



BOOKLET
SERIES

UNDERSTANDING THE PAST

ISRAEL TIMELINE

A Journey Over 3,000 Years

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OVER 3,000 YEARS AGO...



Rome's Arch of Titus (built in 81 CE) depicts the destruction of Second Jewish Temple in Jerusalem.

AN INDIGENOUS PEOPLE DEVELOPED A THRIVING CIVILISATION AND CULTURE IN THEIR HOMELAND.

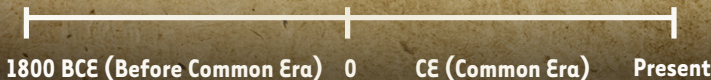
OVER TIME, THEY WERE CONQUERED BY A SERIES OF AGGRESSIVE FOREIGN EMPIRES, AND WHILE SOME OF THE PEOPLE STAYED IN THEIR CITIES AND COMMUNITIES, MOST OF THEM SCATTERED ACROSS EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

ALTHOUGH THEY FLOURISHED AT TIMES, FOR 1,900 YEARS THEY LIVED AS AN OPPRESSED MINORITY, SUFFERING PERSECUTION, FORCED CONVERSIONS, EXPULSIONS, AND ULTIMATELY GENOCIDE.

THEY BARELY SURVIVED BUT NEVER LOST HOPE.

THEY STARTED A LIBERATION MOVEMENT AND RETURNED TO THEIR HOMELAND, JOINING THOSE WHO WERE ALREADY THERE. TOGETHER, THEY BUILT ONE OF THE MOST INSPIRING NATIONS THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN.

THAT NATION IS ISRAEL,
AND THIS IS THE STORY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE
IN THEIR HOMELAND.



JEWS HAVE BEEN IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL FOR OVER 3,000 YEARS.

Old Babylonian/Egyptian/Old Assyrian Periods
2000–1000 BCE (Before Common Era)

1800–1300 BCE

According to Jewish and Christian religious tradition, in the 18th century BCE, Abraham migrates to the area between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea—then known as Canaan. According to biblical accounts, his descendants, Isaac and Jacob (also called Israel), are born there. Archaeological findings suggest that the early Israelites develop from the Canaanite tribes that live in the region during this era.

1300–1200 BCE

Israelite communities multiply in the hills of Canaan.



Solomon's Temple
(the First Jewish Temple).



A 2,700-year-old artifact showing ancient version of the language spoken in Israel today — Hebrew.

Neo-Assyrian Period 10th–7th centuries BCE

1000 BCE

King David makes Jerusalem the capital of the Israelite kingdom.

960 BCE

King Solomon, son of King David, expands the Israelite kingdom and builds the First Temple in Jerusalem.

722–721 BCE

The Assyrian empire destroys the northern kingdom of Israel. Exiled Jews become known as the “10 lost tribes.”



Assyrian siege.

Neo-Babylonian Period
626–539 BCE

586 BCE

The Babylonian empire conquers the southern kingdom—Judea. Jerusalem and the First Temple are destroyed. Most Jews are exiled to Babylonia (located in present-day Iraq).




Destruction of Solomon's Temple.

This illustration depicts the biblical event of the destruction of the First Temple in Jerusalem. In the foreground, a Babylonian soldier with a beard and a blue-and-white turban holds a large sword. Behind him, another soldier on a brown horse, also in Babylonian attire, holds a flaming torch aloft, ready to set the temple on fire. The temple's golden candelabrum is visible in the background. The scene is set against a dramatic, cloudy sky.

Persian Period
538–333 BCE

538–515 BCE

Jews return and rebuild the temple in Jerusalem (Second Temple) following the Persian defeat of the Babylonians.



Herod's Temple (the Second Jewish Temple).

This illustration shows a detailed view of Herod's Temple, also known as the Second Temple, in Jerusalem. The temple is a large, multi-tiered structure with a central courtyard and a large pool. It is surrounded by a high wall and a wide staircase. The city of Jerusalem is visible in the background, with its characteristic terraced hills and buildings. The scene is set during the day, with a clear sky.

Macedonian Empire
332–63 BCE

250–65 BCE

Dead Sea Scrolls are written in Hebrew and later hidden. They are discovered in 1947 by three Bedouin shepherds in caves near the Dead Sea.

Dead Sea Scrolls.

166–63 BCE

Judah Maccabee leads a Jewish revolt against the Macedonian (Greek) empire, reestablishing Jewish independence. Today, we commemorate this victory with the holiday of Chanukah.

Maccabee revolt.



Roman Empire
63 BCE–313 CE (Common Era)

**Ancient
Roman
coin.**



63 BCE

Under Roman rule, King Herod's massive building programmes turn the Second Temple into one of the wonders of the ancient world.

4 BCE–30 CE

Jesus of Nazareth preaches in the Galilee and Judea. The Romans put him to death.

20 CE

The city of Tiberius is founded on the ruins of a Jewish village. It will remain a centre of Jewish life for 1,300 years.

70 CE

The Romans destroy Jerusalem and the Second Temple in response to a Jewish revolt.

132–135 CE

The Romans squash the Bar Kochba revolt. Seeking to destroy memory of the Jewish nation, Romans rename the territory from Judea as Syria-Palaestina (a name tied to the Philistines, an ancient people of Greek origin). As different empires conquer the land for the next 18 centuries, it comes to be known as Palestine. Jews around the world continue to call it the land of Israel.



Detail from the Arch of Titus, erected in 81 CE, depicting the looting of the Second Temple.

The Arch of Titus in Rome commemorates the Jews' defeat by the Romans.

135–400 CE

Jewish life thrives in Galilee and Tiberius. The Jerusalem Talmud (an ancient work of Jewish law) is completed in the third or fourth century.

Byzantine Rule—Adoption of Christianity 313–637 CE

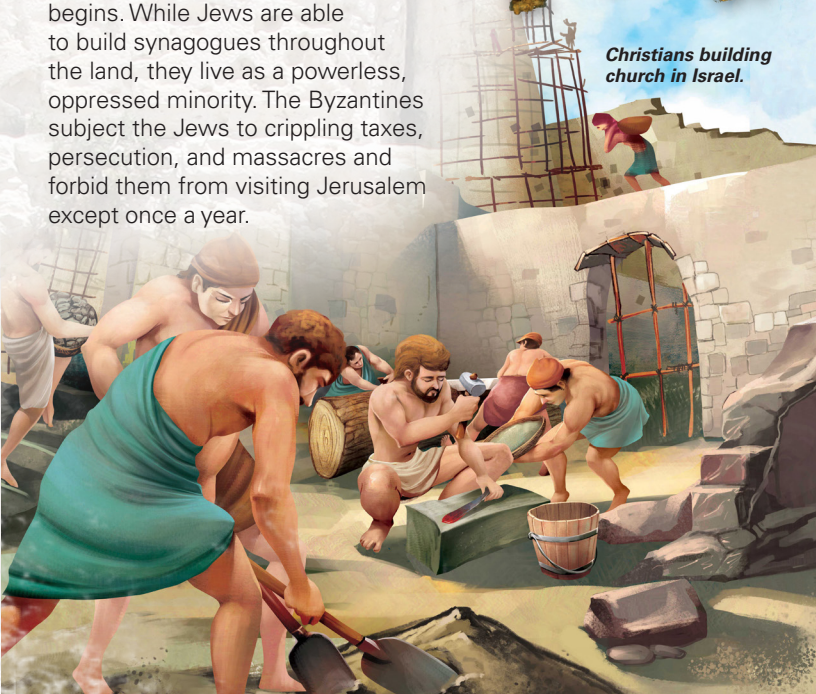
313–637

The Byzantine Christian empire's rule begins. While Jews are able to build synagogues throughout the land, they live as a powerless, oppressed minority. The Byzantines subject the Jews to crippling taxes, persecution, and massacres and forbid them from visiting Jerusalem except once a year.

*Letter from
Bar Kochba.*



*Christians building
church in Israel.*



Arab Islamic Conquest
637–1095 CE

637–1095

Muslim forces conquer ancient Israel, ending Byzantine rule. Jewish life revives, though Jews are second-class citizens (“Dhimmis”), at best, under Muslim rule.



Medallion unearthed at the foot of the Temple Mount, dating from the early 7th century CE. The medallion depicts the menorah, shofar (ram's horn), and Torah scroll.

Crusader Kingdoms
1095–1187 CE

1095–1187

European Crusaders defeat the Muslims, massacring Jews in Europe along the way, plundering Jerusalem, and decimating the Jewish community in the holy city. The Jewish population declines.



Saladin's Empire—Ayyubid Dynasty
1187–1254 CE

1187

Jews fight alongside Saladin, the Kurdish sultan of Egypt, to expel the Crusaders. Jewish life is revived again.

1211

Wave of Jews return to the land of Israel, led by 300 prominent rabbis from Europe, joining those who are already there.

Saladin and his army.



Mamluk Islamic Empire—New Dynasty in Egypt 1254–1516 CE

1481–1492

Spanish Inquisition: The Jews of Spain are forced to convert to Christianity at pain of death or expulsion, and even those who convert remain "suspect." Many flee to the Middle East, including to the land of Israel.



Jews arriving in Turkey from Spain.

1500

Bolstered by Jews fleeing to Israel from Spain, the city of Safed becomes a thriving centre of Jewish life and mysticism.

The mystical city of Safed.

1520–1625

Jews continue returning to Israel in large numbers, despite increasingly harsh treatment by the Ottoman authorities.

1558

Jews begin rebuilding Tiberius as a centre of Jewish life with the Ottoman sultan's approval.

1834

Muslim Arab rioters massacre Jews living in Safed and Hebron.

1847

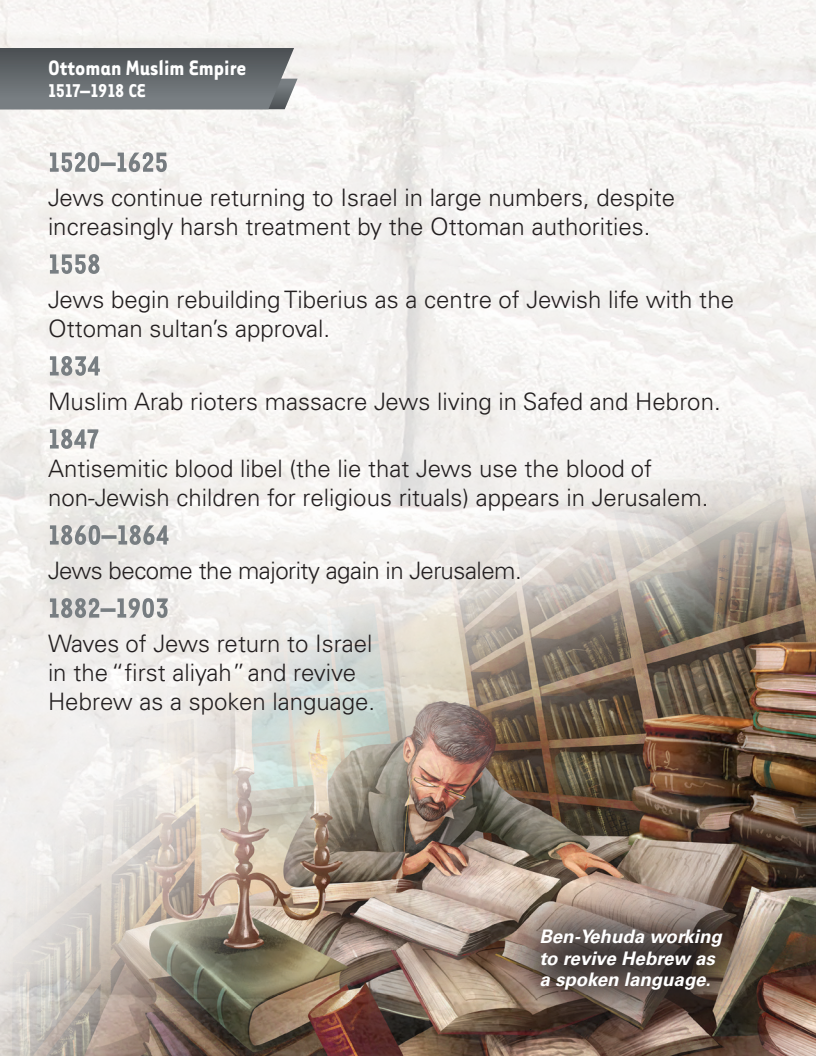
Antisemitic blood libel (the lie that Jews use the blood of non-Jewish children for religious rituals) appears in Jerusalem.

1860–1864

Jews become the majority again in Jerusalem.

1882–1903

Waves of Jews return to Israel in the “first aliyah” and revive Hebrew as a spoken language.

An illustration of a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a dark suit, sitting at a desk in a library. He is leaning over several open books, appearing to be reading or writing. On the desk, there is a small oil lamp with a flame. The background shows tall wooden bookshelves filled with many books. The overall scene is dimly lit, with light coming from the lamp and a window in the background.

Ben-Yehuda working to revive Hebrew as a spoken language.

An illustration depicting the First Zionist Congress. In the foreground, a man with a beard and a dark coat (Theodor Herzl) stands at a podium, holding a piece of paper and addressing the assembly. To his right, another man with a mustache and a light-colored suit stands. Behind them, several other men are seated or standing, some looking towards the speaker. In the background, a large flag with a yellow Star of David on a blue and white field is visible. The scene is set in a grand hall with classical architectural elements.

1897

Theodor Herzl organises the First Zionist Congress. Zionism is the liberation movement of the Jewish people, who sought to overcome 1,900 years of dispossession and oppression, return to the land of Israel, and achieve self-determination in their ancestral home.

Late 1800s–Early 1900s

A wave of pogroms (massacres against Jews) occurs in Russia and Eastern Europe. These pogroms lead many Jews to join the Zionist movement and return to their ancestral home.

1901–1910

The Jewish National Fund is formed to purchase land to build Jewish communities in Israel and develop the foundations of a state. Degania, the first kibbutz (socialist Jewish community), is established in 1910. The city of Tel Aviv is founded in 1909.

*Theodor Herzl
addresses the First
Zionist Congress.*

Rise of Modern Nation-state in the Middle East 1917 CE–Today

1917

Britain's Balfour Declaration pledges support for a Jewish national home in Palestine, the ancient homeland of the Jewish people, while protecting the rights of all groups living there

1920

The League of Nations sets up the Palestine Mandate, recognising it as the Jewish homeland under international law.

1920–1936

The British appoint Haj Amin al-Husseini as de facto leader of the Palestinian Arabs. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict begins when he incites murderous riots that kill scores of Jews.

In 1922, Britain creates Trans-Jordan by cutting off 80 percent of the original Palestine Mandate. This leaves 20 percent of the territory originally promised for the creation of a Jewish national home.

The *Palestine Post* (now the *Jerusalem Post*) is founded in 1932.

The Palestine Orchestra is founded in 1936 and later becomes the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

Arthur
James
Balfour
favours
a Jewish
national
homeland.



1936–1939

Haj Amin al-Husseini leads the Great Arab Revolt. Nazi Germany provides funds and weapons, and al-Husseini later collaborates with Hitler during the Holocaust.

1937

The British Peel Commission proposes dividing the land into a tiny Jewish state and a much larger Arab state. Jewish leaders agree to negotiate. Arab leaders say no.

1939–1945

World War II: Nazis and their allies exterminate six million Jews (two thirds of European Jewry and almost 40 percent of world Jewry) in the Holocaust. The British harshly restrict immigration to the Palestine Mandate, preventing countless Jews from finding safety. This leads to intense conflict between Jews and the British authorities.

1947

The Palestine Mandate's Jewish population reaches 650,000, as survivors of oppression and genocide around the world seek freedom in their homeland. The UN partition plan calls for dividing the land into one Jewish and one Arab state. Jewish leaders say yes, but Arab leaders say no and launch a war to prevent Israel from being born.



***World War II:
Nazi persecution
and murder of
European Jews.***



***Adolf Hitler and
Haj Amin al-Husseini.***

1948

In the midst of violent conflict between Arab and Jewish forces, Israel declares independence, and Jews regain sovereignty after 1,900 years. Five Arab armies immediately invaded in an effort to annihilate the newly born state, but Israel defeats them and survives.

1948–1951

The Jewish population doubles, as over 800,000 Jewish refugees flee racism and violence across Europe and the Middle East and return to Israel.

1949

The United Nations votes Israel in as its 59th member.

The first Knesset (Israeli Parliament) has 120 members, including three Arab citizens of Israel.

1950

The Knesset enacts the Law of Return, fulfilling Israel's mission to "ingather the exiles" and to serve as a safe haven for Jews facing oppression.



*Celebrating Israeli statehood
on May 14, 1948, in Tel Aviv.*

1951

Operations Ezra and Nechemia: Israel rescues 121,000 persecuted Jews from Iraq.

1952–1964

As persecution increases in newly independent Arab states, another 240,000 Jewish refugees are forced to leave and go to their ancestral homeland in Israel. By the 1970s, a total of over 850,000 Jews flee Arab states.

1964

Israeli company Netafim invents drip irrigation, which will help farmers on six continents conserve water and maximise efficiency.

1966

Hebrew novelist and short story writer S.Y. Agnon receives the Nobel Prize in Literature.

1967

Israel successfully defends itself against threats of annihilation by five Arab countries in the Six-Day War. Israel gains control of Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, the West Bank (also known as Judea and Samaria), the Sinai Peninsula, and Gaza. The UN passes Resolution 242, calling on Israel to withdraw from territories captured if and when its neighbours agree to live in peace.



***Jewish refugees
from Arab
countries.***



***Liberation of
Jerusalem, 1967.***

1969 Golda Meir becomes prime minister of Israel, the third female head of state in the world.

1973 Israel successfully defends itself against the surprise Yom Kippur war launched by Egypt and Syria.

1976 The Entebbe Rescue: Terrorists hijack a plane flying from Israel to France. Israeli commandos fly 2,500 miles to Entebbe, Uganda, and rescue the hostages.

Golda Meir.

1979 Israel and Egypt make peace, and Israel returns the Sinai Peninsula.

1982–1985 First Lebanon war: Israel fights the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) after it launches terrorist attacks against Israelis from southern Lebanon. War ends with the PLO expelled to Tunisia.

Eight thousand Ethiopian Jews come home to Israel through Operation Moses.

1986 Natan Sharansky, famed Soviet refusenik, is freed and settles in Israel after spending nine years in a Russian prison.

1987 The first intifada (uprising) begins in the West Bank and Gaza, marked by a long series of protests and violent riots in which Israelis are attacked with firebombs, guns, and other weapons.

*Entebbe Rescue of
Israelis in Uganda.*



1991

Operation Solomon: In 36 hours, Israeli aircraft airlift another 14,200 Ethiopian Jews home to Israel.

1993

Israel and the PLO sign a landmark treaty known as the Oslo Accords. While at first seen as a monumental step toward a peaceful two-state solution to the conflict, it is followed by terrorism against Israeli civilians and rejections by Palestinian leaders of numerous Israeli peace offers.

1994

Israel signs a peace treaty with Jordan.

1996

An Israeli company invents instant messaging technology.

2000

Israel is ranked second in the world, just behind the U.S., in the number of startup companies and first in the number of startups per capita.

Immigration from the former Soviet Union to Israel nears the 1 million mark.

U.S. President Bill Clinton watches Jordan's King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin shaking hands during the Israel-Jordan peace negotiations.



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat rejects a proposal for peace with Israel. The second intifada is launched—Israeli civilians are massacred in suicide bombings and other attacks.

Israel's Given Imaging invents the Pill-Cam™, an ingestible video camera used to diagnose intestinal disease noninvasively.

2003

Israel's first astronaut, Ilan Ramon, is a crew member aboard the ill-fated U.S. space shuttle Columbia.

2004

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry goes to Israelis Aaron Ciechanover and Avram Hershko and American Irwin Rose.



Col. Ilan Ramon.



2005

The Nobel Prize in Economic Science goes to Israeli Robert J. Aumann and American Thomas C. Schelling. Since 2000, Israelis have won three times as many Nobel Prizes per capita in science and economics than the next highest-ranked countries.

With hopes for peace, Israel evacuates over 8,500 Jews living in Gaza.



2006

Dorit Beinisch is the first woman elected president of Israel's Supreme Court.

Legendary financier Warren Buffett invests \$4 billion in the Israeli company Iscar, his first major purchase outside the U.S. for his company, Berkshire Hathaway.

Hamas, a racist terrorist organisation, wins Palestinian legislative elections and, in 2007, takes control of Gaza in a violent coup. Hamas intensifies rocket fire against Israeli civilians, which began in 2001.



**Warren
Buffett.**

NASDAQ®

Israeli soldiers are killed near the Gaza border, and Gilad Shalit is kidnapped.

Israel has more companies listed on NASDAQ than any other country outside North America.

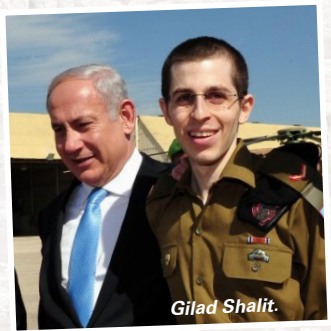
The terrorist group Hezbollah launches rocket attacks on Israeli cities from Lebanon and kidnaps Israeli soldiers, giving rise to the second Lebanon war.

Israel recognises same-sex marriages and adoption rights for LGBTQ+ couples. LGBTQ+ Israelis continue to fight for their rights and win in the following years.

2008

The world's leading wine critic gives top scores to 14 Israeli wines, putting Israeli wineries on the international map.

Israel offers Palestinians virtually 100 percent of the West Bank (a.k.a. Judea and Samaria) and Gaza for a peace agreement. Palestinian leaders say no and make no counteroffer.



***Award-winning
Israeli wines.***



2008–2021

Operations Cast Lead, Pillar of Defence, Protective Edge, and Guardian of the Walls are launched by Israel in response to over 20,000 rockets and missiles fired from Gaza by Hamas. Palestinian and Israeli civilians suffer immensely as a result of Hamas war crimes.

2010

ReWalk, the FDA-approved Israeli technology enabling paraplegics to walk, debuts on the American TV show *Glee*.


Haiti experiences a devastating 7.0 earthquake. Israel immediately sends a team of 250 Israeli doctors, nurses, and rescue workers to Haiti to save lives.

2012


Iron Dome, an Israeli defence system that stops rockets mid-flight, debuts in Operation Pillar of Defence.

2013

Google buys Israeli navigation app Waze for \$1.3 billion.



*Iron Dome,
the Israeli
defence system.*



*ReWalk allows
paraplegics to
walk again.*

2015

Israel is hit with a wave of terrorism, fueled by incitement and financial rewards from Palestinian leaders.

Israel uses its water technology and expertise in water conservation to help California overcome a severe drought.

2017

Israeli actress Gal Gadot stars in the film *Wonder Woman*, inspiring audiences all over the world.

2020

Israelis develop and share unique solutions, empowering people around the world to overcome challenges related to COVID-19, clean water access, sustainable agriculture, and more.

Israel signs historic peace deals with the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan as part of the *Abraham Accords*.

2021

In a historic first, Ra'am—a political party representing religious Arab Muslim citizens of Israel—signs an agreement with parties from across the political spectrum and becomes part of Israel's governing coalition.

Israel, the UAE, Bahrain, and the U.S. launch the Abraham Accords.

Israel launched the first COVID-19 vaccine campaign.

Israeli aid worker and child in Haiti.

Gal Gadot.

Watergen creates high-quality drinking water from air.



2022

Foreign ministers from Israel, the UAE, Egypt, Morocco, and Bahrain meet at the Negev Summit in Israel to discuss regional cooperation.



Israeli President Isaac Herzog visits Bahrain and the UAE. The first direct flights from Dubai to Tel Aviv take off.



Photo by Davidi Vardi
Pikiviki Israel, CC BY 2.5

Israeli company Eviation makes history with the world's first flight of an all-electric passenger aircraft. Israeli tech startups receive investments of \$17 billion.



Photo by Matti Blume, CC BY-SA 4.0

2023

Israelis confront major social and political divisions as the government seeks to reduce the power of Israel's judicial system and a large protest movement opposes these changes.

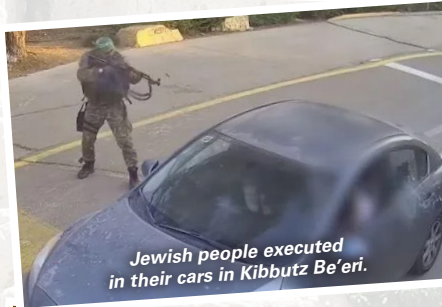
Israel's free trade agreement with the UAE goes into effect. The UAE, Jordan, and Israel advance a deal to trade desalinated water for solar energy.

Peace and normalisation talks between Israel, Saudi Arabia, and the U.S. gain momentum.



The October 7th War begins when Hamas invades Israel and brutally massacres, tortures, rapes, and kidnaps over 1,400 people and wounds almost 13,000. The vast majority of the casualties are civilians.

Hamas terrorism in the south and Hezbollah terrorism in the north displace 200,000 Israelis from their homes.



Israel responds with airstrikes, followed by a long and painful ground operation against terrorists in Gaza. The war is horrific for Palestinians living there.



While Israel coordinates massive deliveries of humanitarian aid and takes many other steps to avoid harming civilians in Gaza, Hamas does everything to put them in harm's way.



The destruction from a Palestinian Islamic Jihad rocket that fell short in the parking lot of Gaza's Al-Ahli Hospital.

Israelis unite in the face of horrific tragedy, launching countless grassroots initiatives to support victims of October 7 and address other aspects of the crisis.

2024

As of August 2024, the October 7th War continues, with devastating results for both Israelis and Palestinians. Although 140 hostages have been freed, over 115 remain in Gaza.

Hamas leaders promise to repeat their atrocities over and over until Israel is destroyed. Israel continues to fight to dismantle Hamas, remove it from power in Gaza, and ensure a massacre like October 7 can never happen again.

MODERN ISRAEL

Represents resilience, justice, and hope. With over 3,000 years of history in their ancestral homeland and nearly 80 years of modern statehood, Jews continue to thrive in the face of adversity. Despite its many ongoing challenges, Israel continues to make the world a better place.

IMAGINE PEACE

Imagine if Israelis no longer faced hostility from their neighbours and could focus even more attention on social progress and making the world a better place.



OVER 3,000 YEARS OF JEWISH HISTORY

1300–1200 BCE: Israelite communities grow in the hills of Canaan.

1000 BCE: King David makes Jerusalem the capital of the Israelite kingdom.

960 BCE: King Solomon builds the First Temple in Jerusalem.

586 BCE: The First Temple is destroyed by the Babylonian empire.

538 BCE: Jews return and begin to rebuild the temple (Second Temple).

20 CE: The city of Tiberius is founded and becomes the centre of Jewish life for 1,300 years.

70 CE: The Roman Empire, led by Titus, destroys the Second Temple. Most Jews scatter across Europe and the Middle East.

81 CE: The Arch of Titus in Rome commemorates the Jews' defeat and the sacking of the temple.

1211: A wave of Jews, led by 300 European rabbis, returns to the land of Israel.

1481–1492: Many Jews flee Spain to the land of Israel during the Spanish Inquisition.

1500: Safed becomes a thriving centre of Jewish life and mysticism.

1558: Jews begin to rebuild Tiberius with the Ottoman sultan's approval.

1860–1864: Jews become the majority again in Jerusalem.

& CONNECTION TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL

- 1882–1903:** Waves of Jews return to Israel in the “first aliyah.” Hebrew is revived as the Jews’ spoken language.
- 1897:** Theodor Herzl organises the first Zionist Congress.
- 1909:** The city of Tel Aviv is founded.
- 1917:** The Balfour Declaration supports restoration of the Jewish home in Palestine, while protecting the rights of all people living there.
- 1920:** The League of Nations establishes the Palestine Mandate (including modern-day Jordan), recognising it as the Jewish homeland under international law.
- 1920–1936:** Palestinian Arab leader Haj Amin al-Husseini initiates Arab riots against Jews, later conspiring with Hitler.
- 1937:** Arab leaders reject the British proposal to divide the land into a small Jewish state and a much larger Arab state.
- 1939–1945:** The Nazis exterminate six million European Jews—almost 40 percent of world Jewry—in the Holocaust.
- 1947:** Arab leaders reject the UN proposal to divide the land into a Jewish state and an Arab state and launch civil war.
- 1948:** Israel declares independence as a Jewish and democratic state, with equal rights for all citizens. Jews achieve self-determination after 1,900 years as an oppressed minority across Europe and the Middle East. Five Arab armies attack.
- 1949:** Israel joins the UN and forms the Knesset (Israel’s parliament).

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