

CHRONOLOGICAL OVERVIEW OF ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN PREHISTORY (3600-2800 BC)

outlined by Daniel C. Browning, Jr.

		3600 BC	3500 BC	3400 BC	3300 BC	3200 BC	3100 BC	3000 BC	2900 BC	2800 BC
Ancient Near East	Mesopotamia	Uruk Period (ca. 4000-3200 BC)			Jemdat Nasr Period (ca. 3200-3000 BC)			Early Dynastic Period (ca. 3000-2350 BC) → Sumerian City States (Eridu, Shurruapak, Uruk, Kish, Nippur, Ur) of Ur Nammu)		
	Palestine	Chalcolithic Age (ca. 4500-3150 BC)					Early Bronze Age (ca. 3150-2200 BC) → (highly urbanized culture)			
	Egypt	←	Predynastic Period				Archaic Period (3100-2700 BC) → (Dynasties 1-2)			
The Biblical Story		NO HISTORICAL BIBLICAL EVENTS CAN BE IDENTIFIED WITH ANY CERTAINTY								
			35 th century BC		33 rd century BC		31 st century BC		29 th century BC	

CHRONOLOGICAL OVERVIEW OF EARLY ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN HISTORY (2800-2000 BC)

outlined by Daniel C. Browning, Jr.

		2800 BC	2700 BC	2600 BC	2500 BC	2400 BC	2300 BC	2200 BC	2100 BC	2000 BC
Ancient Near East	Mesopotamia	← Early Dynastic Period (ca. 3000-2350 BC) Sumerian City States (Eridu, Shurruapak, Uruk, Kish, Nippur, Ur)				Akkadian Dynasty Semitic domination 1 st empire in Mesopotamia		Ur III Period Sumerian revival (Laws of Ur Nammu)		
	Palestine	← Early Bronze Age (ca. 3150-2200 BC) (highly urbanized culture)						Middle Bronze I <i>also called Early Bronze Age IV¹</i> (nomadic life; no major cities)		
	Egypt	← Archaic Period (3100-2700 BC) (Dynasties 1-2)	Old Kingdom (Dynasties 3-6) = <i>"the Pyramid Age"</i> (the "Great Pyramid," other major pyramids)			First Intermediate Period (disunity; Asiatics in the Delta region)				
Major Historical Figures		Djoser, Khufu, Khafre				Sargon	Naram-Sin	Ur-Nammu		
The Biblical Story		NO HISTORICAL BIBLICAL EVENTS CAN BE IDENTIFIED WITH CERTAINTY								
		28 th century BC		25 th century BC		23 rd century BC		21 st century BC		

¹ Two systems of nomenclature are used for the Bronze Ages in Palestine; the older system of Albright is used here with the newer system of Dever in italics

CHRONOLOGICAL OVERVIEW OF BIBLICAL HISTORY (2000-1200 BC)

outlined by Daniel C. Browning, Jr.

		2000 BC	1900 BC	1800 BC	1700 BC	1600 BC	1500 BC	1400 BC	1300 BC	1200 BC	
Ancient Near East	Mesopotamia	Isin and Larsa Period (Amorites in S; Laws of Eshnunna ¹)			Old Babylonian Period (Amorites; Law Code of Hammurabi ²)		Kassite Period				
	Palestine	Middle Bronze IIa (<i>Middle Bronze I</i>) ³ (reurbanization)			Middle Bronze IIb-c (<i>MB II</i>) ³ (classic Canaanite culture)		Late Bronze Age (smaller cities; Egyptian domination)				
	Egypt	Middle Kingdom (ca. 2000-1750 BC) (prosperous, peaceful period)			2 nd Intermediate Period (= Hyksos Period; Asiatics rule Delta)		New Kingdom (ca. 1550-1000 BC) (Hyksos expelled; Empire established)				
Major Historical Figures		Hammurabi			Thutmose III		Tutankhamen		Merneptah		
		Ahmose I			Hatshepsut		Amenhotep III		Seti I		
							Akhenaten		Rameses II		
The Biblical Story		THE PATRIARCHS				SOJOURN IN EGYPT				EXODUS WILDERNESS CONQUEST	
Biblical Books in Face Value Story Order		<i>Genesis 12-50</i>								<i>Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy Joshua</i>	
Biblical Characters		ABRAHAM, Isaac, Jacob (exact dates uncertain) Joseph							MOSES Joshua		
Major Theological Events		<i>Abrahamic Covenant</i> ⁴								<i>EXODUS Decalogue</i> ⁵ <i>Sinai Covenant</i> ⁶	
Critical View of Composition Biblical Writings		no major biblical compositions this early according to majority critical view									
		19 th century BC			17 th century BC			15 th century BC		13 th century BC	

¹ Third oldest known ancient law code; similar to later biblical law.

² Fourth oldest known ancient law code; many similarities to biblical law.

³ Two systems of nomenclature are used for the Bronze Ages in Palestine; the older system of Albright is used here with the newer system of Dever in italics

⁴ Abrahamic Covenant = God promises Abraham: 1) descendants will be a great nation; 2) the Land will be inheritance forever.

⁵ Decalogue = The Ten Commandments

⁶ Sinai Covenant = God promises to fight Israel's enemies, if Israel will keep God's commandments.

CHRONOLOGICAL OVERVIEW OF BIBLICAL HISTORY (1200-400 BC)

outlined by Daniel C. Browning, Jr.

		1200 BC	1100 BC	1000 BC	900 BC	800 BC	700 BC	600 BC	500 BC	400 BC
Ancient Near East	Mesopotamia	Middle Assyrian Period (Arameans appear)			Neo-Assyrian Empire (911-612 BC) <small>(Shalmaneser III; Tiglath-pileser III; Sargon; Sennacherib make major campaigns and conquests in Levant)</small>			Neo-Babylonian/Chaldean Emp. <small>(Nebuchadnezzar expands Babylon)</small>	Persian Emp. <small>(Cyrus takes Babylon, 539 BC)</small>	
	Palestine	Iron Age I (1200-1000 BC) <small>poor isolated settlements</small>		Iron Age II (1000-586 BC) <small>development of centralized government, cities; ended by major destructions</small>				Persian Period <small>poor, sparsely populated</small>		
	Egypt	Shoshenq = Shishak (925 BC)			Late Period		Nubian Kings; Assyrian conquest		Persian dominance	
The Biblical Story	THE JUDGES	UNITED MONARCHY	DIVIDED MONARCHY ISRAEL AND JUDAH		JUDAH ASSYRIAN/BABYLONIAN INVASIONS	EXILE IN BABYLON	POST-EXILIC TEMPLE REBUILT			
Biblical Books in Face Value Story Order ¹	<i>Judges</i>	<i>1 Samuel 2 Samuel</i>	<i>1 Kings 2 Kings</i> →	<i>Amos Hosea Isaiah Micah Nahum</i>	<i>Zephaniah Jeremiah</i> →	<i>Obadiah Ezekiel Lamentations</i>	<i>Ezra Nehemiah Haggai Joel? Zechariah Esther Malachi</i>			
Biblical Characters	Deborah Samson	Samuel Saul	DAVID Solomon	Ahab, Elijah Elisha	Hezekiah Sennacherib Isaiah	Josiah Jeremiah Nebuchadnezzar	Daniel? Cyrus	Ezra Nehemiah Esther?		
Major Theological Events	<i>Monarchy Established</i>		<i>Davidic Covenant</i> ²	<i>Split of the Kingdom</i>			<i>Deuteronomic Reform</i> ³	<i>Destruction of Temple</i>	<i>EXILE</i>	<i>Partial Restoration</i>
Critical View of Composition Biblical Writings	Composition of "J" source of Pentateuch			Comp. of "E" source of Pentateuch		Comp. of "D" source of Pentateuch and Deut. Hist. ⁴	Comp. of "P" material in Pentateuch	2 nd Isaiah	Chronicles, Ezra-Nehemiah	Ruth, Job, Jonah
		12 th century BC	11 th century BC	10 th century BC	9 th century BC	8 th century BC	7 th century BC	6 th century BC	5 th century BC	

¹ Chronological positions approximate; books which cannot be "placed," in terms of events contained therein are not listed. For example, Psalms contains material from many periods and cannot be assigned a place on a event-based time line.

² Davidic Covenant = God would "establish" David's throne forever; i.e., his descendants would continue to rule God's people

³ Primarily as recorded of Josiah, guided by the discovery of "a book of the Law" (Deuteronomy?) in the Temple.

⁴ Deut. Hist. = Deuteronomic History, primarily Deuteronomy plus the Former Prophets (Josh, Judg, 1-2 Sam, 1-2 Kings).