## **AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ TIMELINES**

## 2001-2019

*Note: Entries represent local time where the event occurred, unless otherwise noted.* 

## **AFGHANISTAN**

(Operation Enduring Freedom)

## IRAQ

(Operation Iraqi Freedom)

## CHURCH AND WORLD HISTORY

## 2001

#### **OCTO3ER**

- **7** Operation Enduring Freedom begins as American and British forces attack Afghanistan
- **14** White House rejects Taliban offer to send Osama bin Laden to a third country for trial if U.S. provides evidence of involvement in 9/11 attacks
- 19 First U.S. combat ground actions
- **26** Britain deploys 4,200 soldiers to Afghanistan

#### **NOVEMBER**

**13** Fall of Kabul to U.S. and coalition forces

#### **DECEMBER**

- **2-5** Bonn Conference creates Afghan Interim Authority, outlines process for creating a new government
- **9** Last Taliban stronghold surrenders in Zabol province, near Pakistan; al-Qaeda fighters hide in mountain caves

#### **FEBRUARY**

**16-17** British and U.S. conduct air strikes against radar and air defense centers near Baghdad

## **AUGUST**

**27** Iraq claims to shoot down an unmanned U.S. Predator drone near Basra

## SEPTEMBER

**11** Saddam Hussein declares his government played no part in the 9/11 attacks

#### **JANUARY**

**20** George W. Bush sworn in as 43rd U.S. President

#### **FE3RUARY**

**15** The First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve approve guidelines to reaffirm the correct name of the Church

## JULY

**16** Sino-Russian Friendship Treaty signed

#### **AUGUST**

**21** NATO sends peace-keeping force to Macedonia

## **SEPTEMBER**

11 Terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and United Airlines Flight 93

#### **OCTO3ER**

**8** Office of Homeland Security created

(Operation Enduring Freedom)

## IRAQ

(Operation Iraqi Freedom)

# CHURCH AND WORLD HISTORY

- **20** UN authorizes the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to support Afghans
- 22 Hamid Karzai sworn in as head of interim power-sharing Afghan government

#### **DECEMBER**

- 11 China joins the World Trade Organization
- **13** The U.S. withdraws from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty
- **22** Richard Reid attempts to detonate a shoe bomb on American Airlines Flight 63
- **27** China is granted permanent normal trade status with the U.S.

## 2002

#### **JANUARY**

**23** *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl is abducted in Karachi, Pakistan

#### **FEBRUARY**

21 Daniel Pearl is confirmed dead

#### MARCH

**25** Plans announced to create an Afghan National Army

#### JUNE

**13** Hamid Karzai elected to two-year presidential term

## **AUGUST**

**9** NATO assumes responsibility for UN ISAF mission

## JULY

**5** Saddam Hussein rejects new UN weapons inspections

#### **SEPTEMBER**

12 President George W. Bush addresses the UN and calls for action regarding Iraq

#### **NOVEMBER**

**8** UN Security Council unanimously passes resolution to force Iraq to disarm

## **OCTOBER**

- **2** U.S. Congress passes the Iraq war resolution, authorizing use of force in Iraq
- **16** Pres. Bush signs the Iraq war resolution

#### **FE3RUARY**

Utah hosts the 2002 Winter Olympics

#### JUNE

**27** Nauvoo Illinois Temple dedicated

#### **SEPTEM3ER**

- **9-10** President Hinckley visits Russia and Ukraine
- 10 Switzerland joins the UN

## 2003

## MARCH

1 Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, key planner of the 9/11 attacks, arrested by CIA and Pakistani police

## FE3RUARY

5 U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell briefs UN that Iraqi president Saddam Hussein poses an imminent threat

## JANUARY

**24** U.S. Department of Homeland Security begins operation

(Operation Enduring Freedom)

- **10** Afghanistan officially activates .AF Internet domain
- **28** UN Security Council extends assistance mission in Afghanistan for another year

#### **APRIL**

- 16 NATO unanimously agrees to take command of ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) in Afghanistan—first time in NATO history for a mission outside the North Atlantic area
- **22** Afghanistan-Pakistan talks held regarding borders, trade, and terrorism

#### MAY

- 1 Afghanistan joins the International Criminal Court
- **23** Afghan Ministry of Health begins polio vaccination campaign

#### JUNE

**6** Pres. Hamid Karzi receives honorary British knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II

#### NOVEMBER

**27** President George W. Bush makes surprise visit to visit U.S. troops in Afghanistan

## **IRAQ**

(Operation Iraqi Freedom)

14 UN chief weapons inspector Hans Blix reports to UN Security Council that no weapons of mass destruction were found in Iraq

#### MARCH

- 17 President George W. Bush issues ultimatum to Saddam Hussein to leave Iraq in forty-eight hours or face military action
- **19** U.S. and coalition forces begin military actions against Iraq

#### APRIL

9 Coalition forces take Baghdad

#### МАУ

- 1 President Bush declares end to "major combat operations"
- 22 UN Security Council approves resolution acknowledging the U.S. and UK's right to occupy Iraq

## DECEMBER

**13** Saddam Hussein is captured in Tikrit, Iraq

## CHURCH AND WORLD HISTORY

#### **FE3RUARY**

- 1 Space Shuttle *Columbia* disintegrates on reentry, killing all seven astronauts
- **26** Fighting in Darfur, Sudan, begins

#### APRIL

**14** Human Genome Project completed

#### **AUGUST**

**27** U.S., Russia, China, Japan, South Korea, and North Korea begin talks on North Korea's nuclear weapons program

## 2004

## JANUARY

Afghanistan passes a new constitution by consensus

## APRIL

Abu Ghraib prison abuse is brought to light

## JUNE

**28** U.S.-led coalition hands over sovereignty to interim Iraqi government

## JANUARY

Church membership passes twelve million

(Operation Enduring Freedom)

## IRAQ

(Operation Iraqi Freedom)

# CHURCH AND WORLD HISTORY

#### **OCTO3ER**

**9** Afghanistan holds first direct democratic election

#### **DECEMBER**

7 Hamid Karzai is sworn in as first democratically elected president of Afghanistan

#### **AUGUST**

U.S. and Iraqi forces battle followers of Shi'ite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr in Najaf, Iraq

## **NOVEMBER**

U.S. and Iraqi forces battle insurgents in Falluja—2,000 insurgents killed

**19** Iraqi civilians killed in Haditha, Iraq; eight U.S. Marines face charges; one convicted

#### **AUGUST**

1 Mexico becomes first country outside U.S. with over one million Church members

#### **NOVEMBER**

Preach My Gospel is published

**2** George Bush is reelected U.S. president

## 2005

#### **SEPTEMBER**

First parliamentary election in three decades is held

#### **DECEMBER**

Afghan Parliament holds its first session

#### **FEBRUARY**

**26** U.S. Army PFC Lynndie England found guilty by military court regarding Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse

#### **APRIL**

**2** Abu Ghraib prison is attacked by insurgent forces

#### **AUGUST**

**28** Proposed Constitution signed by Iraqi National Assembly

#### **FE3RUARY**

**10** North Korea announces it has nuclear weapons

#### APRIL

**2** Pope John Paul II dies; succeeded by Pope Benedict XVI

## **AUGUST**

29 Hurricane Katrina strikes U.S.

## 2006

#### MARCH

**1** President Bush makes first visit to Afghanistan

#### **OCTO3ER**

NATO assumes responsibility for security operations in Afghanistan

#### **FEBRUARY**

- **22** Al Askari Mosque, a Shi'ite Islam holy site, is bombed in Samarra, Iraq
- **23-24** 168 Sunni Islam mosques across Iraq attacked in retaliation

#### **NOVEMBER**

**5** Saddam Hussein is found guilty, sentenced to death

#### **DECEMBER**

30 Saddam Hussein is hanged

#### **JANUARY**

19 NASA launches mission to Pluto

#### MARCH

**15** UN Human Rights Council is established

#### **OCTO3ER**

**9** North Korea conducts first nuclear test

(Operation Enduring Freedom)

## IRAQ

(Operation Iraqi Freedom)

# CHURCH AND WORLD HISTORY

## 2007

#### FE3RUARY

- **15** President Bush calls on NATO to increase troops in Afghanistan
- 27 Suicide bomber blows up at Bagram Air Base checkpoint, killing more than twenty

#### МАУ

11 Taliban top commander, Mullah Dadullah, killed in U.S.-led coalition operation

#### JANUARY

**10** U.S. troop surge begins, sending additional soldiers to Iraq

#### **SEPTEMBER**

**3** British troops withdraw from Basra

#### APRIL

**16** Virginia Tech shooting occurs; thirty-two dead and seventeen wounded

#### JUNE

**24** Church membership reaches thirteen million

## 2008

#### JULY

**19** Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama visits Afghanistan

#### **DECEMBER**

**15** President Bush makes surprise visit to Afghanistan

## JULY

- **10** General David Petraeus confirmed as commander of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM)
- 16 U.S. troop surge officially ends

#### **DECEMBER**

**4** Iraqi Presidential Council approves security agreement for U.S. to withdraw from Iraq by 2011

## JANUARY

**27** President Gordon B. Hinckley dies

#### **FE3RUARY**

- **3** Thomas S. Monson becomes Church president
- **17** Kosovo declares independence from Serbia

#### NOVEMBER

**4** Barack Obama elected U.S. president

## **DECEM3ER**

27 Israel invades the Gaza Strip

## 2009

#### FE3RUARY

**17** President Obama approves 17,000-troop increase

#### JANUARY

1 U.S. hands over control of Baghdad's Green Zone to Iraqi authorities

#### JANUARY

Three-week war between Israel and Gaza

42 \* \* \* \* \* \* SAINTS AT WAR

## **AFGHANISTAN**

(Operation Enduring Freedom)

## IRAQ

(Operation Iraqi Freedom)

# CHURCH AND WORLD HISTORY

#### JUNE

**30** Sergeant Bowe R. Bergdahl taken hostage by the Taliban (released in 2014)

#### **AUGUST**

**20** Afghanistan holds second national election

#### **OCTO3ER**

**31** Runoff election canceled after Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah withdraws

#### NOVEMBER

**19** Hamid Karzai sworn in for second term as Afghan president

#### **DECEMBER**

1 President Obama announces deployment of 30,000 additional U.S. troops

#### **FE3RUARY**

27 President Obama announces August 31, 2010, as end of U.S. combat operations in Iraq

#### JUNE

**30** Iraqi troops take over security operations

#### **JANUARY**

U.S. opens new embassy in Baghdad

- **22** Estonia and El Salvador end missions in Iraq
- 31 Iraqi provincial elections held

#### APRIL

**7** President Obama makes unannounced trip to visit U.S. troops in Iraq

#### **SEPTEMBER**

**11** Inmates at Abu Ghraib prison riot for two days

- 12 UN Security Council unanimously expands sanctions against North Korea
- **15** Captain Chesley Sullenberger safely lands U.S. Airways Flight 1549 on the Hudson River
- **20** Barack Obama is inaugurated as the 44th U.S. president

#### JUNE

11 Swine flu outbreak begins

#### NOVEMBER

**5** U.S. Army Major Nidal Hasan kills thirteen and wounds thirty-two at Fort Hood, Texas

## 2010

#### JANUARY

**28** Over sixty nations meet in London for International Conference on Afghanistan

#### MARCH

**28** President Obama visits Afghanistan

#### **AUGUST**

1 The Netherlands becomes first NATO member to pull combat troops out of Afghanistan

#### **AUGUST**

**19** Last U.S. combat forces leave Iraq; 52,000 U.S. support troops remain

#### **SEPTEM3ER**

- **1** Operation Iraqi Freedom is renamed Operation New Dawn
- **15** U.S. and Iraqi forces conduct a raid in Fallujah

#### **JANUARY**

**12** Earthquake in Haiti killed approx. 300,000 people

#### APRIL

**20** Deepwater Horizon drilling rig explodes in the Gulf of Mexico

#### JULY

**25** WikiLeaks publishes over 90,000 classified documents on the War in Afghanistan

#### AUGUST

29 Kyiv Ukraine Temple dedicated

(Operation Enduring Freedom)

## IRAQ

(Operation Iraqi Freedom)

## CHURCH AND WORLD HISTORY

#### **SEPTEM3ER**

**18** Afghan parliamentary elections are held

#### **DECEMBER**

3 President Obama visits Afghanistan

#### **NOVEMBER**

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**28** WikiLeaks publishes 250,000 classified U.S. documents

#### **DECEMBER**

17 Self-immolation of Tunisian street vendor Mohamed Bouazizi triggers the Arab Spring

## 2011

#### MAY

2 Navy Seals kill Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad, Pakistan

#### JUNE

22 President Obama announces U.S. combat operations in Afghanistan will end by 2014

#### JULY

**13** First U.S. soldiers leave Afghanistan

#### **AUGUST**

**10** Mullah Mohibullah, Taliban leader, is killed

#### MAY

**22** Last British military forces in Iraq withdraw

#### **OCTO3ER**

**17** U.S. and Iraq unable to reach agreement regarding legal immunity for remaining U.S. troops

#### **DECEMBER**

- **15** U.S. military mission in Iraq ends
- **18** Last U.S. troops in Iraq cross into Kuwait

#### **FE3RUARY**

- **11** Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak resigns
- 15 Libyan Civil War begins

#### MARCH

- **11** 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami hit Japan
- **15** Syrian government kills hundreds of protesters, sparking civil war

#### JULY

**21** NASA's space shuttle program ends

#### **OCTO3ER**

**20** Muammar Gaddafi is killed, ending Libyan civil war

## 2012

#### **FE3RUARY**

21 Violent protests in Afghanistan over false reports that copies of the Koran were burned at a U.S. military base

Widespread and frequent violence throughout Iraq

## **FEBRUARY**

**12** Turkish warplane attack sites in northern Iraq

#### JULY

**30** Worst blackout in history—620 million people without power in India

## **SEPTEM3ER**

**11** U.S. ambassador Christopher Stephens is killed in Benghazi, Libya

(Operation Enduring Freedom)

## IRAQ

(Operation Iraqi Freedom)

# CHURCH AND WORLD HISTORY

#### APRIL

**8** Afghan authorities are given veto over special operations night raids

#### MAY

**2** U.S. and Afghanistan sign strategic partnership agreement for ten years of U.S. support

#### **SEPTEM3ER**

**20** End of U.S. forces surge in Afghanistan

#### APRIL

**19** Bombings in Samarra, Kirkuk, and Baghdad in Iraq's worst violence in weeks

#### **OCTO3ER**

**6** President Thomas S. Monson announces changes in eligibility age for missionaries

#### NOVEMBER

6 Barack Obama is reelected

## 2013

#### MAY

27 President Obama announces U.S. combat mission in Afghanistan will end December 2014

#### JUNE

**18** Afghan National Security Forces take over combat operations

#### **SEPTEM3ER**

**30** U.S. and Afghanistan sign joint security agreement allowing U.S. troops to stay in Afghanistan beyond December deadline

Numerous suicide bombers and insurgent attacks throughout the year across the country

### **FE3RUARY**

28 Pope Benedict XVI resigns

#### MARCH

13 Pope Francis is elected

## APRIL

**15** Boston Marathon bombing

#### **NOVEMBER**

**24** Iran agrees to limit nuclear program

## 2014

## **SEPTEM3ER**

**30** U.S.-Afghanistan Bilateral Security agreement and NATO-Afghanistan Status of Forces Agreement signed

## OCTOBER

**26** UK officially ends combat operations in Afghanistan

## JUNE

- **5** Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) attacks northern Iraq
- 5 ISIS captures Mosul, Iraq
- 29 ISIS declares itself a caliphate

## FE3RUARY

Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa

#### MARCH

21 Russia annexes Crimea

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(Operation Enduring Freedom)

## IRAQ

(Operation Iraqi Freedom)

# CHURCH AND WORLD HISTORY

#### **DECEMBER**

## **28** U.S. and NATO end combat mission in Afghanistan

#### **AUGUST**

**8** U.S. begins air campaign against ISIS

#### **SEPTEM3ER**

**22** U.S. begins air campaign against Syrian government

## 2015

## Taliban resurgence across Afghanistan

## МАУ

- 21 ISIS captures Palmyra, Syria
- 22 ISIS controls half of Syria and all the Iraq/Syria border crossings

## JULY

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**20** U.S. and Cuba reestablish full diplomatic relations

#### **SEPTEM3ER**

**30** Russia begins air strikes against Syrian rebels

## NOVEMBER

13 ISIS attacks in Paris (130 killed)

## 2016

## Numerous Taliban attacks and bombings across Afghanistan

## FE3RUARY

**9** Iraqi forces retake Ramadi from ISIS

## JUNE

**26** Iraqi forces retake Fallujah from ISIS

## FE3RUARY

**7** North Korea launches rocket into space

## JUNE

**23** Britain votes to leave the European Union

## JULY

**14** Terrorist truck attack in Nice, France (eighty-six killed)

## **SEPTEM3ER**

**9** North Korea conducts fifth nuclear test

## NOVEMBER

8 Donald Trump is elected U.S. president

(Operation Enduring Freedom)

## IRAQ

(Operation Iraqi Freedom)

# CHURCH AND WORLD HISTORY

## 2017

#### APRIL

**13** U.S. drops largest non-nuclear weapon on ISIS base in Afghanistan

#### JULY

**10** Mosul liberated from ISIS

#### **OCTO3ER**

17 Raqqa, Syria, liberated from ISIS

#### **DECEMBER**

**9** Iraqi military announces ISIS removed from Iraq

#### **FE3RUARY**

**11** North Korea fires missile across the Sea of Japan

#### APRIL

**6** U.S. launches fifty-nine cruise missiles at Syrian air base in response to chemical weapons attack

#### JUNE

1 U.S. announces decision to withdraw from Paris Climate Agreement

#### **AUGUST**

**25** Hurricane Harvey strikes U.S. (costliest natural disaster in U.S. history)

#### **SEPTEM3ER**

3 North Korea conducts sixth nuclear test

#### OCTO3ER

**1** Las Vegas shooting (58 killed, 851 injured)

## **DECEMBER**

**6** U.S. recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's capital

## 2018

## **OCTOBER**

**12** U.S. and Taliban hold initial round of peace talks in Qatar

## **DECEMBER**

**19** President Trump declares ISIS defeated in Iraq and Syria; announces withdrawal of some U.S. forces from Syria

## MARCH

- 11 China's government grants Xi Jinping status of president for life
- **31** The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints restructures elders quorums and high priest groups

## (Operation Enduring Freedom)

## IRAQ

## (Operation Iraqi Freedom)

# CHURCH AND WORLD HISTORY

#### **NOVEMBER**

**14-16** Round two of U.S.–Taliban peace talks in Qatar

#### **DECEMBER**

**17** Round three of U.S.–Taliban peace talks in United Arab Emirates

#### APRIL

- 1 President Russell M. Nelson announces the end of home and visiting teaching and the beginning of ministering
- **14** U.S., UK, and France bomb Syrian bases

#### МАУ

**8** U.S. withdraws from Iranian nuclear deal

#### DECEMBER

**14** Latter-day Saint leaders announced Aaronic Priesthood and Young Women changes for eleven-year-olds

## 2019

#### JANUARY

**8** Round four of U.S.-Taliban peace talks are canceled

## **FEBRUARY**

**27** Round five of U.S.–Taliban peace talks begin in Qatar

#### MARCH

**12** Round five of U.S.–Taliban peace talks end

#### МАУ

**1-9** Round six of U.S.–Taliban peace talks in Qatar

## JUNE

**23** Round seven of U.S.–Taliban peace talks in Doha

#### **AUGUST**

- 3 Round eight of U.S.-Taliban peace talks in Doha
- **22** Round nine of U.S.–Taliban peace talks begin in Qatar

#### **JANUARY**

1 Two-hour Church services and the *Come*, *Follow Me—For Individuals and Families* resource began for Latter-day Saints

#### MARCH

- **9** President Russell M. Nelson meets with Pope Francis
- 10 Rome Italy Temple dedicated