

Second Millennium BCE

- 2000 BCE:** Transition from the Intermediate Bronze Age to Middle Bronze Age. **Canaan** flourishes.
- 2000 BCE:** Canaanite religion centered on deities like **Baal**, **Asherah**, and **El** begins to take shape.
- 1950 BCE:** Fortified cities like **Jericho** and **Arad** are established, reflecting increased urbanization and conflict.
- 1900 BCE:** Biblical tradition marks **Abraham's** migration to Canaan, starting the **Patriarchal Age (Genesis 12)**.
- 1850 BCE:** Family-based worship develops among Abrahamic clans, establishing Israelite religious traditions.
- 1750 BCE:** **Isaac** and **Jacob's** stories unfold in biblical tradition; Jacob's family migrating to Egypt
- 1720 BCE:** **Hyksos** rule begins in Egypt, introducing advanced technology and trade ties with **Canaan**
- 1700 BCE:** Destruction and rebuilding of major cities like **Jericho** and **Ai**, likely due to warfare or disasters.
- 1700 BCE:** **Hyksos** introduce military innovations, including chariots, to Canaanite society.
- 1650 BCE:** Per Biblical tradition. **Joseph** rises to prominence in **Egypt** during Hyksos dominance (Gen. 37–50).
- 1600 BCE:** Collapse of some Middle Bronze Age cities, possibly due to climatic changes or regional conflict.
- 1550 BCE:** **Hyksos** expelled from Egypt; Egyptian New Kingdom under **Ahmose I** extends into Canaan.
- 1500 BCE:** **Pharaoh Thutmose III's** campaigns in Canaan establish Egyptian centers in cities like **Megiddo**.
- 1500 BCE:** Egyptian temples and shrines are built in Canaan, blending local and Egyptian religious practices.
- 1450 BCE:** Traditional biblical dating for the **Exodus**, with the Israelites beginning their wilderness wanderings.
- 1400 BCE:** **Amarna** letters reveal political instability in Canaan, with vassal kings requesting aid from Egypt.
- 1350 BCE:** Canaanite city-states like **Hazor**, **Lachish**, and **Gezer** stay loyal to Egypt, despite internal rivalries.
- 1300 BCE :** **Ramses II** strengthens Egyptian control; monumental architecture influences Canaanite cities.
- 1250 BCE:** Traditional date for the Conquest of Canaan under **Joshua**, conflicts with Canaanite city-states.
- 1250 BCE:** Israelite religious practices coalesce around **Yahweh**, emphasizing monotheistic tendencies.
- 1230 BCE:** **Merneptah Stele** provides the earliest historical reference to "Israel" as a people group in Canaan.
- 1200 BCE:** **Late Bronze Age** collapse; Canaanite city-states fall; **Sea Peoples**, including the **Philistines**, arrive.
- 1200 BCE:** Israelite sanctuaries such as **Shiloh** and **Shechem** become central religious sites.
- 1190 BCE:** Philistines establish powerful city-states on the coastal plain, including **Gaza**, **Ashkelon**, and **Gath**.
- 1175 BCE:** Early Israelite settlements appear in central highlands, marking shift from nomadic to agrarian life.
- 1150 BCE:** Decline of **Egyptian** influence allows autonomy for local **Canaanite** and emerging Israelite groups.
- 1120 BCE:** **Deborah** and **Barak's** victory over **Canaanite** forces is celebrated in biblical tradition (Judges 4–5).
- 1100 BCE:** Israelites establish alliances with **Phoenician** cities like **Tyre** and **Sidon** for trade and resources.
- 1100 BCE:** **Shiloh** emerges as a key Israelite religious center, housing the Ark of the Covenant.
- 1050 BCE:** **Saul** is anointed as the first king of Israel, uniting the tribes to fight against the Philistines.
- 1020 BCE:** Ongoing **Philistine** domination in the coastal plains escalates conflicts with the Israelites.
- 1010 BCE:** **David** defeats **Goliath**, marking start of his rise to prominence and establishment of Israelite rule.