

Fifteen Biblical Dates You Should Know¹

1. 1700: approximate date for Abraham (roughly contemporary with Hammurabi in Babylon)
2. 1250: convenient date for the “Exodus” (ties in to “700 years of sinning” [i.e., until 550, a good date for late redaction in Deuteronomistic literature])
3. 1000: King David
4. 922: death of Solomon and division of kingdom; so northern kingdom lasts 200 years (to 722); see 1 Kgs 11
5. 850: Elijah the prophet
6. Eighth century: century of the great prophets Hosea and Amos (north), Isaiah of Jerusalem and Micah (south)
7. 722: fall of Samaria, capital of the northern kingdom, to the Assyrians; see 2 Kgs 17:7-41
8. 622/621: King Josiah’s reform; see 2 Kgs 21:23-23:30; cf. [compare] 2 Kgs 23:15 with Exod 32:20, and 2 Kgs 23:25 with Deut 34:10 (Josiah is like Moses, and the first edition of the Deuteronomistic History is cast as the story of “Moses to Josiah”)
9. 587: end of Jeremiah’s ministry, destruction of first temple, conquest of Judah and deportation to Babylon (“Chaldean or Neo-Babylonian Empire”)
10. 587-538: period of the “Babylonian captivity,” birth of Judaism
11. Ezekiel active in early part of Babylonian Exile
12. “Second Isaiah” active in latter part of Babylonian Exile
13. 539-333: Persian period; some “Jews” (now primarily a religious term) return to the Land
14. 333-63: Greek period; within this period, the Maccabees establish a one-hundred-year dynasty 164-63 (the Hasmonean dynasty); during this dynasty arise the Pharisees, the Sadducees and the Essenes
15. 63-135 C.E.: Roman period (we have switched from B.C.E. = B.C. to C.E. = A.D.)

¹ Consult your “Comprehensive [“Handy”] Handout, page 3.