

TIMELINE: THE JEWISH SHIFT AFTER 70 AD

This timeline outlines the key religious, cultural, and theological shifts in Judaism following the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 AD. These changes reflect the transformation of Judaism from a Temple-centered faith to a Rabbinic, Torah-centered religion. The events listed here form the foundation for Rabbinic Judaism as it is known today.

- **70 AD** – The Second Temple is destroyed by Roman forces led by Titus. Sacrificial worship ends. The priesthood loses its national function. Jerusalem is burned and de-populated. Thousands are killed or enslaved. This marks the end of biblical Judaism as it was practiced under the Law of Moses.
- **73 AD** – The last holdout of Jewish rebels commit mass suicide at Masada, choosing death over Roman capture. This marks the final event of the First Jewish-Roman War.
- **75–80 AD** – Survivors begin dispersing across Judea and the Roman Empire. With the Temple gone, Jewish worship becomes decentralized. Local gatherings for Torah reading, prayer, and legal discussions become more central.
- **~85–90 AD** – The Rabbinic Academy at Yavne (Jamnia) is formally established by Yochanan ben Zakkai and other Pharisaic leaders. This becomes the intellectual and spiritual center of Judaism, replacing the Temple's priesthood with rabbinic authority.
- **~90 AD** – The Birkat HaMinim is added to the daily Amidah prayer, cursing sectarians (minim) including Jewish Christians. This leads to the formal exclusion of Christians from synagogue worship.
- **90–100 AD** – Jewish leaders begin favoring Hebrew over Greek scriptures to counter Christian interpretations. The Septuagint begins to be seen as compromised. Scripture reading and interpretation becomes central in synagogues.
- **100–130 AD** – Jewish oral traditions begin to be codified. Discussions of the canon of Scripture occur. Messianic expectations are reinterpreted. Jewish-Christian relations further deteriorate.
- **132–135 AD** – The Bar Kokhba Revolt erupts. Rabbi Akiva proclaims Bar Kokhba as the Messiah. The revolt ends in defeat. Jerusalem is renamed Aelia Capitolina. Jews are barred from the city. Messianic prophecy is reimagined and suppressed. This solidifies the split from Christianity.
- **150–250 AD** – The Mishnah is compiled (by ~200 AD), preserving oral law and Pharisaic interpretation. Rabbinic Judaism matures into the dominant Jewish framework.
- **250–500 AD** – The Talmud is compiled in two versions (Jerusalem and Babylonian), formalizing legal rulings, traditions, and commentary.
- **6th–10th Centuries** – Masoretic scholars in Tiberias and Babylon preserve and finalize the Hebrew Bible text. The Masoretic Text becomes the official standard in Judaism.