Significant dates in the history of Judaism

1700 BCE call to Abraham; migration to Egypt

1300 BCE exodus, led by Moses

1150 BCE conquest of Canaanites

1002-962 King David

962-922 King Solomon

922 split up of the kingdom: Israel, northern, and Judah, in the south.

8th century warnings of the prophets

721 BCE Assyrians conquer Israel

610 BCE Jeremiah: demands individual responsibility; predicts doom and destruction of Judah.

597-582 BCE Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar conquers Judah; the leading citizens are carried into exile.

Ezekiel arose & the 2nd Isaiah prophet, as saving remnants, keeping the faith,

and predicting god’s restoration of Israel.

539 BCE Cyrus, the Persian, conquers the Babylonians and gives the Jews permission to return to their homeland.

515 BCE temple is rebuilt

485 BCE Ezra & Nehemiah...........these two reformed the community.

445 BCE Nehemiah calls a convocation, reads the Torah, and the community is then committed to a new life;

becomes now a “religion of the book”.

They remain a part of the Persian empire until it is conquered by Alexander the Great about this time.

323 BCE Alexander dies; empire is divided among Greek generals.

175 BCE Antiochus IV, emperor, outlaws Judaism; takes over the temple.

164 BCE Judas Maccabeus...rebel leader against Antiochus; regains the temple: begins the Maccabean Period.

142 BCE Jews get Palestine under their control. For the first time since 582, and

the Babylonian conquest, they have an independent nation.

142-63 BCE: period of civil war; Roman general Pompey takes over Palestine.

Romans rule till 395 CE. During this period, the Zealots arose (revolutionaries);

Peter may have been a zealot, and maybe Jesus was, too. The hope of the Jews

for a “new David” to save them evolved.

200 BCE - 100 CE Apocalyptic literature was written: catastrophes, the day of the lord,

the Son of Man, the Messiah, and the new age coming...

Prayer and study in the synagogue take the place of Temple rituals.

66 CE revolts breaks out against the Romans.   
70 CE Romans destroy the temple again.

132 CE Bar Cocheba (Son of the Star), proclaimed to be the Messiah; more revolts;

Jews are expelled from Jerusalem, which becomes a Roman colony.

Temple to Jupiter built on the site of the old temple; Judaism as a national religion is at an end.

Survival now? add laws, “Hedge for the Torah”; Christians are expelled from Judaism

(for they would not fight in the uprising of 66 CE);

Christianity becomes now exclusively gentile.

90 CE the Rabbis decide what is to be considered ‘revealed scripture’:

445 BCE is the cutoff date...no literature after this time will be called ‘revealed’.

100 - 200 CE Talmudic period: composition of the Mishnah (oral tradition written down:

613 laws of the Torah plus interpretations), and the Gemara “completion of the Mishnah”;

Halakah, which is legal material, and Haggadah, which is part lore and legend,

and part legal writings.

500 - 19th century CE Medieval period