

Outline of the History of the Ancient Hebrews

- I. Patriarchal Period (c. 2000–1500 B.C.E.)
 - a. Abraham and the Patriarchs: The biblical figures Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are considered the patriarchs of the Israelites, traditionally believed to have lived in the early 2nd millennium B.C.E.
 - b. Canaan: The patriarchs are said to have migrated to Canaan, where they established familial and tribal connections.
- II. Sojourn in Egypt and Exodus (c. 1700–1300 B.C.E.)
 - a. Joseph and the Israelites in Egypt: According to the Bible, Joseph rises to power in Egypt, and the Israelites settle there.
 - b. Exodus: Led by Moses, the Israelites leave Egypt, an event central to Jewish identity and religion.
- III. Settlement in Canaan (c. 1300–1020 B.C.E.)
 - a. Conquest and Settlement: Under Joshua's leadership, the Israelites enter and settle in Canaan.
 - b. Period of the Judges: A time of tribal confederacy, with leaders known as judges governing the Israelites.
- IV. United Monarchy (c. 1020–922 B.C.E.)
 - a. Saul: The first king of Israel, uniting the tribes to form a monarchy.
 - b. David: Expands the kingdom, establishes Jerusalem as the capital, and brings the Ark of the Covenant there.
 - c. Solomon: Known for wisdom and building the First Temple in Jerusalem; the kingdom reaches its peak.
- V. Divided Kingdom (c. 922–722 B.C.E.)
 - a. Split: After Solomon's death, the kingdom divides into Israel (Northern Kingdom) and Judah (Southern Kingdom).
 - b. Israel: Experiences political instability and falls to the Assyrians in 722 B.C.E.
 - c. Judah: Survives longer, maintaining Jerusalem as its capital.
- VI. Exile and Return (c. 586–539 B.C.E.)
 - a. Babylonian Conquest: Judah falls to Babylon in 586 B.C.E., leading to the destruction of the First Temple and the Babylonian Exile.
 - b. Persian Period: Cyrus the Great conquers Babylon and allows Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple (Second Temple period begins).
- VII. Hellenistic and Roman Periods (c. 332 B.C.E.–70 C.E.)
 - a. Alexander the Great: Conquers the region, leading to Hellenistic influence.
 - b. Maccabean Revolt: Jewish rebellion against Seleucid rule, leading to the Hasmonean dynasty.
 - c. Roman Conquest: Rome annexes the region, leading to significant political and cultural changes.
 - d. Destruction of the Second Temple: Occurs in 70 C.E., a pivotal event leading to the Jewish diaspora.
- VIII. Key Themes and Contributions
 - a. Religious Influence: The development of monotheism and the Hebrew Bible, foundational texts for Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
 - b. Cultural Legacy: Contributions to law, ethics, and literature, profoundly impacting Western civilization.