

Major Periods in the Old Testament

1. **Beginnings** (ca. ? – 2,000 B.C.): Creation through Babel, Genesis 1-11
 - Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah and the flood, tower of Babel
2. **Patriarchs** (ca. 2,000 – 1650 B.C.): Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Genesis 12-50
 - 12 sons of Israel, Joseph and Egypt
3. **Exodus and the Giving of the Law** (ca. 1445 – 1405 B.C.*): Exodus-Deuteronomy
 - Moses, Aaron, Joshua, priesthood, sacrifices, tabernacle, wilderness
4. **Occupation of the Land** (ca. 1400 – 1350 B.C.): Joshua
 - Conquest and division of the Land
5. **Period of the Judges** (ca. 1350 – 1050 B.C.): Judges
 - Notable Judges: Ehud, Deborah, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson,
6. **United Kingdom** (ca. 1050 – 930 B.C.): 1 Samuel-2 Chronicles 9
 - Saul, David, Solomon; building the Temple
7. **Divided Kingdom** (ca. 930 – 586 B.C.): 1 Kings 12-22; 2 Chronicles 10-36
 - Destruction of Samaria (ca. 722-721), Destruction of Jerusalem (ca. 586)
8. **Exile and Captivity** (ca. 605 – 538 B.C.): Daniel
 - Ezekiel, Daniel, Isaiah 40-66; Cyrus of Persia
9. **Return from Captivity** (ca. 538 – 400 B.C.): Ezra, Nehemiah
 - Zerubbabel, Rebuilding the Temple, Rebuilding Jerusalem
10. **Intertestamental Period** (ca. 400 – birth of Christ)
 - Rise of the Greeks (Alexander the Great)
 - Ptolemies and Seleucids control Palestine
 - Maccabean Revolt (ca. 165 B.C.)
 - Development of Judaism approaching the New Testament era

Note: dates are approximate and fluid. These give us a general sense of time, but most are not set in stone.

**Many argue for a later Exodus date of ca. 1290 B.C., which would affect the time periods through the judges.*

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