

KEY PRECURSOR EVENTS TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SAMARITANS

- 2101** Abram built his first altar to God Most High in Canaan under the “Moreh”¹ tree at Shechem (GEN 12:6-7)
- 1910’s** Jacob also built an altar immediately east of Shechem, possibly at the “Moreh” site (GEN 33:18-20);
Before leaving the area, he buried Mesopotamian “gods” under the tree at Shechem (GEN 35:1-4)
- 1417** Moses ordered that a blessing/cursing ceremony should be held near Shechem (DEUT 11:26-32)
- 1416** Joshua oversaw the blessing/cursing ceremony at Mt. Gerizim/Mt.Ebal near Shechem (JOS 8:30-35)
Joseph’s bones were buried at Shechem (JOS 24:32)
- 1390’s** Shortly before his death, Joshua set up a witness stone under the tree at Shechem (JOS 24:1-28)
- 1140’s** Abimelech, son of Gideon, tried to become Israel’s first king at Baal-Berith in Shechem (JUDG 9)
- 940** Rehoboam, son of Solomon, went to Shechem to be declared King of Israel (1KGS 12);
[It was at Shechem that the kingdom was split into northern Israel & southern Judah]
Jeroboam, the first King of northern Israel, used Shechem as his first capital (1KGS 12:25);
Jeroboam dedicated two golden calves to the worship of Yahweh in northern Israel (1KGS 12:25-30);
Jeroboam permitted anyone to become priests of Yahweh in northern Israel (1KGS 12:31);
Therefore, the priests, Levites & most faithful Israelis abandoned northern Israel (2CHR 11:13-16)
- 890** Omri built Samaria as the new capital of northern Israel (1KGS 16:24)
- 884** His son, Ahab, and Ahab’s Sidonian wife, Jezebel, became King & Queen of northern Israel
- 880’s** Jezebel & Ahab establish Baal & Asherah worship as northern Israel’s main religion;
Although worship of Jeroboam’s “Yahweh Calves” continued (1KGS 16:29-33)
- 852** Jehu assassinated Jehoram, son of Ahab & Jezebel; Jehu declared himself King of northern Israel
Jehu attempted to eradicate Baal & Asherah worship;
Worship of Jeroboam’s “Yahweh Calves” once again became northern Israel’s main religion;
Although worship of Baal & Asherah (and other pagan deities) continued (2KGS 10)
- 723** Because of sin, God permitted the Assyrians to take northern Israel captive (2KGS 17)
- 720’s-**
680’s The Assyrians began relocating other conquered peoples into northern Israel;
These peoples thought that lion attacks were due to their improper worship of the local god – Yahweh;
The King of Assyria sent back some northern Israeli priests to teach Yahweh;
The relocated people worshipped Yahweh via the golden calves & their own gods as well (2KGS 17:24-41)
- 587** Because of sin, Jerusalem & the Temple were destroyed by the Babylonians;
The southern Judeans (“Jews”) went into “Babylonian Captivity”
- 537** Cyrus the Great of Persia ended the “Babylonian Captivity” & ordered the Jerusalem Temple rebuilt
Prince Zerubbabel & High Priest Yeshua refused “Samaritan” assistance in rebuilding the Temple;
The “Samaritans” successfully impeded the rebuilding project (EZRA 4:1-5)
- 516** After many delays, the Temple was reconstructed
- 457** Ezra was commissioned by Artaxerxes to rebuild Jerusalem (EZRA 7);
He also functioned as the Persian governor of Judah
[483 year countdown to Messiah begins (Daniel 9:24-27)]
- 444** Nehemiah was commissioned by Artaxerxes to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem;
He also functioned as the Persian governor of Judah (NEH 1);
His efforts were opposed by Sanballat & Tobiah, “Samaritan” leaders (NEH 2-6)
- 430’s** When Nehemiah went back to Persia, High Priest Eliashib permitted Tobiah to live in the Temple;
When Nehemiah returned from Persia, he threw all Tobiah’s stuff out (NEH 13:4-9)
He also chased off the grandson of Eliashib//son-in-law Sanballat (NEH 13:28-29);

¹ “Teacher” in Hebrew