

Jeremiah and the History of Israel

Jeremiah 1:1–3

The words of Jeremiah, the son of Hilkiah, one of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, to whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, and until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah, the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the captivity of Jerusalem in the fifth month.

Jeremiah's Life (645–585) and Ministry (626–585)

Judah during the Life of Jeremiah

Jeremiah Is Born:	Around 645 B.C.	Manasseh Reigns over Judah:	697–642 B.C. ¹
Jeremiah Is Called to Preach:	626 B.C.	Josiah Becomes King:	640 B.C.
Jeremiah Is Called to Write:	604 B.C.	The Book of the Law Is Found:	622 B.C.
		Josiah Killed by Pharaoh Neco of Egypt; Josiah Is Replaced by Jehoiakim: ²	609 B.C.
		Babylon Takes First Captives Away (e.g., Daniel)	605 B.C.
		Jehoiakim Dies and Is Replaced by Jehoiachin; Jehoiachin Is Taken Captive to Babylon; Babylon Replaces Jehoiachin with Zedekiah:	597 B.C.
		Zedekiah Rebels against Babylon:	589 B.C.
		Zedekiah Is Taken Captive and Executed; Babylon Destroys Jerusalem and the Temple:	587 B.C.
Jeremiah Is Taken Captive to Egypt:	585 B.C.		
Jeremiah Dies:	After 585 B.C. (likely in Egypt)		
The Last Chapter Is Written:	562 B.C. (Jeremiah 52)	Jehoiachin Is Raised Up by the King of Babylon:	562 B.C.

¹ I have listed Manasseh because he was a terrible king with an extremely long reign. His reign deeply influenced the character and future of Judah.

² Josiah is initially replaced by his son Jehoahaz, but the Egyptians quickly get rid of him (after just 3 months!) and install Josiah's son Jehoiakim as king of Judah.

A Basic Timeline of the History of Israel

The Time of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob	2,050–1,850 B.C.	Genesis 12–50
Israel's Sojourn in Egypt	1,850–1,450 B.C.	Exodus 1–2
Israel's Exodus from Egypt	1,450 B.C.	Exodus 3–15
Israel's Wandering in the Wilderness	1,450–1,400 B.C.	Exodus 16–Deuteronomy
The Conquest of Canaan	1,400–1,375 B.C.	Joshua
The Time of the Judges	1,375–1,050 B.C.	Judges–1 Samuel 7
The United Kingdom <i>(Saul, David, & Solomon)</i>	1,050–930 B.C.	1 Samuel 8–1 Kings 11
The Division of the Kingdom <i>(Jeroboam in the North [Israel] & Rehoboam in the South [Judah])</i> ³	930 B.C.	1 Kings 12
The Northern Kingdom [Israel]	930–722 B.C.	1 Kings 12–2 Kings 17
The Fall of Israel to Assyria	722 B.C.	2 Kings 17
The Southern Kingdom [Judah]	930–587 B.C.	1 Kings 12–2 Kings 25
The (Final) Fall of Judah to Babylon ⁴	587 B.C.	2 Kings 25

³ Note that both Jerusalem and the Davidic dynasty are in the southern kingdom of Judah.

⁴ Babylon conquered Judah in three stages (in 605, Daniel and others were taken captive; in 597, King Jehoiachin was taken captive; in 587, Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed.)