

TIMELINE: Small Beginnings

1886 David Ben-Gurion is born on October 16 on Goat's Lane in the Russian-Polish shtetl of Plonsk. His original name is David Gruen.

1897 His mother dies when he is 11 years old.

1900 At the age of 14, he helps found the Ezra Society, a local group that promotes Hebrew.

1905 Ben-Gurion joins a new socialist party Poalei Tzion (Workers of Zion), whose aim is the building of a socialist state in Palestine.

1906 David Ben-Gurion arrives in Jaffa.

1910 He accepts an offer to work for a new Labor Zionist journal in Jerusalem.

1911 Ben-Gurion goes to Salonika to learn Turkish, study law at the University of Constantinople and enter the Turkish Parliament.

1914 With the start of World War I, Ben-Gurion is exiled from Palestine for his Zionist activities. He goes to America.

1918 David Ben-Gurion returns to Palestine as a soldier in the Jewish Legion.

1918 Ben-Gurion meets Berl Katznelson. Together they come up with a plan to unite the Hebrew Labor movement.