

Levant: Archaeological & Historical Periods

PALEOLITHIC • Neanderthal • Homo Sapiens sapiens	120,000 – 8300 BCE • 120,000 – 60,000 BCE • 90,000 BCE – present	
NEOLITHIC	8300 – 4800 BCE	sedentary villages, agriculture
CHALCOLITHIC	4800 – 3200 BCE	craft specialization
EARLY BRONZE AGE	3200 – 2200 BCE	development of cities
INTERMEDIATE BRONZE AGE	2200 – 1900 BCE	destructions & population movements, pastoralism
MIDDLE BRONZE AGE	1900 – 1600 BCE	large cities, long distance trade, Hyksos empire
LATE BRONZE AGE	1600 – 1200 BCE	Egyptian and Hittite empires; Phoenician cities
IRON I	1200 – 1000 BCE	Sea Peoples, Philistine & Israelite settlements
IRON II a	1000 – 928 BCE	United Monarchy of David & Solomon
IRON II b	928 – 721 BCE	Kingdoms of Israel (N) & Judah (S)
IRON III a	721 – 586 BCE	Assyrian rule (N) / independent Judah (S)
NEO-BABYLONIAN	586 – 539 BCE	a.k.a. Iron IIIb
ACHAEMENID PERSIAN EMPIRE	539 – 331 BCE	capital in Persepolis
HELLENISTIC PERIOD • Diadochoi • Ptolemies • Seleucids • Hasmoneans	331 - 63 BCE • 323 – 301 BCE • 301 – 199 BCE • 199 – 63 BCE • 164 – 63 BCE	Alexander the Great (333-323 BCE) • fighting between Alexander's generals • Ptolemaic empire • Seleucid empire • Judah Maccabee & Hasmonean kingdom
ROMAN EMPIRE • Herodian period • Roman Judea • Syria-Palaestina	63 BCE - 334 CE • 37 BCE – 70 CE • 6 – 66 CE • 70 CE – 334 CE	Pompey the Great establishes Roman Syria • Herod & sons rule client kingdoms • Judea ruled by Roman procurators • destruction of 2nd Temple, Mishnaic period
BYZANTINE EMPIRE	334 – 640	Constantine establishes capital at Constantinople
EARLY ISLAMIC PERIOD	640 – 1099	Umayyad, Abbasid, & Fatimid caliphates
FRANKISH RULE • Kingdom of Jerusalem • Kingdom of Acre	1099 – 1187 • 1099 – 1187 • 1191 – 1291	First - Third Crusades, Christian rule • Godfrey of Bouillon – Salah al-Din • Richard the Lionheart – Fall of Acre
LATER ISLAMIC PERIOD • Ayyubid Dynasty • Mameluk Kingdom	1187 – 1517 • 1187 – 1250 • 1250 – 1517	restoration of Islamic rule • capital at Damascus • capital at Cairo

OTTOMAN EMPIRE	1517 – 1914	capital in Constantinople (Istanbul); dismantled after World War I
POST WWI POLITIES, north to south		
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY	1922-present	capital in Ankara
FRENCH MANDATE in Syria and Lebanon	1923-1946	
REPUBLIC OF SYRIA	1946-present	capital in Damascus
REPUBLIC OF LEBANON	1946-present	capital in Beirut
BRITISH MANDATE in Palestine	1914 – 1948	
STATE OF ISRAEL	1948 – present	independent Jewish state
PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY	1994 – present	autonomous regions of Gaza and Jericho