

A VERY SHORT HISTORY OF ISRAEL and the BIBLE

~1200 BCE	EXODUS of Moses and Hebrew slaves from Egypt
1150-1025	Israelite Judges – tribal groups in Canaan – ancestral stories were remembered and passed down through the generations by oral tradition, tribes have different stories
1025-1005	King Saul – monarchy
1000 - 962	King David, followed by struggle for the succession. Psalms of David
968-928	King Solomon – first Israelite histories are written, parts of 1 & 2 Samuel, more Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes
928	Divided Kingdom Israel (North) and Judah (South) – different stories and different versions are remembered Prophets before the fall of Israel: Hosea (733), Joel (830), Amos (760), Obadiah (853), Micah (750), Nahum (640), Zephaniah (630),
722	Israel (Northern Kingdom) falls to the Assyrians Prophets before the fall of Judah and Jerusalem – Isaiah 1-39, parts of Jeremiah,
586	Babylon Captures Judah (Southern Kingdom) and destroys Jerusalem
586-538	EXILE in Babylon – most of the Hebrew Scriptures were put together at this time – more Psalms, 1&2 Kings, Isaiah 40-55, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, final redactions and compilations of earlier histories, Daniel (530)
539	Cyrus and the Persians capture Babylon
538	Jews return to rebuild Jerusalem – Ezra, Nehemiah, Ruth, Jonah, 1&2 Chronicles, more Psalms
539 BCE to 330 CE	Israel under Persians, Greeks, and Romans – Haggai (520), Zechariah (480), Malachi (430), Isaiah 56-66
6 BCE – 30 CE	Jesus' life and ministry
49 – 64	Paul's letters
60	Mark, Matthew, Luke-Acts, 1&2 Timothy, Titus
66 – 135	Jewish Rebellions
70	Destruction of the Temple Other letters
90	Gospel of John
95	1,2,3 John and Revelation
135	Jews forbidden to live in Jerusalem

SHALOM <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shalom>

In Judaism, Shalom (peace), is one of the underlying principles of the Torah. . . . Maimonides comments in his Mishnah Torah: "Great is peace, as the whole Torah was given in order to promote peace in the world, as it is stated, 'Her ways are pleasant ways and all her paths are peace'". Proverbs 3:17. ^[6]

In the book *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*, author Cornelius Plantinga described the Old Testament concept of shalom: "The webbing together of God, humans, and all creation in justice, fulfillment, and delight is what the Hebrew prophets call shalom. We call it peace but it means far more than mere peace of mind or a cease-fire between enemies. In the Bible, shalom means universal flourishing, wholeness and delight – a rich state of affairs in which natural needs are satisfied and natural gifts fruitfully employed, a state of affairs that inspires joyful wonder as its Creator and Savior opens doors and welcomes the creatures in whom he delights. Shalom, in other words, is the way things ought to be."^[7]

6. ^ Maimonides, Mishneh Torah, The Laws of Chanukah 4:14

7. ^ "Shalom: The Real Utopia".



DISCUSSION

Decide on a word or phrase for each of the dimensions of peacemaking that you discover in these passages of scripture:

From "What is Christian peacemaking! The Biblical Roots of Jesus Way of Shalom", https://www.lutheranpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/PP_christian_peacemaking_15-8pg.pdf

Psalm 34:11-14

Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
Which of you desires life, and covets many days to enjoy good?
Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit.
Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

Micah 6:8

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Psalm 82:2-4

² “How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked?
³ Give justice to the weak and the orphan;
maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.
⁴ Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

Amos 5:21-24

I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
²² Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
²³ Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
²⁴ But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Hosea 2:18-20

I will make for you a covenant on that day with the wild animals, the birds of the air, and the creeping things of the ground; and I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land; and I will make you lie down in safety. ¹⁹ And I will take you for my wife forever; I will take you for my wife in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love, and in mercy. ²⁰ I will take you for my wife in faithfulness; and you shall know the LORD.

Micah 4:3-4

He shall judge between many peoples,
and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore;
⁴ but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid;
for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

SAY 'NO' TO PEACE

Say 'no' to peace
if what they mean by peace
is the quiet misery of hunger,
the frozen stillness of fear,
the silence of broken spirits,
the unborn hopes of the oppressed.

Tell them that peace
is the shouting of children at play,
the babble of tongues set free,
the thunder of dancing feet,
and a father's voice singing.

Say 'no' to peace
if what they mean by peace
is a rampart of gleaming missiles,
the arming of distant wars,
money at ease in its castle
and grateful poor at the gate.

Tell them that peace
is the hauling down of flags,
the forging of guns into ploughs,
the giving of fields to the landless,
and hunger a fading dream.



"Say 'No' to Peace" by Brian Wren. *Praising a Mystery*.
Hope Publishing Company, Oxford University Press, 1998

BENEDICTION

As we prepare to leave
and embrace the challenges
of our lives and our world,
let us ask for God's blessing.

May God bless us with strength to seek justice. Amen.

May God bless us with wisdom to care for our earth. Amen.

May God bless us with love to bring forth new life. Amen.

In the name of God, the maker of the whole world,
of Jesus, our new covenant,
and of the Holy Spirit, who open eyes and hearts. Amen.

Go in peace. Be witnesses to hope.

Thanks be to God.