**HISTORICAL TIMELINE OF ISRAEL**

**1948**

End of British Mandate (14 May)

State of Israel proclaimed (14 May)

Israel invaded by 5 Arab states (15 May)

War of Independence (May 1948-July 1949)

Israel Defense Forces Established (IDF)

**1949**

Armistice agreements signed with Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon

Jerusalem divided under Israeli and Jordanian rule

First Knesset (parliament) elected

Israel admitted to United Nations as 59th member

**1948-52**

Mass immigration from Europe and Arab countries

**1956**

Sinai Campaign

**1962**

Adolf Eichmann tried and executed in Israel for his part in the Holocaust

**1964**

National Water Carrier completed, bringing water from Lake Kinneret in the north to the semi-arid south

**1967**

Six-day War, Jerusalem reunited

**1968-70**

Egypt’s War of Attrition against Israel

**1973**

Yom Kippur War

**1975**

Israel becomes an associate member of the European Common Market

**1977**

Likud forms government after Knesset elections, end of 30 years of Labor rule

Visit of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to Jerusalem

**1978**

Camp David Accords include framework for comprehensive peace in the Middle Eat and proposal for Palestinian self-government

**1979**

Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty signed

Prime Minister Menachem Begin and President Anwar Sadat awarded Nobel Peace Prize

**1981**

Israel Air Force destroys Iraqi nuclear reactor just before it is to become operative

**1982**

Israel’s three-stage withdrawal from Sinai completed

Operation Peace for Galilee removes PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organization) terrorists from Lebanon

**1984**

National unity government (Likud and Labor) formed after elections

Operation Moses, immigration of Jews from Ethiopia

**1985**

Free Trade Agreement signed with the United States

**1987**

Widespread violence (intifada) starts in Israeli-administered areas

**1988**

Likud government in power following elections

**1989**

Four-point peace initiative proposed by Israel

Start of mass immigration of Jews from former Soviet Union

**1991**

Israel attacked by Iraqi Scud missiles during the Gulf War

Middle East peace conference convened in Madrid

Operation Solomon, airlift of Jews from Ethiopia

**1992**

Diplomatic relations established with China and India

New government headed by Yitzchak Rabin of Labor party

**1993**

Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements for the Palestinians signed by Israel and PLO, as representative of the Palestinian people

**1994**

Implementation of Palestinian self-government in Gaza Strip and Jericho area

Full diplomatic relations with the Holy See

Morocco and Tunisia interest offices set up

Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty signed

Rabin, Peres, Arafat awarded Nobel Peace Prize

**1995**

Broadened Palestinian self-government implemented in West Bank and Gaza Strip; Palestinian Council elected

Prime Minister Rabin assassinated at peace rally (November 4th)

Shimon Peres becomes prime minister

**1996**

Fundamentalist Arab terrorism against Israel escalates

Operation Grapes of Wrath, retaliation for Hizbullah terrorists’ attacks on northern Israel

Trade representation offices set up in Oman and Qatar

Benjamin Netanyahu becomes prime minister

Omani trade representation office opened in Tel Aviv

**1997**

Hebron Protocol signed by Israel and the PA

**1998**

Israel celebrates its 50th anniversary

Israel and the PLO sign the Wye River Memorandum to facilitate implementation of the Interim Agreement

**1999**

Ehud Barak (left-wing One Israel party) elected Prime Minister; forms coalition government

Israel and the PLO sign the Sharm-el-Sheikh Memorandum

**2000**

Visit of Pope Paul II

Israel withdraws from the Security Zone in southern Lebanon

Israel admitted to UN Western European and Others Group

Al-Aqsa intifada (renewed violence) breaks out

Prime Minister Barak resigns

**2001**

Ariel Sharon (Likud) elected Prime Minister and forms broad-based unity government

The Sharm-el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee issues are report (the Mitchell Report)

Palestinian-Israeli Security Implementation Work Plan (Tenet cease-fire plan)

Rechavam Ze-evy, Minister of Tourism, assassinated by Palestinian terrorists

**2002**

Israel launches Operation Defensive Shield in response to massive Palestinian terrorist attacks

Prime Minister Sharon disperses the Knesset, calling for new elections on January 28, 2003

**2003**

Right-of-center coalition government formed by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon

Israel accepts the Roadmap

**2005**

Israel carries out the Disengagement Plan, which was approved by the Government and the Knesset

**2006**

After Prime Minister Sharon suffers a stroke, Ehud Olmert becomes Acting Prime Minister

Elections held on 28 March

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert forms new government

Israel carries out military operations against Palestinian terrorism from the Gaza Strip

The Second Lebanon War, lasting the entire summer, is carried out against Hizbullah terrorism

Three soldiers are kidnapped; two are killed and one (Gilad Shalit) is held in captivity

The entire northern region is affected by continuous rocket attacks from southern Lebanon

**2007**

Fatah and Hamas, the two leading Palestinian political entities, establish a unity government

June 9-14: Hamas violently seizes control of the Gaza Strip from Fatah, resulting in a Hamas controlled Gaza and a Fatah controlled West Bank

June 14-17: Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas dismisses the Hamas-led unity government, declares a state of emergency, and swears in an emergency government led by Salam Fayyad

November 2007: The Annapolis Peace Talks – a face-to-face meeting between Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian leader, and Ehud Olmert, the Prime Minister of Israel, broekered by Condoleezza Rice, the US Secretary of State. Representatives from the European Union, United Nations and Arab countries are also invited.

**2008**

Israel invades Gaza in Operation Cast Lead

**2010**

Israeli naval commandos boarded ships arriving from Turkey with the intention of breaking the Israeli-Egyptian blockade of the Gaza Strip (known as the Flotilla Raid)

**2011**

Gilad Shalit is freed in return for the release of 1,000 Palestinian prisoners