

# Bible Overview

Scripture quotations marked LSB

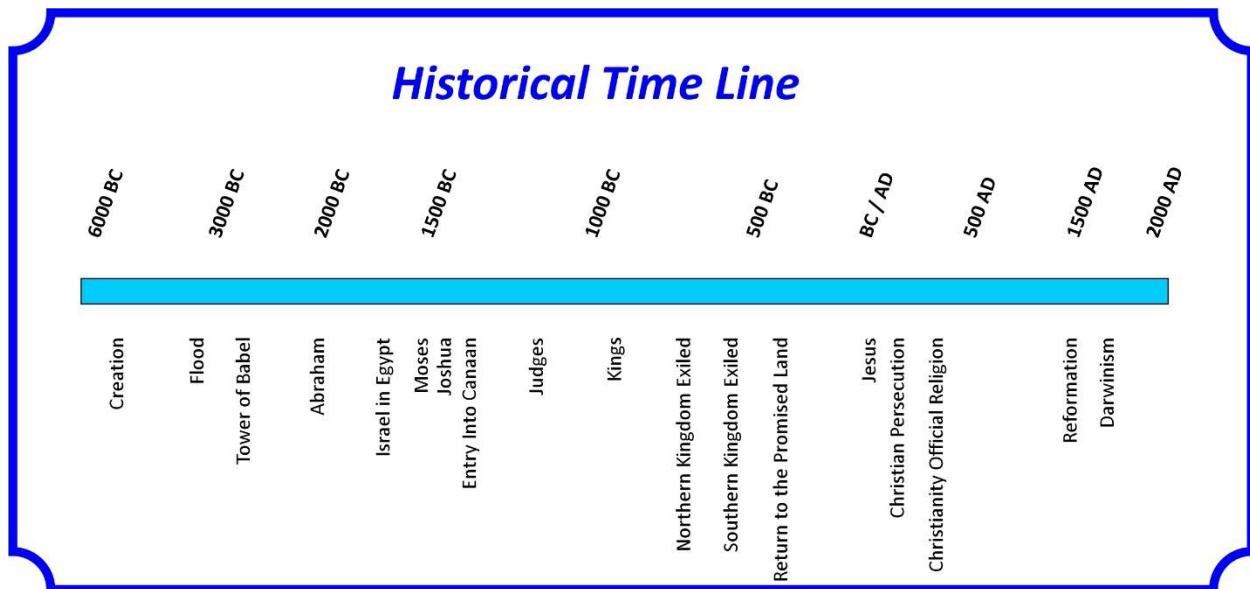
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## Who is God?

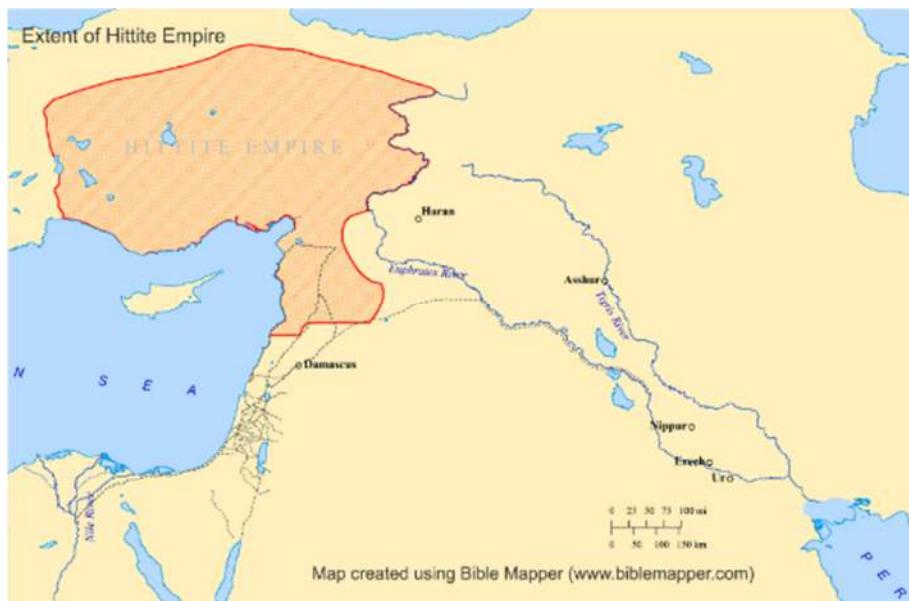
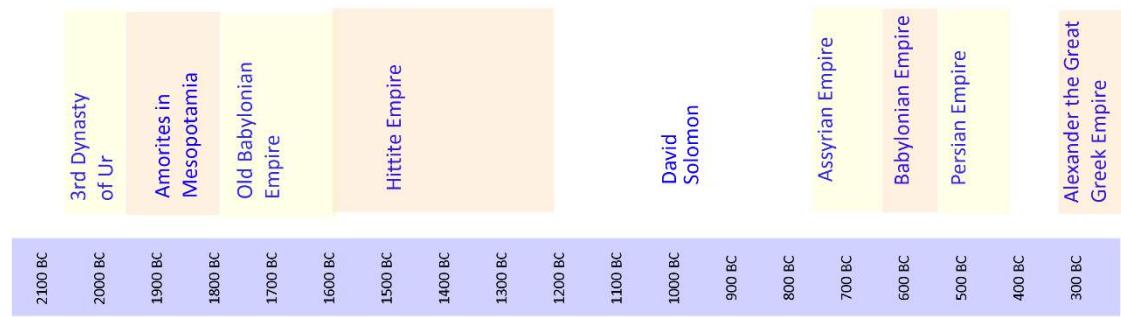
- Eternal
- Holy
- Just
- Merciful
- Compassionate
- All knowing
- Unchangeable
- When God created the universe, time began. Prior to creation, time did not exist. That is hard to wrap our minds around.
- As we study the Scriptures, how would God's attributes affect how we view or understand the Scriptures?
- How do mercy, compassion and justice work together?
- We have to be careful not to impose our ideas or values on God.
- Why do we call it the Old Testament and the New Testament?
- The Old Testament records the covenants God made to Noah, Abraham, David and Moses. It records the history from creation to about 400 BC. The New Testament is the New Covenant in Jesus as God told Jeremiah. It records events from John the Baptist to about 95 AD.
- *"Behold, days are coming," declares Yahweh, "when I will cut a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I cut with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, but I was a husband to them," declares Yahweh. "But this is the covenant which I will cut with the house of Israel after those days," declares Yahweh: "I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.* (Jeremiah 31:31-33 LSB)

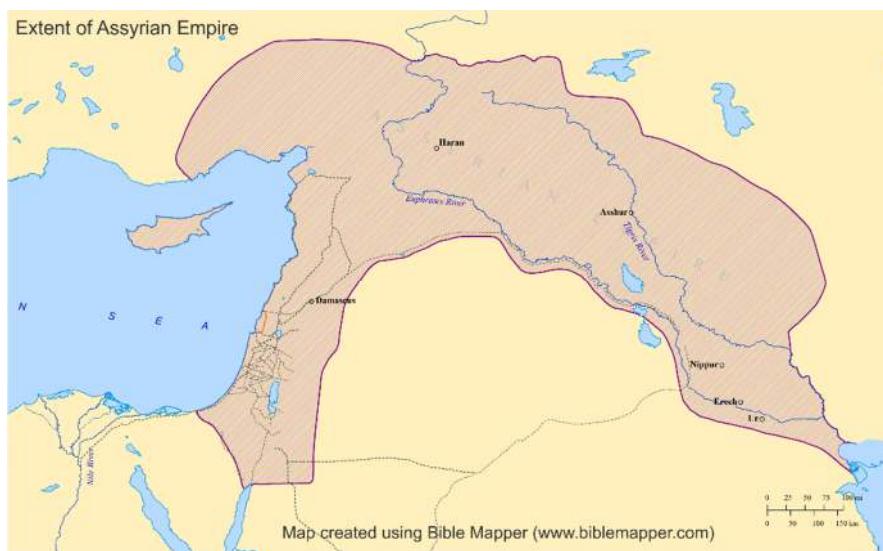
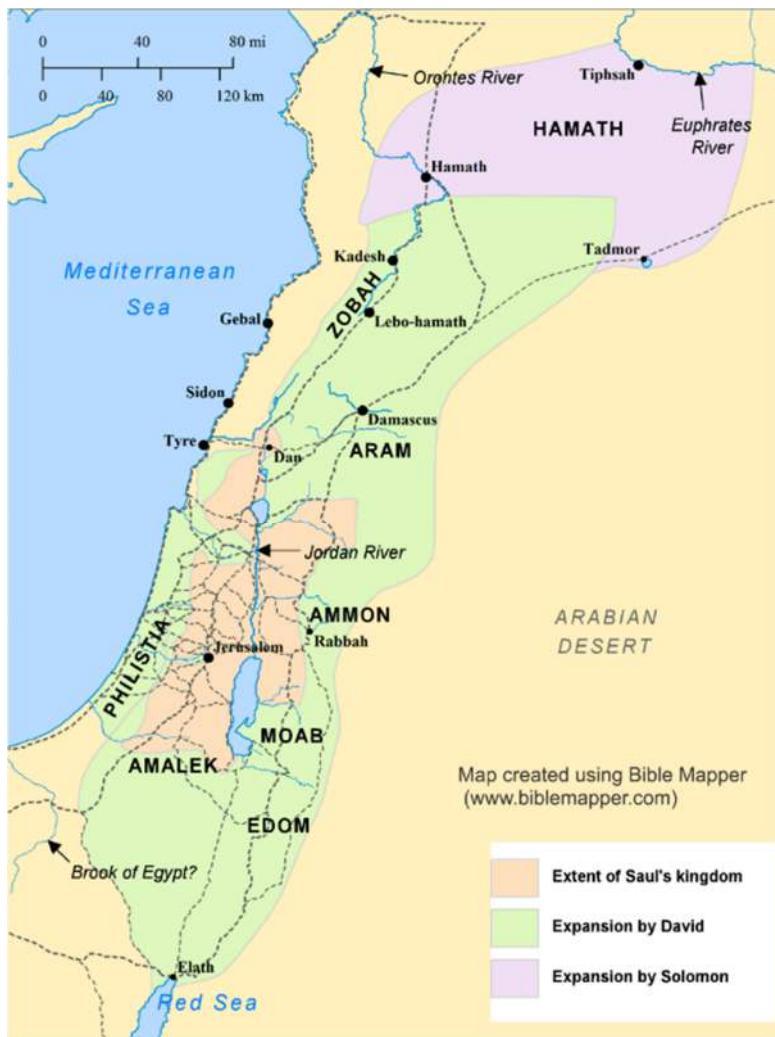
- Jesus proclaimed the new covenant: "*And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood."*"(Luke 22:20 LSB). Here Jesus talks about the fulfillment of the prophecy of Jeremiah.
- What is Scripture? Discuss.
- Essentially, we are to understand Scripture as it is plainly written, just as we would read and understand other letters or books. When there is a historical account, we read it as history, when it is poetry, we read it as poetry etc.
- *Know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes by one's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever made by the will of man, but men being moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.* (2 Peter 1:20-21 [LSB](#))
- *All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be equipped, having been thoroughly equipped for every good work.* (2 Timothy 3:16-17 [LSB](#))
- In 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:16, Peter already acknowledges Paul's writings as Scripture and talks about people distorting both the Old Testament Scriptures and Paul's writings.
- Based on this, we know that the Scriptures are correct in all that they touch on, whether it be spiritual truths, history or other items since they are God's Word.
- We want to understand the Scriptures, but not add to, or conjecture about what is not there.
- We should focus on the things that the Scriptures focus on.
- The Chicago Statement on Inerrancy provides some really good guidelines for reading the Scriptures. [Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy](#)

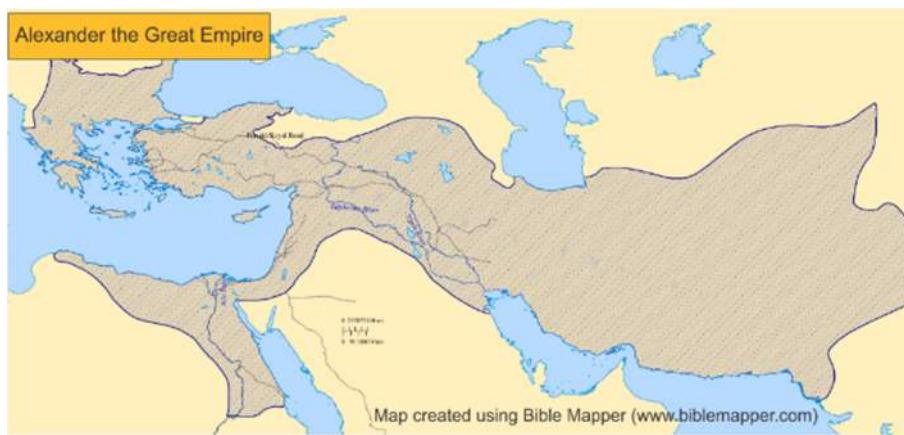
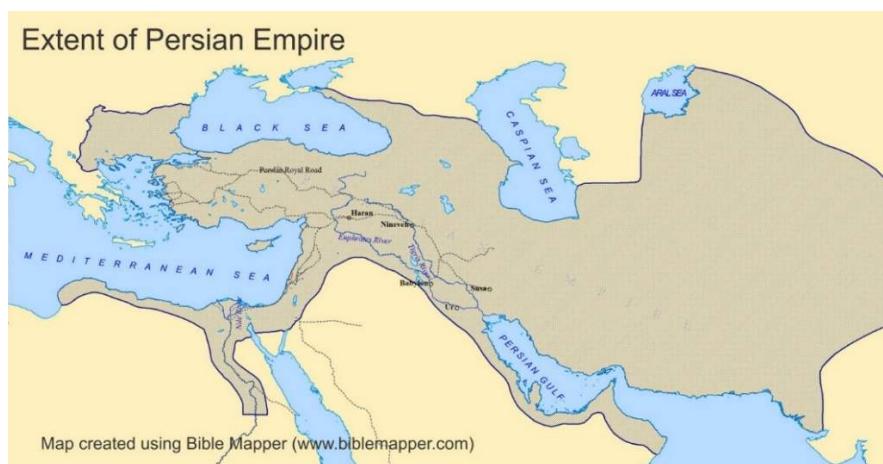
## Historical Time Line



## Historical Empires and Kingdoms









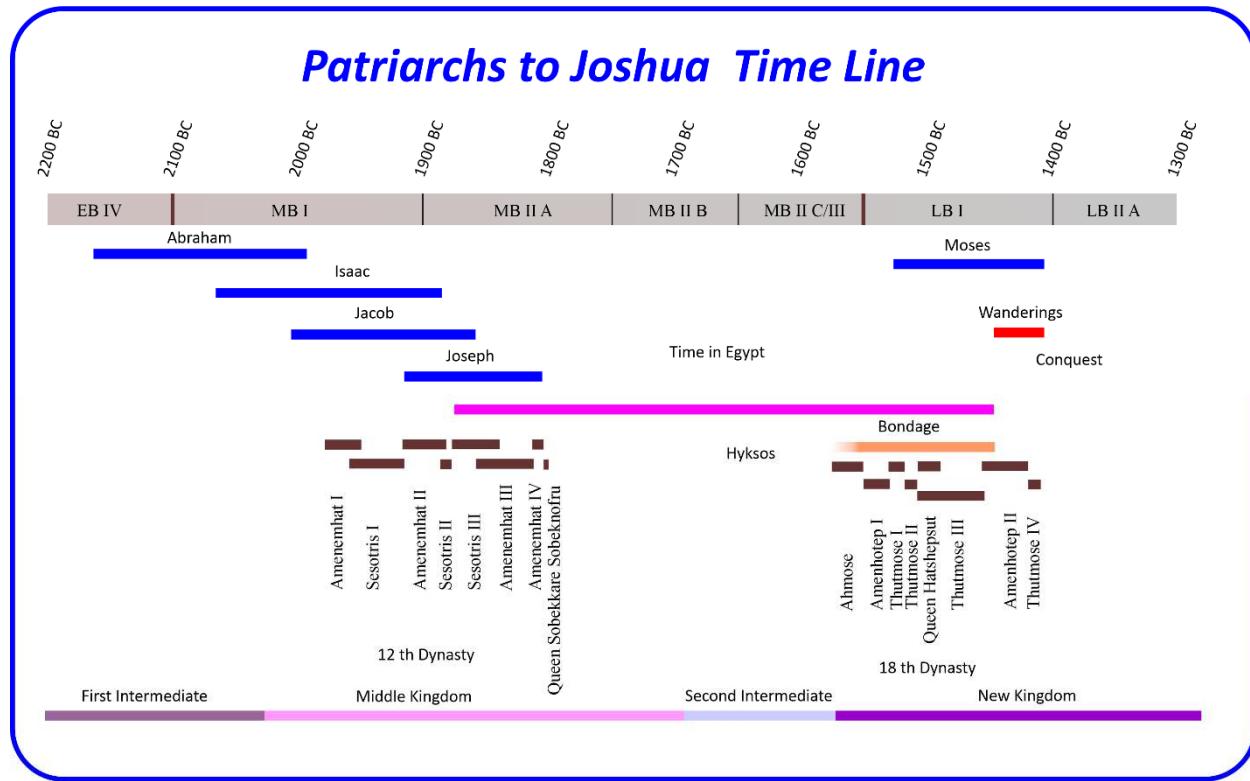
## Old Testament

- Anybody find it kind of confusing as to how the books of the Bible are arranged and how they fit together?
- In our Bible today there are 39 books. In the modern Hebrew Bible there are 24, whereas Josephus had them counted as 22. This is due to several being grouped together in a book. For example, the minor prophets were one, Samuel, Kings and Chronicles were each one, etc.
- History Books
- Poetry Books
- Major Prophets
- Minor Prophets
- The Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches also have what are called the Apocrypha. These are texts that we would not consider Scripture, but that do have some useful information.

## Transmission of the Text

- How do we know that the text that we have today is virtually the same as when it was written?
- Josephus, a Jewish historian just after the time of Christ wrote a letter defending the Jewish religion and accuracy of the transmission of the text. He talks about the records having been written down with the utmost accuracy.

- Jesus and the New Testament writers all affirm the inspiration and accuracy of the Old Testament.
- As we compare the Dead Sea Scrolls that were written prior to the time of Christ to our present text, we can see that the Old Testament has been preserved incredibly well.
- In regard to the New Testament, we have a huge volume of texts and fragments which also confirm the accuracy of our present New Testament.
- To go into all the details of this would take a separate study. For those interested in this topic, I can suggest some resources.



## The Pentateuch

- The Pentateuch, also called the 5 books of Moses was written between 1446 BC and 1406 BC by Moses.
- **Genesis** records the history from creation to the time of the move to Egypt in the 1800's BC. Joseph was there first and then during the famine; the rest of the family came in 1876 BC.
- **Exodus** records the history from the birth of Moses in 1526 BC to the construction of the tabernacle about one year after the exodus from Egypt.

- **Leviticus** continues from there. This is where the statutes related to the tabernacle and community life are recorded. The priesthood is established. When we get to the New Testament, these are the regulations that are referred to as the Law. Here is where the various feasts are established.
- **Numbers** then records the movements from there. The Israelites are numbered – thus the name for the book. Duties of the tribes are established and more statutes are added. Various complaints and rebellions against Moses and God are recorded. Because of their disobedience, they must wander 40 years in the desert.
- **Deuteronomy** is set on the East side of the Jordan, prior to the Israelites entering the promised land. They have defeated the people East of the Jordan and Moses now recounts their journeys, gives the law again and admonishes them.



Time of the Judges (approximate dates)

1400 B.C.

1300 B.C.

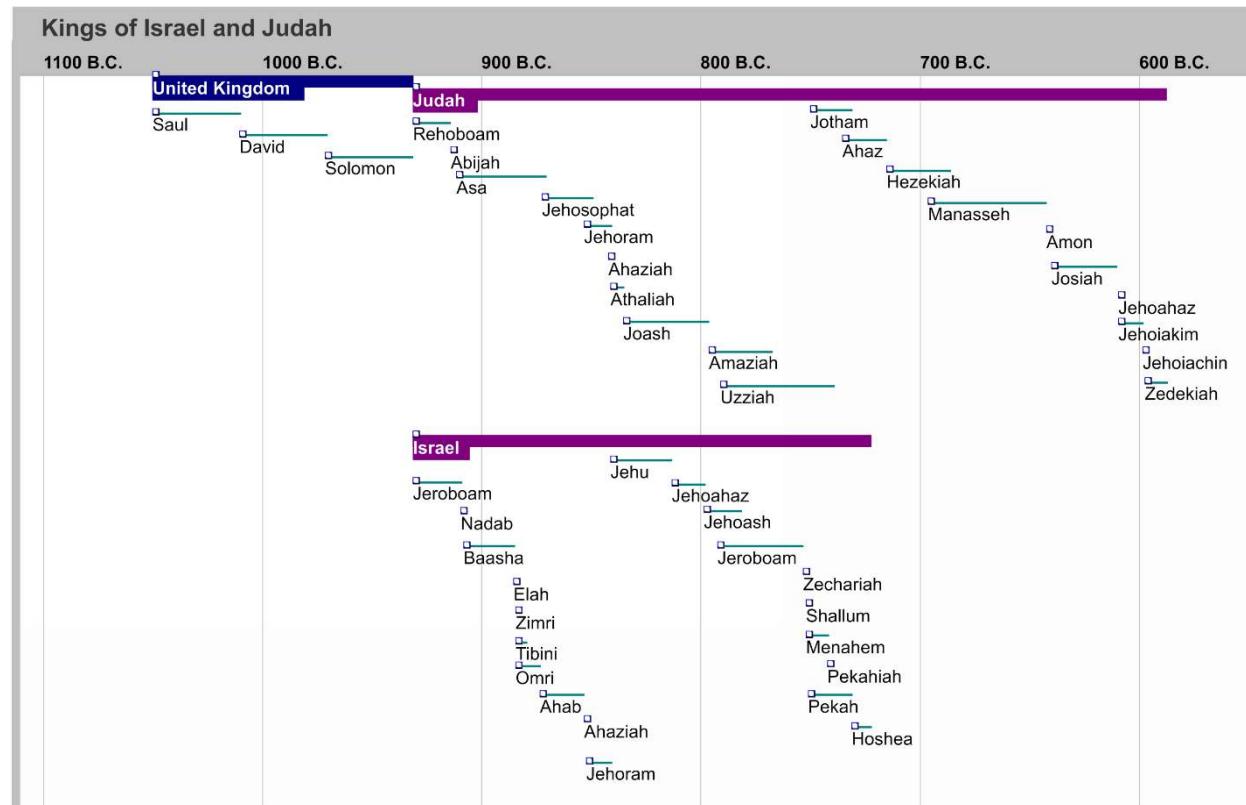
1200 B.C.

1100 B.C.

□ Othniel	□ Ehud	□ Shamgar	□ Deborah □ Gideon	□ Tola	□ Jair	□ Eli	□ Jephthah	□ Samuel
						□ Samson	□ Abdon	
					□ Ruth and Boaz	□ Ibzan		□ Elon

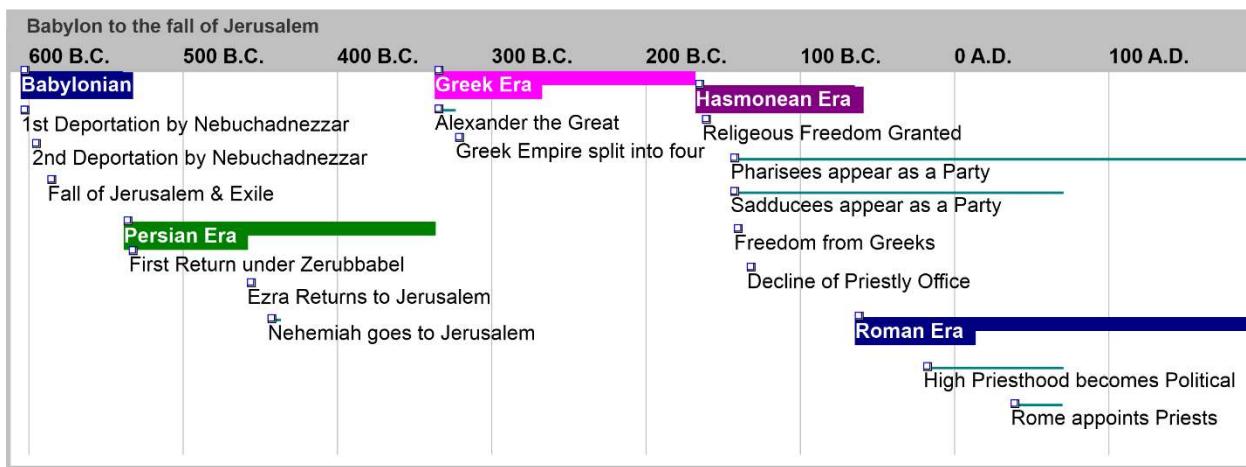
# Historical Books

- **Joshua** records the conquest of Canaan. Here we have God causing the walls of Jericho to fall over outward to provide a path for the Israelites to come in. From there Joshua moves throughout the land. He ends with the charge for the people to serve God and put away the foreign gods that they had. The prostitute who through faith hid the spies that Joshua sent is one of the two women that are mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus.
- **Judges** continues from the death of Joshua. The Israelites did not dispossess the people as they were commanded. They would leave God and worship the gods of the people around them. God would allow them to be oppressed until they finally called out and He would then rescue them. This was a cycle throughout the book. It ends with “everyone doing what was right in their own eyes”.
- **Ruth** is set in the period of the judges. She is the great grandmother of David, the king. Ruth was a Moabites, not an Israelite and is the second woman named in Jesus' genealogy.
- The books of **Samuel** record the events at the end of the period of the judges, with Samuel being the last judge just prior to a king being appointed and continuing to the life of King David.



## Kings and Chronicles

- The books of the **Kings** covers the time from Solomon (971 BC), the son of David to the time of the exile to Babylon in 587 BC. During the time of Solomon's son, the kingdom was divided into the North (Israel) and South (Judah) kingdoms. The Northern kingdom did not have any godly kings and they led the people astray. They went into exile in about 722-3 BC. The Southern kingdom had a mix of good and bad kings. They were led into exile by Babylon from 605 BC to 587 BC.
- The books of the **Chronicles** start with a lot of genealogical information. The history overlaps with Kings, but adds more information at the beginning and end. It starts with the end of King Saul's life and traces the history through to the destruction of Jerusalem and the decree by the Persian king Cyrus to rebuild the temple as per the prophecy of Jeremiah regarding the exile being 70 years.



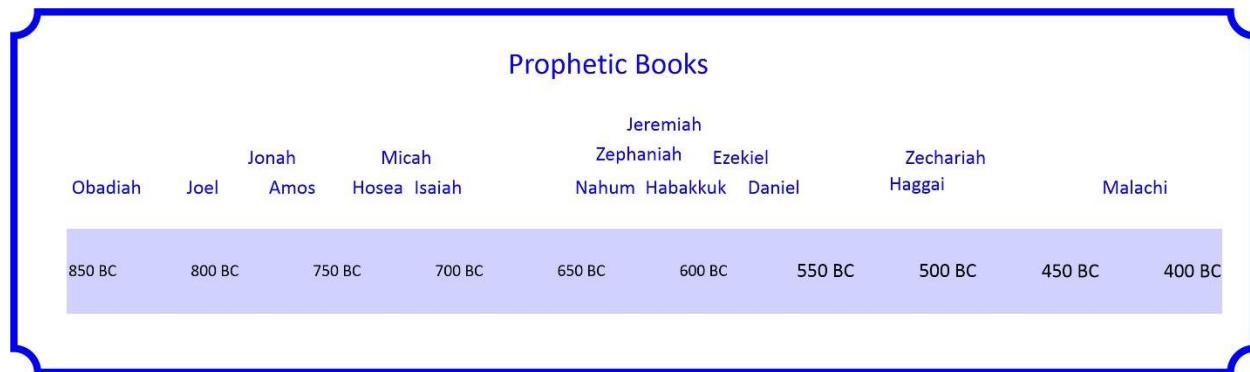
## Ezra, Nehemiah & Esther

- The books of Ezra and Nehemiah were written after the Babylonian exile. Ezra starts with the account of Cyrus the king of Persia authorizing the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem, thus fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah over 150 years earlier and Jeremiah's prophecy of the 70 years of exile. About 50,000 return with Zerubbabel leading them. Ezra, a scribe, joined them some time after. About 70 years after the first return of the exiles, Nehemiah goes to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls. There is opposition to the rebuilding by others in the land. Some time later Nehemiah returns and finds a lot of issues again with the temple forsaken, the Levites and singers not receiving their allotment and a priest providing a large room for a foreigner in the temple. Nehemiah again brought about reforms.
- In the book of Esther, a beautiful Israelite woman becomes Queen in the Persian empire. Through a series of events, she thwarts the evil intentions of a descendant of the

Amalekites to destroy the Israelites. The Amalekites had attacked the Israelites when they were coming out of Egypt.

## Poetic Books

- **Job** is set in the time of the Patriarchs – likely earlier than 2000 BC. This is the account of a godly man losing pretty much everything and yet trusting God through it all.
- The book of **Psalms** is a collection of psalms that were written by several authors. Many were written by David the King.
- The books of **Proverbs** was written by different authors as well, though many were written by Solomon, King of Israel.
- Solomon wrote **Ecclesiastes** towards the end of his life as he reflected back. Here we have the famous “*All is Vanity*” statement. He ends with “*The end of the matter, all that has been heard: fear God and keep His commandments, because this is the end of the matter for all mankind*”
- **Song of Solomon** is a book about the romantic love affair of Solomon and his bride. It gets quite detailed and graphic at times.



## Major Prophets

- **Isaiah** prophesied during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries BC. Isaiah has prophecies of Christ. Being such a long book, it covers many topics. As with many of the prophets, he calls out the sins of the people and religious leaders and calls them to repentance. He also pronounces the judgements of God.
- **Jeremiah** lived around the period of the exile by the Babylonians. He prophesied that the exile would be 70 years.

- **Lamentations** was also written by Jeremiah. He is called the weeping prophet as he mourns the destruction of Jerusalem.
- **Ezekiel** also lived during this same time. He was taken captive and prophesied from there. Ezekiel sees heavenly visions and speaks of a future temple.
- **Daniel** was also taken into captivity in the first deportation in 605 BC. He served in the royal courts for many years down to the time of the Persians. He has many prophesies about the future.

## Minor Prophets

- We will look at the minor prophets in a chronological order not the way they are arranged in the Bible
- **Obadiah** was the earliest and dates to the earlier time of the divided kingdom. He speaks against the Edomites (descendants of Esau)
- **Joel**, around 800 BC calls people to repentance and speaks about the coming day of Yahweh (LORD).
- **Jonah** was a prophet in the Northern kingdom in the the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC. He was called to go to the City of Nineveh to call people to repentance. These people were the arch enemies of Israel, so little wonder that he did not want to go there and have God show them mercy.
- **Amos** lived around the middle of the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC. He was from the Southern kingdom, but was primarily sent to the Northern kingdom.
- **Hosea** was a little later than Amos. He was called to take a prostitute for a wife to serve as a symbol of Israel's unfaithfulness to God. It also shows God's faithfulness and love to the unfaithful.
- **Micah** is also in the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC. He pronounces judgement on both the Southern and Northern kingdoms.
- **Nahum** is in the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC and prophesies against Ninevah. Unlike the Ninevites at the time of Jonah previously, they did not repent.
- **Zephaniah** is in the time prior to the Babylonians coming. He also pronounces judgement on Judah for their evil.
- **Habakkuk** wrote just prior to the Babylonians taking Jerusalem. He is asking God about the evil Babylonians, who are more wicked (in his mind) coming against those whom he considers not as evil.

- **Haggai** writes after the return to Jerusalem by the exiles. He rebukes them for not rebuilding the temple while they were living in nice houses.
- **Zechariah** is writing in the same time period. He speaks of the restoration of Israel and prophecies about the coming Messiah.
- **Malachi** closes off the prophets and is dated to the late 5<sup>th</sup> century BC. He again calls out the evil of his time. He speaks of the messenger who will come before the coming of the LORD.

## Intertestamental Time Period

- With Malachi being the last book of the Old Testament, we do not have Biblical information about the time from Malachi to the New Testament.
- We end with the Persians being in power. Within a few decades, Alexander the Great defeats the Persians and takes over their empire.
- Alexander dies at a young age and his empire is divided among four of his generals.
- The two that would concern us are the Ptolemy and Seleucid rulers. They ruled Egypt and Syria respectively.
- Part of the Greek mantra was to have all the people in their kingdom have a common culture, which included religion.
- When the Seleucid king Antiochus IV Epiphanes wanted to eradicate the Jewish religion, he desecrated the temple and mandated the sacrificing of pigs.
- An aged priest and his sons rebelled and defeated the Greeks.
- While the first generation of these were fairly good in terms of following God, successive generations messed up again.
- In the first century BC, a couple of the brothers were vying for power.
- When the brothers asked Rome to intervene, the Roman general Pompey the Great decided to take Judea for Rome instead. There was more turmoil and the Herod family had control, though they were subservient to Rome.
- Herod the Great, while building a lot of nice buildings, was a paranoid man, especially towards the end of his life. He killed members of his own family, including his favorite wife.
- When he was close to death, Josephus records: *“since he took care, when he was departing out of this life, that the whole nation should be put into mourning, and indeed made desolate of their dearest kindred, when he gave order that one out of every family*

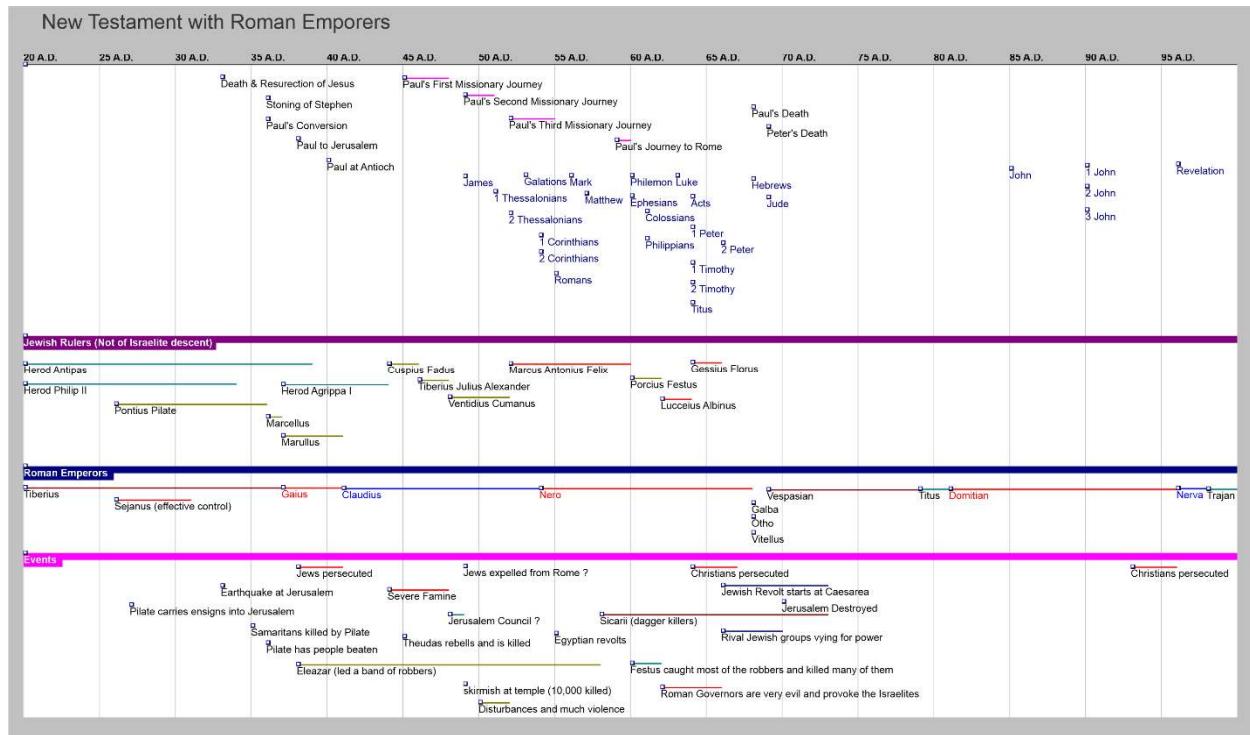
*should be slain, although they had done nothing that was unjust, or against him, nor were they accused of any other crimes". Flavius Josephus and William Whiston, The Works of Josephus: Complete and Unabridged (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1987), 463.*

- That command was not carried out.
- This is the world that Jesus was born into.



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# New Testament books, rulers and events



## New Testament

- History Books
- Paul's writings
- Hebrews
- General Epistles
- Revelation

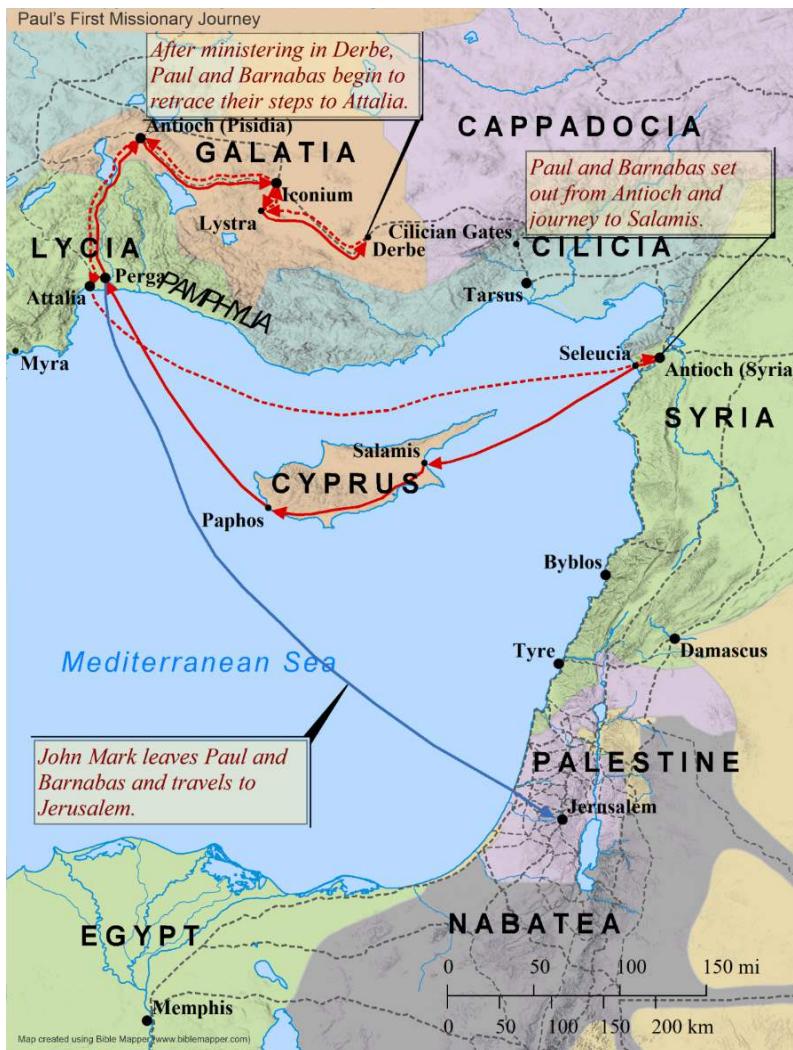
## Gospels

- The Gospels are four accounts of the life of Jesus.
- The first three are called the **synoptic Gospels** as they share similar information and were written between about 56 AD and 63 AD.
- **John**, the fourth Gospel was written after the fall of Jerusalem, likely around 85 AD. By this time, false doctrines had started to appear, so John's Gospel is written to address some of these issues. There is a real focus on Jesus being God.
- Some key teachings of Jesus.

- Scripture is the Word of God and cannot be broken. Jesus uses it authoritatively against the devil, the religious leaders and in all His teaching.
- He starts by preaching “repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”.
- In the “Sermon on the Mount” He teaches right living and attitudes.
- Jesus performs many miracles. These confirm His teachings.

## Acts of the Apostles

- Luke traces the history from the ascension of Jesus to the early sixties AD, where Paul is left in prison and the Gospel is moving forward.
- The beginning chapters detail the early church with Peter being the main character.
- We read about the love that the early church had for one another.
- It does not take long for issues to develop.
- Church structure starts to take place
- While the apostles were told to spread the news throughout the world, they initially stayed close to home. After the stoning of Stephen, the believers were dispersed and the church started to spread throughout the empire.
- This is where Paul is called by Jesus to evangelize the Gentile world.
- The rest of Acts primarily traces Paul’s travels to the time that he is in prison in Rome.





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## Paul's Letters

- Paul wrote a number of letters to churches that he founded or were founded by others as well as some personal letters.
- **Romans** is a kind of theological treatise in some ways and lays out a lot of truths of the faith.

- The **Corinthian** letters address issues and questions that have arisen.
- **Galatians** rebukes them for turning back from the Gospel to Judaism and looking for salvation through the works of the Law.
- **Ephesians** encourages them to walk in the ways of God and realize that the battle is a spiritual one.
- **Philippians** is a letter commending them, but also calling for unity in the body.
- **Colossians** affirms the deity of Christ and encourages them to live godly lives.
- **Thessalonians** addresses some misconceptions about the return of Christ.
- The letters to **Timothy** and **Titus** are pastoral letters giving them instructions as Paul himself is nearing the end of his life.
- **Philemon** is a letter to a friend asking him to receive a runaway slave as a fellow believer.

## General Epistles

- **Hebrews** is written to confront the believers regarding different things and are warned not to fall away but to persevere in their faith and avoid sin.
- **James** is a very practical letter. It is written about the time of the great famine during the time of Claudius. He addresses joy in trials, favoritism and greed among other things.
- **Peter** also addresses trials in his letters. He calls his hearers to live a pure life and obey their leaders. In his second letter, he spells out that Scripture was written as men were moved by the Holy Spirit. He also warns them about false teachers and distorting Scripture.
- The letters of **John** address some false teachings that were occurring by this time (around 90 AD). One of his themes is love. Love works itself out through actions. In his third letter he addresses the issue of a church leader who wanted to be first and rejected the apostolic leadership.
- **Jude**, the half brother of Jesus addresses false teachers that have crept in. These people promoted sensuality, immorality and denied Christ.
- They rejected authority and blasphemed spiritual beings.

## The book of Revelation

- This is a book that has lots of people coming up with different ideas about it. We are going to consider it by looking at the plain reading of the text and not imposing our own

ideas on the text. It was written in about 95 AD while the apostle John was exiled on the island of Patmos.

- The first 3 chapters are letters written to churches at the time.
- The rest basically looks forward to the end times, the tribulation, the thousand-year reign of Christ and the final events leading to eternal life with God or eternal damnation in the lake of fire

## Basic Outline of the Old Testament

- Perfect Creation.
- Adam and Eve Sin. Curse on all creation.
- Prophecy of a Savior.
- Evil fills the earth.
- Judgement on the earth via Noah's flood.
- Disobedience at Babel and dispersion with confusion of languages.
- Call of Abraham and promise to Abraham.
- Sojourn in Egypt and Exodus into Canaan.
- Cycles of disobedience, judgements and deliverance throughout the time of judges and kings.
- Exile to Babylon and return.
- Inter-Testamental time.

## Setting of the Pentateuch

- Moses was born in about 1526 BC. The Egyptian rulers from the Southern part of Egypt had just expelled the Hyksos rulers. The Hyksos were a Semite people from the Levant. (the area of the land of Israel and Syria)
- The Israelite people are also Semites – that is descended from Shem, the son of Noah. The Egyptians are descended from Ham, one of Noah's other sons.
- It would appear that the Egyptians were afraid that the Israelites might also be a threat to them as the Hyksos had been. The Egyptians oppressed the Israelites and subjected them to forced labour.

- During the time of Moses birth, Pharaoh had commanded that all the male Hebrew (Israelite) children were to be killed. Moses' mother made a small ark for Moses and set him on the Nile River. Pharaoh's daughter saw Moses and took him as her own son.
- After 40 years, Moses ran afoul of Pharaoh and fled to Midian, which is Southeast of the Dead Sea. After another 40 years, God calls Moses to bring the Israelites out of Egypt into the land that He had promised Abraham.
- Moses went back to Egypt to bring the Israelites out of Egypt after 430 years of residing there.
- Pharaoh did not want to let the people go, so God used a series of plagues to convince Pharaoh to let them go.
- God parted the waters for the Israelites and after they were through to the other side, God caused the waters to go back and drown the Egyptians who had come after them.
- The Israelites then go to Mount Sinai where they are given the Law and instructions for making the tabernacle.
- There was a mixed multitude that left Egypt.
- The people brought their own gods and idols with them.
- There were several times where they grumbled and were disobedient.
- It is in this context that God, through Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible.
- All the peoples around them worshipped false gods and idols.
- The people around them practised things that were detestable to God, and the Israelites were not to imitate them.
- The Book of Genesis sets the stage for the rest of the Scriptures.

## Creation

- Genesis starts with the statement that "in the beginning, God created ...".
- This is where time, material and even spiritual beings start.
- The Holy Spirit is introduced here.
- Let's read Genesis 1:1 – 2:3
- Verses 1 – 5 define what the meaning of one day is. It is one rotation of the earth, approximately a 24-hour period.
- Day 2 – expanse separating the waters.

- Day 3 – Land appears and vegetation is created. Vegetation bears fruit after its kind.
- Day 4 – Sun, Moon and stars are created.
- Day 5 – Aquatic creatures and birds. They reproduce according to their kind.
- Day 6 – Land dwelling animals and Adam and Eve are created. They reproduce according to their kind.
- God notes each day that it is good.
- God gives Adam and all the animals plants for food.
- God blessed and sanctified the 7<sup>th</sup> day and called His creation “very good”.
- God gave Adam the command that he could eat from any tree but the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat from it, you will surely die.
- All the angels were created in the creation week, likely close to the beginning.

## Man created in the image of God

- *Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness, so that they will have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.* (Genesis 1:26-27 LSB)
- Man being made in the image of God is a very important concept. Exactly what it means has been the subject of much discussion, but let us look at some items related to this subject.
- First of all, mankind is the only creature that is said to be created in the image of God: no animals or spiritual beings have the image of God.
- It does not mean that we are God.
- In this passage, at the very least, it entails rulership. Mankind is to have dominion over all living things on earth.
- Mankind still has the image of God after the fall as we read in Gen 9:6 where God establishes capital punishment.
- James brings up the subject when he says: *“But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God.”* (James 3:8-9 LSB)

- As strange as it may sound, Paul says that man is the “image and glory of God”. (1 Cor 11:7)
- When a person turns to Christ, there is a renewing towards the image of God. (Col 3:10, Eph 4:24, Rom 8:29, 2 Cor 3:18)
- What are some of the ways that we are made in the image of God?
- A take-away from this is that we need to treat all people as image bearers.

## The Fall

- In Chapter three of Genesis, we are introduced to Satan (Devil) in the form of a snake.
- The Devil was originally very good. Sometime after day 7 of creation and chapter 3, he rebelled against God along with a number of the angels.
- The question is: out of all the evil ways that he could have tried, which did he use?
- “*Did God really say*” (Questioning the truthfulness and goodness of God)
- Let’s read Genesis 3:1-19 and see what we can learn from the passage.
- The first, as mentioned, is that Satan questions what God said. (this is his favourite tactic, even today)
- Eve added to the command from God (legalism?)
- Satan contradicted what God said would happen.
- Eve agreed with Satan and did not believe God.
- Adam was with Eve and did not step in.
- When confronted, they passed the blame.
- 3:15 is considered the first prophecy of a redeemer; looking forward to Jesus.
- The curses are pronounced:
  - He said to the woman, “I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth. And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you.” (Genesis 3:16 NLT-SE)
  - The ground is now cursed. There will be increased effort as well as thorns and thistles.
  - Man is going to have to work hard until he returns to the dust. He already had to work, but the work would become very burdensome.

- This is also the first shedding of blood for sin as God would have killed an animal in order to make garments of skin. Prior to this, there was no death or disease.
- In Genesis 4, we have the first murder as Cain killed Abel his brother.
- God confronted Cain prior to him murdering his brother Abel. God said that sin is at the door and “its desire is for you, but you must rule over it”. NLT has a good translation: *“You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.”* (Genesis 4:7 NLT-SE)
- Let’s discuss this.
- Often, we do not realize the gravity of our sin and the deserved consequence.

## Adam to the Flood

- Genesis 5 records the genealogies from Adam to Noah. We can see already that history and chronology are important to God. In fact, we see this throughout the Scriptures, whether it be in Genesis or the historical books. The Bible gives us places, dates and times to anchor the text and allow it to be verified. Luke, as he writes the book of Acts provides us with much detail. This separates the Scriptures from myths, which are not historically accurate.
- Enoch walked with God and was taken by God and did not experience death.
- Genesis 6 records the wickedness that increased on the earth to the point that God judged it by a worldwide flood and eradicated all people, land animals and birds other than those on the ark. The worldwide flood was approximately one year long.
- Questions? Comments?
- After the flood, God makes a covenant with Noah that He will not destroy the world again through a flood. The rainbow was assigned as the sign that God would not do this again.
- Capital punishment is introduced at this point in time.
- Moses provides us with more relationships and descendants of the sons of Noah.

## Flood to Abraham

- God commanded them to disperse on the earth.
- God gives meat for food at this time.

- In chapter 11, we find that the majority of the people did not disperse as God had commanded. It is here that God confuses their languages and essentially forces a dispersion, since they could not understand each other. This is the origin of the various language groups.
- It is also in chapter 11 that we find another genealogy with detailed information to take us from Shem, Noah's son to Abraham. The birth of Abraham is placed about 2166 BC.
- The rest of Genesis records the history and promises from Abraham to Joseph. The Abrahamic promises flow through Isaac, then Jacob who is renamed Israel. At the end of the book, the Israelites have moved to Egypt.
- Abraham has other sons that were not from Sarah. Ishmael, the first born is said to be the ancestor of the Arab people. The promise though is through Isaac, the son of Sarah.
- In Genesis 15:6, Abraham believes God and it is counted as righteousness for him.

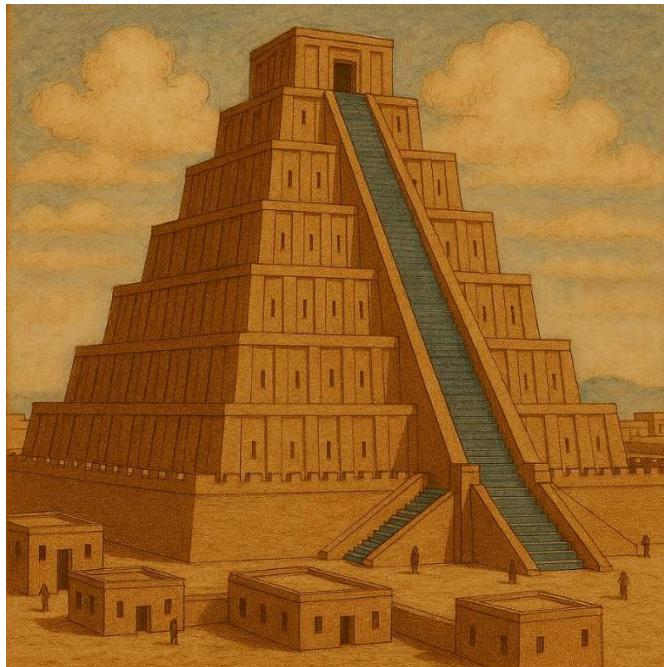
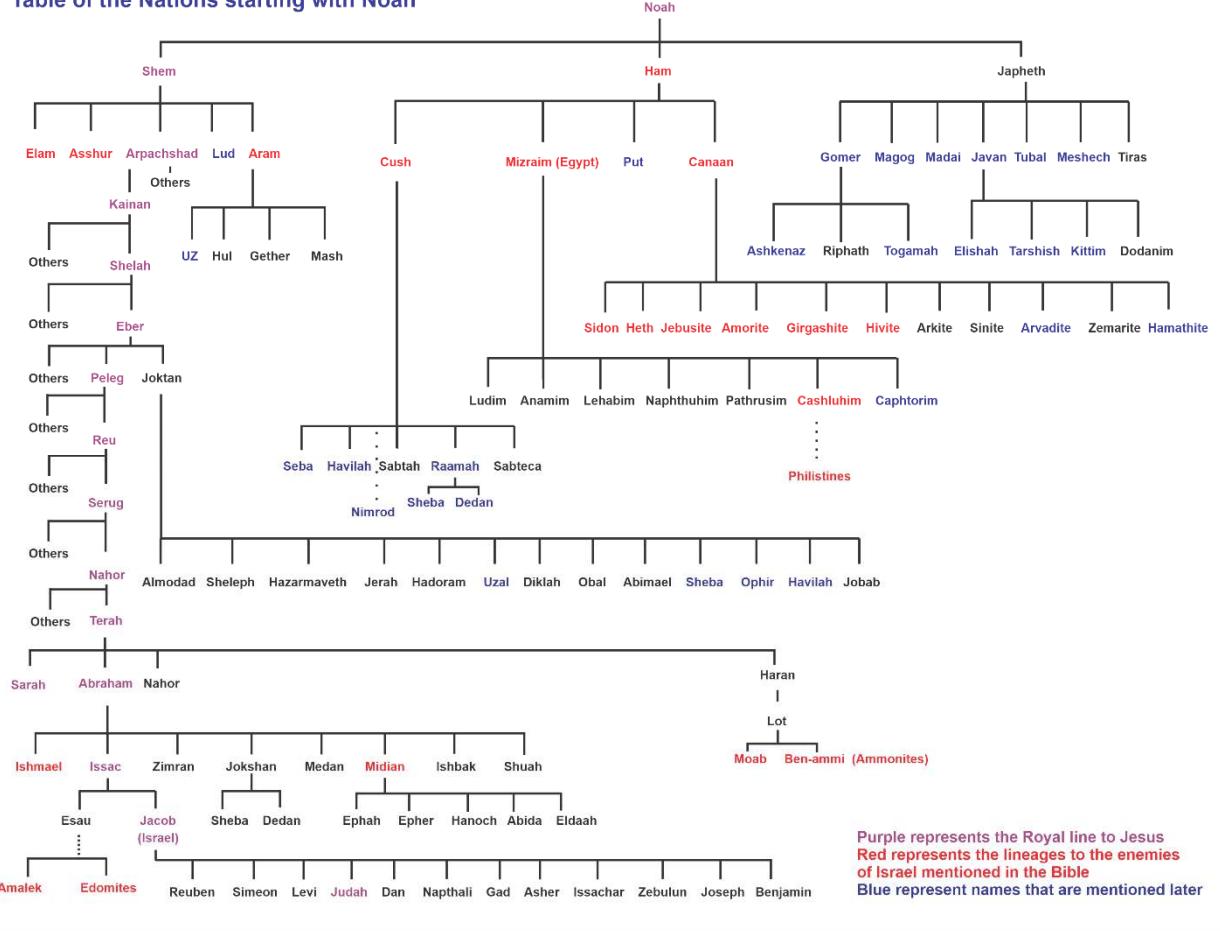


Table of the Nations starting with Noah





## Foundational Doctrines in Genesis

- Identity of God the creator.
- The universe and all that is in it is made through the spoken Word of God from nothing.
- Marriage – one man with one woman.

- Biogenesis – i.e. living things come from living things.
- Everything reproduces after its kind.
- Man is made in God's image.
- 2 sexes – male and female.
- Reason for clothes.
- Reason for pain and suffering.
- Sin and death are the direct result of Adam's disobedience. (sin)
- Origin of languages.
- 7-day week – one day of rest.
- Most importantly, the need of a savior – Jesus.

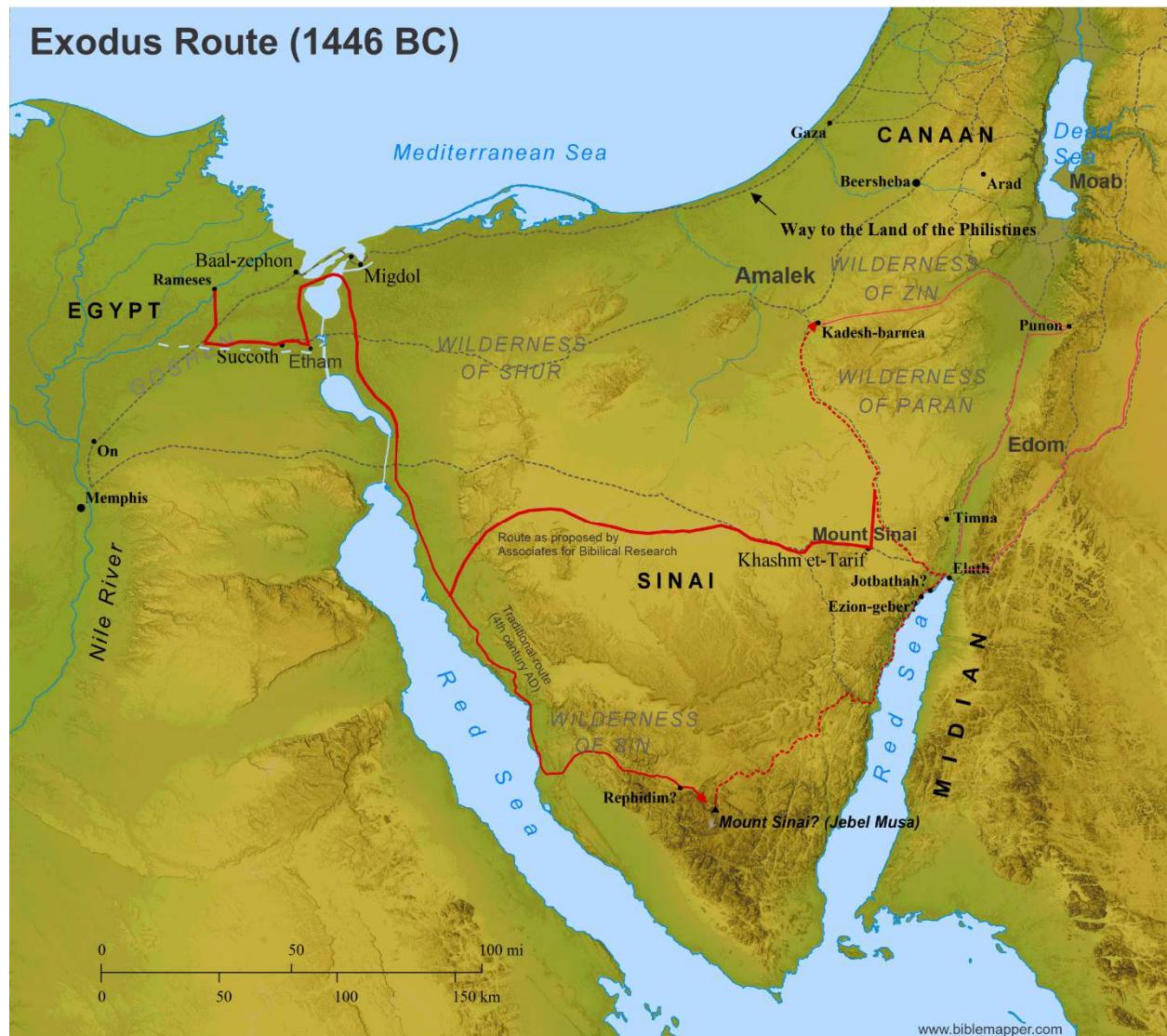
## Exodus

- Exodus starts with the Israelites in Egypt and in bondage with a cruel Pharaoh. Here we meet Moses and learn about his birth and subsequent upbringing in Pharaoh's court. After he sides with an Israelite that is being abused and kills the Egyptian, he flees East to the area of Midian. 40 years later, God calls him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt when he is 80 years old.
- God uses several disasters and plagues to get Pharaoh to release the Israelites. When they are at the Eastern edge of Egypt at the waters edge with no place to go, Pharaoh changes his mind and goes after them. As the Israelite panic, God miraculously provides a path through the sea and when the Egyptians follow, they are drowned as the waters return.
- God provides for the Israelites in miraculous ways as they journey in the desert. Their various grumblings, disobediences and rebellions bring about different judgements. It is during this time that the "Law" is given. God wrote the actual commandments on tablets of stone. The tabernacle is made according to the instructions given to Moses.
- When Moses is at the mountain of God, we read the following:
- "*And the angel of Yahweh appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of the bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed.*" (Ex. 3:2 LSB)
- "*And Yahweh saw that he turned aside to look, so God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Do not*

*come near here. Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” He said also, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.” (Ex. 3:4-6 LSB)*

- What do we notice here about the “angel of Yahweh”, Yahweh and God?
- There are other places in the Old Testament where Jesus appears and is called the “angel of Yahweh”.
- *“Then Moses said to God, “Behold, I am about to come to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ And they will say to me, ‘What is His name?’ What shall I say to them?” And God said to Moses, “**I AM WHO I AM**”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘**I AM** has sent me to you.’”” (Ex. 3:13-14 LSB)*
- God reaffirms the covenant that He made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to give the land of Canaan to their descendants. (Ex 6:4,8)
- Here is where the Passover lamb was introduced. At the time of the last plague, the plague of the death of the firstborn in every house, the Israelites were to take a perfect year-old male lamb and slaughter it. Some of the blood was to be put on the door posts and lintels so that Yahweh would “pass over” that house when he was destroying all the first born.
- The Israelites were to eat the meat along with unleavened bread.
- As a memorial of God passing over them when He destroyed the first born of the Egyptians, the feast of “unleavened bread” was instituted.
- In Ex 12:40, it is recorded that it was 430 years to the day that they left Egypt.
- After the Israelites left Egypt and were camped by the sea, Pharaoh changed his mind and went after the Israelites with his army.
- God parted the sea and the Israelites went through on dry ground.
- When the army of Pharaoh pursued them, they were drowned when God had the sea return to its place.
- After this comes a number of times where they grumble at Moses and or God.
- God provides them with water in a miraculous way along with Mana and other food.
- There were various judgements against the people for their grumblings and rebellions along the way.

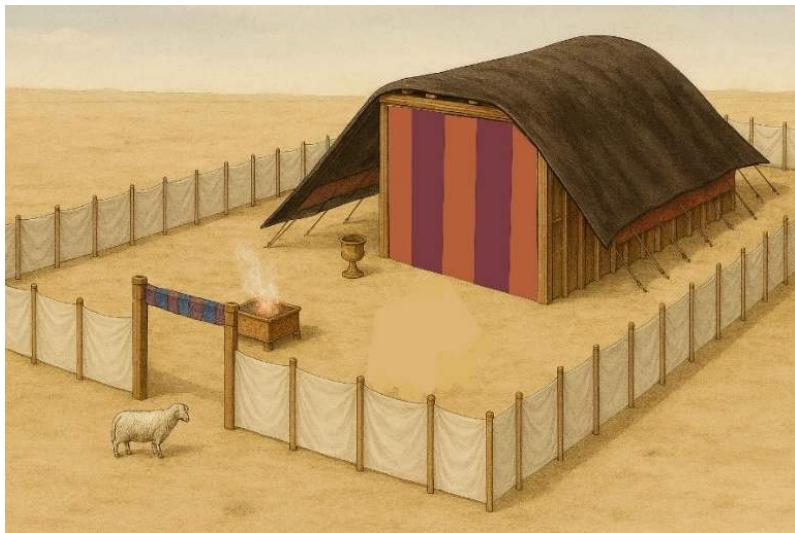
- Along the way, the Amalekites attacked Israel. Because of this, God said that he would destroy the Amalekites. (Ex 17:14)
- In chapters 19 and 20, they are at Mount Sinai and God gives them the ten commandments.
- God gives additional commandments at this time.
- Moses was with God for forty days on the mountain where he received instructions about the tabernacle. God wrote on two stone tablets the testimony (covenant) of God.
- While Moses was on the mountain with God, the people had Aaron (Moses' brother) make a golden calf for them to be their god.
- Even though Israel was so rebellious, God was still gracious to them.



## Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy

- Leviticus is primarily a collection of the statutes relating to the sacrificial system and various laws. It has some historical narrative and ends with the construction of the tabernacle.
- The book of Numbers basically continues the wanderings in the desert from where Exodus left off. We see the Israelites being numbered here according to their tribes. There are more instructions given to the people. We have various accounts of grumblings and rebellion. The Israelites did not enter the promised land as they were supposed to after the spies came back. The result was that they had to wander for forty years until the last of those 20 years and older had died. Only Joshua and Caleb entered the promised land.
- Deuteronomy was written at the end of Moses life and records some details of their journeys and recounts what God has said and done. He recounts their conquest of the Amorites on the East side of the Jordan. Moses exhorts them again to follow God and not turn away. Chapters 27 and 28 are the blessings and curses they are to pronounce once they are in the land.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= PAazWWJKAc>

AI representation of the tabernacle (not quite accurate)



AI representation of Priestly garments (not bad)



## Joshua

- Joshua continues from the death of Moses to the conquest of Canaan. Joshua took over command in 1406 BC. God again divides the waters, this time the Jordan River. The first city to be conquered was Jericho. The book details the battles as they took over the promised land as God had directed them.
- Here we see the mercy of God. In Genesis 15:6, God said that the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete. This means that God waited over 400 years to judge the Amorites through the conquest. They had a long time to repent and turn from their evil ways. God used the flood in Noah's time to judge the people because of their wickedness, here He is using the Israelites.
- Joshua urged them to put away the gods which their fathers served in Mesopotamia and Egypt.
- During the time of Joshua, and the elders that outlived him, the people followed God.
- Joshua warns the people against forsaking Yahweh and serving other gods.

## Judges and Kings

- We are lumping the books of Judges, Kings and Chronicles together since they tell a similar story, just with different people at different times. During the times of the judges, the basic things that happened were; that when things were going well, the people turned to other gods, the gods of the people around them. God would in turn allow them to suffer, generally at the hands of the peoples around them. After a time, the people would cry out to God and He would send someone to deliver them. The book of Judges ends with “everyone did what was right in their own eyes”.
- In some sense, Kings starts during the time of Samuel. The people ask for a king to fight their battles, basically rejecting God as their sovereign. Saul, the first king decides to take matters into his own hands, rather than waiting as he was instructed. As a result, he is rejected by God. David, the second king is called a “man after God’s own heart”. That is not to say that he was perfect, in fact, he was far from it at times, but he had a heart for God and to do what is right. He would repent when he sinned – Psalm 51 is one such repentance prayer.
- The third king, Solomon who was David’s son started good, but did not continue well. As a result, the kingdom was divided into two, with 10 tribes being Israel in the North and Judah and Benjamin in the South. The Northern kingdom never had any real godly kings and were conquered and exiled in 723 BC or 722 BC. The Southern kingdom had a mix of good and bad kings. As a result of the disobedience of the people and the kings, Judah was also exiled from 605 BC to 587 BC. Jeremiah had prophesied that after 70 years; there would be return. This happened during the reign of Cyrus as prophesied by Isaiah over 150 years earlier that a king named Cyrus would be the one to call for Jerusalem to be rebuilt.
- There were still issues among the exiles after they returned. The Persians were defeated by the Greeks with Alexander the Great at the helm. After his death at a relatively young age of 32, the Greek empire was split between his 4 generals. The 2 main ones that we would be concerned with are the ones in Egypt and Syria, as there were tensions and wars between them which affected Israel since this was the battle zone between them. It is during this time that the Maccabees (Hasmoneans) rose to power after the Greek king at the time tried to eradicate the Israelite religion and have them sacrifice pigs. The rebellion against the Greeks became stronger and they controlled quite a large area for a time. Again, the descendants of the original group messed things up and the Romans came in and took over. This is where the New Testament starts.

## Key people and events during this time

- Samuel – last judge of Israel.

- Saul – first king – did not follow God properly. Was rejected and tried to kill David several times.
- David – was the youngest in the family and a shepherd. He is called a man after God's own heart.
- Solomon – was wise, built the temple, had many wives and concubines. Married foreign wives and built places of worship for them. Judgement would be the splitting of the kingdom.
- Rehoboam did not listen to the advice of the elders but followed the advice of the young men he grew up with. He responded harshly to the people and brought about the split in the kingdom. He was the son of an Ammonites and Judah did what was evil in his days.
- Jeroboam was the one who led the Northern 10 tribes against Rehoboam at this time. He made two golden calves for the people to worship because he was afraid the people would return to Jerusalem to worship and go back to serving Rehoboam. As such, he caused the people to turn from Yahweh.
- Rehoboam's grandson returned to God and did what was right.
- One of the kings of the Northern kingdom was Ahab. He married the daughter of a Sidonian king. She introduces Baal worship in Israel. This takes Israel even farther from Yahweh. He constructed a temple for Baal and worshipped him.
- Elijah prophesies during this time and confronts Ahab. This is where there is a showdown between the prophets of Baal and Elijah.
- Elisha succeeds Elijah as prophet. Both of these perform some impressive miracles. Elijah is taken to heaven without dying.
- Jehosophat, the son of Asa was also a good king. He made peace with Israel, but married the daughter of Ahab. This introduced evil into Judah and his son Jehoram did not follow Yahweh.
- Hezekiah and Josiah were two more godly kings that received recognition.
- After the death of Josiah, the remaining kings of Judah were not good.
- One particularly evil one was Manasseh. He precipitated the fall of Judah even more. He did repent after being taken captive into exile.
- Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem in 587 BC and took captives to Babylon

## Daniel and Ezekiel

- The Babylonians took some of the young men of Israel in the 605 BC deportation. Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. Daniel became one of the top officials in the kingdom after he interpreted a dream for Nebuchadnezzar.
- Daniel and his three friends continued to serve God wholeheartedly and would not eat defiled food or worship the king. This of course got them into trouble, but when Daniel's three friends were thrown into the superhot furnace, they were not hurt at all.
- Daniel received revelations about the future, some of which have been fulfilled by now, but not all completely.
- Ezekiel was in the second deportation in 597 BC. He had visions, revelations and prophecies. He was called to prophecy against Judah and their rebellious ways.
- He foretells of a war that is still in the future for us where many will come against Israel. God will defeat all those that come against Israel.
- He also has a vision of a temple that was to be built. The description does not match the second temple. There are varying opinions on this temple.

## Babylon and Persia

- When the Babylonians were defeated by the Persians, Cyrus made a proclamation to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem.
- There are a couple of times when the exiles return to the land of Israel.
- There was opposition from those who were in the land to the rebuilding of the temple.
- Haggai and Zechariah prophesied to the Jews to encourage them to continue rebuilding the temple.
- Ezra was a scribe and priest. He taught the people and worked at having people follow Yahweh.
- Nehemiah was the cupbearer to the king. He asked for leave to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. He and those who were rebuilding the walls were also opposed by the people in the land. He also confronted the wrongdoing by the people.
- After he left to go back to the king, the people did not continue on, but neglected providing for the Levites and neglected the temple. There was also a priest at this time that made a room for a foreigner in the temple because he was related to him.
- Nehemiah again straightened things out before leaving again.

## Esther

- Esther was an Israelite orphan that was cared for by her uncle. When the queen fell into disfavour with the king by refusing his command, the search was made for a replacement.
- Eventually, Esther, a very beautiful young woman was chosen.
- Her uncle Mordecai exposed a plot to kill the king by telling Esther, who told the king.
- An Amalekite who had gained favour with the king was advanced to a higher position in the kingdom and people would bow down before him. Mordecai, however would not do so. This so enraged the man Haman, that he schemed to destroy all of the Jews.
- Esther, at a risk to her life, pleaded with the king to reverse the plan by Haman.
- Through a series of events, the Jews gain the upper hand and Haman and his sons are hanged.

## Malachi

- Malachi is chronologically the last book of the Old Testament.
- We get a sense of what was going on at this time by what is written.
- The priests are presenting defiled food on the alter.
- Offerings that were stolen are brought.
- People are bringing blemished animals for sacrifice and keeping the good ones.
- A curse is pronounced on the priests if they do not change.
- The priests have caused many to stumble and they have corrupted the covenant.
- They have divorced their wives and committed adultery.
- God hates divorce.
- He prophesies of a messenger that will prepare the way before Him. Elijah will come before the day of Yahweh.

## Key points in the Old Testament

- God Created everything in six days by the power of His Word out of nothing.
- Creation was very good at the end of day seven.

- With the deception of Eve and disobedience of Adam, death, disease and all sorts of evil entered the world.
- God promised a deliverer to reconcile mankind to God.
- God promised Noah that He would never destroy the world again with a flood. The rainbow is the sign of that promise.
- God promised Abraham that the land that he wandered in would be his and his descendants forever. It was not a conditional covenant; therefore, it is still in force, regardless of the behaviour of the Israelites.
- God led the Israelites out of Egypt after 430 years and made a covenant with them at Mount Sinai.
- The Israelites have a history of rebellion and serving other gods. After they are oppressed, they call out to God, who rescues them. This cycle is repeated many times.

## Covenants and Promises

- There are several covenants and promises that God made in the Old Testament. Here are some.
- The covenant with Noah was that God would not again destroy the world with a flood. The rainbow was assigned as a sign of the covenant.
- God then made a promise to Abraham.
- *And Yahweh said to Abram, "Go forth from your land, And from your kin And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed." So Abram went forth as Yahweh had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.*
- *So Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the persons which they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go forth to the land of Canaan; thus they came to the land of Canaan. And Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanite was then in the land. Then Yahweh appeared to Abram and said, "To your seed I will give this land." So he built an altar there to Yahweh who had appeared to him. Then he proceeded from there to the mountain on the east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to Yahweh*

*and called upon the name of Yahweh. And Abram journeyed on, continuing toward the Negev. (Genesis 12:1-9 LSB)*

- The covenant would continue through Issac. Gen 17:19,21
- The covenant would then continue through Jacob (Israel) Gen 28:13-14, 35:8)
- Covenant with Israel through Moses which God gave to the Israelites as He gave them His laws at Mount Sinai.
- *So now then, if you will indeed listen to My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My treasured possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; (Exodus 19:5 LSB)*
- This is a conditional covenant, but the previous ones are unconditional. A positive response would make them a treasured possession among all peoples. God does not reject Israel though because of His covenant and says: *"Yet in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them, nor will I so loathe them as to bring an end to them, breaking My covenant with them; for I am Yahweh their God. But I will remember for them the covenant with their ancestors, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God. I am Yahweh."* (Leviticus 26:44-45 LSB)
- The promise to David was that his house and kingdom shall be established forever. This points to Jesus coming from the line of David (2 Sam 7:16)

## Basic Outline of the New Testament

- Jesus comes – Ministry, Death and Resurrection
- Church Age – Acts and letters to present
- Issues in the church
- End times



# The Gospels

- Luke starts us off by recounting the birth and life of John (called the Baptist) and the birth and early days of Jesus. There was an expectation of the coming of the Messiah at this time. Matthew, it appears was writing to a mainly Jewish audience; he takes the genealogy of Jesus back to Abraham since the Jews were mainly focused on the promises to Abraham and David. Luke, writing to a more Gentile group takes the genealogy all the way back to Adam – the Son of God. Herod, being as paranoid as he was and afraid of his throne and transmission of his dynasty, wanted to kill Jesus after the Magi reported to him that they had come to worship the new king of the Jews. Joseph took his family to Egypt until the death of Herod. Upon his return, he settled in Nazareth.
- The preaching of both John and Jesus starts with "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*". Jesus was led into the wilderness for forty days and was tempted by the devil. Jesus used Scripture to counter all that Satan had said. This shows us the authority, inspiration and inerrancy of the Scriptures. Jesus' ministry consisted of preaching, performing miracles and proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of Heaven. He

confronted the current religious leaders on their theology and life. He taught people how to live – a great example of this is the “Sermon on the Mount”. He claimed to be the Son of God and predicted His death and resurrection after 3 days as proof. The religious leaders conspired against Him and had Him crucified at the hands of the Romans. After 3 days He rose again and appeared to a number of his followers. After 40 days, He ascended to heaven to sit at the right hand of God the Father.

- Jesus said that He was the fulfillment of the Old Testament
- Jesus inaugurated the new covenant that was foretold by Jeremiah (Jer 31:31)
- At the last supper, He talked about the cup, representing His blood that was shed on the cross being the new covenant (Lk 22:20, 1 Cor 11:25)
- The new covenant has made the old covenant obsolete. (Heb 8:13)

## Jesus Ministry

- Jesus starts His ministry when He is about 30 years old.
- The first thing He does is to go to John the Baptist. After His baptism, the Spirit of God descended on Him with an affirmation for Jesus.
- The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After 40 days of fasting, He was tempted by the devil. Jesus responded with “it is written”. The devil could not resist Scripture. This is a very important point, Scripture is authoritative. In order for it to be authoritative, it needs to be true. Jesus showed this by His response; as did the devil because he could not come against it.
- As He started to preach, His message was “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”.
- As He journeyed, He taught and preached while also healing sickness, disease and casting out demons.
- His first major sermon that is recounted is the “Sermon on the Mount”. Here he teaches people how to live and what kind of attitude to exhibit.
- He calls on people to be light and salt in order for God to be glorified.
- Jesus makes it clear that He did not come to abolish the Law, but rather to fulfill it. He affirms the authority, and by implication, the accuracy of the Scriptures.
- One of the main points that Jesus makes is that righteousness is not outward, but rather comes from an inward attitude. Take for example his story of the Pharisee and the tax collector.

- He states plainly that you cannot serve both God and wealth, you will be devoted to one and despise the other.
- He warns against false prophets and states that you can know people by the fruit that you see in their lives. Here we have a certain tension where we are not to judge but yet to discern.
- Jesus confronts the religious leaders and calls out their hypocrisy and outward obedience to the Law, but inwardly being evil and corrupt.
- The religious leaders had a hard time with Jesus' healing on the Sabbath. They had come up with all sorts of regulations on what was considered work and missed the whole point of the Sabbath.
- He gave the sign of Jonah as proof that He was who He claimed to be i.e. He would rise from the dead after three days.
- He often taught in parables to present truths to people.
- He fed 5,000 people in one sitting and 4,000 at another time.
- Jesus sums up the Old Testament as follows:
- *"And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' This is the great and foremost commandment. And the second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' On these two commandments hang the whole Law and the Prophets."*"  
(Matt. 22:37-40 LSB)
- He calls on people to be devoted to Him and to endure to the end.
- Jesus exhorts people be ready at all times and continually live out their faith.
- In John's Gospel, there is a great deal of focus on Jesus being God since by the time that John's Gospel is written, false teaching about Jesus had started.
- Loving Jesus requires obedience.
- Jesus commands us to love one another and prays for unity among His people.
- Jesus promises the Holy Spirit for those that accept Him.
- Jesus commission to His disciples was:
- *"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to keep all that*

*I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*”

(Matt. 28:18-20 LSB)

- The miracles that Jesus performed authenticated His message and claim.

## The Church Age

- The church age really starts at Pentecost, which was 50 days after Jesus' resurrection. The Holy Spirit was given at this time to those that had gathered and waited as Jesus had commanded them.
- The early church as described in Acts chapters two and four exhibited the love of God to one another as they sold their possessions and helped those in need. Barnabus is introduced at this time.
- The Lord added many people during this time through the outpouring of the Spirit and the love that people showed one another.
- As so frequently happens, problems surfaced fairly quickly. Ananias and Sapphira lied about some property they had sold. They wanted to be recognized for being so generous but kept back some of the money; which would have been OK, if they had not lied about the amount they received for the property.
- After this, the Hellenistic widows were overlooked during the daily serving of food. This was discrimination. This resulted in seven men being chosen to oversee this ministry. This could be an early form of the office of deacon.
- The church grew greatly in the number of believers during this time. There were many signs and wonders being performed.
- Chapters six and seven record the resistance to the church and the stoning of Stephen. As a result of the persecution related to the stoning of Stephen, the believers were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Paul, who was first called Saul is introduced here.
- The Samaritans, (who were despised by the Jews) were the next to receive the Gospel. Peter and John go there and as they laid their hands on the new believers, they received the Holy Spirit.
- Peter is confronted about going to some Gentiles that God had arranged. Here they discover that the Gospel is also for the Gentiles.
- After Jesus calls Paul on the road to Damascus, he is sent with Barnabus to go preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. Paul makes three missionary trips that are recorded.

- The question of whether Gentiles needed to obey the Law of Moses gets addressed in chapter fifteen.
- Many miracles are happening as Paul travels through Asia minor and as far as Greece.
- Paul normally went to the Jews first with the Gospel, but he was frequently opposed by the Jews and would then go to the Gentiles.
- In Berea, the Jews were more “noble-minded”. They received the word eagerly and would search the Scriptures to see if what Paul said was true. They set a good example for people to follow when someone is teaching or preaching.
- Paul’s preaching to the Gentiles is different than Peter’s preaching to the Jews. The Jews already know that there is one God and what His Law is. The Gentiles on the other hand did not have this background. We see how Paul in Acts seventeen presents the Gospel by first telling them about who God is and what He did.
- As Paul is heading back to Jerusalem to bring gifts, he tells the Ephesian elders *“Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be watchful, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.* (Acts 20:28-31 LSB)
- When he gets to Jerusalem, some men oppose him and cause a disturbance. Paul is arrested by the Romans.
- After some men had vowed to ambush and kill Paul, he is transferred to the Roman governor in Caesarea.
- He is kept in prison after appealing to Ceaser.
- When he is sent to Rome, they encounter a fierce storm and are shipwrecked.
- Paul heals people on the island that they end up on.
- When they finally end up in Rome, Acts leaves us with Paul in prison and the Gospel moving forward.
- *And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and was welcoming all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, unhindered.* (Acts 28:30-31 LSB)

## Times of the Gentiles

- Currently, we are in what Luke calls the “times of the Gentiles”. This is the period from the fall of Jerusalem to the time when the focus shifts back to Israel.
- The replacement theology that is believed by some Christians is just blatantly false.
- Many of the prophecies that need to be fulfilled for the return of Christ have already occurred. One of the main ones is the re-establishment of Israel.
- Paul talks about an apostasy that also needs to occur prior to the day of the Lord. This has to be a much greater one than any previous ones in order for it to be a sign.
- The letters in the New Testament deal with a lot of false teachings and actions.
- Throughout the centuries, there have been many false teachers and we need to be “Bereans” and study the Scriptures to check all the teachings.

## Romans

- Romans seems to be a fairly theological letter where Paul lays out truths of the Gospel
- In chapter one, he states that certain things about God can be known. *“His invisible attributes, both His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse”*
- God’s wrath would be against all those that suppress the truth in ungodliness and unrighteousness.
- God gave them over to an unfit mind to do all sorts of evil things.
- All have sinned; there is no one that is righteousness.
- Justification is by faith alone, apart from works.
- Sin entered the world through one man – Adam. Salvation is through one – Jesus Christ.
- Sin continues to work in us; we must resist and live godly lives.
- Paul finds himself doing the things that he does not want to do and not doing the things that he does want to do.
- Nothing can separate us from God.
- Everything works for the good of those that love God.
- Israel has not been rejected and all Israel will be saved at some point in the future.

- We are to present our bodies as a sacrifice by living godly lives and not being conformed to this world, but transformed by the renewing of the mind. (12:1-2)
- We are one body with different gifts.
- We are to be subject to the governing authorities.
- We are to pay taxes.
- Exhortation to love your neighbours as yourself.
- Be careful not to do things that could cause your brother to stumble.

## Corinthians

- The Corinthian Church had a number of problems.
- They seemed to have an issue with pride and boasting. They would boast about who they are following or what spiritual gifts they had and the abilities that they had.
- Paul calls for unity and to just follow Christ.
- Paul came in the power of the Spirit not in clever or persuasive words.
- God works in ways that seem foolish to people.
- There was sexual immorality - a man had his father's wife. Paul called for excommunication until he repented – which he did by the second letter.
- If sin is not dealt with in the community, it works itself throughout the whole church.
- When they came together for the Lord's Supper, they were getting drunk and not waiting for one another. Because in doing so they did not recognize the true meaning of the Lord's Supper, some were sick and others had died.
- Paul calls on people to treat the body as a temple of the Holy Spirit and flee immorality.
- There are rewards in heaven. Our work on earth will determine the reward or lack thereof.
- Paul urges them to follow his example.
- Disputes between believers are to be settled in the church. It is better to be wronged than to go to court with a believer over a dispute.
- Paul has a list of people that will not inherit the kingdom of God.
- Different gifts are given to different people. The gift you have does not make you better or worse. All the gifts are required for the body to work properly.

- Love trumps all gifts.
- There are instructions on the use of tongues in the congregation.
- Worship is to be orderly.
- Paul speaks about many that are “peddling” the word of God.
- He recounts how God comforts him in his afflictions.
- Christians are not to be joined to unbelievers.
- He encourages cheerful giving.
- It appears that Paul’s authority has been questioned by some who are exalting themselves in the church. It seems that these people have a different spirit and gospel. They seem to portray themselves as “super apostles”. Some of the Corinthian believers seem to have accepted these people.
- *“For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his ministers also disguise themselves as ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.”* (2 Cor. 11:13-15 LSB)
- Paul mentions his vision as well as the thorn in his flesh. He says that the thorn in the flesh (whatever it actually was) was to keep him from exalting himself.

## Galatians

- Paul is quite concerned about what is happening in Galatia. He seems to skip a longer kind introduction and gets right to the point. It appears that there are false teachers that are calling them to live according to the Law.
- They were observing days, seasons and years.
- Paul responds in a very strong way: *“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should proclaim to you a gospel contrary to the gospel we have proclaimed to you, let him be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is proclaiming to you a gospel contrary to what you received, let him be accursed!”* (Gal. 1:8-9 LSB)
- He recounts how he had followed the Law and gives his earthly credentials.
- He calls them foolish, and again shows that salvation is by faith, apart from works.
- He writes about confronting Peter and Barnabas when they gave in to those that wanted the believers to follow the Old Testament Law.

- They are to walk by the Spirit and not carry out the desire of the flesh. Paul lists the deeds of the flesh and contrasts them with the fruit of the Spirit.

## Ephesians

- Paul did not establish this church.
- One of the themes in this book has to do with spiritual warfare and whether we serve the devil or God.
- He says that: "*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*" (Eph. 6:12 LSB)
- The mystery that was revealed now is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and members of the body through Christ.
- Paul exhorts them to walk worthy of the calling and that there be unity in the body.
- He mentions some gifts are given for the equipping and building up of the saints and individual gifts are required for building up the body of Christ.
- The mature man is not confused about or follows deceitful or false doctrine.
- Throughout there are exhortations to live godly lives and keep away from evil.
- He talks about wives being subject to their husbands and husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for the church.

## Philippians

- Paul rejoices over the Philippian church and their fellowship in the Gospel.
- He likewise asks them to rejoice in the Lord.
- He encourages them to continue on and strive in love, knowledge and discernment.
- He asks them to live their lives in a manner worthy of the Gospel.
- There are some that are preaching Christ out of envy, strife and selfish motivation.
- He asks that two women resolve their differences.
- One major theme is the call for unity in the church.
- Paul warns them about those that would impose the old covenant laws on them in graphic terms.

- He wants them to follow his example.
- Paul has learned to be content in whatever circumstances he finds himself.

## Colossians

- The church in Colossae was not founded by Paul, but rather by Epaphras.
- Paul prays for them to be filled with wisdom and understanding so that they may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord and to bear fruit in every good work.
- God has transferred us from the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of Jesus in whom we have forgiveness of sin.
- All things were created through Christ and He sustains all things.
- We have been reconciled to God through Christ's death on the cross.
- Warns them not to be taken captive through philosophy and empty deception according to the tradition of men.
- Do not give in to self made religion and self-abasement which are of no value.
- Lay aside all evil, put off the old man and live in a godly way in love and unity.
- He calls on wives to be subject to their husbands and husbands to love their wives and not aggravate their children.
- Walk in wisdom towards outsiders.

## Thessalonians

- Sent the letter to see how they were doing, since he did not spend much time there when he established the church. He was concerned about their faith.
- Paul exhorts them to walk in a way so as to please God and to keep away from evil practices.
- They were concerned about the return of the Lord and that they might have missed it. He reaffirms that no one knows when Christ will return.
- Paul gives them a sign to look for that precedes the day of the Lord: It is that the apostacy comes first and then the man of lawlessness that takes his seat in the sanctuary of God. (this requires the third temple) The lawless one will come through the working of Satan with signs and false wonders.
- They are to respect their leaders and live in peace with one another.

- They are to always rejoice and pray without ceasing.
- They are enduring persecutions and afflictions.
- They are to keep away from every brother that walks in an unruly way.
- There were people there who did not work anymore but just acted like busybodies and seemed to be living off other believers. They are commanded to work for their living. If they did not obey, they were not to be associated with.

## Timothy

- Timothy was a younger faithful associate of Paul.
- Paul exhorts Timothy to deal with false doctrines, myths and genealogies.
- Timothy has to deal with those that want to impose the Old Covenant laws on the Christians. There are those that look to Christianity as a means for financial gain. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and create friction. Opposing arguments are falsely called knowledge.
- He encourages Timothy to keep up the good fight, keeping the faith and kindle afresh the gift of God that he received.
- Some have turned aside and shipwrecked their faith.
- Prayer is to be made for those in authority.
- Paul lays out the qualifications for overseers and deacons.
- In later times, some will fall away from the faith and follow deceitful spirits.
- He calls on Timothy to *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”* (2 Tim. 2:15 LSB)
- There were some that said the resurrection had already taken place.
- *“But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels.”* (2 Tim. 2:23 LSB)
- He is to teach patiently and gently correct those that are in opposition.
- *“But know this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholly, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, without gentleness, without love for good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, but having denied its*

*power. Keep away from such men as these. For among them are those who enter into households and take captive weak women weighed down with sins, being led on by various desires,"* (2 Tim. 3:1-6 LSB)

- All Scripture is God breathed.
- The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine.

## Titus

- Titus was another of Paul's companions.
- Titus was left in Crete to appoint elders in every city.
- Paul gives instructions about the qualifications of elders (overseers).
- He warns about the rebellious, empty talkers and deceivers – they must be silenced.
- The believers are to live worthy lives so that outsiders would be attracted to the Faith
- He gives instructions for teaching sound doctrine.
- Christians are to be subject to rulers and authorities.
- Titus is to avoid foolish controversies, strive and conflicts about the law. A divisive man is to be warned and rejected after 2 warnings.

## Philemon

- Paul is writing to a Philemon, who is a friend of his. Philemon's slave had run away and was brought to Christ through Paul.
- Paul asks him to accept Onesimus, the slave, as a beloved brother.
- Paul would have liked to have Onesimus stay with him and minister to him.

## Hebrews

- While the author is not known and several have been suggested, this letter appears to be written to a group of believers that were primarily Jewish, thus it is named Hebrews.
- The writer is addressing a number of issues in this group.
- It appears that they had a high view of angels and thus he talks about how much greater Christ is than the angels.
- He impresses upon them the superiority of Christ's priesthood.

- There is also a thread throughout the letter where he is calling them out because of them not growing in the Lord and possibly drifting away.
- The writer is concerned about them falling away and several times warns of the dire consequences if they do.
- *“But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern both good and evil.”* (Heb. 5:14 LSB)
- The new covenant has replaced the old covenant.
- The old and new covenants are discussed.
- As with other congregations, it would appear that the people were still trying to follow the old covenant.
- *“And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near. For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.”* (Heb. 10:24-27 LSB)
- Chapter 11 is called the great faith chapter as various people of faith from Abel to David and the prophets are listed.
- Throughout the letter, the writer is exhorting and encouraging the believers to live godly lives and turn away from sin.
- They are to imitate the good leaders.

## James

- James is the half brother of Jesus.
- He is writing to the Jews that are in the dispersion, i.e. those not in Israel proper during a time of famine.
- James is often called the practical Gospel.
- He asks them to consider trials as joyful because of the work it does in them.
- James calls on them to control their tongue.
- Pure religion works itself out in deeds. Sometimes people try to pit James against Paul and say that they are saying opposite things. The fact is that they are both saying the same thing and are dealing with different issues.

- Paul is dealing with those who are trying to be saved through the works of the Law and thus he has to stress salvation by faith, yet he also calls for repentance from sin and putting their faith into action.
- James is dealing with a situation where people were saying they have faith, but not putting it into practice.
- The teaching of Jesus and the New Testament writers is always that we are saved by faith and that faith will show up in the way we relate to God and others.
- People were showing favoritism towards the rich and looking down on the poor.
- He points to the royal law "*YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF*" as to the standard for interacting with people.
- Wisdom and understanding is shown by good conduct and gentleness.
- Resisting the devil in order for him to flee requires being subject to God and purifying their hearts and not seeking their own desires.
- He calls on the believers to confess their sins to one another.
- They are to pray for one another for healing.

## Peter

- Peter writes to believers that are scattered abroad, so not in Israel proper.
- He notes that they are going through various trials and points to the joy they have in their salvation.
- They are to fix their hope on the grace brought by Jesus.
- They are not to be conformed to the former lusts but to love one another and live godly lives. He really emphasizes this in the second letter.
- They are to be subject to every human institution and authority.
- Servants are to be subject to their masters. (in our context, this would be similar to being subject to our employers).
- Wives are to be subject to their husbands.
- Husbands are to live in an understanding way with their wives.
- He calls on them to make their calling and choosing sure by living godly lives.
- He states that Scripture was written by men as they were moved by the Holy Spirit and spoke from God. Scripture is not by one's own interpretation.

- He warns against false teachers and those that distort the Scriptures.
- Peter calls on them to be diligent to be found spotless and blameless.

## John

- John writes his letters later than the others and is addressing issues that have arisen by this time.
- His focus is on the deity of Christ and opposing those who did not see Christ in a Biblical way.
- There were people who would claim to be believers but would sin. John's point is that if people continue to deliberately sin, they are not believers.
- If people love the world or the things in the world, the love of the father is not in them. Those who sin are of the devil.
- Antichrists are those that deny that Jesus is the Christ.
- Believers are to love by deed and truth.
- Spirits are to be tested.
- Those that do not accept the apostles teaching are not from God.
- You cannot say that you love God if you do not love your neighbor.
- There were many deceivers who denied that Jesus came in the flesh. He calls them the antichrist.
- *“Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. The one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.”* (2 John 1:9 LSB)
- The believers were not to welcome those who brought this false teaching.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> John is written to a believer who is dealing with a leader in the church that is setting himself above the apostles and would not accept their authority or people from the apostles.
- He would put people out of the church that would welcome the brothers.
- Gaius, the recipient of the letter is commended by John.

## Jude

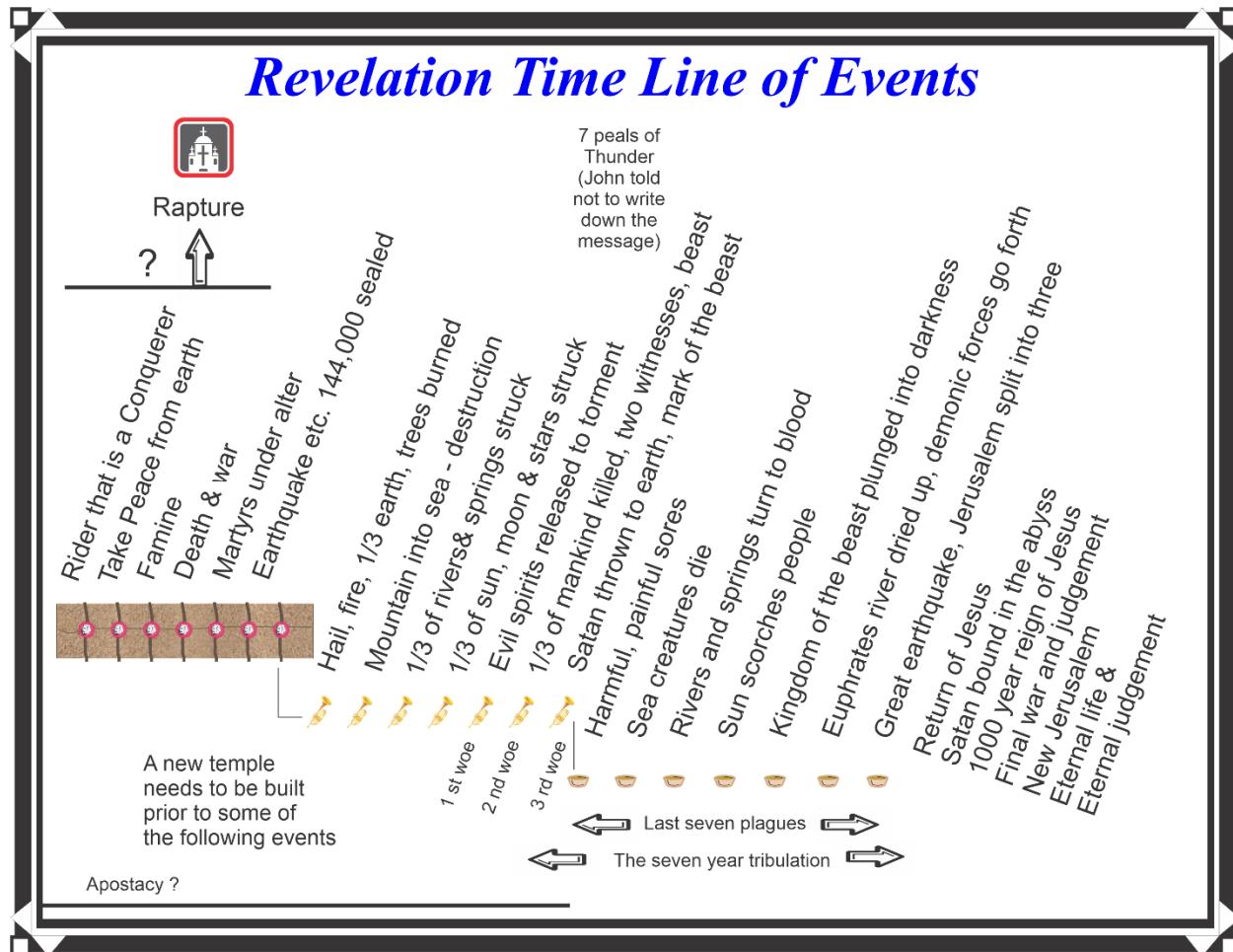
- Jude was written by another half-brother of Jesus.

- He exhorts them to contend earnestly for the faith.
- Ungodly people have crept into the church. They are immoral in their actions. They reject authority and blaspheme spiritual beings.
- *“These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts; and their mouth speaks arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of their own benefit.”* (Jude 1:16 LSB)
- They cause division.
- *“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. And on some, who are doubting, have mercy; and for others, save, snatching them out of the fire; and on others have mercy with fear, hating even the tunic polluted by the flesh.”* (Jude 1:20-23 LSB)

## Revelation

- Revelation provides us with a series of events that lead to the coming of Jesus and His 1000 Year reign.
- In Matthew chapters 25 and 26, Jesus addresses the questions of the disciples about the end times. While he gives some information there, His main thrust is to be ready, endure to the end and be faithful.
- The first three chapters are letters that were written to seven churches in Asia. Each church had different issues that were addressed. Two of the churches were commended and all were called to persevere and overcome.
- In chapter 4, John is in heaven and sees visions and revelations. He sees the throne room of God and Jesus, the lamb. The angelic host and other spiritual beings worship God and the lamb.
- We then read about various judgements and events that will take place.
- Seals – the first 4 seals pronounce judgments on the earth. The fifth reveals the martyrs under the alter in heaven. The 6<sup>th</sup> is the sealing of the 144,000 Israelites from the tribes of Israel.
- The Rapture has to occur prior to the 144,000 Israelites being marked since it says *“Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the slaves of our God on their foreheads.”* and the only ones sealed are the 144,000
- The seventh seal ushers in the seven trumpets. Many more judgements are pronounced on the earth. There is also a mention of seven thunders, but John was not to record what they had said.

- This is where the seven years that is often talked about likely begins. There are two witnesses that prophecy for 3 ½ years and then are killed and taken to heaven. After this comes the 3 ½ year reign of the beast.
- The seven bowls of wrath are the final seven plagues.
- Then the defeat of the false prophet and the beast. Satan is bound for a thousand years.
- At the end of the 1000-year reign of Christ and the final battle and judgement, the believers will enter eternal life and the unbelievers will enter eternal damnation in the lake of fire.
- There will be a new heaven and new earth.
- God will have things for us to accomplish once we are there.
- Let us continue to press on towards the goal and endure to the end.
- Come Lord Jesus.



## Observations

- Persevere, strive, press on towards the goal.
- Resist evil, love and do good.
- Unity among believers.
- Various gifts of the Spirit are given. Variety of gifts is required for building up the body and for it to function.
- Watch out for false teachers and teachings.
- Salvation is by faith not through works.
- Maintain pure doctrine.
- Keep the church pure, keep away from those who call themselves Christian but do not live it or bring false doctrines.
- Pray.

## The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy

### A Short Statement

1. God, who is Himself Truth and speaks truth only, has inspired Holy Scripture in order thereby to reveal Himself to lost mankind through Jesus Christ as Creator and Lord, Redeemer and Judge. Holy Scripture is God's witness to Himself.
2. Holy Scripture, being God's own Word, written by men prepared and superintended by His Spirit, is of infallible divine authority in all matters upon which it touches: it is to be believed, as God's instruction, in all that it affirms: obeyed, as God's command, in all that it requires; embraced, as God's pledge, in all that it promises.
3. The Holy Spirit, Scripture's divine Author, both authenticates it to us by His inward witness and opens our minds to understand its meaning.
4. Being wholly and verbally God-given, Scripture is without error or fault in all its teaching, no less in what it states about God's acts in creation, about the events of world history, and about its own literary origins under God, than in its witness to God's saving grace in individual lives.
5. The authority of Scripture is inescapably impaired if this total divine inerrancy is in any way limited or disregarded, or made relative to a view of truth contrary to the Bible's own; and such lapses bring serious loss to both the individual and the Church.

# Articles of Affirmation and Denial

## Article I.

WE AFFIRM that the Holy Scriptures are to be received as the authoritative Word of God.

WE DENY that the Scriptures receive their authority from the Church, tradition, or any other human source.

## Article II.

WE AFFIRM that the Scriptures are the supreme written norm by which God binds the conscience, and that the authority of the Church is subordinate to that of Scripture.

WE DENY that Church creeds, councils, or declarations have authority greater than or equal to the authority of the Bible.

## Article III.

WE AFFIRM that the written Word in its entirety is revelation given by God.

WE DENY that the Bible is merely a witness to revelation, or only becomes revelation in encounter, or depends on the responses of men for its validity.

## Article IV.

WE AFFIRM that God who made mankind in His image has used language as a means of revelation.

WE DENY that human language is so limited by our creatureliness that it is rendered inadequate as a vehicle for divine revelation. We further deny that the corruption of human culture and language through sin has thwarted God's work of inspiration.

## Article V.

WE AFFIRM that God's revelation within the Holy Scriptures was progressive.

WE DENY that later revelation, which may fulfill earlier revelation, ever corrects or contradicts it. We further deny that any normative revelation has been given since the completion of the New Testament writings.

## Article VI.

WE AFFIRM that the whole of Scripture and all its parts, down to the very words of the original, were given by divine inspiration.

WE DENY that the inspiration of Scripture can rightly be affirmed of the whole without the parts, or of some parts but not the whole.

## Article VII.

WE AFFIRM that inspiration was the work in which God by His Spirit, through human writers, gave us His Word. The origin of Scripture is divine. The mode of divine inspiration remains largely a mystery to us.

WE DENY that inspiration can be reduced to human insight, or to heightened states of consciousness of any kind.

## Article VIII.

WE AFFIRM that God in His work of inspiration utilized the distinctive personalities and literary styles of the writers whom He had chosen and prepared.

WE DENY that God, in causing these writers to use the very words that He chose, overrode their personalities.

## Article IX.

WE AFFIRM that inspiration, though not conferring omniscience, guaranteed true and trustworthy utterance on all matters of which the Biblical authors were moved to speak and write.

WE DENY that the finitude or fallenness of these writers, by necessity or otherwise, introduced distortion or falsehood into God's Word.

## Article X.

WE AFFIRM that inspiration, strictly speaking, applies only to the autographic text of Scripture, which in the providence of God can be ascertained from available manuscripts with great accuracy. We further affirm that copies and translations of Scripture are the Word of God to the extent that they faithfully represent the original.

WE DENY that any essential element of the Christian faith is affected by the absence of the autographs. We further deny that this absence renders the assertion of Biblical inerrancy invalid or irrelevant.

## Article XI.

WE AFFIRM that Scripture, having been given by divine inspiration, is infallible, so that, far from misleading us, it is true and reliable in all the matters it addresses.

WE DENY that it is possible for the Bible to be at the same time infallible and errant in its assertions. Infallibility and inerrancy may be distinguished, but not separated.

## Article XII.

WE AFFIRM that Scripture in its entirety is inerrant, being free from all falsehood, fraud, or deceit.

WE DENY that Biblical infallibility and inerrancy are limited to spiritual, religious, or redemptive themes, exclusive of assertions in the fields of history and science. We further deny that scientific hypotheses about earth history may properly be used to overturn the teaching of Scripture on creation and the flood.

## Article XIII.

WE AFFIRM the propriety of using inerrancy as a theological term with reference to the complete truthfulness of Scripture.

WE DENY that it is proper to evaluate Scripture according to standards of truth and error that are alien to its usage or purpose. We further deny that inerrancy is negated by Biblical phenomena such as a lack of modern technical precision, irregularities of grammar or spelling, observational descriptions of nature, the reporting of falsehoods, the use of hyperbole and round numbers, the topical arrangement of material, variant selections of material in parallel accounts, or the use of free citations.

## Article XIV.

WE AFFIRM the unity and internal consistency of Scripture.

WE DENY that alleged errors and discrepancies that have not yet been resolved vitiate the truth claims of the Bible.

## Article XV.

WE AFFIRM that the doctrine of inerrancy is grounded in the teaching of the Bible about inspiration.

WE DENY that Jesus' teaching about Scripture may be dismissed by appeals to accommodation or to any natural limitation of His humanity.

## Article XVI.

WE AFFIRM that the doctrine of inerrancy has been integral to the Church's faith throughout its history.

WE DENY that inerrancy is a doctrine invented by scholastic Protestantism, or is a reactionary position postulated in response to negative higher criticism.

## Article XVII.

WE AFFIRM that the Holy Spirit bears witness to the Scriptures, assuring believers of the truthfulness of God's written Word.

WE DENY that this witness of the Holy Spirit operates in isolation from or against Scripture.

## Article XVIII.

WE AFFIRM that the text of Scripture is to be interpreted by grammatico-historical exegesis, taking account of its literary forms and devices, and that Scripture is to interpret Scripture.

WE DENY the legitimacy of any treatment of the text or quest for sources lying behind it that leads to relativizing, dehistoricizing, or discounting its teaching, or rejecting its claims to authorship.

## Article XIX.

WE AFFIRM that a confession of the full authority, infallibility, and inerrancy of Scripture is vital to a sound understanding of the whole of the Christian faith. We further affirm that such confession should lead to increasing conformity to the image of Christ.

WE DENY that such confession is necessary for salvation. However, we further deny that inerrancy can be rejected without grave consequences, both to the individual and to the Church.