

Overview of Bible timeline events

This table traces the development of God's kingdom through the Bible timeline. At each point we note who God's people are, the place of his kingdom, and how he is ruling over his people. Between these we note the process that transitions us into the next stage of God's kingdom. We also include additional notes for context.

God's people	God's place	God's rule	Notes
Adam and Eve	Eden	In person	<i>Genesis 1-11 is essentially the first half of the Bible, about the continual fall of humanity and their inability to get back. The second half starts with God's plans through Abraham and his family</i>
Humanity's repeated failure to serve God			
Abraham, Isaac, Jacob	Wandering to Egypt	Intermittent, promise	<i>By calling Abraham (Gen 12), a distinction is made between his family and the nations. God only visits Abraham and his sons occasionally, rather than living with them continually.</i>
Redemption from Egyptian slavery			
Israel	Wandering in wilderness, tabernacle	Leader and covenant law	<i>Israel are made a nation of kings and priests for God (Ex 19), and are given the law to know how to live properly with him (Deut 4-6). God promises blessings if they uphold the covenant with him, and curses if they don't, always assuring them that they will be redeemed (Lev 26, Deut 28-30).</i>
Conquest of Canaan			
Israel	Promised land, temple	Kings, prophets, and law	<i>Israel asked for a king. The king's job was to meditate on the law continually, and lead Israel to follow it (Deut 17:14ff).</i>
Kingdom divided			
Judah	Southern promised land, temple	Kings, prophets, and law	<i>The book of Kings traces the history of both kingdoms, but Judah is more truly God's because this is where the temple is. Both kingdoms reject God and are promised exile (eg. Jer 25)</i>
Assyrian and Babylonian Exile			
Judah	Babylonian captivity	Absent from people, looking forward to return and new hearts	<i>The northern king were exiled by Assyria, who interbred with the nations they conquered. Later the southern kingdom was exiled in Babylon, and were promised they'd return in 70 years (Jer 25:8-14)</i>
Return from Exile			
Judah	Jersuaem	Absent from 2nd temple	<i>Ezra 1:1 references the promised return from Jeremiah. Zerubbabel rebuilds the temple, Ezra calls the people to follow the law, Nehemiah builds the wall. This entire situation is full of mixed success.</i>
Waiting for God to return			
The world	Judea and Galilee	Jesus	<i>God returns to his people as expected, but in an unexpected way: rather than defeat the human enemies of Israel, he defeats the enemy behind all enemies: death itself. Ushers in God's kingdom now, awaiting its completion when he returns again.</i>
Jesus's victory over death, and ascension			
Jews and Gentiles	Wandering on earth, God's people	Jesus as Lord, Holy Spirit as guide	<i>Jesus had promised that the Holy Spirit would come. Halfway through Acts (ch. 15) we see the council of Jerusalem, in which the Apostles and Elders determine that the Gentiles are God's people without becoming Jews</i>
Jesus's return			
Children of God	New heavens and earth	Direct	<i>Christ returns and judges, makes all things new, and we live with God perfectly (Rev 21:1-8)</i>