

HISTORICAL TIMELINE FOR THE NATION OF ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE

NB. Events relating specifically to Britain are in italics.

c.2000 BC

God makes an everlasting Covenant with Abraham, which continues through Isaac, Jacob and their descendants. They will become a great nation, those who bless him and his descendants will be blessed, those who curse him and his descendants will be cursed. All the nations of the earth will be blessed through them. The Land of Canaan will be their everlasting inheritance. (Genesis 12:3, 13:14-17, 15:18-21, 17:7-8, Psalm 105:8-11)

c.1400 BC

The Israelites enter the Promised Land. Prior to that they have been delivered from the hands of the Egyptians and then spent 40 years wandering the desert because of unbelief. Through the Mosaic Covenant they have been given *Torah* and separated to God as a 'holy' nation. (Exodus 19:5-6) The 12 tribes of Israel are allotted their portion of territory.

c.1000 BC

King David conquers Jerusalem and makes it the capital of the Kingdom of Israel. God covenants with David that his dynasty would be an everlasting one. (1 Chronicles 17:3-15) His son, Solomon, is commissioned by the Lord to build the House of the Lord. The Lord declares that His eyes and His heart would dwell there perpetually. (2 Chronicles 7:16)

c.920 BC

Israel is divided into two kingdoms. The 10 northern tribes rebel against the Lord and set up an alternative religious system. The tribes of Judah and Benjamin remain faithful to the Lord for a while. A remnant from the 10 northern tribes joins the 2 southern tribes (known as Judah) to worship the Lord in Jerusalem.

720 BC

The 10 northern tribes are taken into captivity in Assyria. By this time judgement has been prophesied against Judah for their rebellion against the Lord.

586 BC

The Temple in Jerusalem is destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon on 9th Av in the Hebrew calendar. The third wave of captives (the first one was around 606BC) is taken into exile in Babylon. A 70-year exile had been prophesied by Jeremiah. (Jeremiah 29:10)

c.536 BC

The first wave of Jewish exiles returns to Jerusalem, and with the permission of King Cyrus of Persia, begins to rebuild the Temple.

c.445 BC

The third wave of Jewish exiles returns to Jerusalem under Nehemiah and the walls of Jerusalem are rebuilt. However a significant number choose to stay 'in exile'.

167 BC

The Temple is defiled by Antiochus IV Epiphanes, who sacrifices a sow on the altar and halts the Temple worship. Three years later Judas Maccabeus liberates and cleanses the Temple. This is commemorated by the Feast of Chanukkah. The Hasmoneans rule Israel until the Roman invasion.

c.4BC – c.30AD

The earthly life and ministry of Yeshua HaMashiach (Jesus the Messiah) fulfils more than 300 Old Testament prophecies. Through His death on the cross, the New Covenant with the house of Israel and the House of Judah was ratified (Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 8:8-12 and Matthew 26:26-28). Shortly before His crucifixion Jesus prophesies the destruction of Jerusalem and the scattering of the people until ‘the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled’. (Luke 21:24)

70 AD

The second Temple is destroyed by the Romans, again on 9th Av in the Hebrew calendar. Approximately one million Jews are killed and most of the survivors are sold into slavery or scattered into the nations. However, a small remnant of Jewish people remained in the Land throughout the dispersion.

135 AD

The Bar Kokhba uprising is quashed. Jews are barred from Jerusalem for several centuries. On 9th Av the Romans plough over Jerusalem, rename the City ‘Aelia Capitolina’ and the Land ‘Syria Palestina’ to eradicate the memory of the Jewish presence there. Over the next 19 centuries the religious Jews in exile include the *amidah* prayer in their daily devotions – a heart-cry to God for their restoration to their beloved Jerusalem.

1066AD

The first known Jews arrive in England from Normandy with William the Conqueror.

1144 AD

The first ‘Blood Libel’ against the Jews takes place in Norwich. According to the libel, Jews showed their hatred of Christianity by re-enacting the crucifixion - sacrificing a Christian child and using his blood in the unleavened bread for Passover. The concept of ‘Blood Libel’ subsequently spread from England across Europe and continues to this day.

1212 AD

A large contingent of Jewish people arrive in Jerusalem, including 300 Rabbis from England and France.

1290 AD

On 9th Av King Edward I of England issues an edict that all Jews must be expelled from the country within 3 months. England remained ‘Juden-rein’ until Oliver Cromwell decreed that they could return in 1656.

1858 AD

The British Parliament passes an Act allowing Jews to be elected without restriction. Benjamin Disraeli later becomes the first Jewish Prime Minister of Great Britain.

c.1881

The first major wave of aliyah (Jewish Immigration) into Eretz Israel from Russia begins in the wake of ongoing pogroms against Jewish people.

September 1897

The First Zionist Congress takes place in Basel, Switzerland. At the conclusion Theodore Herzl writes in his diary: “In Basel I founded the Jewish State. . . Maybe in five years, certainly in fifty, everyone will see it.”

1914

At the outbreak of World War I, the Turkish Ottoman Empire, the power that ruled over the whole Middle East, outlaws Zionism and expels 11,000 of the 60,000 Jewish inhabitants of Palestine.

31st October 1917

The British and ANZAC military forces capture Beersheba from the Turks and Germans, which paves the way for the British conquest of Palestine. On the same day the British Cabinet decides to pave the way for the creation of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. The decision is published by Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour two days later in what became known as The Balfour Declaration.

9th December 1917

The British and ANZAC forces conquer Jerusalem, bringing an end to 400 years of Ottoman Turkish rule. Two days later, on the eve of the Feast of Chanukkah, the British General Allenby ceremonially enters Jerusalem, declaring British rule over Palestine.

April 1920

Haj El-Amin, later to become the Mufti of Jerusalem, leads riots against the Jewish population of Jerusalem as Britain and France participate in a League of Nations conference in San Remo Italy to issue a mandate for British and French rule over the Middle East. France is awarded a Mandate to rule Lebanon and Syria while Britain is given a Mandate to rule over Palestine, which includes all of modern-day Israel, Jordan and the 'West Bank'. The Balfour Declaration is incorporated into the British Mandate, giving it international legal status.

1921

Sir Herbert Samuel takes his position as the first British High Commissioner of Palestine. The Churchill White Paper divides Palestine along the Jordan River, creating an Arab Homeland in Palestine known as Transjordan (later Jordan).

August 1929

Arab riots break out against the Jews across Palestine, including Gaza and Hebron. In Hebron, the oldest continuously inhabited Jewish city in the world, 69 Jews are brutally murdered. The British authorities respond by evacuating the Jews from both places and forbidding them to return. Serious unrest and riots continue through the 1930s as Arabs pressure Britain to halt Jewish immigration and abandon The Balfour Declaration.

January 1933

*Adolf Hitler rises to power in Germany, creating a dark cloud for German Jewry. Within a year he instigates a programme of anti-Semitism across the country in accordance with *Mein Kampf* which he had written a decade earlier. Over the next few years Hitler successfully mobilises almost the entire German nation against the Jews.*

July 1938

Representatives of 32 nations meet at Evian in France to discuss the rapidly worsening refugee problem resulting from Hitler's ruthless persecution and murder of Jews in Germany and Austria. Britain only agrees to attend on condition that Jewish immigration into Palestine is not on the agenda. The Jews are effectively abandoned by the Evian Conference.

May 1939

A White Paper is published that severely restricts Jewish immigration into Palestine and outlaws land sales to Jewish people altogether. Only 75,000 Jewish immigrants would be allowed over the next 5 years. All further immigration beyond that would be subject to the agreement of the Arabs. The 1939 White Paper effectively annulled the Balfour Declaration.

September 1939 to May 1945

Six million Jews are murdered by the Nazis under the leadership of Adolf Hitler during the Holocaust of World War II.

1945 to 1948

The British policy of restricted immigration into Palestine continues. Calls for mass immigration into Palestine in the wake of the Holocaust are ignored as at least 60,000 Holocaust survivors are imprisoned in Cyprus or returned to Europe. The British policy results in escalating violence across Palestine and the Mandate becomes increasingly unmanageable.

July 1947

One refugee ship - called the Exodus - is captured by the British in international waters off Palestine. Its cargo of 4,500 Holocaust survivors is eventually returned to German prison camps. The ensuing media coverage shames the British government, which has decided to commit the fate of the Mandate to the United Nations.

29th November 1947

The General Assembly of the United Nations votes in favour of partitioning Palestine into Jewish and Arab States (Resolution 181). The Jews accept the Partition Plan, the Arabs reject it. Jerusalem would become an international city. Violence escalates further across Palestine as the British prepare to withdraw.

14th May 1948

The last High Commissioner, Sir Alan Cunningham, leaves Palestine and the British Mandate ends. At 4pm David Ben Gurion, the recognised leader of the Jewish people, declares the existence of the sovereign State of Israel, according to UN Resolution 181.

15th May 1948

Five Arab armies attack the infant State of Israel and war rages for several months. Jordan captures the eastern part of Jerusalem and Israel's historical heartland, Judea and Samaria. The Jordanians expel or kill the Jews in the territory they conquer, and desecrate the Jewish holy sites. They annexe the territory and rename it 'the West Bank of Jordan'. Their sovereignty over the territory is not recognised by any nation other than Britain and Pakistan. Egypt claims sovereignty over the Gaza Strip.

January 1964

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is formed under the auspices of President Nasser of Egypt. The PLO draws up a Charter with the goal of liberating all of 'Palestine' (i.e. Israel) and liquidating the Jewish State. Egyptian-born Yasser Arafat later becomes the PLO leader and embarks on a campaign of international terrorism against Jewish targets. The PLO Charter calling for the liquidation of Israel has never been rescinded.

5th June 1967

Israel makes a pre-emptive strike against Egypt while President Nasser is preparing another war of annihilation against Israel in conjunction with Syria and Jordan. In defending herself against the invading armies Israel captures the Golan Heights, the Sinai Peninsula, the 'West Bank' and 'East Jerusalem', including the Temple Mount – the holiest site to the Jewish people. Several years later the Golan Heights and the eastern part of Jerusalem were formally annexed to Israel.

September 1967

The Arab nations met in Khartoum, Sudan, for a conference. In a united front they declared that there would be "no recognition of Israel, no negotiations with Israel and no peace with Israel." Since then only Egypt and Jordan have made peace treaties with Israel.

October 1973

Egypt and Syria attack Israel once again. The surprise attack on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, takes Israel completely by surprise and almost results in her defeat. The war rages for more than a month and brings the Israeli forces within gunshot range of Cairo and Damascus.

November 1977

President Anwar Sadat of Egypt makes a historic visit to Jerusalem. A Peace Treaty is signed subsequently in which Israel hands over the oil-rich Sinai Peninsula, but is forced to keep the Gaza Strip. President Sadat is assassinated by Muslim extremists in 1981 for making peace with Israel.

30th July 1980

The Knesset, Israel's Parliament, passes a law that Jerusalem will be 'the eternal and indivisible capital of Israel.' The PLO and Arab nations react with a threat to nations that had their embassies in Jerusalem: "leave or your oil supplies will be cut off." 13 countries move their embassies to Tel Aviv.

December 1987

The first Palestinian *intifada* (uprising) begins.

13th September 1993

In a surprise move, Israel recognises the terrorist Palestine Liberation Organisation as the official representative of the Palestinian Arabs, ending the *intifada*. Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres sign a Declaration of Principles for a Peace Treaty on the White House lawn in the presence of President Bill Clinton. Arafat announces that he has renounced terrorism and pledges to rescind the PLO Charter. Over the next 7 years under what became known as the 'Oslo Accords' the PLO is given autonomy over 98% of the Palestinian population and 40% of territory in Judea and Samaria and 80% of the Gaza Strip. Meanwhile Palestinian incitement to hatred and terrorism against Israel escalates.

July 2000

President Bill Clinton invites the Israeli and Palestinian leaders to a summit at Camp David in the USA for 'Final Status' talks under the troubled 'Oslo Accords'. Israeli PM Ehud Barak offers to recognise a Palestinian State in 97% of the territory Arafat is demanding, which embraces most of the Old City of Jerusalem including control over the Temple Mount – all in exchange for an 'end to hostilities'. Arafat rejects the offer and two months later launches the second *intifada* against Israel.

March 2002

In a month that proved to be the bloodiest of the *intifada* in which more than 100 Israelis are murdered, including 30 people in a single attack on a Passover Seder, the Israel Defence Forces launch Operation Defensive Shield in which they re-occupy most of the territory and cities ceded to the Palestinians. Yasser Arafat is held under virtual house arrest in his Muqata compound in Ramallah where the IDF subsequently discover concrete proof that he has been directly financing and co-ordinating terrorist attacks against Israel. US President Bush declares that Arafat is the main obstacle to achieving peace in the Middle East.

2003

A new peace initiative is launched by the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations (collectively called 'The Quartet') to replace the failed 'Oslo Accords'. The new initiative – known as 'The Roadmap' to Peace – called for a 'performance based' path to peace in stages. The first stage requires the Palestinian leadership to disarm and disband the terrorist organisations. Arafat agrees to 'the Roadmap' and pledges to take the necessary action, but fails to do so. The Roadmap falters.

November 2004

Yasser Arafat dies. In an election held in January 2005 Mahmoud Abbas, Arafat's long-time right-hand man, is elected as the Palestinian President.

February 2005

In yet another ceremony at Sharm-el-Sheik in Egypt, Mahmoud Abbas meets with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to restart 'the Roadmap'. Abbas pledges to disarm and disband the terrorist groups in front of the Israeli PM and the Western media, and quickly renounces that pledge in front of the Arab media.

Compiled by Hugh Kitson, Director of Hatikvah Film Trust.

CFI Communications, PO Box 2687, Eastbourne, BN22 7LZ
Tel: 0845 230 3067 (local rate) or 01323 410810 • Fax: 01323 410211
Prayerline: 0845 230 3068 (local rate) or 01323 439840
email. info@cfi.org.uk • website. www.cfi.org.uk
Registered Charity no. 1101899