

Chronology of the Intertestamental period

539–331 BC	The Persian period
334–323 BC	Alexander the Great of Macedonia conquers Asia Minor and the Persian Empire and introduces Hellenism.
323–198 BC	The Ptolemaic kings of Egypt control Judea.
198–164 BC	The Seleucid kings of Syria control Judea.
168–167 BC	The Seleucid king Antiochus IV Epiphanes loots the Jerusalem temple and makes it a place for pagan worship.
167–165 BC	The Maccabean revolt is led by Mattathias (dies in 166 BC) and his five sons.
165–164 BC	Mattathias's son Judas Maccabeus wins independence for Judea (the beginning of the Hasmonean period). The Jerusalem temple is cleansed and Hanukkah (the Feast of Lights) is celebrated for the first time.
165–160 BC	Rule of Judas Maccabeus
159–143 BC	Judas's brother Jonathan becomes high priest and rules Judea.
143–135 BC	Jonathan's brother Simon becomes high priest and rules Judea.
135–104 BC	Rule of Simon's son John Hyrcanus, who becomes high priest in 135 BC. When Judea gains full political independence in 128 BC, John Hyrcanus becomes the first king of Judea. This is the beginning of the Hasmonean dynasty.
63 BC	The Roman general Pompey takes control of Judea.
37–4 BC	King Herod (a Jew of Idumean descent) rules Judea under Rome.
AD 66–74	The Jewish revolt against Rome
AD 70	The fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the temple

The kings of Persia at the end of the Old Testament period

559–530 BC	Cyrus the Great (mentioned in 2 Chron 36:22–23; Ezra 1:1–8; Isaiah 45:1)
530–522 BC	Cambyses (not mentioned in the Bible)
522–486 BC	Darius I, the Great (mentioned in Ezra 4:5, 24; 5:5–7; 6:1–15; Haggai 1:1; 2:1, 10, 18; Zech 1:1, 7; 7:1)
486–465 BC	Xerxes/Ahasuerus (the Persian king of the book of Esther)
465–424 BC	Artaxerxes I (mentioned in Ezra 7:1–8; Nehemiah 2:1–8; 5:14; 13:6)

The first Roman emperors

The Julio-Claudian dynasty

31 BC–AD 14	Augustus (Octavian) – Luke 2:1
AD 14–37	Tiberius – Luke 3:1
AD 37–41	Gaius (Caligula) – not mentioned in the Bible
AD 41–54	Claudius – Acts 11:28; 18:2
AD 54–68	Nero – not mentioned in the Bible

Rome was then ruled by three emperors in quick succession, Galba, Otho and Vitellius, none of them mentioned in the Bible.

The Flavian dynasty

AD 69–79	Vespasian – not mentioned in the Bible
AD 79–81	Titus – not mentioned in the Bible
AD 81–96	Domitian – not mentioned in the Bible