

TIMELINE: Origins of Zionism

2000 B.C. Abraham, the first patriarch, is born. God promises him the Land of Israel “from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

970 B.C. King Solomon builds the First Temple.

587 B.C. The First Temple is destroyed by the Babylonians

520 B.C. The Temple is rebuilt.

70 A.D. Rome destroys Jerusalem and the Second Temple.

330 A.D. Jerusalem becomes part of the Byzantine Empire. Jews are persecuted by zealous Christians.

638 A.D. Muslims conquer Jerusalem. Jews are forced to pay a special tax and wear special dress.

1099 A.D. Crusaders conquer Jerusalem and massacre tens of thousands of the city’s Jews.

1187 A.D. Saladin recaptures Jerusalem and allows Jews to return.

1550 A.D. City of Safed grows to become a major Kabbalistic center, boasting impressive religious leaders like Rabbi Isaac Luria, Rabbi Moses Cordovero, and Rabbi Joseph Caro.

1648 A.D. Shabtai Zevi declares himself the messiah. He arouses great hopes in the diaspora, followed by widespread dejection with his forced conversion to Islam.

1866 A.D. Jews become a majority in Jerusalem.

1882 A.D. Bilu pioneers from Russia establish an agricultural settlement.

1884 A.D. First conference of societies of Hovevei Zion, or “Lovers of Zion”, is convened by Yehuda Leib Pinsker, author of *Auto-Emancipation*.

1896 A.D. Theodor Herzl publishes *Der Judenstaat*, “*The Jewish State*”.

1948 A.D. The modern State of Israel is declared.