

# Dating of the Old Testament

These notes date the Old Testament by the dates given in scripture starting with year 0 at creation. Where necessary, I have added notes to explain how I arrived at the dates. References are given in brackets throughout.

There are several areas in which the dates cannot be stated with certainty. Those dates are the birth of Abram (1949), and the last few hundred years before Christ.

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0000: Creation -- Creation of Adam. Lived 930 years. [Gen. 5:1-5]

0130: Birth of Seth. Lived 912 years. [Gen. 5:3-8]

0235: Birth of Enosh. Lived 905 years. [Gen. 5:6-12]

0325: Birth of Kenan. Lived 910 years. [Gen. 5:9-14]

0395: Birth of Mahalalel. Lived 910 years. [Gen. 5:12-17]

0460: Birth of Jared. Lived 962 years. [Gen. 5:15-20]

0622: Birth of Enoch. Lived 365 years. [Gen 5:18-24]

0687: Birth of Methuselah. Lived 969 years. [Gen.5:21-27]

0874: Birth of Lamech. Lived 777 years. [Gen. 5:25-31]

1056: Birth of Noah. Lived 950 years. [Gen. 5:28-32; 9:28-29]

1556: Birth of Ham, Shem, and Japheth. [Gen 5:32]. Ham youngest [Gen. 9:20-24]. Shem born 1559 [Gen. 11:11].

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Note: the birth of Ham, Shem, and Japheth is only given by one date. We know from Gen. 9:20-24 that Ham was the youngest. In order to calculate the date of Shem's birth, we need to work backwards from the birth of Shem's son, Arpachshad, in Gen. 11:10-11, which was 2 years after the flood.

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1656: Flood came: Noah's age: 600 years. 2 mons. 17 days [Gen. 7:11]

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- 1657: God tells Noah to leave Ark: 601 years. 2 mons. 27 days: Noah's age presumed. [Gen. 8:13]
- 1659: Birth of Arpachshad from Shem: 2 years after the flood. Shem 100 years old. [Gen. 11:10-13].
- 1694: Birth of Shelah [Gen. 11:12-15]
- 1724: Birth of Eber [Gen. 11:14-17]
- 1758: Birth of Peleg [Gen. 11:16-19]
- 1788: Birth of Reu [Gen. 11:18-21]
- 1820: Birth of Serug [Gen. 11:20-23]
- 1850: Birth of Nahor [Gen. 11:22-25]
- 1879: Birth of Terah [Gen. 11:24-27]
- 1949: Birth of Abram, Nahor, Haran [Gen. 11:26-32].
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Note: Scripture provides only a date for the birth of all three children. The date provided could be the date of the first born or the date after all three were born. Without a specific date for Abram's birth, I can only estimate. I have assumed that he was the first born, and have used the date of 1949. This may be correct or may be out a few years. Therefore all dates from this point are only estimates.

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- 1949: Birth of Abram.
- 2035: Birth of Ishmael (Hagar). [Gen. 16:16]
- 2049: Birth of Issac (Sarah). [Gen. 21:1-5]
- 2109: Birth of Esau and Jacob. [Gen. 25:24-26]
- 2200 approx: Birth of Joseph (mother: Rachael). [Gen. 30:22-24]
- 2217 approx: Joseph pastures land before his dream. [Gen. 37:2]
- 2230 approx: Appears to be the beginning of the 7 years of good. [Gen. 41:46]

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- 2239 approx: Joseph makes himself known to his brothers. [Gen. 45:6]
- 2239: Israel (Jacob) comes to Pharaoh at age 130. [Gen. 47:8-9]
- 2256: Jacob, after living in the land 17 years, died. [Gen. 47:28]
- 2310 approx: Joseph dies in Egypt. 110 years old. [Gen. 50:26]
- 2669: Israel's departing from Egypt; the 1st day of the 1st month of year 1. [Ex. 12:2 & 40] Calculated from Israel's arrival at Egypt (see year 2239 + 430)
- 2669: Israel's journey from Ramses on 1st month, 15th day [Ex. 33:3]
- 2670: 1st day, 1st mon, 2nd year, tabernacle was erected & Moses begins to take census in 1st day of 2nd month in 2nd year. [Ex. 40:17]
- 2670: Congregation moves out in 2nd year, 2nd month, on 20th day; going from Sinai to Paran wilderness [Ex. 10:11]
- 2708: Aaron (123 years old) the priest dies at Mount Hor in 1st day of 5th month of the 40th year. [Ex 33:38]
- 2709: Moses instructs the people to go in and possess the land; 40th year, 11th month, 1st day. [Deut. 1:4-8]

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NOTE: From this point on in scripture there are no longer any references to birth dates or years of the Israeli calendar. In order to calculate the dates as accurately as possible, I have compared the kings of Israel to the kings of Judah. As an example: a king that died in the 3rd year would stop reigning within the 3rd year; that is, after the end of the 2nd year, but before the end of, or at the end of, the 3rd year. This means that the average would be 2 1/2 years in this example. In the following listings of kings they are taken to the nearest 1/2 year, using the system noted above, because this would be the most accurate dating system for the kings of Israel and Judah during this period. See next note below for how the dates of the early kings are calculated. All dates are for the beginning of their reign.

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3105.5: Israel: Ish-bosheth reigns 2 yrs. [II Sam. 2:10]

3105.5: Judah: David reigns 7 1/2 years in Hebron [II Sam. 2:11]

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3113.0: Israel and Judah: David reigns 33 years [II Sam. 2:11; 5:4-5; I Kings 2:11] David reigns 40 years total (33 + 7). Closer to 7 than to 8. See note above, and note below.

3145.5: Israel and Judah: Solomon reigns 40 years [I Kings 2:11-12; 6:1; 11:42]

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Note: See I Kings 6:1 for the setting of the dates for the Kings. The dates above for the kings of Israel and Judah are reverse calculated from this verse.

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3185.5: Israel: Jeroboam reigns 22 years [I Kings 12:20; 14:20]

3185.5: Judah: Rehoboam reigns 17 yrs. [I Kings 12:1, 16-17; 14:21]

3203.0: Judah: Abijam reigns 3 years [I Kings 14:31; 15:1-2]

3205.0: Judah: Asa reigns 41 years. [I Kings 15:9-10]

3206.0: Israel: Nadah reigns 2 years [I Kings 14:20]

3208.0: Israel: Baasha reigns 24 years [I Kings 15:33]

3230.5: Israel: Elah reigns 2 years [I Kings 16:8]

3232.5: Israel: Zimri reigns 7 days. [I Kings 16:15] Omri & Tibni fought for throne for some time. [I Kings 16:21-22]

3235.5: Israel: Omri reigns 12 years [I Kings 16:23]

3242.5: Israel: Ahab reigns 22 years [I Kings 16:29]

3246.0: Judah: Jehoshaphat reigns 25 yrs. [I Kings 15:24; 22:41-42]

3262.5: Israel: Ahaziah reigns 2 years [I Kings 22:40, 51]

3263.5: Israel: Jehoram reigns 12 years. [II Kings 1:17; 3:1]

3268.0: Judah: Jehoram reigns 8 yrs [I Kings 22:50; II Kings 8:16-17]

3275.0: Judah: Ahaziah reigns 1 year

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NOTE: Ahaziah, son of Jeroram, king of Judah, became king in the 11th year Jehoram, king of Israel, but did not begin to reign until the 12th year of Jehoram king of Israel (3276.0). Refer to II Kings 8:25-26; 9:16, 29.

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- 3276.0: Israel: Jehu reigns 28 years [II Kings 9:14-37; 10:35-36]  
3276.0: Judah: Athaliah reigns 6 1/2 years. [II Kings 11:1-20]  
3282.5: Judah: Jehoash reigns 40 years. [II Kings 11:21; 12:1]  
3305.0: Israel: Jehoahaz reigns 17 years. [II Kings 10:35; 13:1]  
3319.0: Israel: Jehoash (Joash) reigns 16 years [II Kings 13:10]  
3321.5: Judah: Amaziah reigns 29 years [II Kings 12:21; 14:1-2]  
3335.0: Israel: Jeroboam reigns 41 years [II Kings 14:23]  
3361.5: Judah: Azariah reigns 52 years [II Kings 15:1-2]  
3399.0: Israel: Zechariah reigns 6 months [II Kings 14:29; 15:8]  
3400.0: Israel: Shallum reigns 1 month [II Kings 15:13]  
3400.0: Israel: Menahim reigns 10 years [II Kings 15:17]  
3411.0: Israel: Pekahiah reigns 2 years [II Kings 15:22-23]  
3413.0: Israel: Pekah reigns 20 years [II Kings 15:25, 27]  
3414.5: Judah: Jotham reigns 16 years [II Kings 15:7, 32-33]  
3429.5: Judah: Ahaz reigns 16 years [II Kings 15:38; 16:1-2]  
3441.0: Israel: Hoshea reigns 9 years [II Kings 15:30; 17:1]  
3443.5: Judah: Hezekiah reigns 29 years [II Kings 16:20; 18:1-2]

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NOTE: From here on there are only kings of Judah. The former method of comparing the kings of Israel and Judah against each other is not available. This former method was reasonably accurate; but now the years of the kings can only be close approximations.

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3472.5: Judah: Mannasseh reigns 55 years [II Kings 20:21; 21:1]

3527.5: Judah: Amon reigns 2 years [II Kings 21:18-19]

3529.5: Judah: Josiah reigns 31 years [II Kings 21:26; 22:1]

3560.5: Judah: Jehoahaz reigns 3 months [II Kings 23:30-31]

3560.5: Judah: Eliakim reigns 11 years [II Kings 23:34-36]

3571.5: Judah: Jehoiachin reigns 8 years (3 months in Jerusalem) [II Kings 24:6-8, 12]

3579.5: Judah: Mattaniah (Zedekiah) reigns 11 years [II Kings 24:17-18]

3591.0: Babylon: Beginning of the 70 years of the reign of Babylon; 19th year of King Nebuchadnezzar [II Kings 25:1-2, 8; Jer. 39:1-2; 25:1; II Chr. 36:17-23; Ezra 1:1-5]

3661.0: Persia: Reigns of Cyrus, King of Persia. [II Chr. 36:17-23; Ezra 1:1-5]

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To estimate the remaining time in the Old Testament in which dates are not given, I looked to the average generation, and used the geneology in Matthew. This method, again, introduces an estimate, as in the case of Abram's birthdate.

To calculate this I took the generations between two kings of whom the dates of their reign are known, and arrived at an average for a generation. This average is then used from that last king to the generation of Jesus Christ.

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<p>3105.5 David -----</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Solomon</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Rehoboam</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Abijah</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Asa</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Jehoshaphat</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Joram</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Uzziah</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Jotham</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Ahaz</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Hezekiah</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Manasseh</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Amon</p>	<p>-----</p> <p> </p> <p>-----</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3529.5 (Josiah)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>-3105.5 (David)</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;">- 13 Generations = 424.0</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><math>424.0 \div 13 = 32.6</math> years/generation</p>
<p>3529.5 Josiah -----</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Jeconiah</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Shealtiel</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Zerubbabel</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Abuid</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Eliakim</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Azor</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Zadok</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Achim</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Eliud</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Eleazar</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Matthan</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Jacob</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Joseph</p> <p>Jesus (Christ) -----</p>	<p>-----</p> <p> </p> <p>-----</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">- 14 Generations from Josiah to Jesus</p> <p style="text-align: right;">14 X 32.6 = 456.4 years from Josiah to Jesus</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3529.5 + 456.4 = 3985.9 years in Old Testament Approximately</p>

Articles, books, prophecies, and other materials are available from the web site, The Prophetic Word: [prophetic-word.org](http://prophetic-word.org)

To contact Thomas S. Gibson: <[tsgibson@telusplanet.net](mailto:tsgibson@telusplanet.net)>, 1125 - 6 Ave, Wainwright, AB T9W 1G2, Canada

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