousia (*par-ü-SEE-uh;* P = coming in glory) of Messiah; Messiah's Parousia would usher in the Resurrection (R) and the Age To Come. In contrast, Jesus and His apostles, taught that This Age (i.e., the present world system) and The Ages To Come (plural) would overlap while Gentiles were brought into the Kingdom of God by the power of the Spirit. In other words, some of the glories of the future fullness of God's Kingdom would be experienced while worldly kingdoms still exercised authority on the earth. Furthermore, the Resurrection (R) would occur in three stages: the Resurrection of Jesus (J) as the "firstfruits," the First Resurrection at the Parousia, and the Second Resurrection at the time of the Final Judgment (Rev. 20).

Apostolic Eschatology

Adapted from George Eldon Ladd, The Gospel of the Kingdom



CONTEMPORARY VISIONS OF THE KINGDOM

OHMRAN

"The Kingdom of God" As Taught At Qumran Compared To What Jesus Taught About The Kingdom

Adapted From: The Kingdom of God in the Qumran Literature by B. T. Viviano

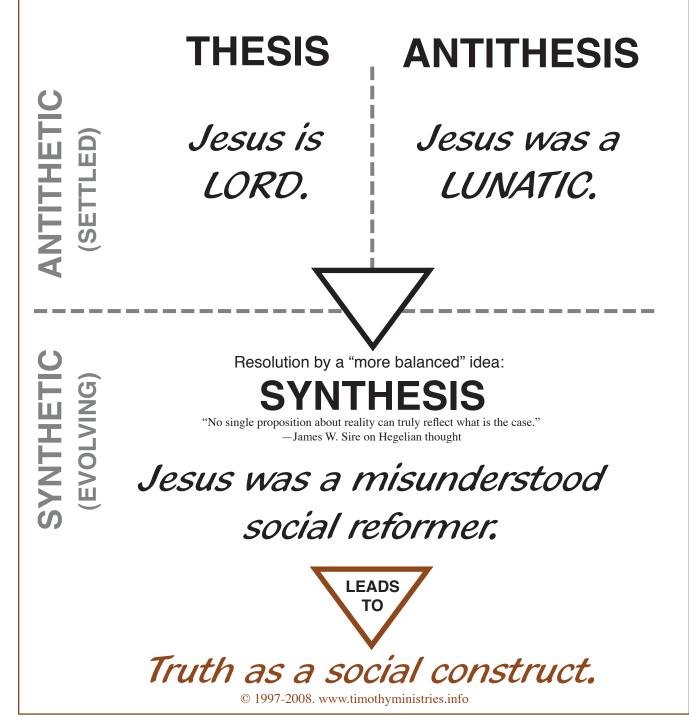
IFCLIC

	QUMRAN	JESUS
ORIGIN	DIVINE	DIVINE
AGENT		MESSIAH
APPLICATION	CORPORATE	
ARENA	POLITICAL	
MEANS	MILITARY	
GEOGRAPHY		EARTH & HEAVEN
SCOPE	NATIONAL	
TIME	NEXT AGE	
ATTITUDE	VINDICTIVE	

TWO APPROACHES TO TRUTH

What does the Hegelian approach to truth lead to?

The yeast-like spread of Hegel's ideas over the last hundred years influenced Karl Marx and encouraged communist revolutions. In western culture it ultimately gave birth to postmodern thinking. Since Hegel's dialectic implies that truth is always evolving, it is easy for the postmodern thinker to consider any given "truth" as nothing more than a social construct, i.e., an idea agreed upon by a social group. When truth is seen as no more than a social construct, it follows that opposing truths can both be accepted at the same time. The Hegelian approach to truth has led beyond immorality to "unmorality."



A WORLDVIEW SHOULD ADDRESS THESE ULTIMATE QUESTIONS: Theological Beliefs and Inferences

- 1. Ontology
 - A. What is the nature of existence and being?
 - B. What was the origin of life?
 - C. What motivates man to act as he does? Is his will free?
 - D. Is there a supernatural realm?
- 2. Theology: What is God's nature and character?
- 3. Ethics: What is right and what is wrong?
- 4. Teleology: What is the purpose and meaning of life?
- 5. Epistemology
 - A. What forms of knowledge are reliable?
 - B. Is the universe rational, i.e., can we think about the universe and expect to arrive at rational truths?
- 6. History
 - A. What is the origin of competing religious myths?
 - B. Why is there evil in the world?
- 7. Happiness: What is the path to greatest fulfillment?

WORLD-VIEW TEST



Circle the number at the left of each statement you agree with. Add the total of all numbers you circle.

- 5 God intervenes in answer to specific prayers.
- 7 There is only one God, and the only revelation He gives is that of nature.
- 8 God has a distinct personality and feels emotions.
- 10 All religions are good and are ultimately the same.
- 12 God rules over all creation and will one day judge mankind.
- God created the universe to run on natural laws, and then left it alone.
- 15 God personally and supernaturally reveals Himself to people.
- 17 It is impossible to know for sure that God exists.
- 20 The earth itself is a living goddess.
- 22 Only the laws of physics are eternal.
- The Creator never intervenes supernaturally, but always allows nature to take its course.
- God so permeates the universe that the material world is essentially the body of God.
- God probably does not exist but we can't prove it.
- A personal God exists, but He leaves us to work out our own destiny in cooperation with natural laws.
- 40 Spiritual entities may exist, but it is foolish to feel certainty that they do.
- Though we may not understand it yet, there is a non-supernatural explanation for everything including the origin of matter.
- 45 God and religion are creations of man, nothing more.
- All living things have spiritual life and are just as significant as humans.
- God has never demonstrated His existence, so He obviously doesn't care whether we're religious or not.
- 90 Science has adequately proven that mankind evolved by pure chance and natural selection without God.

_____ **Total** See next page for scoring...

SCORING

25-40	Theist
45-80	Deist
90-110	Pantheist
120-165	Agnostic
Above 165	Atheist

How Your World-View Will Influence Your Response to Evidence for the Supernatural

Theism

The theist believes in the existence of personal, spiritual entities including a Creator, angels and demons. Theistic responses to evidence of theophanies, miracles or demonization will range from cautious to gullible.

Deism

The deist believes in the existence of a Creator, but will be skeptical of evidence for human interaction with divine or other spiritual entities.

Pantheism

The pantheist may believe in many gods or in one all-encompassing god. Pantheistic responses to evidence for the interaction of spiritual entities with mankind will range from cautious to gullible. The pantheist will be skeptical of any supernatural manifestations or revelations that support religious exclusiveness or intolerance.

Agnosticism

The agnostic is convinced that certainty about the existence of spiritual entities is beyond human reach. Agnostics will remain skeptical of all evidence for the supernatural and will disdain supernatural manifestations or revelations that support religious exclusiveness or intolerance.

Atheism

The atheist is convinced that there is a natural, scientific explanation for everything, even if the explanation is still beyond our understanding. Atheists reject all evidence for the supernatural as being misunderstood or misinterpreted.

HISTORICAL PROOF?

roof, properly speaking, is something found exclusively in the domains of logic and mathematics where one can begin with a premise that is given or self-evident. Based on logical premises, certain present realities can also be proved to our satisfaction by direct observation—whether or not the kettle has boiled, for example. However, if we were to try to corroborate or elucidate an event from history, like say the martyrdom of St. Peter, we cannot travel back in time to observe such an event firsthand. Therefore, unless we can agree on a historical source as absolutely reliable and make it our mutually agreed-upon premise, we cannot expect to prove that Peter was martyred in Rome under Nero, nor even that he was martyred at all. Historians and scientists whose work it is to extrapolate information about the past from the data they presently study in their labs and libraries must content themselves with establishing the likelihood of a given event having occurred. Like the courtroom attorney attempting to reconstruct a crime scene, we must deal with varying degrees of probability and doubt: we have to admit that the best of human witnesses can give false testimony, and that artifactual evidence is always open to multiple interpretations. As scientist, Norman D. Newell observes, we must ultimately settle for those theories about the past that account for "a maximum number of observations with a minimum number of assumptions."*

It is the contention of Christian apologists that the gospel records of the Holy Bible best account for the subsequent unfolding of Christian history and the impact of Christianity upon western civilization. Furthermore, Christian historians insist that if we accept as a historical personage a figure like Julius Caesar (which all historians do), then we must accept the historicity of Jesus Christ and the apostles as far more abundantly corroborated. In short, though "proof" is a very subjective thing, by normally accepted standards, if anything at all from history can be proven, the foremost events of the New Testament can!

The question is: do we care enough to study the evidence for ourselves and become convinced?

* Newell, Norman D., *Creation and Evolution: Myth or Reality?* (Columbia University Press, New York, 1982), p. 56. This is an application of Ockham's Razor (see below).

OCKHAM'S RAZOR

A rule in science and philosophy stating that entities should not be multiplied needlessly. This rule is interpreted to mean that the simplest of two or more competing theories is preferable and that an explanation for unknown phenomena should first be attempted in terms of what is already known. Also called law of parsimony. [After William of Ockham.]—American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language

THREE ARENAS IN THE QUEST FOR TRUTH

ARENA	THE LAB	HISTORY	THE MIND
EXAMPLES	Math, Technical Experiments	Courtroom Trials, Historical Religions	Logic Mystical Philosophy
INITIAL	← - PROOF	← EVIDENCE	- PROOF PERSONAL SATISFACTION
FINAL	TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE	INTELLIGENT	-ASSURANCE BLIND FAITH