

Are Bible dates accurate? In contrast to many other religious works, such as The Koran, Hindu writings, Buddhist, Confucian, the Apocryphal Books, the Book of Mormon, The Pearl of Great Price, Doctrines and Covenants, etc., for example, the Bible has a number of dates that can be cross-checked with surviving ancient records and accurately related to our modern calendar and proven to be accurate. These Bible dates

are just some of the ways that the Bible has proven to be accurate, authentic and genuine. Some examples follow.



2 KINGS

“The king of Assyria went up against Damascus and seized it and took the people away into exile into Kir, and put Rezin to death” (2 Kings 16:9

LSB). *“Firmly dated events . . . are: the fall of Damascus (16:9) in 732 B. C.” (NAB note on 2 Kings 16:1-20)."*

How do we know that Bible dates are accurate?

“The king of Assyria went up against the whole land of and he went up to Samaria and besieged it three years. In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and took Israel away into exile to Assyria, and settled them in Halah and Habor, on the river Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes” (2 Kings 17:5.6

LSB). *“Shalmaneser was succeeded by Sargon II, who usurped the Assyrian throne in 722/721 B. C. In his inscriptions, Sargon claims to have captured Samaria in the first year of his reign” (NAB note).*

“Then Jehoiachin, king of Judah, together with his mother, his ministers, officers, and functionaries, surrendered to the king of Babylon, who in the eighth year of

his reign, took him captive” (2 Kings 24:12 NAB). *“The eighth year of his reign; that is, of Nebuchadnezzar’s reign, not Jehoiachin’s. The year was 597 B.C.” (NAB footnote).*

“In the ninth year Zedekiah’s reign, on the tenth day of the month of the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched against Jerusalem with his whole army. He encamped outside the city and built siege works all around it. The city was kept under siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah”—2 Kings 25:1 NIV. *“A number of events in 2 Kings can be cross-checked with dates in surviving Babylonian records and related accurately to our modern calendar. This day was January 15, 588 B.C.”—NLT footnote on 2 Kings 25:1*

“By the ninth day of the fourth month the famine in the city had become so severe that there was no food for the people to eat”—2 Kings 25:3 NIV. *“The date was July 18, 586 B.C.; also see note on 25:1”—NLT footnote on 2 Kings 25:3*

“On the seventh day of the fifth month, in the nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan commander of the imperial guard, an official of the king of Babylon came to Jerusalem”—2 Kings 25:8 NIV. *“This date was August 14, 586 B. C.; also see note on 25:1”—NLT footnote on 2 Kings 25:8*

“In the seventh month, however, Ishmael son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, who was of royal blood, came with ten men and assassinated Gedaliah”—2 Kings 25:8 NIV. *“This month occurred within the months of October and November 586 B.C.; also see note on 25:1”—NLT footnote on 2 Kings 25:25*

“In the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the year Awel-Marduk became king of Babylon, he released Jehoiachin king of Judah from prison. He did this on the twenty-seventh day of the twelfth month”—Kings 25:27 NIV. *“This day was April 2, 561 B.C.; also see note on 25:1”—NLT footnote on 2 Kings 25:27.*

As the evidence has shown, Bible dates in 2 Kings have proven to be accurate.

EZRA

“The temple was completed on the third day of the month Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius”—Ezra 6:15 NIV. *“A number of events in Ezra can be cross-checked with dates in surviving Persian records and related accurately to our modern calendar. This day was April 21, 515 B.C.”—NLT footnote on Ezra 6:15*

“On the fourteenth day of the first month, the exiles celebrated the passover”—Ezra 6:19 NIV. *“This date was April 21, 515 B.C.; also see note on 6:15—NLT footnote on Ezra 6:19*

“Ezra arrived in Jerusalem in the fifth month of the seventh year of the king. He had begun his journey from Babylon on the first day of the first month, and he arrived in Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month, for the gracious hand of his God was upon him”—Ezra 7:8,9 NIV. *“This date was April 8, 458 B.C.; also see note on 6:15”—NLT footnote on Ezra 7:9*

“On the twelfth day of the first month we set out from the Ahava Canal to go Jerusalem. The hand of our God was on us, and he protected us from enemies and bandits along the way”—Ezra 8:31 NIV. *“This date was April 19, 458 B.C.; also see note on 6:15”—NLT footnote on Ezra 8:31*

“Within three days, all the men of Judah and Benjamin had gathered in Jerusalem. And on the twentieth day of the ninth month, all the people were sitting in the square before the house of God, greatly distressed by the occasion and because of the rain”—Ezra 10:9 NIV. *“This day was December 19, 458 B.C.; also see note on 6:15—NLT footnote on Ezra 10:9*

“On the first day of the first month of the tenth month they sat down to investigate the cases”—Ezra 10:16 NIV. *“This day was December 29, 458 B.C.; also see note on 6:15”—NLT footnote on Ezra 10:16*

“By the first day of the first month they finished dealing with all the men who had married foreign women”—Ezra 10:17 NIV. *“This day was March 27, 567 B.C.; also see note on 6:15”—NLT footnote on Ezra 10:17*

NEHEMIAH

“The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem”—Nehemiah 1:1,2 NIV. *“A number of dates in the book of Nehemiah can be cross-checked with dates in surviving Persian records and accurately related to our modern calendar. this month of the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar occurred within the months of November and December 446 B.C.”—NLT footnote on Nehemiah 1:1*

“So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days”—Nehemiah 6:15 NIV. *“This day was October 2, 445 B.C.”—NLT footnote on Nehemiah 6:15*

Also, see **Nehemiah 8:2,13,14; 9:1**

ESTHER

“She was taken to King Xerxes in the royal residence in the tenth month, the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign”—Esther 2:16 NIV. *“A number of dates in the book of Esther can be cross-checked with dates in surviving records and related*

accurately to our modern. This month of the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar occurred within the months of December 479 B.C. and January 478 B.C.”—NLT footnote on [Esther 2:16](#)

Also, see [Esther 3:7,12,13](#); [8:9,12](#); [9:1,15,17](#)

JEREMIAH

“Through the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, down to the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, when the people of Judah went into exile”—[Jeremiah 1:3 NIV](#). *“A number of events in Jeremiah can be cross-checked with dates in surviving Babylonian records and related accurately to our modern calendar. The fifth month in the eleventh year of Zedekiah’s reign occurred within the months of August and September 586 B.C.”—NLT footnote on [Jeremiah 1:3](#)*

Also, see [Jeremiah 25:1,3](#); [26:1](#); [28:1,17](#); [32:1](#); [36:1,9](#); [39:1,2](#); [41:1](#); [45:1](#); [51:59](#); [52:4,6,12,28,29,30,31](#)

EZEKIEL

“In my thirtieth year, in the fourth month on the fifth day, while I was among the exiles by the Kebar River, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God. On the fifth of the month—it was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin”—[Ezekiel 1:1 NIV](#). *“A number of dates in Ezekiel can be cross-checked with dates in surviving Babylonian records and related accurately to our modern calendar. This event occurred on July 31, 593 B.C.”—NLT footnote on [Ezekiel 1:1](#)*

[Ezekiel 29:1](#) - “In the tenth year, in the tenth month, on the twelfth day of the month, the word of Yahweh came to me” (LSB). *“The date is calculated to be January 7, 587 B. C.” (NAB footnote).*

Ezekiel 29:17 - “Now in the twenty-seventh, in the first month, on the of the month, the word of Yahweh came to me” (LSB). *“April 26, 571 B. C. This is the latest date attached to any of Ezekiel’s prophecies” (NAB note).*

Ezekiel 40:1 - “In the twenty-fifth year of our exile, at the beginning of the year, on the tenth of the month, in the fourteenth year, after the city was struck down, on the same day the hand of Yahweh was upon, and He brought there” (LSB). *“This lengthy vision of a new Temple and a restored Israel is dated in v, 1 to April 28, 573 B. C.”*

Also, see **Ezekiel 8:1; 20:1; 26:1; 30:17; 31:1; 32:1,17; 33:21**

DANIEL

“In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel . . . On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris”—Daniel 10:1,4 NIV. *“This date in Daniel can be cross-checked with dates in surviving Persian records and can be related accurately to our modern calendar. This event occurred on April 23, 536 B.C.”—NLT footnote on Daniel 10:4*

Also, see **Daniel 1:1,21; 2:1; 5:30; 7:1**

HAGGAI

“In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest”—Haggai 1:1 NIV. *“A number of dates in Haggai can be cross-checked with dates in surviving Persian records and related accurately to our modern calendar. This event occurred on August 29, 520 B.C.”—NLT footnote on Haggai 1:1*

Also, see **Haggai 1:15; 2:1,10,18,20**

ZECHARIAH

“In the eighth month of the second year of of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah son of Berekiah, the son of Iddo”—Zechariah 1:1 NIV. *“A number of dates in Zechariah can be cross-checked with dates in surviving Persian records and related accurately to our modern calendar. This month of the ancient Hebrew calendar occurred within the months of October and November 520 B.C.”—NLT footnote on Zechariah 1:1*

Also, see **Zechariah 1:7; 7:1,3**

CONCLUSION

While these Bible dates have been confirmed to be accurate, they do not in themselves prove that the entire Bible is **“the word of God” (1 Thessalonians 2:13)**, and **“truth” (John 17:17)**, but they certainly do help to **“make the teaching about God our Savior attractive in every way” (Titus 2:10 NLT)**. They stand as a solid refutation against critics who claim the Bible isn’t completely historically accurate. As the scripture says:

“All who have raged against him will come to him and be put to shame”—Isaiah 45:24 NIV. Although many have tried throughout the ages to prove the Bible wrong, Bible dates have proven to be accurate. No one has proven anything in the Bible false (**Romans 3:4**).