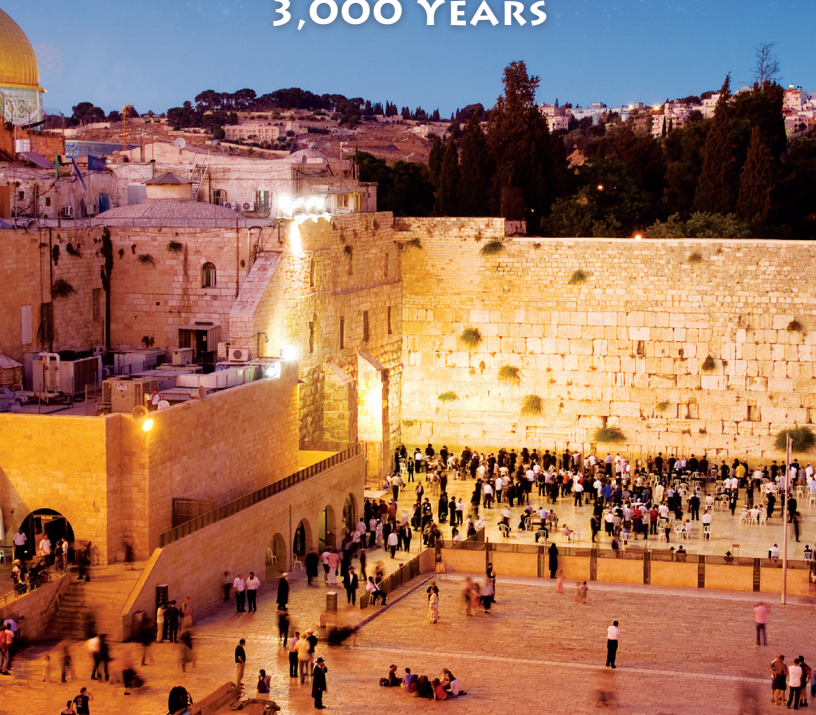


# ISRAEL TIMELINE

A JOURNEY OVER  
3,000 YEARS



**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 CIVILIZATION 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, EXPULSIONS, AND ULTIMATELY GENOCIDE.

THEY BARELY SURVIVED BUT NEVER LOST HOPE. THEY OVERCAME.

THEY STARTED A LIBERATION MOVEMENT, WENT BACK HOME TO JOIN THOSE WHO WERE ALREADY THERE, AND 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.



1800 BCE (Before Common Era) 0 CE (Common Era) Present

# 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**

Religious Jews and Christians believe that 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.*

An illustration depicting the destruction of Solomon's Temple. In the foreground, a Babylonian soldier in a yellow and grey tunic, a blue and white turban, and a sword stands holding a golden candelabrum. In the background, a Babylonian warrior on a brown horse, wearing a blue and white turban and a shield, holds a flaming torch aloft. The scene is set against a backdrop of a city with a large, ornate temple structure being destroyed by fire and smoke.

**Persian Period**  
538–333 BCE

## 538–515 BCE

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



*Herod's Temple  
(the Second Jewish Temple).*

An illustration of Herod's Temple, the Second Jewish 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 background shows a city with many buildings and a large tree. The scene is set against a backdrop of a city with a large, ornate temple structure being destroyed by fire and smoke.

**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 the caves near the Dead Sea.

## 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.

*Dead Sea Scrolls.*

*Maccabee revolt.*



**Roman Empire**  
63 BCE–313 CE (Common Era)

**Ancient  
Roman  
coin.**



## 63 BCE

Under Roman rule, King Herod's massive building programs 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 center of Jewish life for 1,300 years.

## 70 CE


The Romans destroy Jerusalem and the Second Temple.

## 132–135 CE

The Romans squash the Bar Kochba revolt. Seeking to destroy memory of the Jewish nation, Romans rename the land "Palestine" after the Jews' ancient enemy—a people of Greek origin called the Philistines. For the next 18 centuries, various empires fight over the land and give it different names, but the Jews 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. Jews face 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.



**1500**

Bolstered by Jews fleeing to Israel from Spain, the city of Safed becomes a thriving center 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 center of Jewish life with the Ottoman sultan's approval.

## **1834**

Muslim Arabs massacre the Jews living in Safed and Hebron.

## **1847**

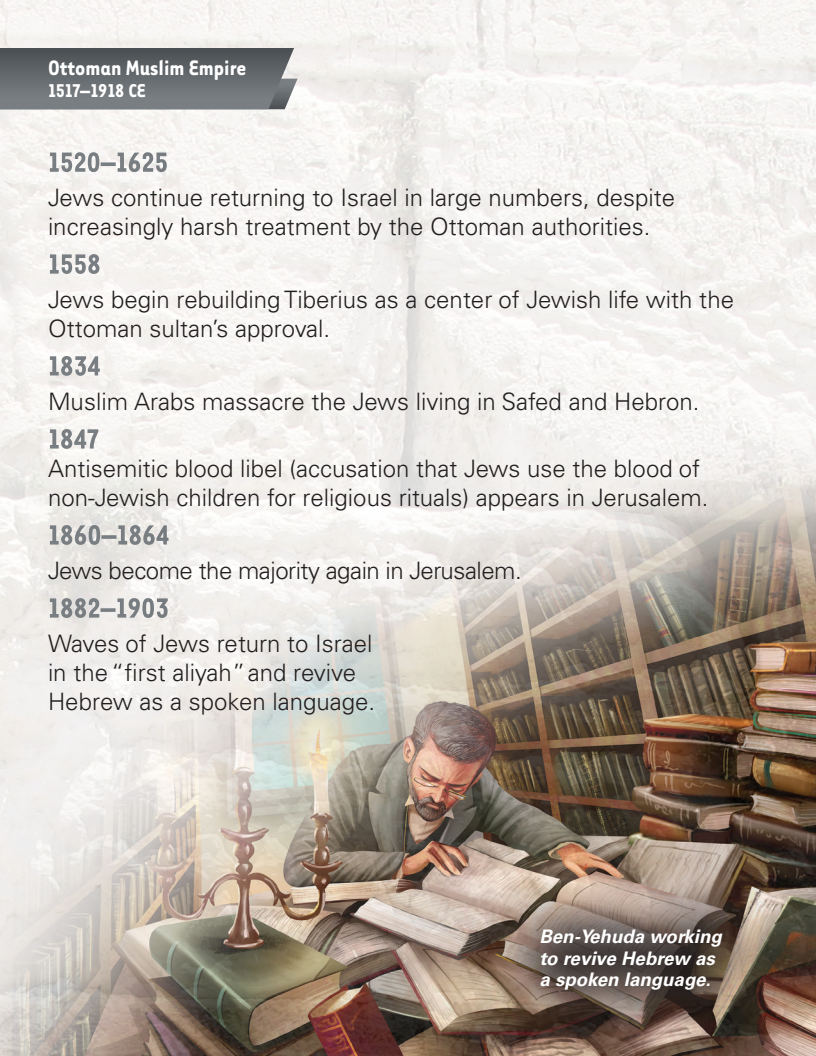
Antisemitic blood libel (accusation that Jews use the blood of non-Jewish children for religious rituals) appears in Jerusalem.

## **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, reading intently. The desk is cluttered with books, and a two-branched candle holder with lit candles sits on the left. In the background, tall wooden bookshelves are filled with books. The scene is lit with warm, golden light, suggesting a quiet study or library.

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

An illustration depicting the First Zionist Congress. In the background, a large flag with a Star of David is visible. In the foreground, several men in suits are seated at a long table, looking towards the speaker. The scene is set in a grand, classical-style hall.

**1897**

Theodor Herzl organizes 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 take back their rights in their ancestral home.

### **Late 1800s–Early 1900s**

A wave of pogroms, or incidents of mass murder against Jews, occurs in Russia and Eastern Europe. These pogroms inspire many Jews to join the Zionist movement and return to their ancestral home.

### **1901–1909**

The Jewish National Fund is formed to purchase land to build Jewish communities in the land of Israel and develop the foundations of a state. Degania, the first kibbutz (rural socialist Jewish community), is established in 1907. 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

In its Balfour Declaration, Britain supports the restoration of a Jewish national home in Palestine, the ancient homeland of the Jewish people—including in modern-day Jordan.

### 1920

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

### 1920–1936

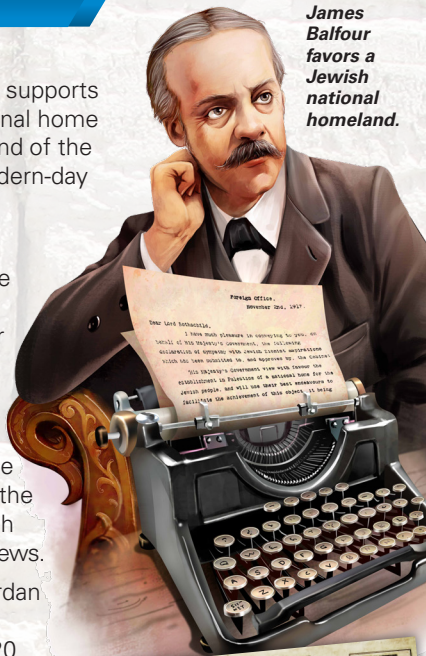
The British appoint Haj Amin al-Husseini as de facto leader of the Palestinian Arabs. He instigates the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through murderous riots that kill scores of Jews.

In 1922, Britain creates Trans-Jordan by cutting off 80 percent of the 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 Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra.

Arthur James Balfour favors a Jewish national homeland.



## 1936–1939

Haj Amin al-Husseini leads the Great Arab Revolt. Nazi Germany provides funds and weapons to support the rebellion, 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 express willingness to negotiate, Arab leaders say no.

## 1939–1945

World War II: Nazis and their allies exterminate 6 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.

## 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, Israel declares independence, reestablishing the Jewish state after 1,900 years. Five Arab armies immediately invade in an effort to annihilate the newly born state.

## 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 Israeli Arabs.

## 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 maximize 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 neighbors 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.

**1979**

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

**1984–1985**

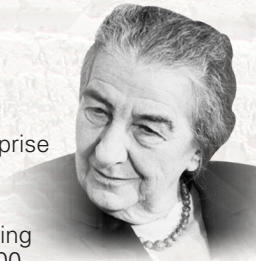
8,000 Ethiopian Jews escape oppression and come home to Israel, in Operation Moses.

**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.



**Golda Meir.**



**Entebbe Rescue of  
Israelis in Uganda.**

## 1991

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

## 1993

Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (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 more 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 organization, 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.

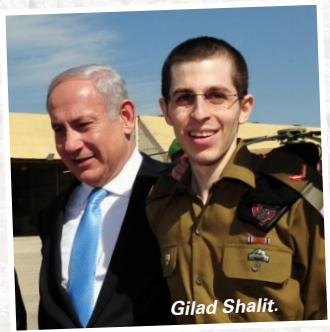
The terrorist group Hezbollah launches rocket attacks on Israeli cities from Lebanon and kidnaps Israeli soldiers, giving rise to the second Lebanon war.

Israel recognizes same-sex marriages and adoption rights for LGBTQ couples. The LGBTQ continues to fight for its 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.*



## 2008–2014

Operations Cast Lead, Pillar of Defense, and Protective Edge are launched by Israel in response to relentless rocket attacks by Hamas in Gaza against Israeli civilians.


## 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 defense system that stops rockets mid-flight, debuts in Operation Pillar of Defense.



***Iron Dome,  
the Israeli  
defense system.***



***ReWalk allows  
paraplegics to  
walk again.***



**2013**

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

**2015**

Israel holds national elections overseen by an Israeli Arab Supreme Court judge, in which 16 Israeli Arab citizens become Knesset members.

Israel is hit with a wave of stabbing, shooting, and car-ramming attacks against civilians in the streets. Palestinian leaders, including Mahmoud Abbas, incite racist violence in state-sponsored speeches, media coverage, cartoons, and social media campaigns, leading to fears of a third intifada.

The Israeli invention PrePex wins awards for reducing the likelihood of contracting HIV by 60 percent.

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

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates that Israel's economic growth rate will be one of the highest among developed nations in 2016.

**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.



**Israeli aid worker and child in Haiti.**

**Gal Gadot.**



**Israeli company, Watergen, creates high quality drinking water from air.**

# 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 center 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 center 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 organizes the first Zionist Congress.
- 1909:** The city of Tel Aviv is founded.
- 1917:** The Balfour Declaration supports restoration of the Jewish home in Palestine and includes modern-day Jordan.
- 1920:** The League of Nations establishes the Palestine Mandate (including modern-day Jordan), recognizing it as the Jewish homeland under international law.
- 1920–1936:** Palestinian Arab leader Haj Amin al-Husseini initiates Arab riots against Jews and conspires with Adolf Hitler.
- 1937:** Arab leaders reject British proposal to divide land into a small Jewish state and a much larger Arab state.
- 1939–1945:** The Nazis exterminate 6 million European Jews—almost 40 percent of world Jewry—in the Holocaust.
- 1947:** Arab leaders reject UN proposal to divide land into a Jewish state and an Arab state.
- 1948:** Jewish state of Israel declares independence after 1,900 years of dispossession and oppression. Five Arab armies attack.
- 1949:** Israel joins the UN and forms the Knesset with Israeli Arab representatives.



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