

HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Event	Details	OT Books written	Approximate date
Creation	"in the beginning" Adam and Eve created on the sixth day of the first week. (Gen. 1, 2; Ex.20:11)		4004 B. C.
Flood	All men perished except Noah and his family. A worldwide flood. Gen. 6-8.		2348 B. C. ?
The call of Abraham	God calls out a people, Israel, to be His special people. Gen. 12:1-7.	Job probably written during the time of the early Hebrew fathers.	1921 B. C.
Israelites in Egypt	In bondage as slaves under Pharaoh for 400 years. Gen. 15:13.		1845 – 1445 B. C.
The exodus from Egypt	God chooses Moses to deliver the people Ex. 3-14.		1445 B. C.
Israelites in the wilderness	Ex. 15-40; Leviticus; Numbers; Deut.	Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy	1445-1405 B. C.
Conquest of Canaan and the judges	Joshua, Judges	Joshua, Judges	1405 – 1050 B. C.
Israel united under a king	Kings: Saul, David, Solomon. Samuel as prophet. 1, 2 Samuel; 1 Kings 1-11. 1 Chron. 1-29; 2 Chron. 1-9. Temple built by Solomon.	Ruth, Samuel, Psalms, Song of Solomon, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes	1050-931 B. C.
Israel divided into two kingdoms	Northern kingdom, called "Israel." Southern kingdom called "Judah." 1 Ki. 11:26-12:33.	Obadiah, Joel, Jonah, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah.	931 B. C. – 722 B. C.
Northern Kingdom ends	The ten tribes of Israel taken captive by the Assyrians due to their sins (2 Ki. 17:1-23).		722 B. C.
Judah continues until taken to Babylon	Prophets were sent to Judah to turn them from their sins, but Jerusalem finally fell and the temple was burned due to the unfaithfulness of Judah. 2 Ki. 18-25; 2 Chron. 29-36.	Nahum, Zephaniah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Habakkuk, Kings	722 – 586 B. C. The invasion of Judah lasted about 20 years and the final fall of the city was in 586 B. C.
Captivity in Babylon	Lasted 70 years per Jeremiah's prophecy. Jer. 25:1-12; Dan. 9:2.	Daniel, Ezekiel	606 – 536 B. C. 70 years measured from when the first captives were taken until the first return of Jews to the land.
Return of Jews to Jerusalem	Three groups returned: First return under leadership of Zerubbabel; second under Ezra; third under Nehemiah. Second temple completed. See Haggai, Ezra, Nehemiah.	Haggai, Zechariah, Chronicles, Ezra, Esther, Nehemiah, Malachi	536 B. C. – 425 B.C.