



GLOBAL TRAINING
NETWORK

THE STORY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

STUDENT HANDOUT
(V2.1, July 2024)

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Lesson 1 – Introduction to the Story of the Old Testament

What do these random numbers tell us about the Bible?

66 _____
 40 _____
 1500 _____
 3 _____
 3 _____
 1 _____
 0 _____

How did we get the Bible?

- Original Languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek
- OT written between 1400-400 BC
- LXX translated around 200 BC (Greek)
- OT books accepted by the time of Jesus
- Apocrapha (silent years) – not part of Canon
- Psuedepigrapha “false writings” 200BC – 300AD
- NT written between 50-100 AD
- NT books accepted by 397 AD
- Copied by hand (process)
- Latin translation (Jerome) 404 AD
- 1st English translation (Wycliffe) 1382 AD
- Printing Press 1456 AD
- King James Version 1611 AD
- 2022: 724 translations of entire Bible and
- 1617 translations of NT
- 7,000 languages still to be translated

Why would we want to study the Old Testament?

Read: 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17

1. The OT clarifies our study of the NT.
 Philippians 2:9-11 / Isaiah 45:20-25 (“every knee will bow and tongue confess”)
2. The OT demonstrates why the New Covenant was necessary.
 Romans 3:9-26; Galatians 3:24; Hebrews (*The Law leads us to Christ*)
3. The OT describes real people living out their faith, motivating us to active faith.
 1 Cor 10:1-13; Hebrews 11:1-12:1 (*Living examples to learn from, Hall of Faith*)
4. The OT teaches us God’s priorities and what they mean.
 Mark 12:28-31; John 13:34-35; 1 John 2:7 Deut 6:4-5; Lev 19:18 (*Love God and people*)
5. The OT gives us a clearer picture of the God that we serve, how to serve Him and why we need to serve Him. It reveals God as He wants to be known.
 Romans 4:23-25 (Abraham); 1 Peter 1:10-12 (the prophets); 2 Timothy 2:15 (Approved Workman), 3:14-17 (All people – Wise for Salvation and Equipped)

4 Goals...

- See how the OT story fits the “Meta” story of the Bible; and discover that it’s all about Jesus!
- Think through the OT story as a whole – not as a bunch of isolated stories.
- Understand the major themes and purpose of the OT and our part in God’s plan.
- Get excited about the OT – it opens our understanding of the NT.

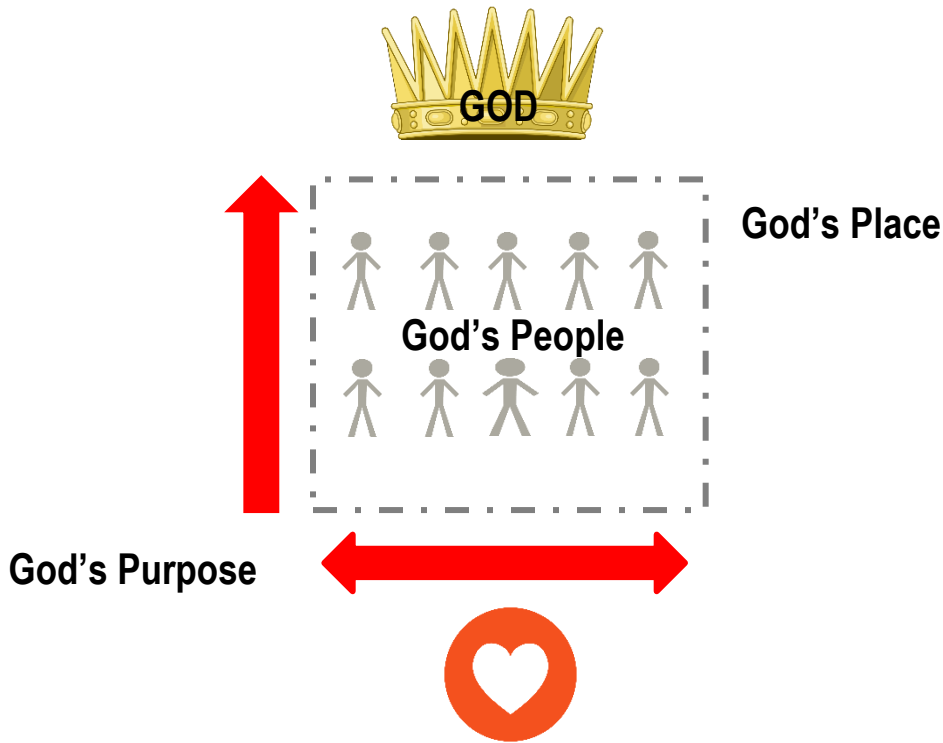
What would you like to be able to know and do because of completing this course?



The Biblical Story: The Kingdom of God

- The Bible is the story of God redeeming his creation and establishing his kingdom after the Fall.

The Kingdom of God: A people under God's rule, in God's place, fulfilling God's purpose.



- The OT shows the “promise” of God’s kingdom, and the NT shows the “fulfillment” of that promise in Jesus Christ.
- Who are some of the most important people in the Old Testament?

General claims made by Jesus about the Old Testament

Passage	Claim
John 10:35	“... Scripture cannot be broken ...”
Luke 24:44	“... everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”
Matthew 22:29	Ignorance of the OT is the source of error. “You are wrong because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.”
Matthew 5:18	“... till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota not a dot, will pass away from the Law until all is accomplished.”
2 Timothy 3:16	NT writers considered the OT to be Scripture which is “inspired by God”.

Myth or Truth? Specific claims made by Jesus about the Old Testament

Passage	Claim
Matthew 19:4	Adam and Eve were created by God.
Matthew 23:35	Abel was murdered by Cain
Luke 17:27	A flood destroyed the world in Noah's day.
Luke 20:37	God spoke to Moses through a burning bush.
Luke 4:25	Elijah performed miracles.
Matthew 12:40	Jonah was in the great fish for three days.
Matthew 24:15	Daniel made true predictions of future events.

We have a choice: Accept the authenticity of the Old Testament or doubt the integrity of Jesus.

Jesus is the key to the Interpretation of the Bible

Jesus claimed five times that He is the theme of the entire canon of the Old Testament Scripture.

Passage	Claim
Matthew 5:17	Speaking of the Law and the Prophets Jesus said, "I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them."
Luke 24:27	Jesus walked with two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and "beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself".
Luke 24:44	Later to the ten disciples in the upper room Jesus said, "Everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled".
John 5:39	In dialogue with the Jews Jesus charged, "You search the scriptures ... and it is they that bear witness to me".
Hebrews 10:7	The writer of Hebrews ascribes to Christ these words of Psalm 40: "It is written of me in the roll of the book".

Christ is the theme of both the Old and New Testament

- The promises of salvation in the OT are brought to fruition in Christ in the NT. (Matthew 1:21)
- What is commenced in the OT is completed in the Christ of the NT.
- The moral precepts of the OT are brought to perfection by Christ in the NT. (Matthew 5:17)
- The OT prophecies which foretold of Christ are fulfilled in Christ in the NT.
- God manifested Himself through laws in the OT but in the life of His Son in the NT.
- The OT revelation was one of symbols, but in the NT God spoke through His Son. (Heb1:1-2)

The Red Thread of Jesus

Christ is found in each of the sixty-six books of the Bible. There are many more examples of Jesus in each book. As you read through the OT in the coming year, make note of these types and illustrations of Jesus.



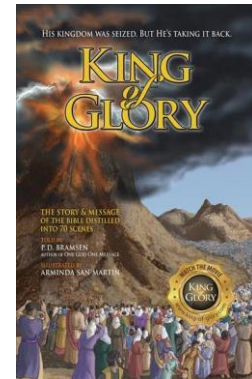
OLD TESTAMENT				NEW TESTAMENT	
Book	Theme	Book	Theme	Book	Theme
Gen 3:15	Seed of the woman	Obad 21	Savior	Matt 2:2	King of the Jews
Exod 12:3	Passover Lamb	Jonah 2:10	Resurrected One	Mark 10:45	Servant of the Lord
Lev 17:11	Atoning Sacrifice	Mic 5:2	Ruler of Israel	Luke 19:10	Son of Man
Num 20:8	Smitten Rock	Nah 2:1	Avenger	John 1:1	Son of God
Deut 18:18	The Prophet	Hab 1:13	Holy God	Acts 1:10	Ascended Lord
Josh 5:15	Lord of Hosts	Zeph 3:15	King of Israel	Rom 1:17	Our Righteousness
Judg 2:18	Divine Deliverer	Hag 2:7	Desire of Nations	1 Cor 1:30	Our Sanctification
Ruth 3:12	Kinsman Redeemer	Zech 3:8	Righteous Branch	2 Cor 12:9	Our Sufficiency
1 Sam 2:10	Anointed One	Mal 4:2	Sun of Righteousness	Gal 2:4	Liberty
2 Sam 7:14	Son of David			Eph 1:22	Exalted Head
1+2 Kings	Coming King			Phil 1:26	Our Joy
1+2 Chron	Builder of Temple			Col 2:9	Fullness of Deity
Ezra 6:14-15	Restorer of Temple			1 Thes 4:16-17	Our Comfort
Neh 6:15	Restorer of Nation			2 Thes 1:12	Glory
Esther 4:14	Preserver of Nation			1 Tim 4:10	Preserver
Job 19:25	Living Redeemer			2 Tim 4:8	Rewarder
Ps 150:6	Praise of Israel			Titus 2:13	Blessed Hope
Pr 8:22-23	Wisdom of God			Philemon 17	Substitute
Ecc 12:11	Great Teacher			Heb 4:15	High Priest
S of S 5:10	Fairest of 10,000			James 1:5	Giver of Wisdom
Isa 53:11	Suffering Servant			1 Peter 2:6	The Rock
Jer 31:31	New Covenant Maker			2 Peter 1:4	Precious Promise
Lam 3:28-30	Man of Sorrows			1 John	The Life
Ezek 43:2	Glory of God			2 John	The Truth
Dan 9:25	Coming Messiah			3 John	The Way
Hos 3:1	Lover of Unfaithful			Jude	The Advocate
Joel 3:16	Hope of Israel			Rev 19:16	King of kings
Amos 9:13	Husbandman				

The Bible is divided into 8 basic topical sections

- The Law (Genesis – Deuteronomy) 5
- History (Joshua – Esther) 12
- Poetry (Job – Song of Solomon) 5
- Prophecy (Isaiah – Malachi) 5+12
- Gospels (Matthew – John) 4
- History (Acts) 1
- Epistles (Romans – Jude) 21
- Prophecy (Revelation) 1

The King and His Kingdom (from *The King of Glory*, by Paul Bramsen, page 12)

Long before the world began, there was a King, the King of glory. This King was far above and beyond anyone or anything you or I could imagine. In the endlessness of eternity, He was the only King, and His kingdom the only kingdom, a realm of perfect wisdom, love, joy, and peace. The kingdom had no need of sun or stars for the King Himself was its light.



While the kingdom was limitless in its size, it was limited in its subjects. Some say the King had no subjects at all. Or did He? One of the early mysteries of this King was that even when He alone existed, He was never alone. Still, He wanted to share his life with other intelligent beings.

So, this good and wide King made a heavenly province with millions of dazzling, super-intelligent spirit beings called angels. He knew them all by name and He wanted them to know Him too. Life with the King was non-stop adventure.

But the King wanted more than angels. So, He created a realm of time, space, and matter – a mind boggling universe with a sparkling planet that would become home to a community of creatures called humans.

Different from angels, the human family began with just two beings, a man and a woman. As with the angels, the King wanted to share His life with them too.

Then something happened, something terrible. Rebellion arose in the kingdom, first on heaven, then on earth. A rebel angel seized the kingdom of earth by capturing its humans. But the King was not taken by surprise.

Deep in the heart of the King was a rescue plan so great, so mysterious, so extravagant, so far-reaching, that He would take thousands and thousands of years to fulfill it. What else would you expect from the King of eternity?

Kingdoms in Conflict

- Conflict begins in Genesis 3:15 (*First prophecy of Jesus and veiled mention of the gospel*)
- A battle that continues in our hearts and ministries.
- A battle where Jesus Christ is victorious! (*The seed of the woman will crush Satan*)

Share examples of OT stories that depict God’s Kingdom in conflict with the kingdoms of this world.

Books of the O.T.

- The O.T. Scriptures (called the Tanakh) were originally written in Hebrew, some in Aramaic
- The Hebrew Scriptures...
 - The Law - Torah
 - The Prophets - Nebi'im
 - The Writings – Ketubim
- 3-fold division in Luke 24:44

24 books vs 39 books,
 Prophets included History and Prophets, some combined
 Writings included Poetry, History and two prophetic books

BOOKS OF THE TANAKH (5-12-5-5-12)

<i>Law of Moses</i>	<i>Prophets</i>	<i>Writings</i>
Torah (5)	Nevi'im (8)	Ketuvim (11)
Genesis	<u>Former Prophets</u>	<u>Poetical Books</u>
Exodus	Joshua	Psalms
Leviticus	Judges	Job
Numbers	Samuel	Proverbs
Deuteronomy	Kings	
	<u>Latter Prophets</u>	<u>Megilloth (5 scrolls)</u>
	Isaiah	Ruth
	Jeremiah	Song of Songs
	Ezekiel	Ecclesiastes
	The Twelve (Hosea – Malachi)	Lamentations
		Esther
		<u>Historical Books</u>
		Daniel
		Ezra-Nehemiah
		Chronicles

The Septuagint (LXX)

- The Septuagint (LXX) is a Greek translation of the OT from Hebrew dating to the 3rd century B.C. in Alexandria, Egypt. (250 – 150 BC)
- Greek was the common language.
- Its name comes from the Greek word for 70 (hence the abbreviation in Roman numerals LXX) because of the 70 Jewish scholars commissioned for the translation.
- The LXX arranged the books of the OT according to similarity of subject matter and the result was the four main divisions: Law (5); History (12); Poetry (5); and Prophets (5 Major and 12 Minor).
- Song: 5-12-5-5-12

BOOKS OF THE SEPTUAGINT

Law (5)	History (12)	Poetry (5)	Prophets (17)
Genesis	Joshua	Job	<u>Major (5)</u>
Exodus	Judges	Psalms	Isaiah
Leviticus	Ruth	Proverbs	Jeremiah
Numbers	1 & 2 Samuel	Ecclesiastes	Lamentations
Deuteronomy	1 & 2 Kings	Song of Songs	Ezekiel
	1 & 2 Chronicles		Daniel
	Ezra		
	Nehemiah		<u>Minor (12)</u>
	Esther		The Twelve (Hosea – Malachi)
The Old Testament and Christ			
Foundation for Christ	Preparation for Christ	Aspirations of Christ (Personal longing)	Anticipation of Christ
Moral Life	National Life	Spiritual Life	Messianic Life
God's Work		God's Ways	God's Will
Past		Present	Future
Covenant People		Covenant Practice	Covenant Preachers

- This is how we received the order of the books we have in our translations today.

Timeline of OT History

Before we find our part in God's kingdom story, we need to get an overview of some of the key nations, events, and people in the OT story.

- See OT Chart (Appendix) – The chart also shows how the different books of the OT relate to the history of Israel.
- Israel's history can be divided into eight periods...

TIMELINE OF THE OT STORY

Period	Dates	Scripture
Preparation for God's Kingdom	Creation – c. 2000 B.C.	Genesis 1 – 11
Formation of God's Kingdom: The Patriarchs	c. 2000 – 1500 B.C.	Genesis 12 – 50, Book of Job
Formation of God's Kingdom: Exodus + Birth of Nation	c. 1500 – 1400 B.C.	Exodus - Joshua
Theocracy: Judges	c. 1400 – 1050 B.C.	Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel 1-7
Monarchy: The United Kingdom	c. 1050 – 931 B.C.	1 Samuel 8-31, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings 1-11, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles 1-9, Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes
Monarchy: The Divided Kingdom	c. 931 – 605 B.C.	1 Kings 12 – 2 Kings 25, 2 Chronicles 10-36
		Israel: Jonah, Amos, Hosea Judah: Joel, Obadiah, Micah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah
Exile: Babylonian Captivity	c. 605 – 535 B.C.	Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel
Restoration	c. 536 – 331 B.C.	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

These eight periods will provide the outline for our studies. Instead of a book-by-book approach, we will look at these eight periods of Israel's history.

Memory Verse – Luke 24:44-45

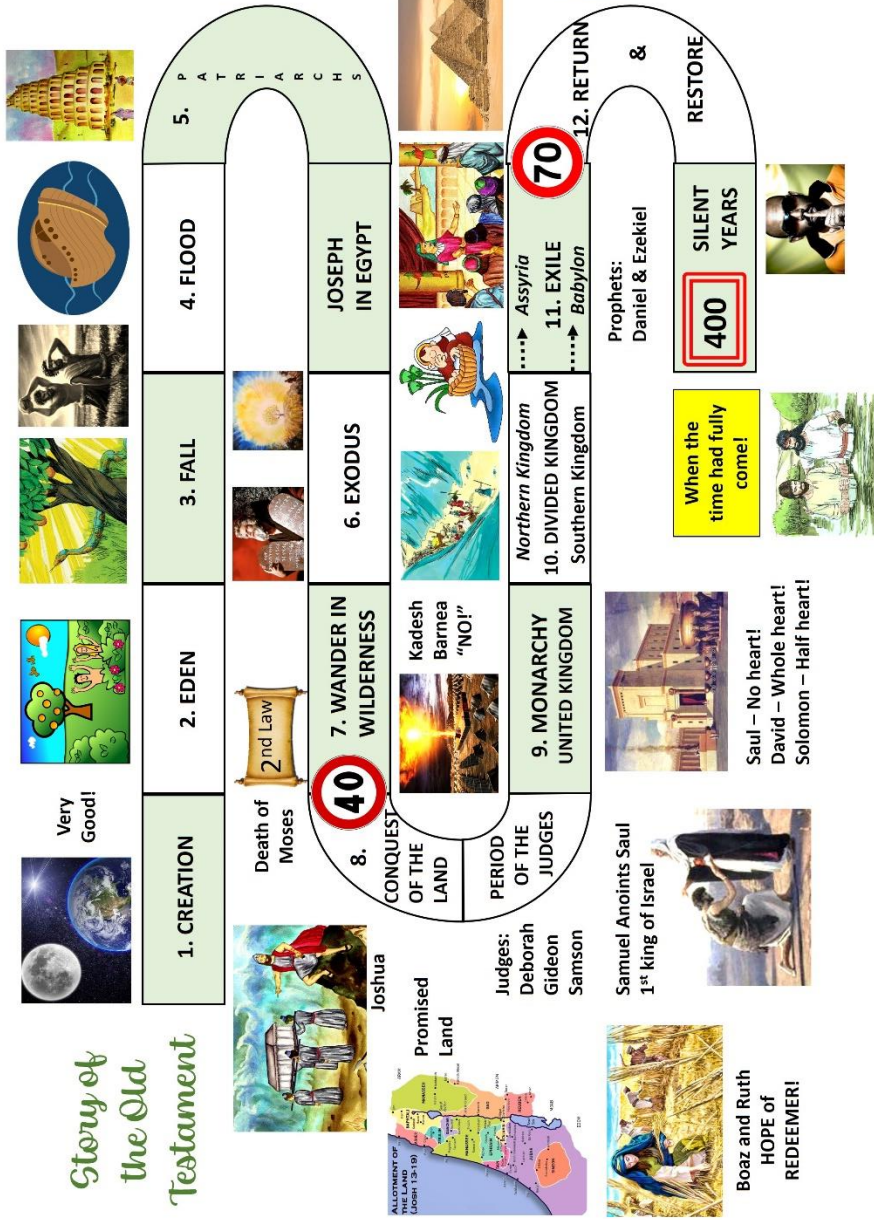
Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

Story of the Old Testament

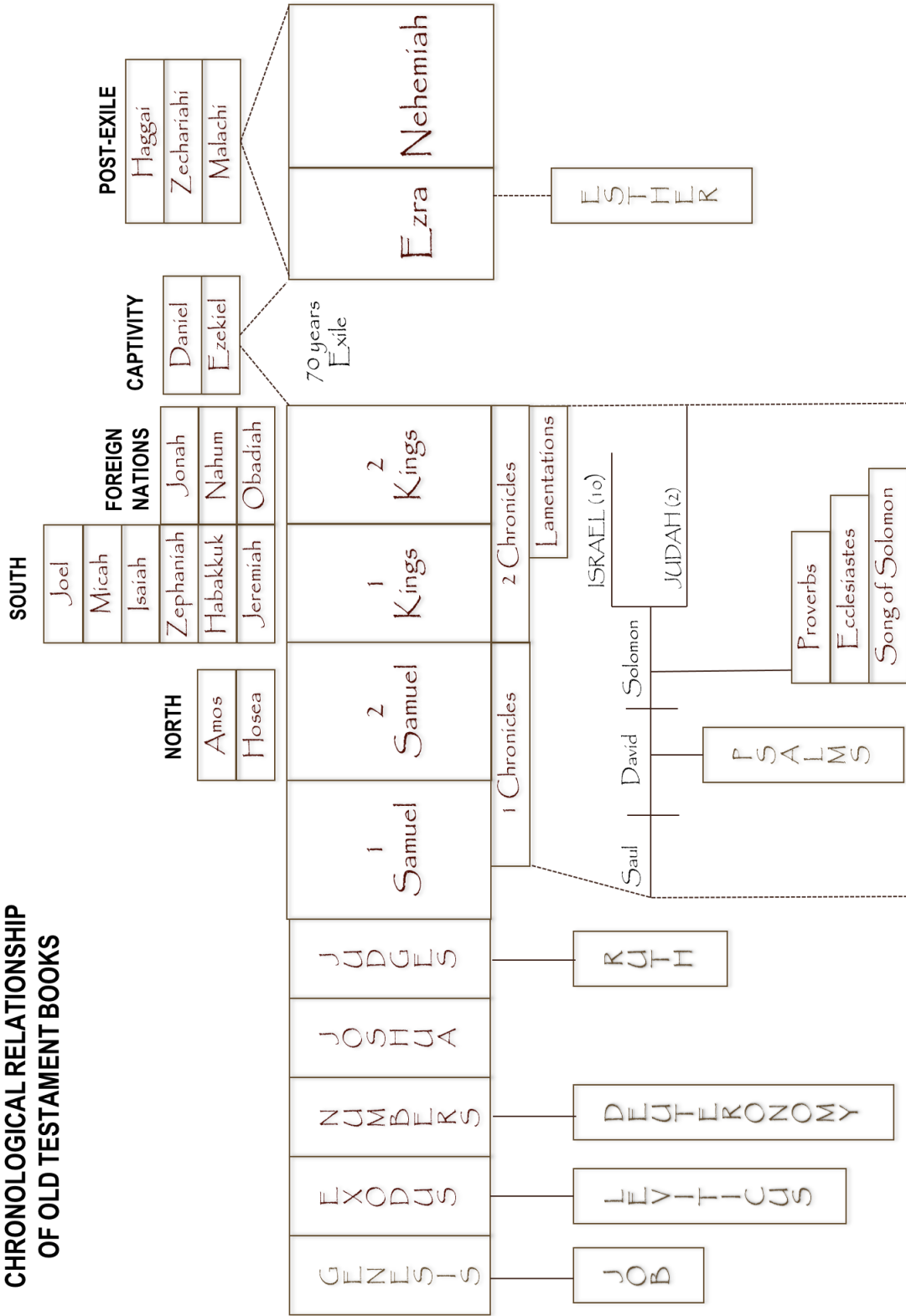
FORMATION THEOCRACY MONARCHY EXILE RESTORATION

Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12)
 Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 20)
 Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7)
 New Covenant (Jeremiah 31)

Covenant God
 Covenant Law
 Covenant King
 Covenant Promise



CHRONOLOGICAL RELATIONSHIP OF OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS

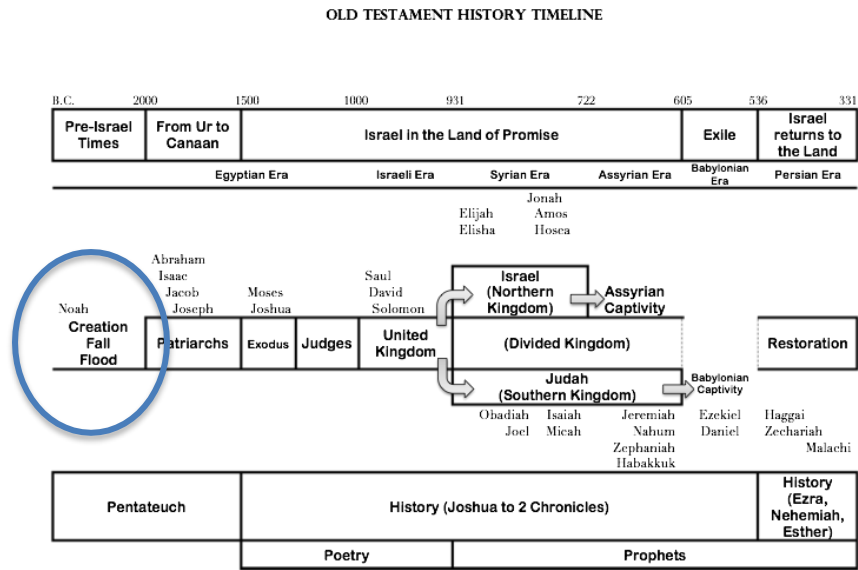


Lesson 2 – Preparation for God’s Kingdom

World History

Biblical History

Books of Bible



Major Themes:

- Sovereignty of God
- Sinfulness of Man
- Promise of Redemption

Genesis: Book of Beginnings:

- Creation
- Man/Woman
- Marriage
- Family
- Sin
- Death
- Sacrifice
- Grace
- Redemption

God = Creator, Elohim

Jesus = Agent of Creation, Col 1:16, John 1:1-4; Redeemer Gen 3:15

Man = Valued by God and depraved due to sin

Genesis: The God who created mankind and punished disobedience (sin) with death (physical and spiritual separation) began his great plan of redemption with His covenant to Abraham, whose descendants arrived in Egypt as God’s cherished people.

Introduction

- Date: Creation - c. 2000 B.C.
- Scripture: Genesis 1-11
- Key People: Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, Noah, and Shem

Purpose of the Kingdom

- Key word: “generations” or “account”
- The Hebrew word means “to give birth;” It means a new beginning.
- Introduces the 10 major sections of the Book of Genesis
- First 5 - Genesis 2:4; 5:1; 6:9; 10:1; & 11:10

- 2:4 Heaven and Earth
- 5:1 Adam
- 6:9 Noah
- 10:1 Shem, Ham, Jepheth
- 11:10 Shem

4 Key Events (Genesis 1-11)

- Creation - Genesis 1-2
- Fall - Genesis 3-4
- Judgment of the Flood - Genesis 5-9
- Division of Two Kingdoms - Genesis 10-11



Creation: Genesis 1-2

- Genesis 2:4-9, 15-25 (see also Gen. 1:26-31)
- There was true wholeness in the Bible = shalom
- Shalom = peace, wholeness, well-being
- How does God evaluate his creation in Genesis 1:31? It was Good. It was VERY GOOD!



Relationship to God – Fellowship
 Relationship with Others – Marriage/Family
 Relationship with Self – Work ethic
 Relationship with World – Stewardship



The Fall: Genesis 3-4

- Genesis 3:1-7
- The result of sin is death
 - Genesis 2:17
 - Romans 5:12
- What relationships are affected by the Fall?
- Genesis 3:21 (Red Thread)

Death = Separation
 Result of sin: Guilt 3:7, Shame 3:8, Fear 3:10

All Relationships affected:
 - God (separation)
 - Others (murder)
 - Self (work is hard)
 - World (ground is cursed)



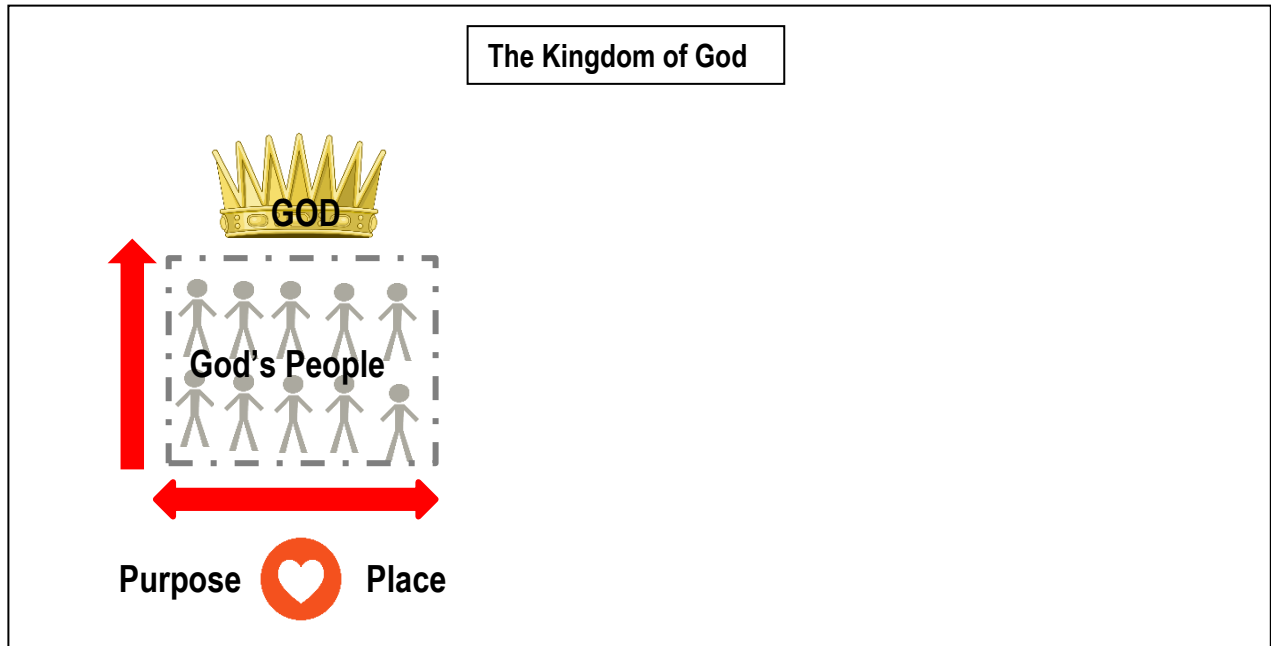
The Judgment - Gen. 5-9

- The Flood - Gen. 6:5, 11-12
- Salvation in the midst of judgment (Noah's story of grace) - Genesis 6:8-9
- Noah builds an ark as commanded - Genesis 6:14-22; Hebrews 11:7 (Red Thread)
- God now makes a covenant with Noah - Genesis 8:21 - 9:17
 God will never again destroy the earth by water but affirms the need for redemption of man.



Division of 2 Kingdoms - Gen. 10-11

- Noah's descendants are commanded to fill the earth - Genesis 9:1, 7
- In disobedient they travel east to a place called Shinar (Babylon) - Genesis 11:1-9
- They build a city and tower to reach God by their own efforts and make a name for themselves.
- God will establish another kingdom - another people, another land, a renewed purpose.



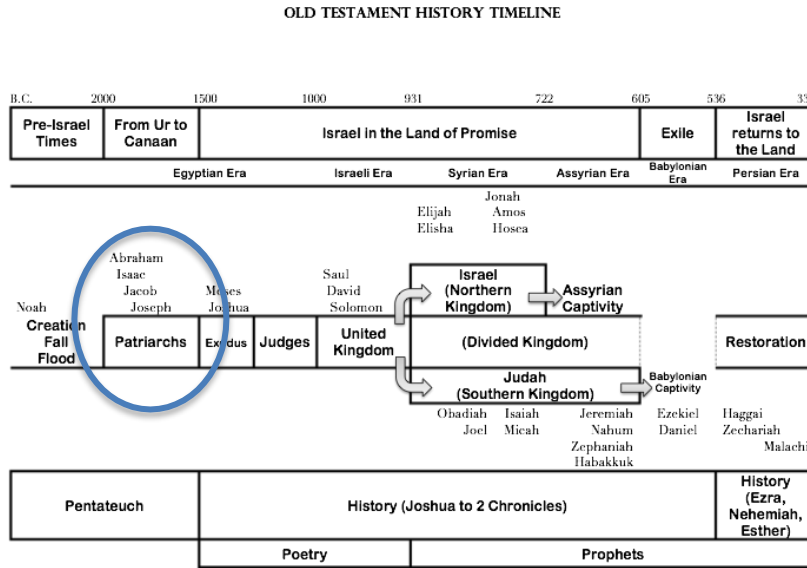
Structure of the Pentateuch (Torah)

Book	English meaning	Hebrew meaning	Time Period	Theme
Genesis	Origin / Beginning	<i>"In the beginning"</i>	Creation – 1860 BC	Election of nation
Exodus	Going Out / Departure	<i>"Names"</i>	1860 – 1447 BC	Redemption of nation
Leviticus	Book of Levites	<i>"And he called"</i>	One month	Sanctification of nation
Numbers	Numbering / Counting	<i>"In the wilderness"</i>	1447 – 1407 BC	Direction of nation
Deuteronomy	Second Law	<i>"Words"</i>	Two months	Instruction of nation

Memory verse – Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.

Lesson 3 – Formation of God’s Kingdom: The Patriarchs



Introduction

- Date: c. 2000 - 1500 B.C.
- Scripture: Genesis 12-50; Book of Job
- Key People: Abraham, Melchizedek, Sarah, Hagar, Ishmael, Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, Jacob, Rachel, Leah, Joseph, and Pharaoh

Background

- Key word: “generations” - means “to give birth.” It means a new beginning.
- The second 5 sections: Genesis 11:27; 25:12; 25:19; 36:1 (repeated in 36:9); and 37:2.

Lesson Outline – 4 Patriarchs

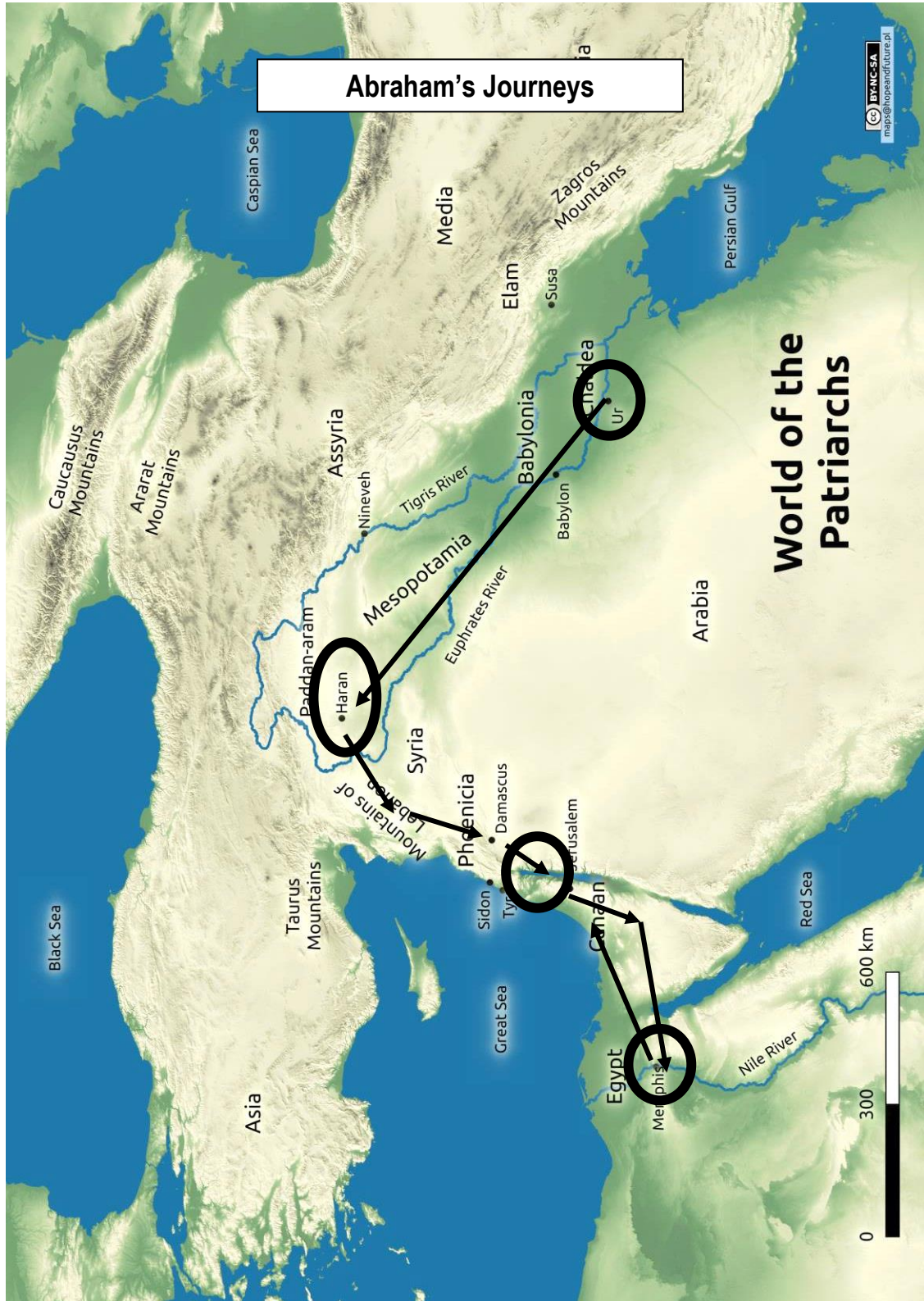
- Abraham
- Isaac
- Jacob
- Joseph

Accounts of:
 11:27 - Abram
 25:12 - Ishmael
 25:29 - Isaac
 36:1 - Esau
 37:2 - Jacob

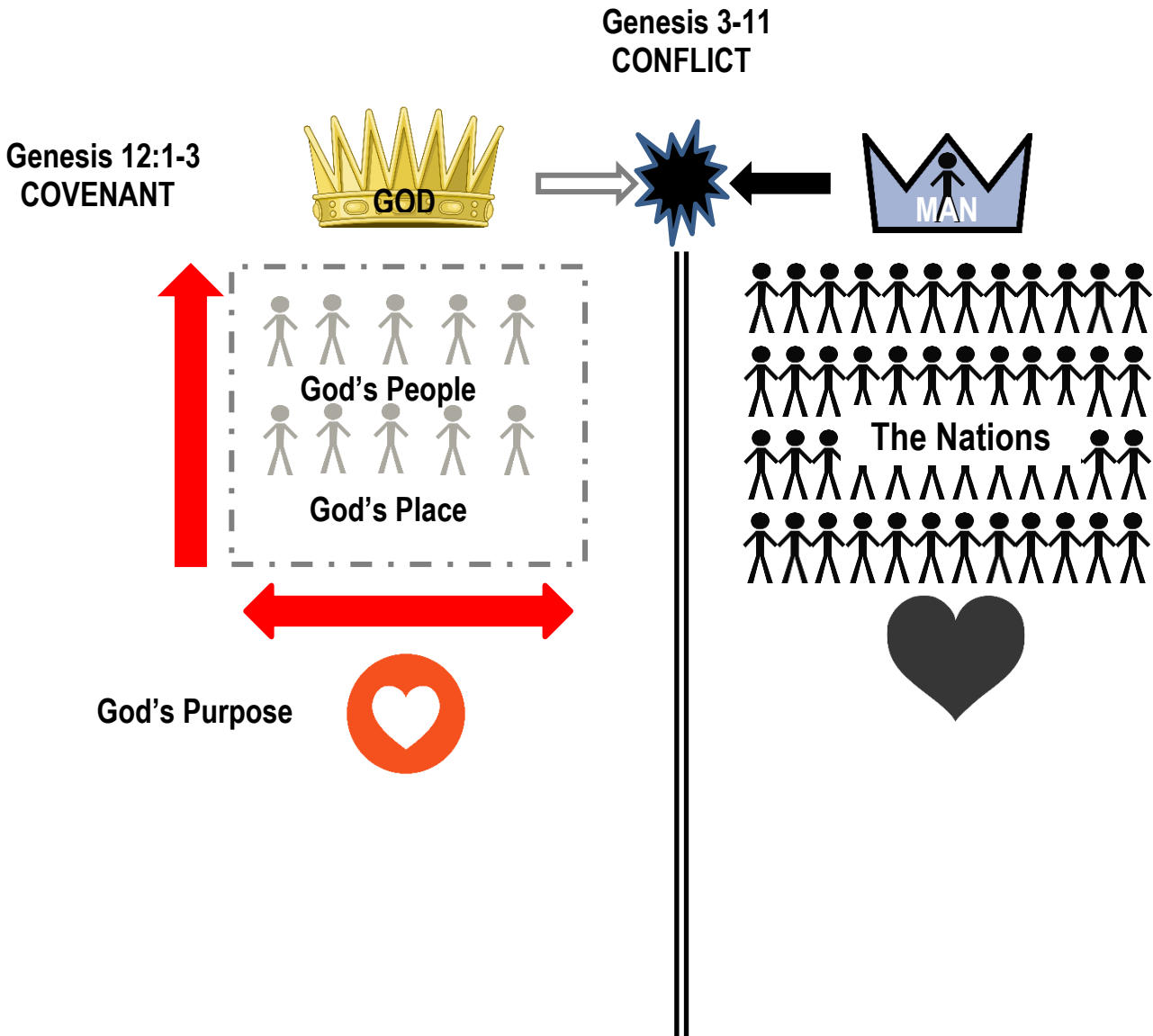
Abraham - 1st Patriarch

4 Things for a Kingdom:

- A King!
- People
- Land
- Purpose



The Story of the Kingdom of God in the Old Testament





Genesis 12:1-3

- Story of special place - Genesis 12:1
- Story of special people - Gen. 12:2
- Story of a special promise - Gen. 12:3
- Ultimately a special person - Jesus Christ!

Abrahamic Covenant

- Genesis 15:1-6
Covenant promise confirmed! (15:12-21)
Salvation by grace through faith, not works!
16:1-16 Impatience (Hagar/Ishmael)
- Genesis 17:1-27
Abram changed to Abraham.
Covenant promise confirmed!
Isaac born of the promise. (21:1-8)
- Genesis 22:1-14 (Red Thread)
Testing of faith leading to confidence and trust in the Lord.
God (Jehovah/Yahweh) is the One who blesses, who is faithful to His word, who sees (Roi), God Most High (El Elyon), God who provides (Jireh)

Another Red Thread – Genesis 14:17-20

- Who is the king? What is unique about him?
- Where is he from?
- What does he bring to bless Abraham?
- Explain how Melchizedek points forward to Jesus.

Isaac - 2nd Patriarch

ABRAHAM		12 Tribes
ISAAC		
JACOB		
JOSPEH		

- God's covenant to Abraham continues through Isaac - Genesis 26:2-4
- Isaac marries Rebekah; they have twin sons: Esau and Jacob (Gen 25:20-24)
- The story focuses on the younger son – Jacob

Jacob - 3rd Patriarch

- God confirms his covenant with Jacob at Bethel - Genesis 28:10-19
- Jacob wrestles with God and his name is changed to Israel - Genesis 32:28
- Jacob meets his wife Rachel, deceived by Laban to also marry Leah, then returns to Canaan.
- His 12 sons become the 12 tribes of Israel
- Story now turns to Joseph (Genesis 37-50)



Joseph - 4th Patriarch

- Early Life (beloved son, hated by brother, 2 dreams)
- Servitude in Egypt
- Made 2nd ruler in Egypt
- Messianic prophesy – 49:8-10

Timeline of Patriarch's

- Abraham's birth: 2165
- Enter Canaan and God's covenant promise: 2090
- Ishmael's birth: 2079
- Covenant of Circumcision and promise of Isaac: 2066
- Isaac's birth: 2065
- Mt Moriah: 2050
- Sarah's death: 2028
- Isaac's marriage to Rebekah: 2025
- Abraham's death: 1990
- Jacob's family moves to Egypt: 1875
- Jacob's death: 1858
- Joseph's death: 1804
- Silence: 280 years
- Moses' birth: 1525

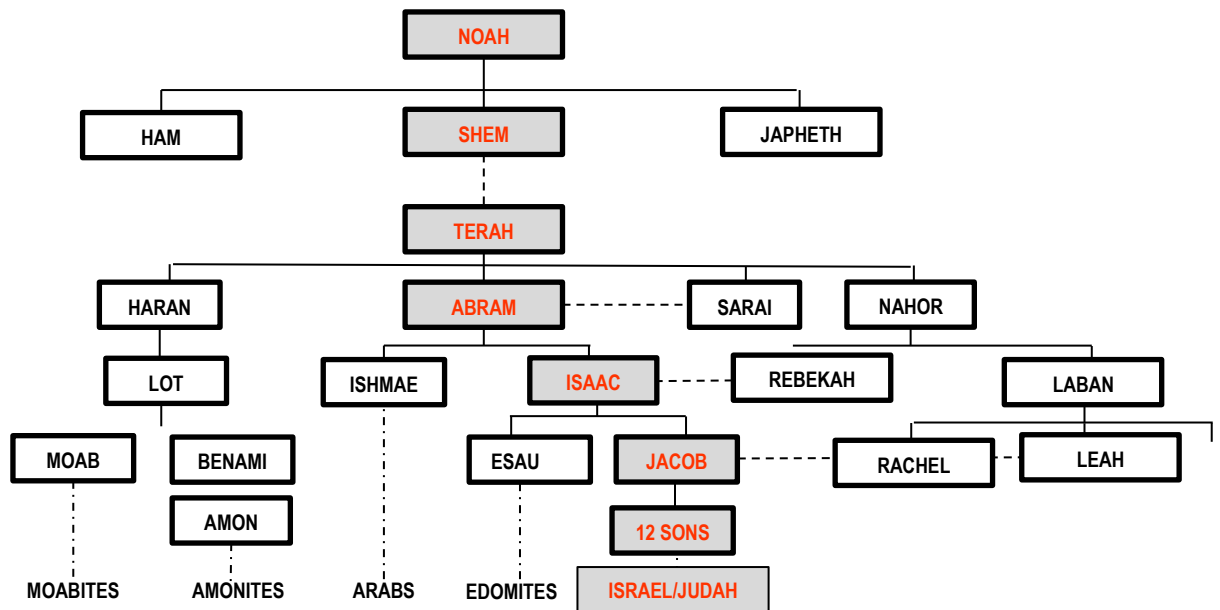
- Melkizadekh: (also Hebrews 7)
- King of Righteousness
- King of Salem (Peace), Jerusalem
- Priest and King
- No recorded beginning or end
- Brings bread and wine
- Receives tithe and honor from Abraham

- Under Potiphar 39:1-6
- Falsely accused: 39:7-18
- Imprisoned: 39:19 – 40:23
- Interprets Pharaoh's dream: 41:1-36
- Exalted: 42-45
- Jacob moves to Egypt: 46-47

Parallels Between Joseph and Jesus

<i>Joseph</i>	<i>Parallels</i>	<i>Jesus</i>
Genesis 37:3	He was dearly loved by his father	Matthew 3:17
37:2	He was a shepherd to his father's sheep	John 10:11,27
37:13,14	His father sent him to his brothers	Hebrews 2:11
37:4	His brothers hated him	John 7:5
37:20	Others secretly planned to harm him	John 11:53
39:7	He was tempted	Matthew 4:1
37:25	He was taken to Egypt	Matthew 2:14-15
37:23	His robe was taken from him	John 19:23
37:28	He was sold for the price of a slave	Matthew 26:15
39:20	He was bound	Matthew 27:2
39:16-18	He was falsely accused	Matthew 26:59,60
40:2,3	He was placed with two prisoners One was saved, the other was lost	Luke 23:32
41:46	He was 30 years old at the beginning of Public ministry	Luke 3:23
41:41	After suffering he was exalted	Philippians 2:9-11
45:1-15	He forgave those who did him wrong	Luke 23:34
45:7	He saved his people	Matthew 1:21
50:20	What men meant for evil toward him God meant for good	1 Corinthians 2:7,8

The Red Thread through Genesis



(Genesis 49:8-12 Messianic Prophecy)

Memory Verse – Genesis 18:18

“... seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?”

Summary of Genesis

Genesis declares that God created man for a blessing and purpose, which has been sidetracked. God has not been stymied by man's sin, however. He will bring His blessing and ultimate good about despite the sin and evil intentions of men. Genesis is, then, truly the book of beginnings, the beginnings of the history and redemption, the preparation for the salvation of man and the establishment of God's kingdom.

The book of Genesis provides the foundation for the rest of the biblical account. It not only explains the presence of Israel in Egypt, giving them a purpose and a plan as they move toward the Promised Land, but it provides foundation for the rest of God's activity toward mankind.

Genesis anticipates the coming of Jesus, the Messiah, both the first and second time, until the snake is finally and ultimately crushed under His heel. The tensions of Genesis are finally resolved only in the Revelation to John the apostle. The believer finally recognizes the end of the snake and the establishment of the new creation with its river of life, the tree of life and no more curse in the presence of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

God's servants will serve in His presence, see His face, and wear His name on their foreheads. We will reign with Him forever and ever! Man will be the image of God and reign over His creation and ultimately know Him. Everything man has intended for evil, God has used for good to bring about His future result, to accomplish His plan on earth.

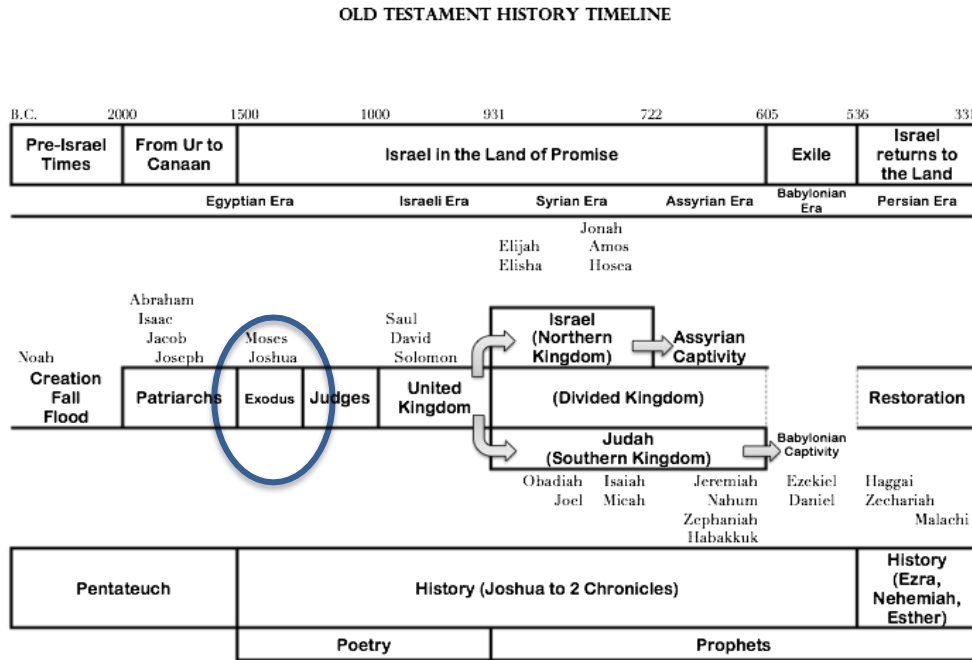
Israel must now understand the reason for their position in Egypt, their necessary response to God's call to go to a land He would show them and the promise of blessing there if they will go.

Israel must understand the sovereign authority of God over their lives and His plans for them for good and blessing.

For Israel, Genesis provided a reason for being, an explanation of the existence and importance of the nation and their role for the future.

For the believer of today, the message of Genesis is equally necessary. Genesis gives the foundation for God's plan of blessing (rest) and the promise of restoring blessing from the chaos of sin.

Lesson 4 – Formation of God’s Kingdom: Exodus and the Birth of a Nation

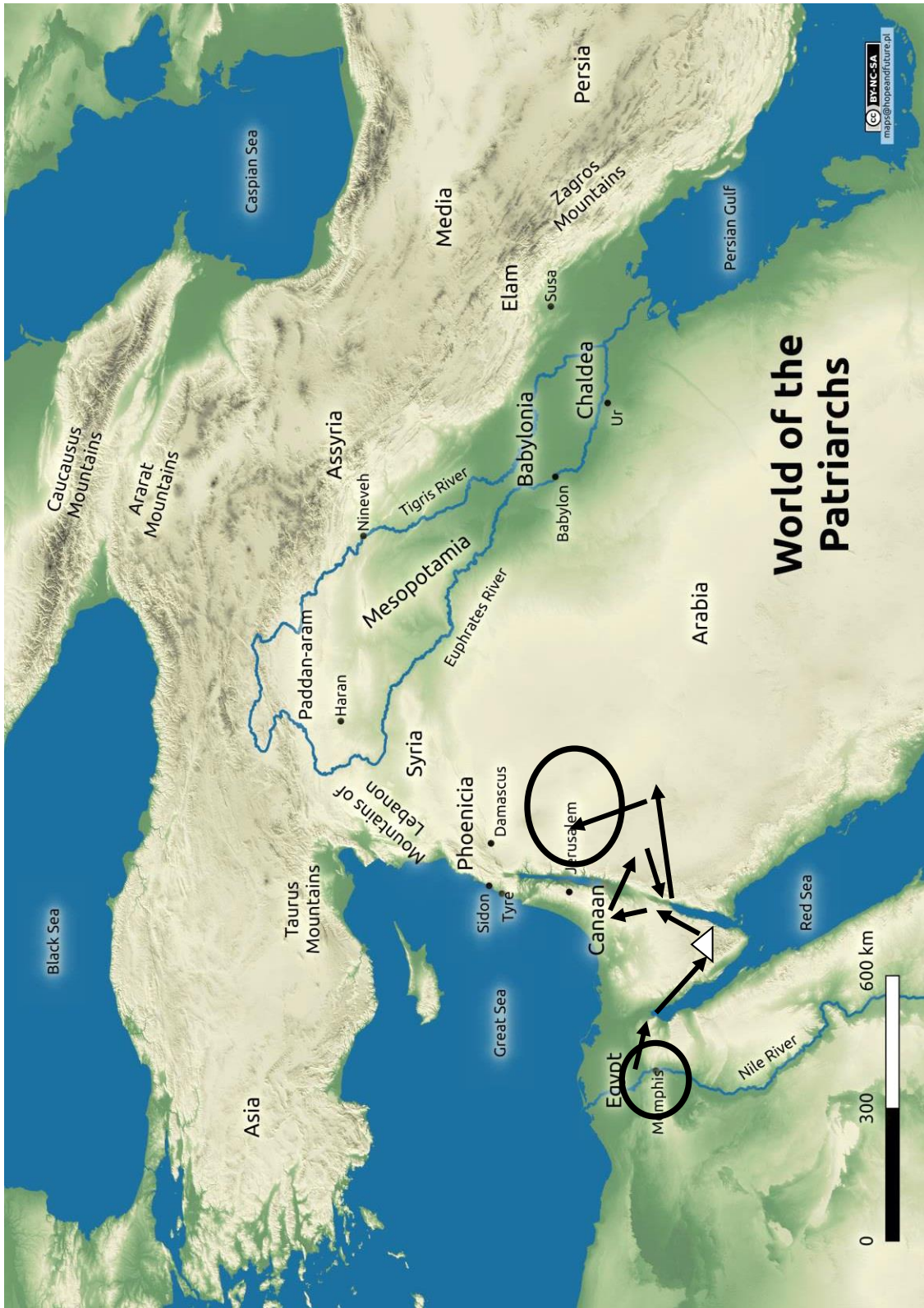


Introduction

- Date: c. 1500 - 1400 B.C.
- No recorded history of Israel for 275 years from the death of Joseph (1804 B.C. and the birth of Moses (1525 B.C.) (Egyptian captivity 430 years – 1875 – 1445 BC)
- Scripture:
 - Exodus – Redemption & Revelation
 - Leviticus - Holiness
 - Numbers - Trust
 - Deuteronomy - Renewal
 - Joshua - Promise
- Key People: Moses, Aaron, Pharaoh, Caleb, Joshua, Rahab

Lesson Outline

- Exodus - Coming out of bondage
 - redeemed from slavery in Egypt
 - Family of 70 becomes a nation of millions
- The books of Exodus, through Deuteronomy tell the story of the nation under Moses’ leadership
- The message of book of Joshua - Coming into God’s promise and blessing
- Pictures our salvation in Christ: redemption from bondage and entering into God’s promises of rest.



The Exodus and 40 years in the Wilderness

Exodus: When God redeems His chosen people, Israel, through His servant Moses, He entered into a covenant relationship with them and instituted His dwelling with them through the Tabernacle/Tent of Meeting.



The Exodus

- Exodus means “departure, going out”
- Exodus 1:1-7
- Moses - Israel’s deliverer (40 years in Egypt (1525 - 1485 BC), 40 years in Midian (1485 - 1445 BC), 40 years leading Israel (1445 – 1405 BC))



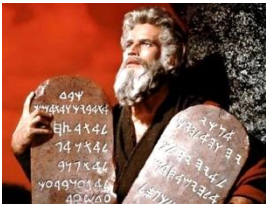
Read Exodus 12:1-13

In what ways does Passover provide a prophetic picture of our redemption in Jesus Christ? (Red Thread)

Crossing the Red Sea (Red Thread)

Lessons in Redemption

- Redemption means deliverance from bondage
- Redemption can only be accomplished through death
- Redemption can be accomplished through a substitutionary sacrifice
- Redemption offers the opportunity for a new life!



Mosaic Covenant: Giving of the Law

Israel escaped physical bondage (slavery) in Egypt but still had much to learn about being a people set apart for God’s purposes. Days after reaching Sinai, God called Moses to the peak of the mountain where He once again established His covenant with His people.

- Parts of the Law
 - Moral Law - Exodus 20:1-17
 - Civil Law
 - Ceremonial or Religious Law
- Purpose of the Law
 - To protect from evil
 - To guide our thinking, feelings, and behaviors
 - To reveal our sin (a mirror to show us our need of a Savior)

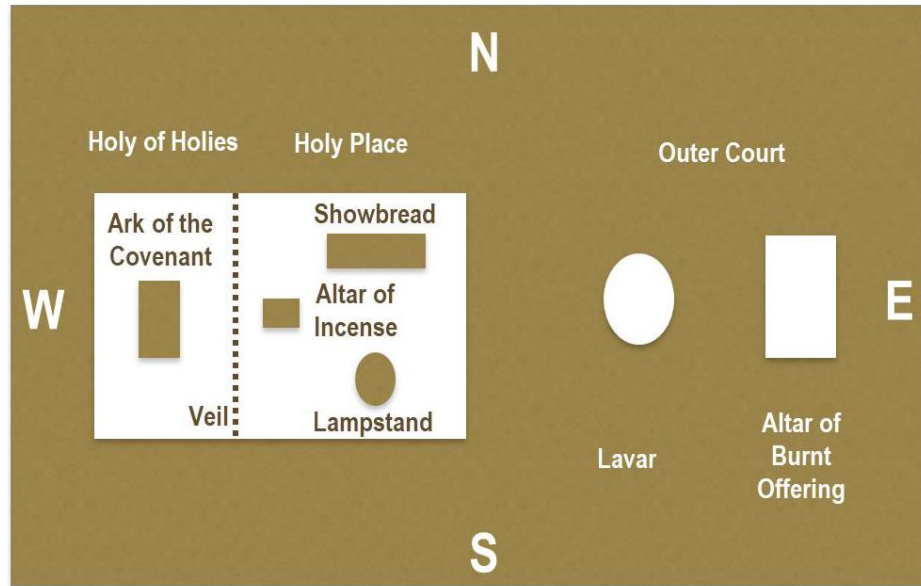
Summary of Exodus – Joshua

Exodus	Leviticus	Numbers	Deuteronomy	Joshua
<i>Redemption</i>	<i>Holiness</i>	<i>Trust</i>	Renewal	Promise
1 – Growth and Oppression	1-10 The Way to the Holy One	1-10 Direction from God Census	2nd telling of the Law	1-5 Cross the Jordan
2-6 “Deliverer” 2 – Birth of Moses 3 – Burning Bush 4- Return to Egypt 6 - Covenant	11-27 The Way of Holiness	11-14 Disbelief in God 13 - Explore the land 14 - Rebellion	3 Messages by Moses 1-4:43 What God has done for Israel 4:44-26 What God expects from Israel 27-24 What God will do for Israel	5-12 Conquer the land
7-18 Deliverance 7-11 Plagues 12 – Passover 13-14 Red Sea 15 – Manna/Quail 17 – Water from rock		15-26 Discipline from God Ch 15 to 20 = 38 years Ch 21-36 = 5 months	28 - Blessings for obedience and Curses for disobedience	13-21 Claim the land
19-40 Le devoir du peuple 19-25 La loi 25-40 Le tabernacle		20 – Water from rock and rejection of Moses 21 – Bronze serpent 22 – 24 Balaam 25 Sin at Peor 26 – Second census 31 – Vengeance on Midian 32 – Trans Jrdan tribes	29-34 Renewal of Covenant 29 - Covenant 30 – Choose Life 31 - Joshua to succeed Moses 33 – Final Blessings 34 – Moses’ death	22-24 Consecrate the people

Leviticus: God forgives sin and makes people holy through blood sacrifice. God then expects His people to live in fellowship with Him by following His Laws.

The Tabernacle and Leviticus: Holiness

- Key Words: Holy and holiness; clean and unclean; atonement
- Key Chapters: 11-The requirement to be holy.
16 – Atonement (God is holy, sin is serious, God is gracious)
- Key verses: 11:44 – The command to be holy because the Lord is holy; 17:11 – The need to shed blood to cover sin.
- The Tabernacle is a sign of God’s presence
- Israel is instructed how to worship God in the Tabernacle
- Center of worship for 500 years



Part of Tabernacle	What It Taught	How Christ Fulfilled It
Door	There is only one way to God.	"I am the door." John 10:9
Brazen Alter	Substitution is necessary for atoning sin.	"I give my life a ransom for man." Mark 10:45
Lavar	Purification is needed for God’s presence.	"If I do not wash you, you have no part in me." John 13:8
Lampstand	Illumination is needed for God's people.	"I am the Light of the world." John 8:12
Showbread	Sustenance is needed for God's people.	"I am the Bread of life." John 6:48
Incense	Intercession is needed for God's people.	"I am praying for them." John 17:9
Veil	There is separation between God and His people.	"Behind the curtain where Jesus has gone ... for us." Hebrews 6:19-20
Mercy Seat	Only blood can make atonement for sin.	"He is the expiation (satisfaction) for our sins." 1 John 2:2
Priest	God must be approached through representation.	Jesus is our Great High Priest. Hebrews 4:14-16

How to approach a holy God

- The cloud, the visible symbol of God's presence, covered the Tabernacle and it was filled with God's glory (Ex. 40:34-38).
- The people are instructed how to worship God in the new Tabernacle. The Book of Leviticus, recording laws and services for the Levite priests, was given for this purpose.
 - Holiness is the key to Leviticus (Lev.19:2).
 - Leviticus shows that atonement and forgiveness are needed to be a people of holiness – set apart for God's purpose.
- The Tabernacle remained the center of the nation's worship for 500 years, until it is replaced by Solomon's Temple.
- The way to God is through sacrifice (Chapters 1-10).
 - Offerings of Dedication (Godward)
 - Burnt Offering (1:1-17) (Voluntary, focus: Surrender to God)
 - Cereal/Meal Offering (2:1-16) (Voluntary, focus: thanksgiving)
 - Peace Offering (3:1-17) (Voluntary, focus: relationship with God)
 - Offerings of Expiation (manward)
 - Sin Offering (4:1-5:13)
 - Guilt/Trespass Offering (5:14-6:7),
- Israel's walk with God in Fellowship (Chapters 11-27)
 - The daily lives of God's people (Ch 11-22)
 - Festivals of God's People (Ch 23-25)

Passover – Death of Christ (1 Cor 5:7)	April
Unleavened Bread – Holy walk of believers (1 Cor 5:8)	April
First fruits – Resurrection (1 Cor 15:23)	April
Pentecost – Descension of Spirit (Acts 2:4)	June
Trumpets – Regathering of Israel (Matt 24:31)	Sep-Oct
Day of Atonement - National cleansing (Rom 11:23)	Sep-Oct
Tabernacles – Messianic kingdom rest ((Zech 14:16, Matt 17:4)	Sep-Oct
 - The Sabbath Year and Year of Jubilee (24:1-25:55)
 - Promises and Warning to God's People (Ch 26-27)

Numbers: God used Moses to lead Israel from Sinai to Kadesh, but even after they rejected Him resulting in 40 years in the wilderness, God remained faithful to His promise.

Numbers: Trust



- Key Word: Wandering
- Key Chapter: 14- Unbelief at Kadesh-barnea
- Key Verses: 14:26-32
- Two numberings of Israel in the wilderness (Number 1 & 26)
- Fail to believe God's promise
- Rebellion at Kadesh (chapters 13-14)
- God disciplines His people for their failure to trust, preparing them, through the wilderness, to enter the land in victory.

- Direction from God: 1-10 (20 days)
- Disbelief in God: 11-14 (70 days)
- Discipline from God: 15-36 (15-20 = 38 years, (21-36 = 5 months)



Deuteronomy: As Israel is ready to enter the Promised Land, God reminds Israel about His mighty acts, His covenant promises, and His commandments, through three farewell speeches by Moses.

Deuteronomy: Renewal

- Key Words: Observe, do, keep, and obey
- Key Chapter: 8- Exhortation to obey and keep the covenant with God.
- Key Verse: 10:11-12 A reminder to fear, love, and obey the Lord God.
- 3 farewell messages from Moses
 - What God has done for Israel (Dt. 1-4:43)
 - What God expects from Israel (Dt. 4:44-26)
 - What God will do for Israel (Dt. 27-34)
- Exodus 30:1-5 and 19-20
- A repetition of the law or “second law” Exodus 19:5-6



Joshua: God fulfills His promises to Israel to give them a land through the conquest of Canaan and through the allocation of the land among the tribes under the leadership of Joshua.

Joshua - Entering the Land

- Key Word: Victory
- Key Chapter: 6- The Beginning of the conquest.
- Key Verses: 1:5-9; 21:43-45; 24:15
- Key Characters: Joshua and Caleb
- Joshua 1:1-9
- Joshua the man

Joshua the man:

- Born in Egypt
- Moses’ aid
- Great military commander
- With Moses on Mt Sinai (Ex 24:13-14)
- One of the 12 spies (Num 13)
- Gave a good report with Caleb (Num 14)
- Became Israel’s leader after Moses (1:1-9)
- Faithful servant of the Lord (24:15)



Outline of Joshua

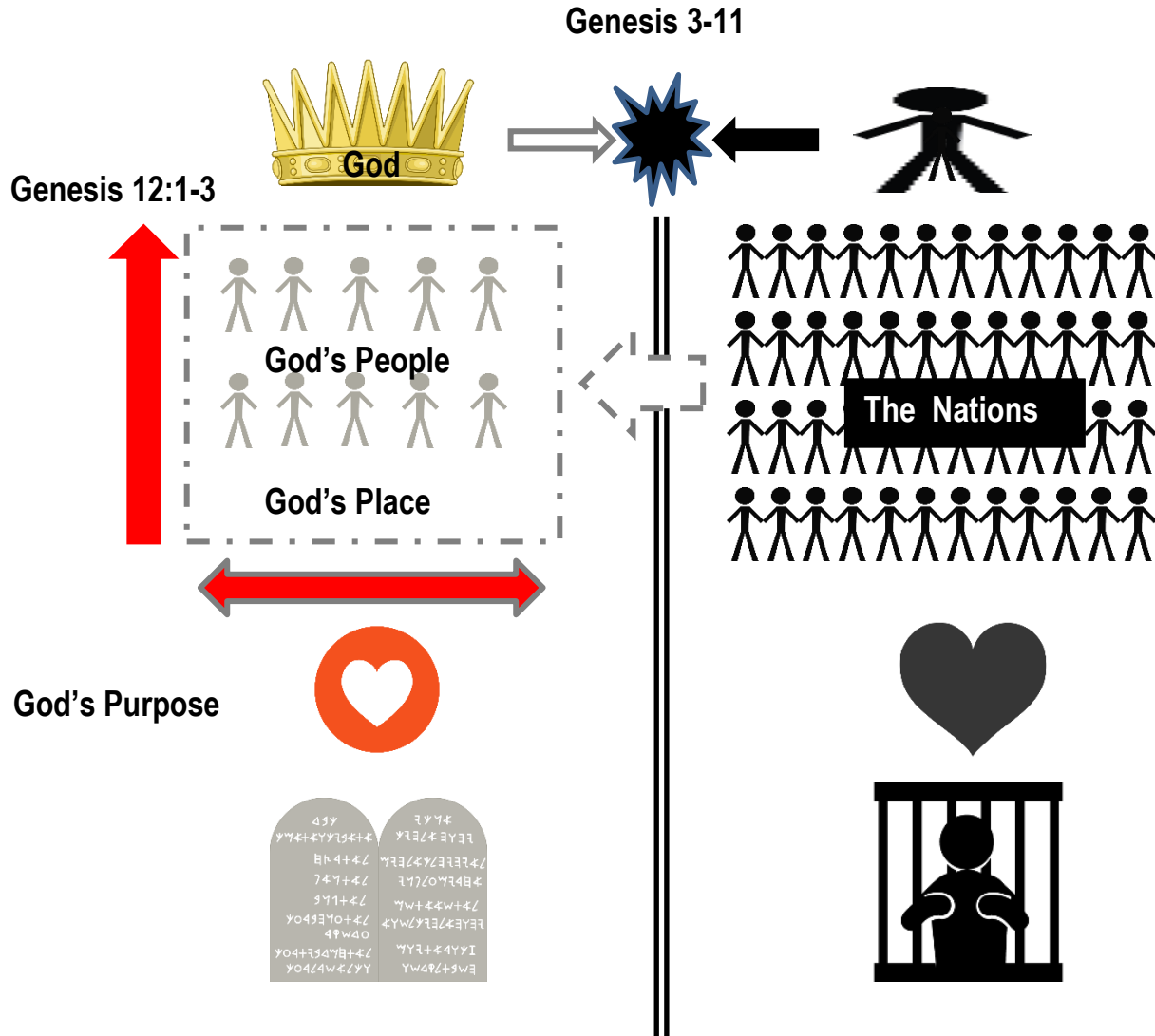
- Crossing the Jordan (Josh. 1-5)
- Conquering the enemies (Josh. 5-12)
- Claiming the inheritance (Josh. 13-21) (Refer to map on page 28)
- Consecrating the people (Josh. 22-24)
- Finally, God’s chosen people are in God’s chosen land ... what will happen next?

Memory Verse - Joshua 24:15

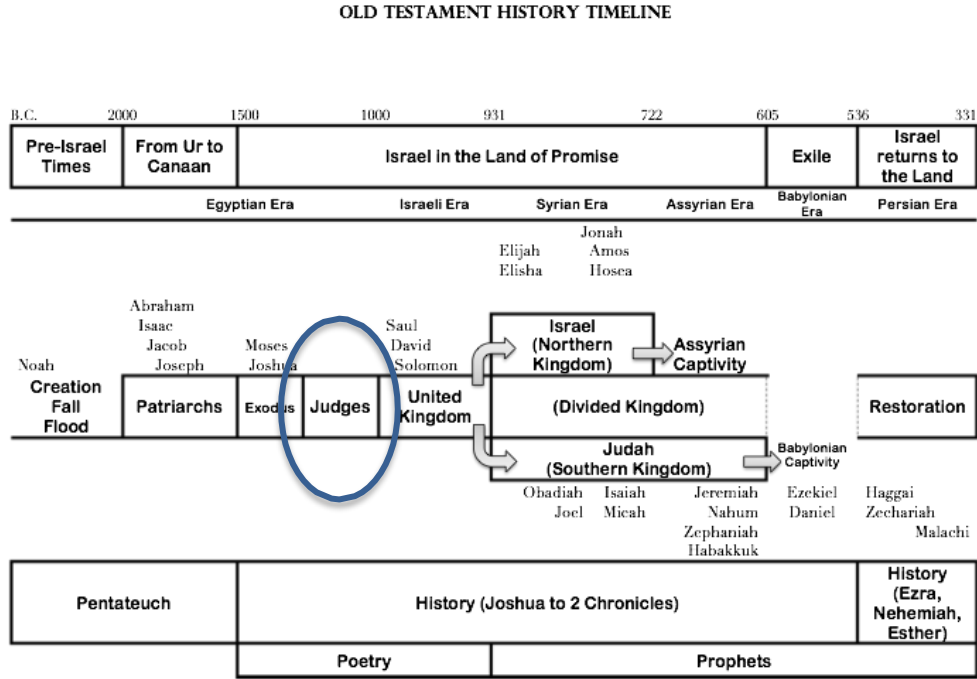
“And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”



The Story of the Kingdom of God in the Old Testament



Lesson 5 – Theocracy: The Judges



Judges: Israel experiences the repeated cycles of apostasy, oppression, repentance, and restoration through divinely appointed judges/deliverers through the long period following Joshua’s death.

Introduction

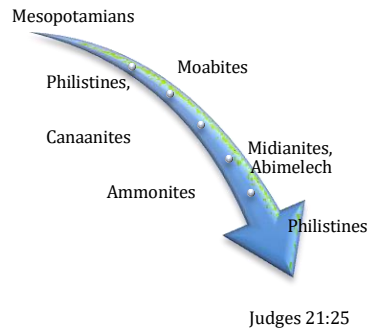
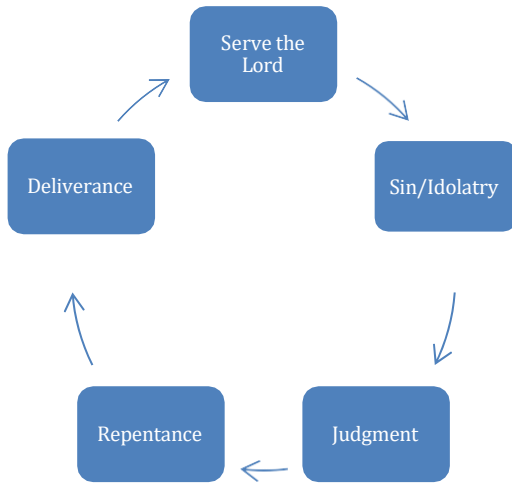
- Date: c. 1390 - 1043 B.C. (332 years)
- Enter Canaan 1405 BC, Death of Joshua 1390 BC, First Cycle 1375 BC, Saul becomes king 1043 BC
- Key Word: Defeat
- Key Chapter: 2- Gives the “cycles of the judges”
- Key Verses: 2:11-19; 17:6; 21:25
- Scripture: Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel 1-7
- Key People: Deborah, Gideon, Samson, Ruth, Naomi, Boaz, Eli, Samuel

Book of Judges

- “Judges” = rulers, judge, deliverers, saviors
- Chapter 1: They did not completely take possession of the land
- Chapter 2: A meeting with the Angel of the Lord!
- Read Judges 2:11-3:6 (These verses provide a summary of the book of Judges during a dark period in Israel’s history.

Seven cycles ...

- Sin
- Judgment
- Repentance
- Deliverance
- Each cycle gets progressively worse - Judges 21:25
“No King, Everyone did what was right in their own eyes”



What Lessons can we learn from Judges and these 7 cycles?



Book of Ruth

- Ruth offers a **message of HOPE**
- Ruth is a story of redemption
- Through faith Gentiles can be part God’s plan
- There is always a faithful and godly remnant
- The first 8 chapters of 1 Samuel close the period of the Judges.

“Kinsman - Redeemer”

- The Kinsman-Redeemer (close relative) offers a picture of Christ - used 13 times
- Kinsman-Redeemer must...
 - Be related by blood;
 - Pay the price of redemption;
 - Be willing to redeem;
 - Be free himself.

Memory verse – Ruth 4:14

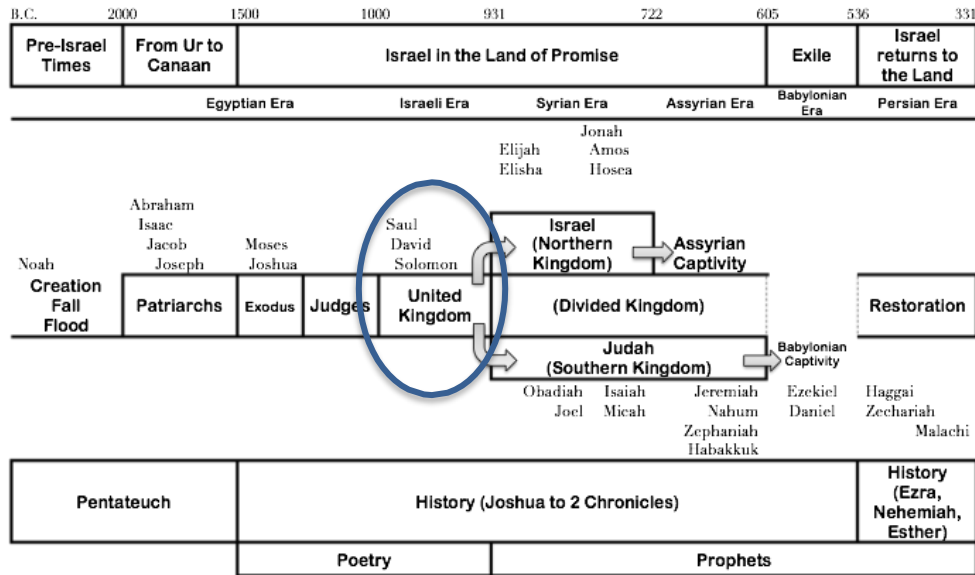
Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed is the Lord who has not left you without a redeemer today, and may his name become famous in Israel.

The Story of Ruth

- Hope in Dark Time
- Elimelek and Naomi
- Leave Bethlehem (House of Bread) to go to Moab
- From death to Life
 - Ch 1: Emptiness to Fullness
 - Ch 2-3: Despair to Hope
 - Ch 4: Barrenness to Inheritance
- From Boaz and Ruth to King David
- Ruth is the great, great grandmother of King David in the lineage of King Jesus (Matthew 1:5)

Lesson 6: Monarchy: The United Kingdom

OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY TIMELINE



United Kingdom: 1 Samuel 8 - 31, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings 1 - 11

Divided Kingdom: 1 Kings 12 – 2 Kings 17

Captive Kingdom: 2 Kings 18 - 25

Introduction

- Date: c. 1050 - 931 B.C.
- Scripture: 1 Samuel 8-31 (Saul), 2 Samuel (David), 1 Kings 1-11 (Solomon), 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles 1-9, Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Songs, and Ecclesiastes
- Key People: Samuel, Saul, David, Absalom, Solomon
- A period of 120 years under 4 leaders who each reigned 40 years:
 - Samuel - the last judge/first prophet
 - Saul - Israel's first king
 - David - Israel's greatest king
 - Solomon - Israel's glorious king

Monarchy – United Kingdom

- 1050 – 931 BC (120 years)
- Samuel (1 Samuel 1-16)
- Saul (1 Samuel 8-31) “No heart”
- David (2 Samuel) “Whole heart”
- Solomon (1 Kings 1-11) “Half heart”



Samuel - Israel's Last Judge

- Purified and united Israel
- 1 Samuel 8:4-9 (Reject God as King!)
- Reasons Israel demanded a king:
 - Samuel was getting old
 - Samuel's sons failed as judges
 - Israel rejected the Lord as their king
 - Wanted to be like other nations

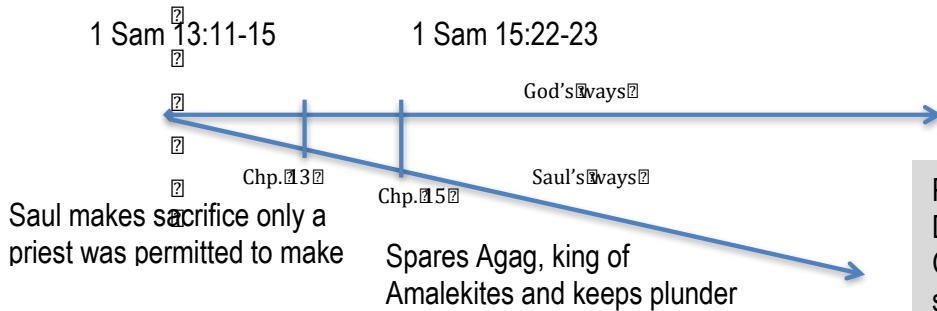
1 Samuel 1-2
Hannah, Elkanah, Eli

Samuel serves under Eli
Serves as last Judge
Anoints Saul and David as King

Saul - Israel's First King

- Chosen and anointed by Samuel
- Lack of faith and disobedience revealed
- He is rejected by the Lord - 1 Samuel 15:22-23
- God uses Saul to prepare David as king

Saul introduced in 1 Sam 9:1-2
tall, outward appearance of leaders,
poor or small view of himself in his
own eyes – might imply humility or
poor self-esteem.



PARTIAL OBEDIENCE IS DISOBEDIENCE!
God desires obedience more than sacrifice

David - Israel's Great King

- Anointed by Samuel while Saul was still king (1 Sam 16)
 - David and Goliath (1 Sam 17:1-58)
 - Saul becomes David's enemy (Saul tries to kill David 15 times in 1 Sam 18-30)
- King of Judah seven years and king of the United kingdom of Israel for 33 years
- David is a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13;14, Acts 13:22)

The Davidic Covenant

- 2 Samuel 7:12-16
- Who is the Lord speaking about in these verses?
- How might these words extend beyond Solomon and his reign?

David's reign and the consequences of sin

- David's sin (2 Samuel 11)
- David's sorrow (2 Samuel 12a)
- David's suffering (2 Samuel 12b – chapter 18)
- David's restoration (2 Samuel 19-24)
- Temple site purchased and prepared (1 Chron 21:18 – 22:5)
- David makes Solomon king
- David wrote 73 of the Psalms

Solomon - Israel's Glorious King

At first Solomon loved the Lord

- Wisdom to rule God's people
- Builds the Temple
- Understood Israel was to be a blessing to all nations

A king with a divided heart

- Built himself a palace more beautiful than the Temple
- Failed to obey God's word - Deut. 17:14-20
 - Multiplied horses for himself (1 Kings 10:28)
 - Multiplied wives for himself (1 Kings 11:1-8)
 - Increased silver and gold for himself (1 Kings 10:24-27)
 - Failed to read, study, and obey God's word (Deut 17:18-19)
 - Prophecy of judgment (1 Kings 11:9-13, 29-39).

- Solomon's wisdom: 1 Kings 1-3
- Solomon's wealth: 1 Kings 4-10
- Solomon's wickedness: 1 Kings 11
- Temptations:
Money, Sex, Power
Failure in spiritual life
- God prophesied judgment on Solomon and the nation in 1 Kings 11:9-13, 29-39
- The king with a divided heart leaves behind a divided kingdom!



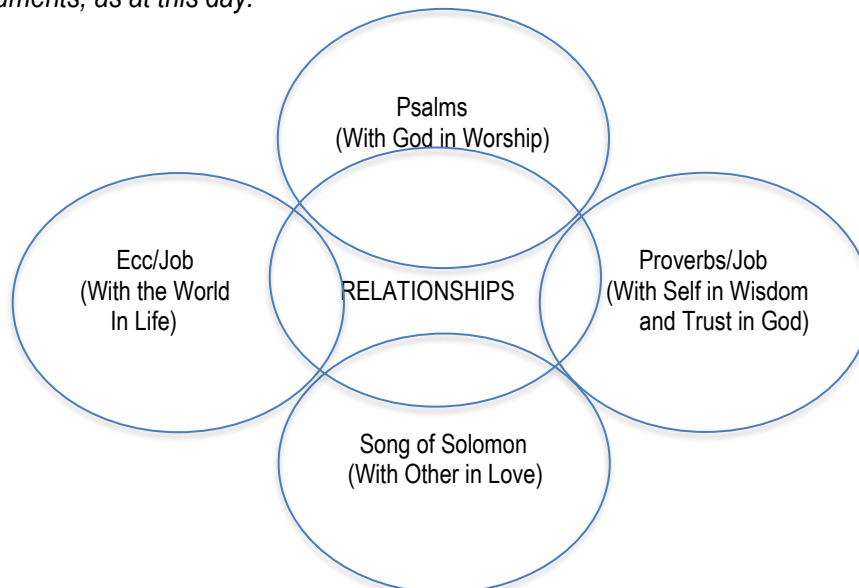
KING SAUL
KING DAVID
KING SOLOMON

Poetical Books

- Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs written during this period
- Psalms - relationship to God (worship, praise, thanksgiving, prayer)
- Proverbs - relationship to our minds & hearts (wisdom and purity)
- Ecclesiastes - relationship to the world (faith in daily life)
- Song of Songs - relationship with others (love, purity faithfulness)
- Job – suffering and sovereignty of God

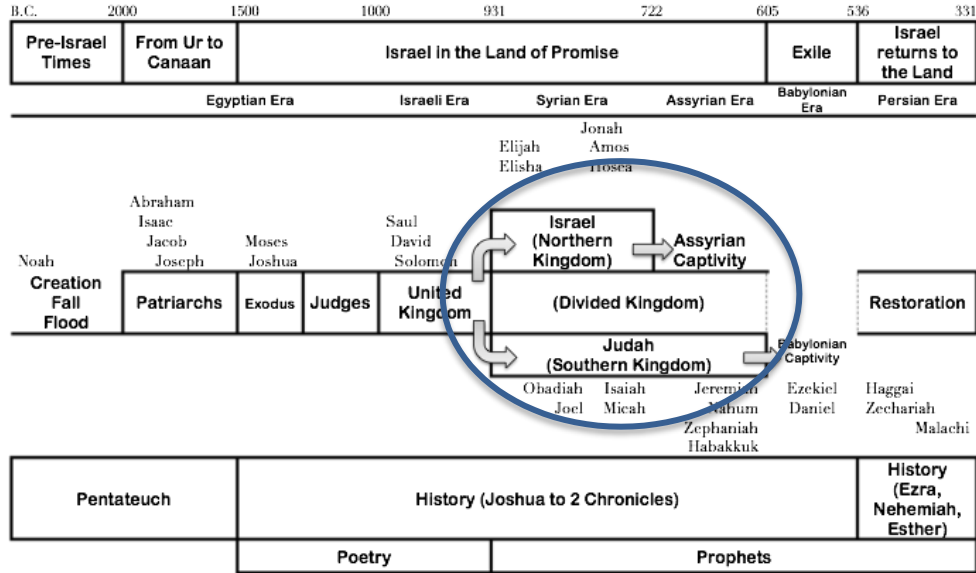
Memory Verse - 1 Kings 8:61

“Let your heart therefore be wholly true to the Lord our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments, as at this day.”

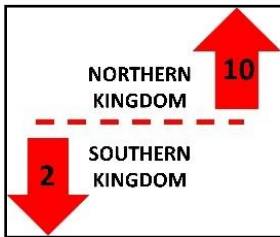


Lesson 7 – Monarchy: The Divided Kingdom

OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY TIMELINE



Introduction



- Date: c. 931 - 605 B.C. (325 years)
- Scripture:
- Historical: 1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 25; 2 Chronicles 10-36
- Prophets (Northern Kingdom): Jonah, Amos, Hosea
- Prophets (Southern Kingdom): Joel, Obadiah, Micah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah
- Prophets (Other Nations) Jonah (Nineveh) Obadiah, (Edom) Nahum (Nineveh)
- Key People: Jeroboam, Rehoboam, Elijah, Elisha, Ahab, Jezebel
- Refer to Appendix IV for list of OT books and Appendix VI for a list of the Kings and Prophets

Northern Kingdom of Israel

- Jeroboam became the first king of the northern kingdom
- 1 Kings 11:28-33
- Jeroboam built two new places of worship (Dan and Samaria)
- Israel worships idols

<u>Jeroboam</u>	<u>Rehoboam</u>
Called by God	Called by God
Serve God?	Serve God?
Rebelled	Rebelled
Evil/Idolatry	Evil/dolatry
N. Kingdom	S. Kingdom

19 wicked and ungodly kings reigned in Israel (209 years)

- King Omri introduced Baal worship and was the father of Ahab (most wicked king of Israel. (1 Kings 16:30-31)
- A crisis arises and God sends his prophets (Elijah, Elisha, Amos, Hosea)
- Northern Kingdom of Israel was defeated by Assyria in 722 B.C. (1 Kings 17:23)
- God judged Israel because they rebelled Him and worshipped idols. (Read: 2 Kings 17:7-18)

Southern Kingdom of Judah

- Tribes of Benjamin and Judah
- Judah's history was a cycle of spiritual declines and revivals
- 20 kings reigned in Judah; 8 were godly and twelve were evil
- God also sent his prophets to Judah (Joel, Micah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah)

4 Kings in Judah

- Hezekiah - 2 Kings 18:1-6
- Manasseh - the most evil king in Judah (1 Kings 23:26-27)
- Jehoiakim - rebelled against Babylon
- Zedekiah - also rebelled against Babylon
- Judah is taken into captivity in Babylon beginning in 605 BC

1 & 2 Chronicles

- Gives a spiritual viewpoint on Israel's history
- Written during the Exile to provide hope.
- Highlights the royal line of David
- Written to show that God is faithful to his covenant
- Emphasizes the law, priesthood, and temple
- Teaches that we must learn from the history

COMPARISON OF SAMUEL & KINGS WITH CHRONICLES

Samuel & Kings	Chronicles
Israel's history from the United Kingdom to the two captivities	Focuses on the southern kingdom and Davidic line
Political history	Religious history
Prophetic authorship: emphasizes social and moral concerns	Priestly authorship: emphasizes priestly ministry and spiritual concerns
Written by authors close to the time of the events	Likely written by Ezra many years after the events
More negative – emphasizing rebellion and God's judgment	More positive – emphasizing God's grace and a future hope
Message of judgment	Message of hope
Man's failures	God's faithfulness
Emphasizes kings and prophets	Emphasizes the temple and priests

Overview, Theme, and Purpose

- Chronicles seems like a repeat of Samuel and Kings but was written for the returned exiles to remind them that they were a people chosen by God who came from the royal line of David.
- The genealogies point out that the promises to David had their source in the promise to Abraham that He would make him the father of a great nation, who would bless the nations.
- The main theme is God's faithfulness to His covenant promise.
- Chronicles emphasizes the Law, the priesthood, and the temple. Although Solomon's temple was gone, the new temple was a sign of God's faithfulness.
- This book also teaches that the past is full of lessons for their present. Apostasy, idolatry, intermarriage with Gentiles, and lack of unity were the reasons for their judgment.

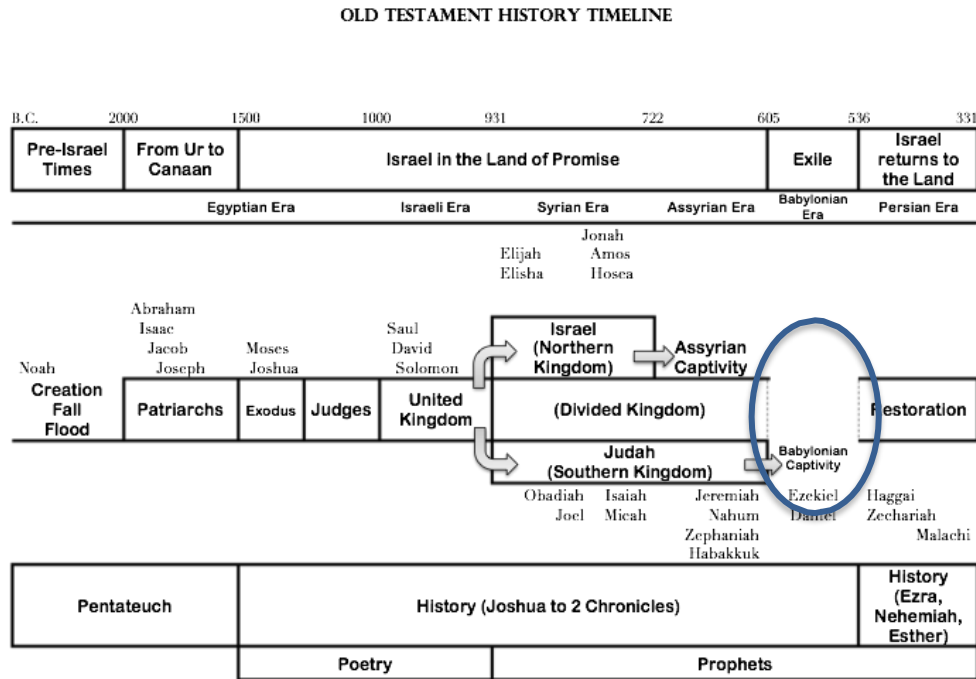
Leadership Lessons

- We can't lead others without depending on the Lord.
- Leaders must guard their hearts, so they remain faithful to the Lord.
- As the leaders go, so go the people!
- Proverbs 14:34 *"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people."*

Memory Verse - 2 Chronicles 16:9a

"For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His."

Lesson 8 – Exile: The Babylonian Captivity



Introduction

- Date: c. 605 - 536 B.C.
- Nebuchadnezzar defeats Judah in 3 stages:
- 605 B.C. - Jehoiakim defeated; political collapse
- 597 B.C. - Jehoiakim and Jehoiakin rebelled and defeated again
- 586 B.C. - City of Jerusalem and temple destroyed
- Scripture: Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel
- Key People: Jeremiah, Nebuchadnezzar, Ezekiel, Daniel, Darius, Cyrus
- Outline: Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel

North to Assyria: 722 BC
2 Kings 17:7-18

South to Babylon:
605-586 BC
2 Chron 36:15-21

Lamentations

- Author: Jeremiah (The “weeping” prophet)
- Series of 5 sorrowful poems
- Written after the destruction of Jerusalem
- Lamentations 2:5-6
- God’s mercy and hope - Lamentations 3:21-23

Exile in 3 Stages

1. 605 BC – Daniel included
2. 597 BC – Ezekiel included
3. 586 BC – Fall of Jerusalem

Jeremiah 29:4-17 **70 Years**

Ezekiel

- Prophet to the Jewish exiles in Babylon
- His name means “God strengthens” or “strengthened by God”
- He brought a message of hope
- Ezekiel 36:24-28 “New heart and Spirit”
- Speaks about the coming Messiah (21:26-27, 34:11-31)

Daniel

- Man of the Scriptures (9:1-2)
- Man of prayer (Ch 6, 9)
- Man of faith (Ch 1, 2, 5)
- Man of wisdom (Ch 1:17-20, Ezek 28:3)
- Man of righteousness
- Man of the Spirit (dreams, visions 7:13, 9:24)
- A man like us...

Theme of Daniel

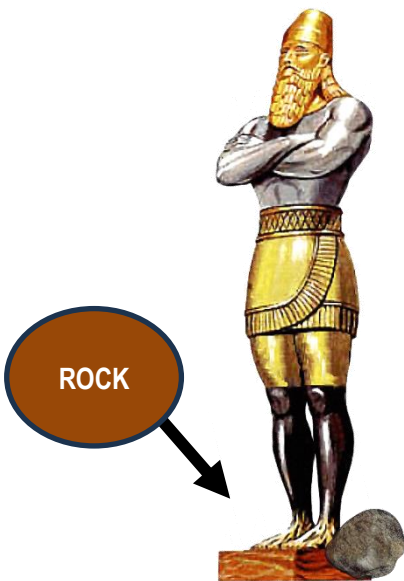
- Triumph of the Kingdom of God
- Daniel 2:44-45 (Nebuchadnezzar’s dream – The Great Image)
- Written to encourage the Jews in exile by revealing God’s purpose for Israel
- Prophecies of the coming Messiah
 - Daniel 7 (The Son of Man is given dominion)
 - Daniel 9:24-27 (The Seventy Weeks)

Ezekiel’s Messages

- Ch 34:11-31 “True Shepherd”
- Ch 36:24-28 “New heart and Spirit”
- Ch 37 “Dry Bones” revival is coming
- Ch 40 “God’s glory will return to the Temple”
- Condemnation for Israel’s sin (Ch 1-32)
- Consolation in view of future blessing (Ch 33-48)

Daniel was a man like us ...

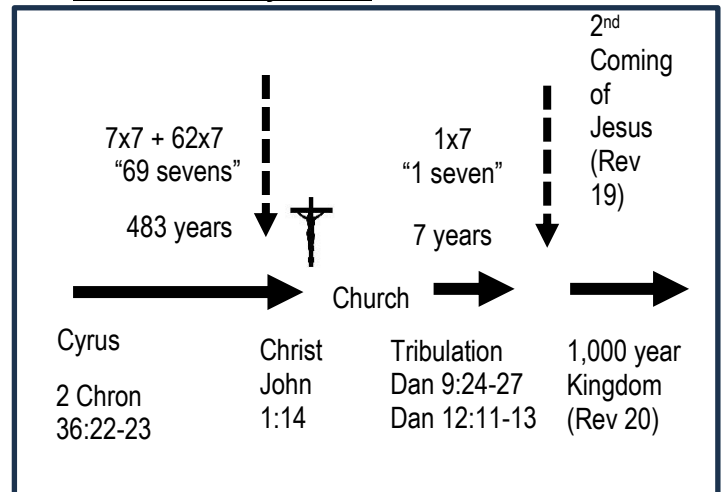
- Lived in ungodly culture (1:1-6)
- Treated unjustly (Ch 1,2,5,6)
- Troubled in spirit/distressed (7:15)
- Concerned/fearful (8:16)
- Exhausted (8:27)



The Great Image

- Head: Gold (Babylon)
- Chest: Silver (Persia)
- Waist: Bronze (Greece)
- Legs: Iron (Rome)
- Feet: Iron and Clay (Anti-christ)

Daniel’s Seventy Weeks



Conclusion

Results of the Exile...

1. A new holiness –
 - a. God had the Assyrians and Babylonians do what Israel failed to do – they conquered the land.
 - b. Since this time, the Jews as a nation have never returned to the worship of idols.
2. A new identity – those who return from captivity are now called Jews, because they were of the tribe of Judah.
 - a. Previously they were called Israel or Hebrews.
 - b. The spoken language changed from Hebrew to Aramaic. This was Jesus' mother tongue.
3. A new worship – Because the temple was destroyed, there is a new emphasis placed on the Scriptures in worship.
 - a. During the exile, many of the OT Scriptures were written and collected (Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Kings, Chronicles, and others)
 - b. Synagogues were established as places of worship, prayer, and reading the Scriptures
 - c. These become the centers of Jewish worship throughout the world.
4. A new witness –
 - a. The Jews now share their hope for the coming Messiah as a savior – a redeemer – for all people.
 - b. The Babylonian empire fell to the Medo-Persian Empire under King Cyrus at the end of this 70-year period. God uses King Cyrus to bring the Jews back into the land of promise.

Activity

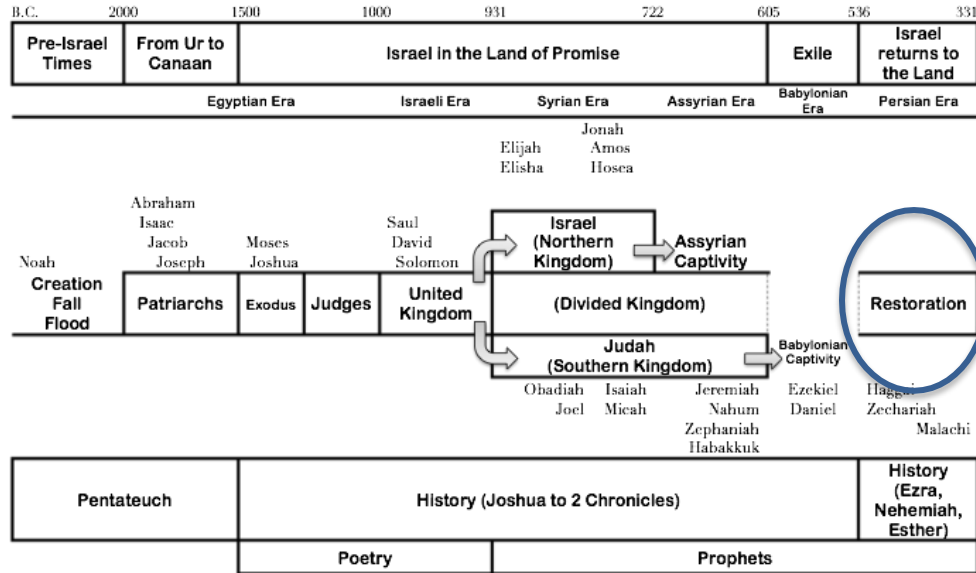
- In these 3 prophetic books, we see 3 aspects of the role of pastors: pastoral (Jeremiah) – priestly (Ezekiel) – and prophetic (Daniel).
- Discuss how each of these aspects of Christian leadership is exercised in your ministry. Which of these aspects of ministry comes easiest to you? In which of these areas do you need to grow?

Memory verse - Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

Lesson 9 – The Restoration

OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY TIMELINE



Introduction

- Date: c. 536 - 431 B.C.
- Scripture
 - Historical: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
 - Prophetic: Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
- Key People: Cyrus, Zerubbabel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
- The Jews are restored to the land of Judah and the city of Jerusalem under the Persian King Cyrus. Read 2 Chronicles 36:22-23.
- In a reversal of the way Judah was taken into exile, the Jews return in three stages

RESTORATION BOOKS

Ezra 1-6	Esther	Ezra 7-10	Nehemiah
Temple Restored	People Protected	People Reformed	City Walls Reconstructed
Zerubbabel	Esther	Ezra	Nehemiah
538-515 B.C.	483-473 B.C.	457 B.C.	c. 444-425 B.C.
Temple	People	People	Walls
Haggai, Zechariah			Malachi
First Return 50,000 people		Second Return 1,500 people	Third Return

The Restoration

- The exile lasted 70 years (Jeremiah 25:11-12)
- Exiles return in three stages:
 - Zerubbabel (Ezra 1-6) - Temple restored
 - Ezra (Ezra 7-10) - People reformed
 - Nehemiah - Walls rebuilt
- Esther occurs between the first two stages

Zerubbabel

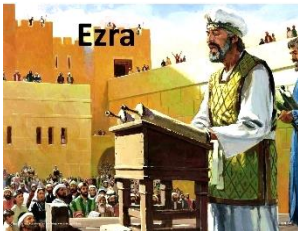


The Temple Restored - Zerubbabel

- Ezra chapters 1-6
- Decree of the Persian King Cyrus
- Ezra 6:14-15
- Haggai and Zechariah were prophets at this time

The People Protected – Esther

- Jewish Queen of King Xerxes of Persia
- Haman plots to kill all the Jews
- Esther's cousin Mordecai persuades her to intervene
- Esther 4:14-16



The People Reformed – Ezra (Priest)

- Ezra Chapters 7-10
- People transformed by God's power
- Ezra 7:9-10
- Repentance always precedes revival!



The City Walls Restored – Nehemiah (Governor)

- Ezra - religious leader; Nehemiah - political leader
- Nehemiah 6:15-16
- Malachi was a prophet at this time
- Renews the Lord's covenant with the people

Anticipating the Messiah

- Everything is restored, except the king
- The messianic line of David preserved
- Daniel's prophecy of the 70 weeks – Daniel 9:24-27

Daniel's Seventy Weeks – Daniel 9:24-27

- Every seventh day Israel had a Sabbath
- Every seventh year there should be a sabbatical year
- Every 7 x 7 years (49 years) was to be followed by a year of Jubilee.
- 70 x 7 (490 years) sounds like a special Jubilee.

Daniel's Seventy Weeks

- God's redemptive purpose... Dan. 9:24
 - To finish transgression;
 - To put an end to sin;
 - To atone for iniquity;
 - To bring in everlasting righteousness
 - To seal up visions and the prophets;
 - To anoint the most holy (one)!
- This is fulfilled in Jesus – He is the Jubilee in person!

The Rest of the Story!

- Last book of the Old Testament ... Read Malachi 3:1
- Read Galatians 4:3-5 – 400 years later Jesus, the Messiah, comes when the time was right!
- Luke 24:44 – conclude where we began (Jesus is the theme of the OT, The Red Thread)



Action Plan

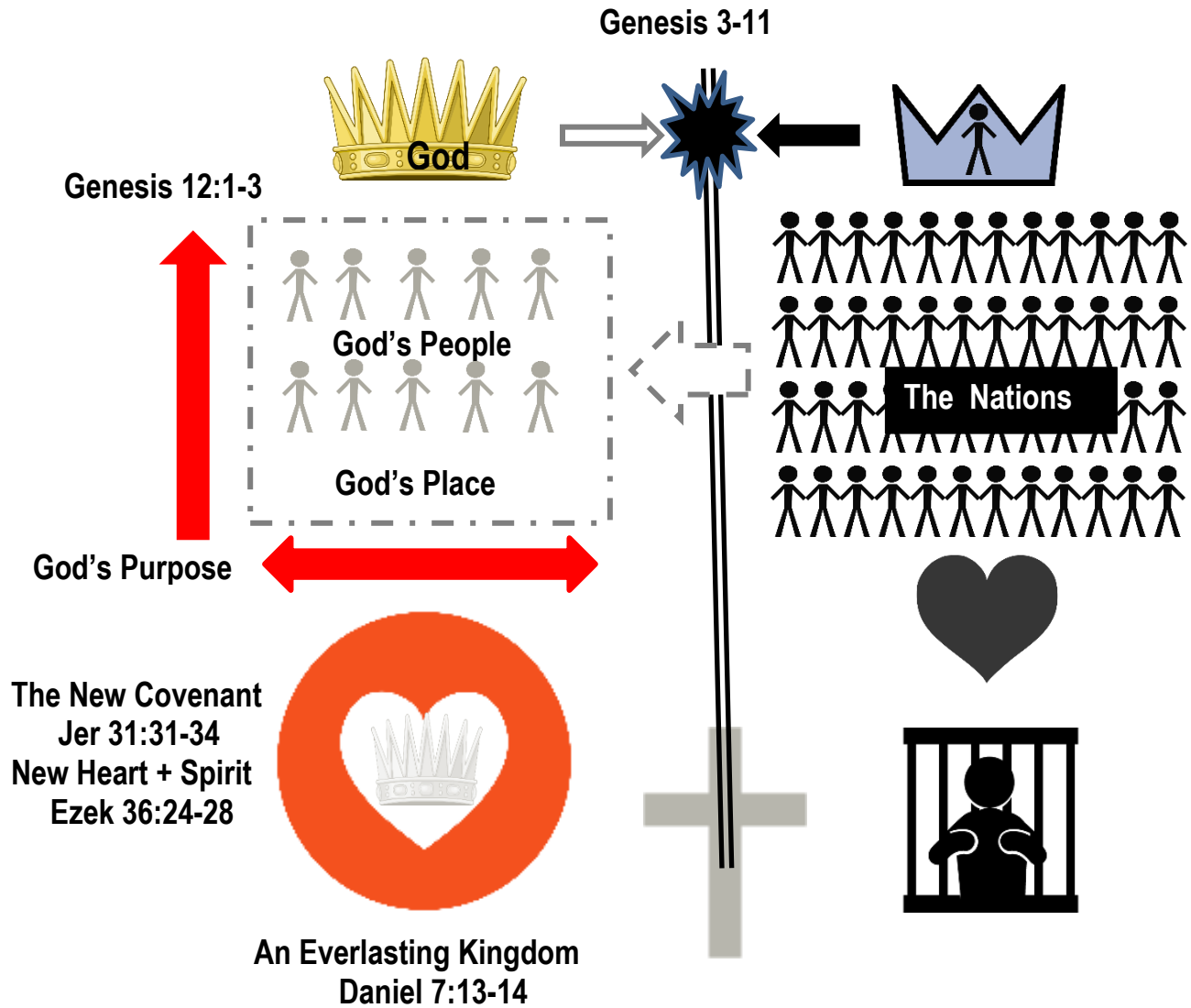
- Your assignment is to read or listen on an audio Bible to the entire Old Testament in one year or less.
- Please use the reading plan in Appendix to help you stay on track and record your progress.
- On our next visit, we will check your progress!

Memory Verse - Malachi 3:1

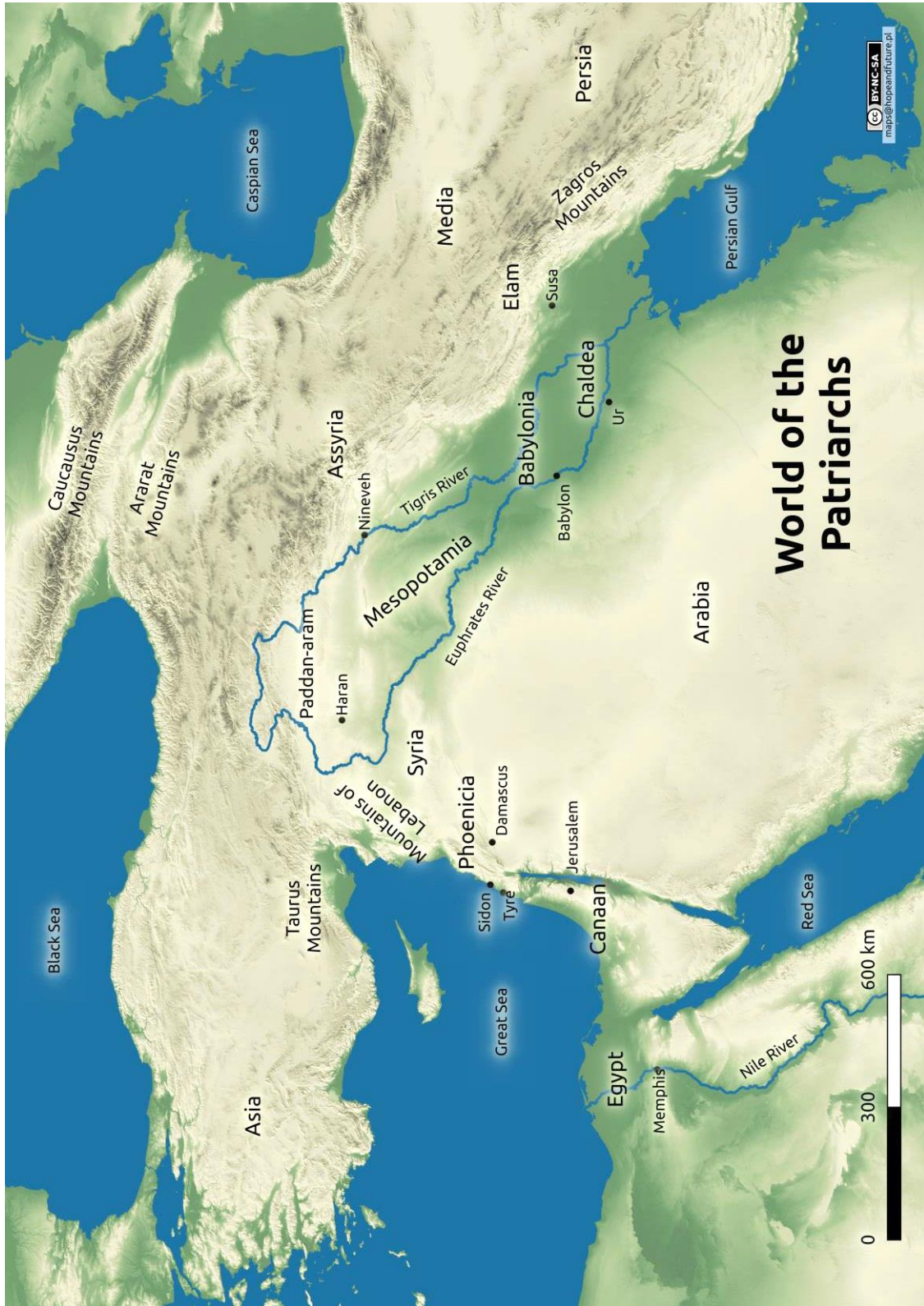
“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.”

The Story of The Kingdom of God in the Old Testament

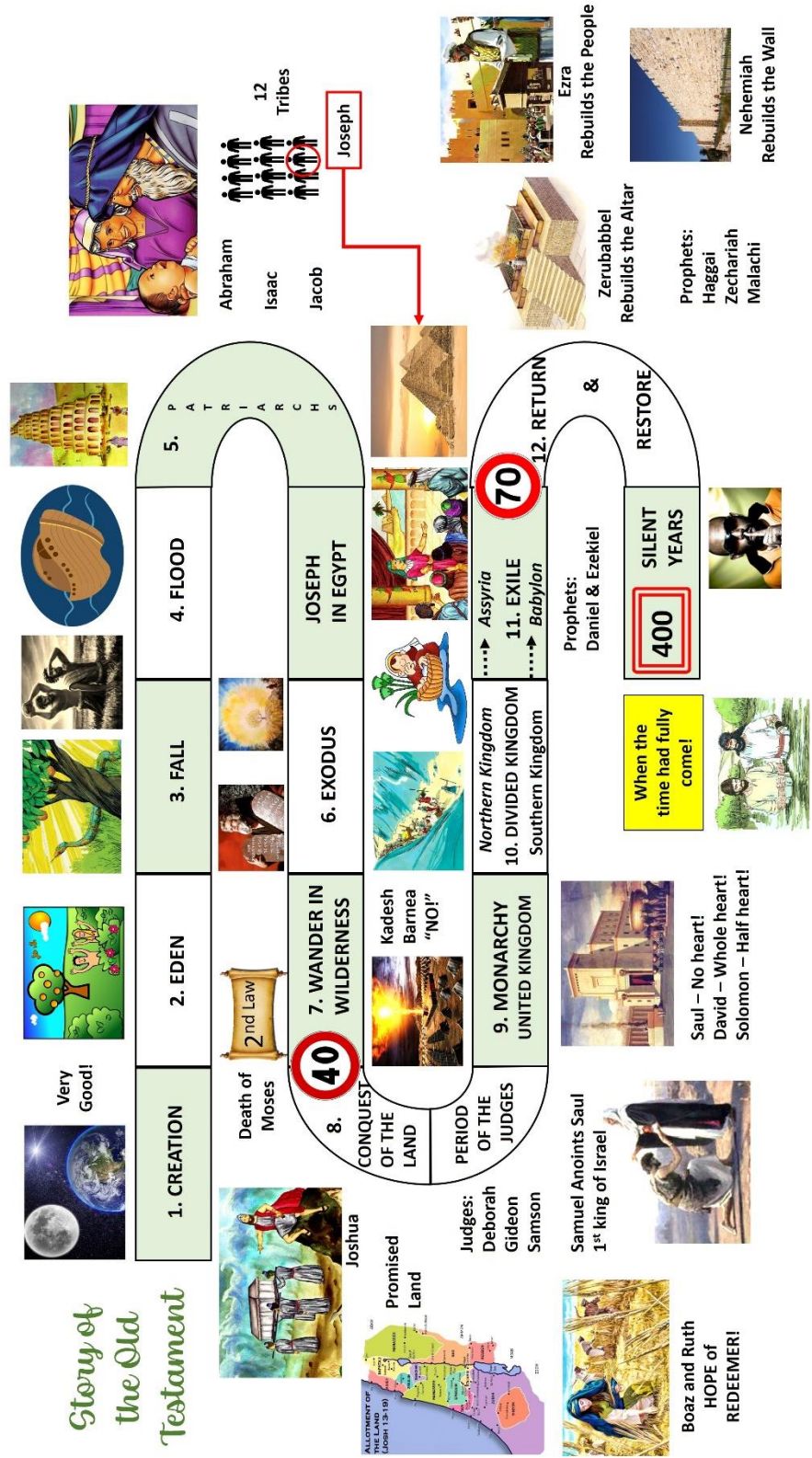
⁴⁴ Then he said to them, *“These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”* ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, *“Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for^a the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem”.* (Luke 24:44-47)

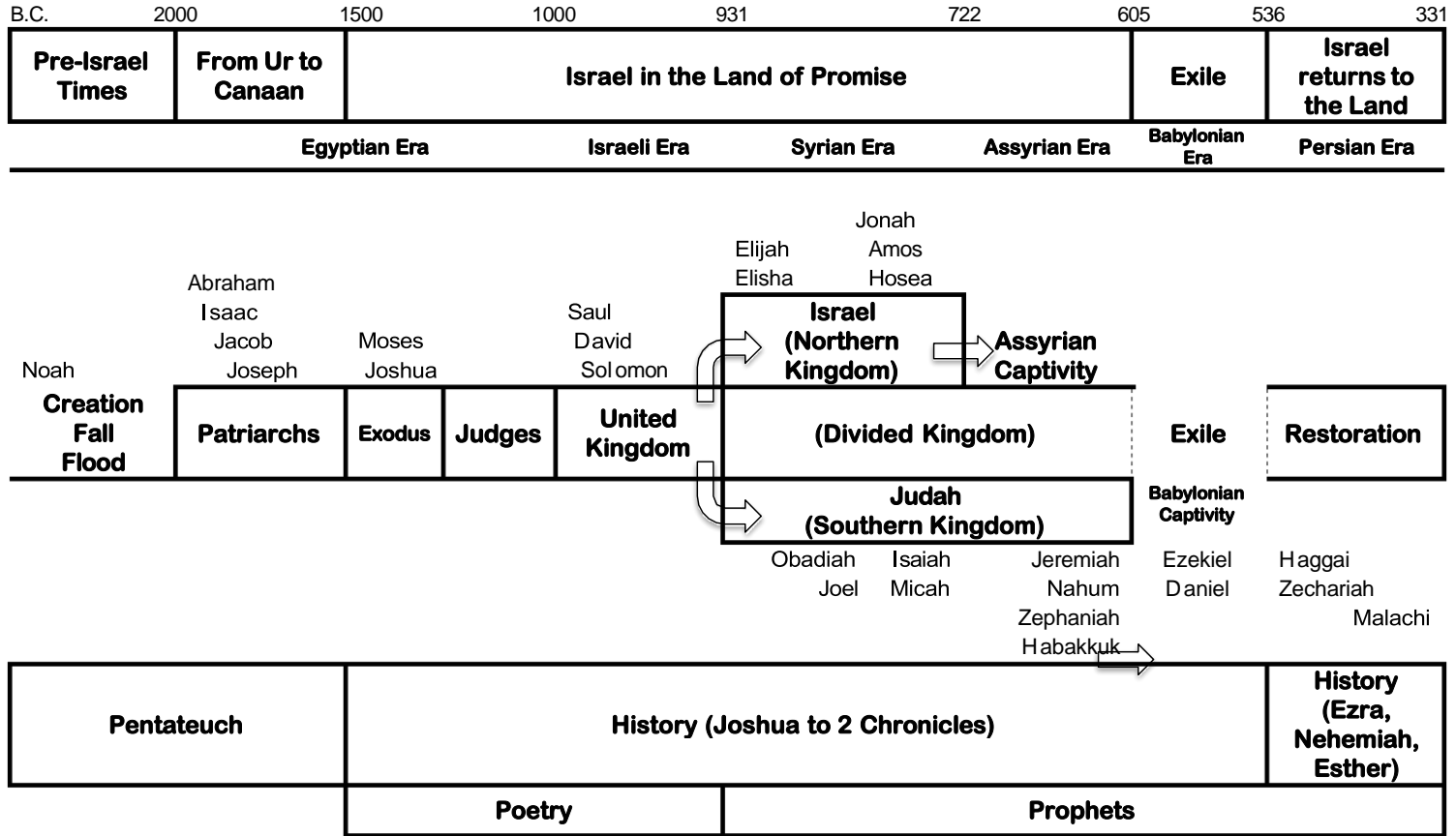


John 3:16, 5:24, 6:35, 8:12, 10:11, 11:25, 14:6
Romans 6:23

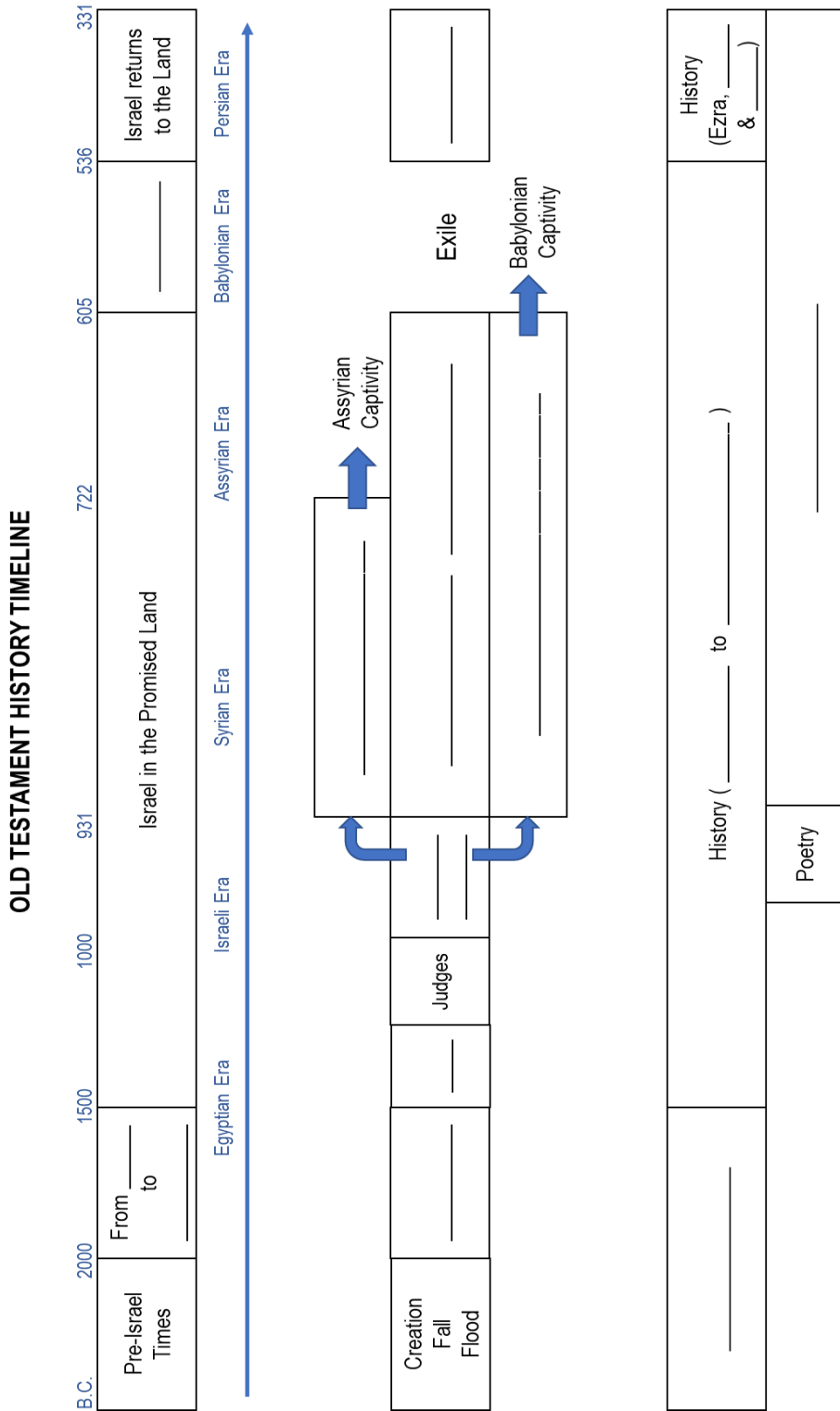


Appendix I – The Story of the Old Testament

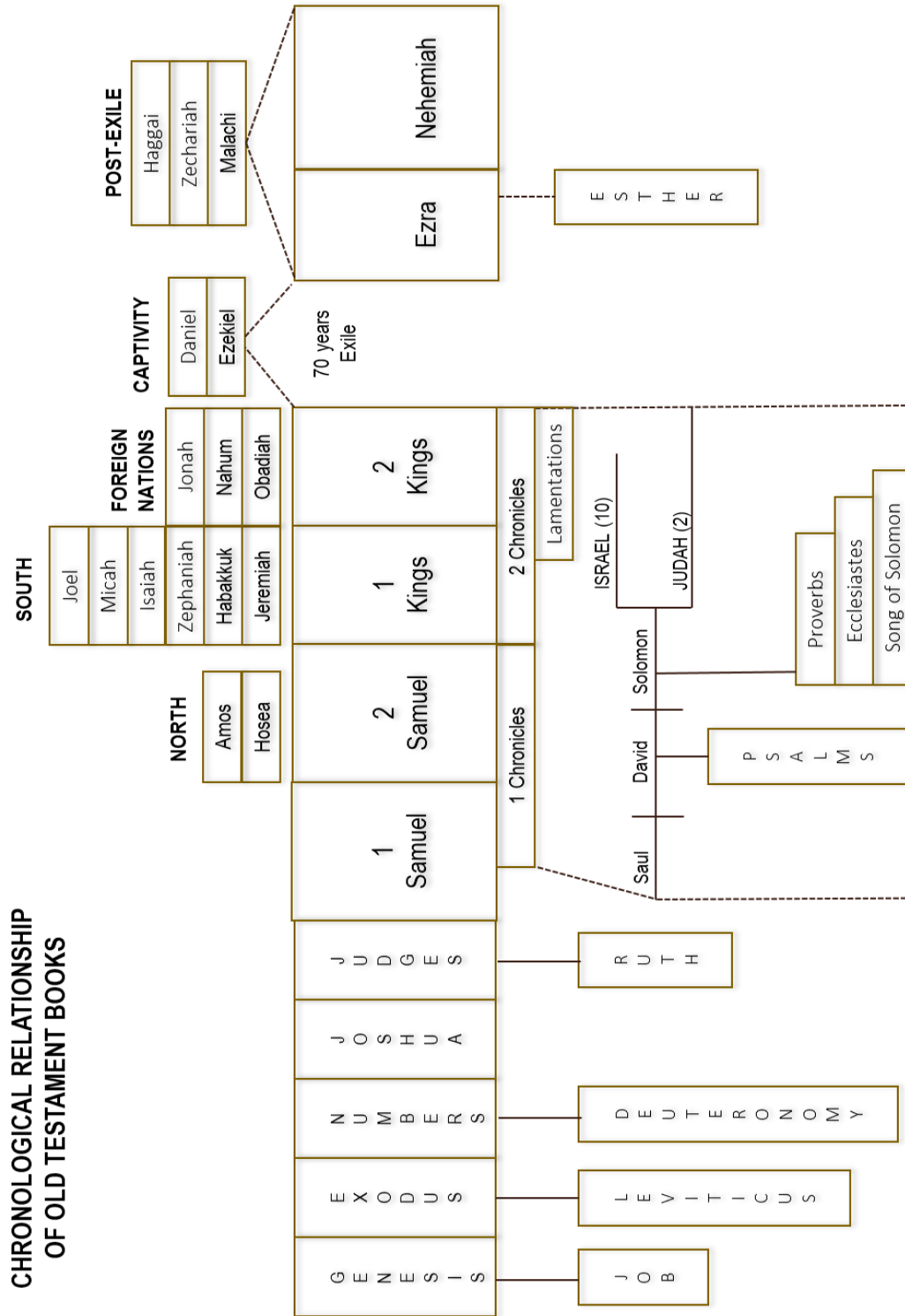




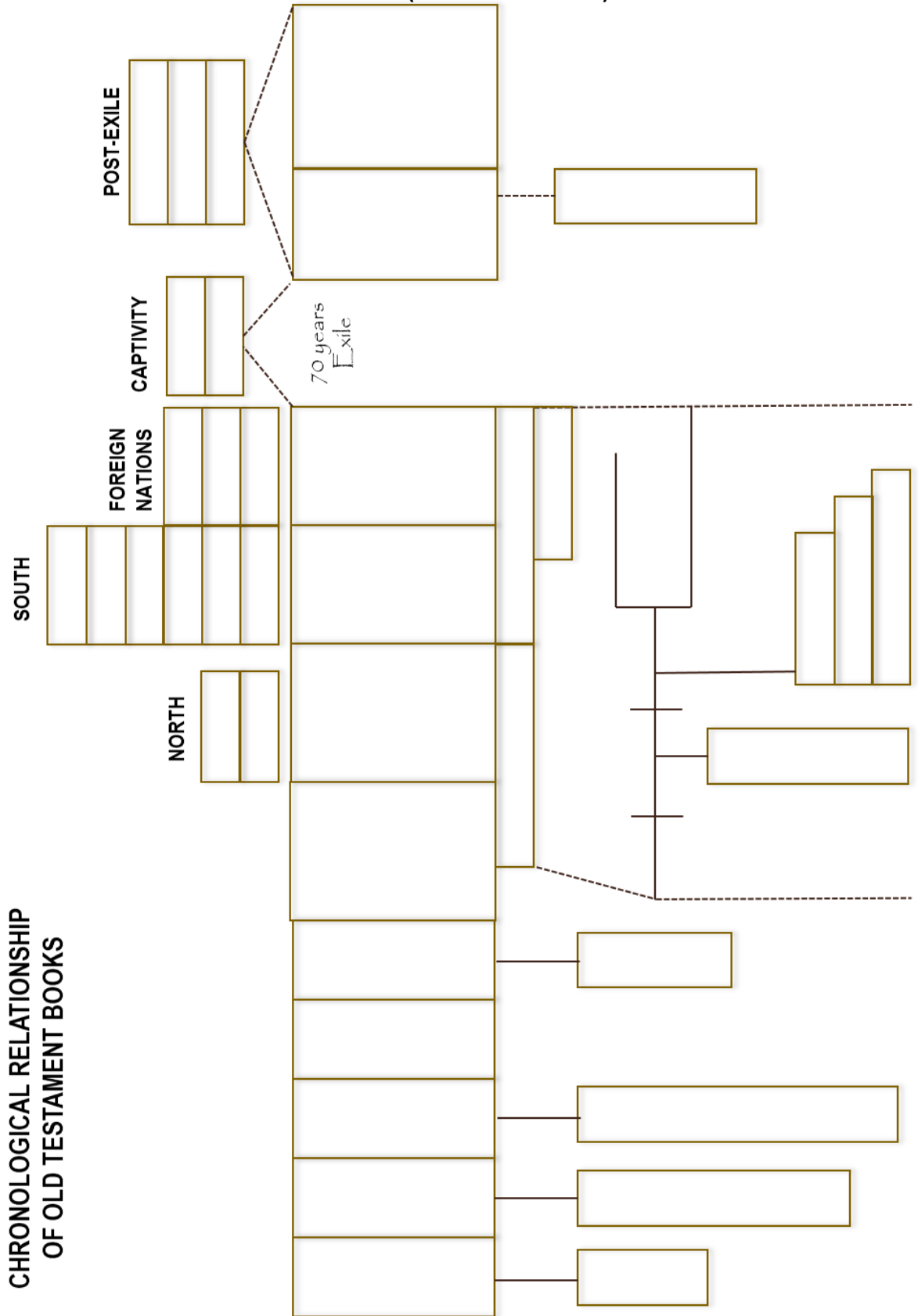
Appendix III – Old Testament History (Practice Sheet)



Appendix IV - Old Testament Books



Appendix V - Old Testament Books (Practice Sheet)



Appendix VI - ISRAEL'S KINGS AND PROPHETS

UNITED KINGDOM			
Saul (32 years)			
David (40 years)			
Solomon (40 years)			
DIVIDED KINGDOM			
PROPHETS	19 KINGS OF ISRAEL (NORTH)	20 KINGS OF JUDAH (SOUTH)	PROPHETS
	Jeroboam (22, Evil)	Rehoboam (17, Evil)	
		Abijam (3, Evil)	
	Nadab (2, Evil)	* Asa (41, Good)	
	Baasha (24, Evil)		
	Elah (2, Evil)		
	Tibni (3, Evil)		
	Omri (11, Evil)	* Jehoshaphat (25, Good)	
Elijah	Ahab (2, Evil)		
Elisha	Ahaziah (2, Evil)		
Elisha	Joram (12, Evil)	Jehoram (8, Evil)	Obadiah
Elisha	Jehu (28, Evil)	Ahaziah (1, Evil)	Obadiah
		Athaliah (7, Evil)	Obadiah
		* Joash (40, Good)	Obadiah, Joel
	Jahoahaz (17, Evil)		
	Jehoash (16, Evil)	* Amaziah (29, Good)	
Jonah, Amos	Jeroboam II (41, Evil)	* Uzziah (52, Good)	Isaiah
Amos, Hosea	Zechariah (6 months, Evil)		
Hosea	Shallum (1 month, Evil)		
Hosea	Manahem (10, Evil)		
Hosea	Pekahiah (2, Evil)		
Hosea	Pekah (20, Evil)	* Jotham (16, Good)	Isaiah, Micah
Hosea	Hoshea (10, Evil)		
		Ahaz (16, Evil)	Isaiah, Micah
		* Hezekiah (29, Good)	Isaiah, Micah
		Manasseh (55, Evil)	Nahum
		Amon (2, Evil)	
		* Josiah (31, Good)	Nahum, Zephaniah, Jeremiah
		Jehoahaz (3 months, Evil)	Jeremiah, Habakkuk, Daniel
		Jehoiakim (11, Evil)	Habakkuk, Jeremiah
		Jehoiachin (3 months, Evil)	Jeremiah, Ezekiel
		Zedekiah (11, Evil)	Jeremiah
DURING EXILE			
			Daniel, Ezekiel
RESTORATION (POST EXILIC PERIOD)			
			Haggai, Zechariah, * Good Kings

Appendix VII – Old Testament Reading Plan

52 Weeks Through the Old Testament

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	Gen 1-3	Gen 4-6	Gen 7-9	Gen 10-12	Gen 13-16	Gen 17-18
2	Gen 19-21	Gen 22-23	Gen 24	Gen 25-26	Gen 27-28	Gen 29-30
3	Gen 31-32	Gen 33-35	Gen 36-37	Gen 38-40	Gen 41	Gen 42-43
4	Gen 44-45	Gen 46-48	Gen 49 – Exo 1	Exo 2-4	Exo 5-7	Exo 8-9
5	Exo 10-12	Exo 13-15	Exo 16-18	Exo 19-21	Exo 22-24	Exo 25-26
6	Exo 27-28	Exo 29-30	Exo 31-33	Exo 34-35	Exo 36-37	Exo 38-39
7	Exo 40 – Lev 3	Lev 4-6	Lev 7-8	Lev 9-11	Lev 12-13	Lev 14-15
8	Lev 16-18	Lev 19-21	Lev 22-23	Lev 24-25	Lev 26-27	Num 1-2
9	Num 3	Num 4-5	Num 6	Num 7	Num 8-10	Num 11-13
10	Num 14-15	Num 16-17	Num 18-20	Num 21-22	Num 23-25	Num 26-27
11	Num 28-30	Num 31	Num 32	Num 33-34	Num 35-36	Deut 1-2
12	Deut 3-4	Deut 5-7	Deut 8-10	Deut 11-13	Deut 14-16	Deut 17-20
13	Deut 21-23	Deut 24-27	Deut 28	Deut 29-31	Deut 32-33	Deut 34 – Josh 3
14	Josh 4-6	Josh 7-9	Josh 10-12	Josh 13-14	Josh 15-16	Josh 17-18
15	Josh 19-20	Josh 21-22	Josh 23 – Judg 1	Judg 2-4	Judg 5-6	Judg 7-8
16	Judg 9-10	Judg 11-13	Judg 14-17	Judg 18-19	Judg 20-21	Ruth 1-4
17	1 Sam 1-3	1 Sam 4-7	1 Sam 8-10	1 Sam 11-13	1 Sam 14-15	1 Sam 16-17
18	1 Sam 18-19	1 Sam 20-22	1 Sam 23-24	1 Sam 25-27	1 Sam 28-31	2 Sam 1-2
19	2 Sam 3-5	2 Sam 6-9	2 Sam 10-12	2 Sam 13-14	2 Sam 15-17	2 Sam 18-19
20	2 Sam 20-21	2 Sam 22-23	2 Sam 24 – 1 Kin 1	1 Kin 2-3	1 Kin 4-6	1 Kin 7
21	1 Kin 8	1 Kin 9-10	1 Kin 11-12	1 Kin 13-14	1 Kin 15-16	1 Kin 17-19
22	1 Kin 20-21	1 Kin 22 – 2 Kin 1	2 Kin 2-3	2 Kin 4-5	2 Kin 6-8	2 Kin 9-10
23	2 Kin 11-13	2 Kin 14-16	2 Kin 17-18	2 Kin 19-21	2 Kin 22-24	2 Kin 25 – 1 Chr 1
24	1 Chr 2-3	1 Chr 4-5	1 Chr 6	1 Chr 7-8	1 Chr 9-10	1 Chr 11-12
25	1 Chr 13-15	1 Chr 16-18	1 Chr 19-22	1 Chr 23-24	1 Chr 25-26	1 Chr 27-29
26	2 Chr 1-4	2 Chr 5-7	2 Chr 8-11	2 Chr 12-16	2 Chr 17-19	2 Chr 20-23
27	2 Chr 24-26	2 Chr 27-29	2 Chr 30-32	2 Chr 33-35	2 Chr 36 – Ezra 1	Ezra 2-3
28	Ezra 4-7	Ezra 8-9	Ezra 10 – Neh 2	Neh 3-5	Neh 6	Neh 7
29	Neh 8-9	Neh 10-11	Neh 12-13	Esther 1-4	Esther 5-9	Esther 10 – Job 4
30	Job 5-7	Job 8-10	Job 11-13	Job 14-16	Job 17-19	Job 20-21
31	Job 22-25	Job 26-29	Job 30-31	Job 32-33	Job 34-36	Job 37-38
32	Job 39-41	Job 42 – Psa 6	Psa 7-13	Psa 14-17	Psa 18-22	Psa 23-28
33	Psa 29-33	Psa 34-36	Psa 37-39	Psa 40-45	Psa 46-50	Psa 51-56
34	Psa 57-63	Psa 64-68	Psa 69-72	Psa 73-76	Psa 77	Psa 78-79
35	Psa 80-84	Psa 85-88	Psa 89-91	Psa 92-97	Psa 98-103	Psa 104-105
36	Psa 106-107	Psa 108-113	Psa 114-118	Psa 119:1-88	Psa 119:89-176	Psa 120-130
37	Psa 131-136	Psa 137-143	Psa 144-148	Psa 149 – Prov 2	Prov 3-5	Prov 6-7
38	Prov 8-10	Prov 11-13	Prov 14-15	Prov 16-18	Prov 19-21	Prov 22-23
39	Prov 24-25	Prov 26-28	Prov 29-30	Prov 31 – Eccl 2	Eccl 3-6	Eccl 7-10
40	Eccl 11 – Song 4	Song 5 – Isa 1	Isa 2-5	Isa 6-9	Isa 10-13	Isa 14-18
41	Isa 19-22	Isa 23-26	Isa 27-29	Isa 30-33	Isa 34-37	Isa 38-40
42	Isa 41-43	Isa 44-47	Isa 48-51	Isa 52-56	Isa 57-60	Isa 61-65
43	Isa 66 – Jer 2	Jer 3-5	Jer 6-8	Jer 9-11	Jer 12-14	Jer 15-17
44	Jer 18-21	Jer 22-23	Jer 24-26	Jer 27-29	Jer 30-31	Jer 32-33
45	Jer 34-36	Jer 37-40	Jer 41-44	Jer 45-47	Jer 48	Jer 49-50
46	Jer 51	Jer 52 – Lam 2	Lam 3	Lam 4 – Ezek 1	Ezek 2-5	Ezek 6-9
47	Ezek 10-12	Ezek 13-15	Ezek 16	Ezek 17-19	Ezek 20-21	Ezek 22-23
48	Ezek 24-26	Ezek 27-29	Ezek 30-32	Ezek 33-35	Ezek 36-37	Ezek 38-39
49	Ezek 40-41	Ezek 42-44	Ezek 45-47	Ezek 48 – Dan 1	Dan 2-3	Dan 4-5
50	Dan 6-8	Dan 9-10	Dan 11 – Hos 1	Hos 2-6	Hos 7-11	Hos 12 – Joel 1
51	Joel 2 – Amos 1	Amos 2-5	Amos 6 – Obad 1	Jonah 1 – Micah 2	Micah 3-7	Nahum 1 – Hab 1
52	Hab 2 – Zeph 2	Zeph 3 – Zech 1	Zech 2-6	Zech 7-10	Zech 11-14	Mal 1-4

Appendix VIII - Book by Book Summary of the Old Testament

(Adapted from Norman Geisler's Popular Survey of the OT and Ken Boa's Talk Thru the Bible)

Pentateuch (5 Books)

Genesis

Author: Moses

Genesis is the book of beginnings. Its 50 chapters trace human history from creation to Babel (chapters 1-11) and from Abraham to Joseph (chapters 12-50). The first eleven chapters introduce the Creator God and the beginnings of life, sin, judgment, family, worship, and salvation. The remainder of the book focuses on the lives of four patriarchs of the faith: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, from whom will come the nation of Israel and ultimately the Savior, Jesus Christ.

[The Red Thread of Jesus](#): The seed of the woman (3:15), the line of Seth (4:25), the Ark, the son of Shem (9:27), the offspring of Abraham (12:3), Isaac (21:12), Jacob (25:23), and from the tribe of Judah (49:10). Jesus is also seen in the life of Moses, Melchizedek and Joseph.

Exodus

Author: Moses

After 400 years of growth in Egypt, the infant nation Israel is now ready to leave behind the chains of slavery and seek a new homeland. Exodus narrates the liberation of Israel from Egyptian captivity and the migration of God's new nation to the wilderness of Sinai. Moses leads the Israelites on their first leg of their journey to the Promised Land. Chapters 1-18 relate Israel's exodus from bondage in Egypt, while chapters 19-40 record the instructions given by God on Mount Sinai to direct the life and worship of the nation.

[The Red Thread of Jesus](#): Seen in the Moses as the prophet, priest and king; the Passover Lamb (ch 12), the Tabernacle, our high priest, the seven feasts, the Exodus, the manna and water.

Leviticus

Author: Moses

Leviticus focuses on the worship and walk of the nation of God. In Exodus, Israel was redeemed and established as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. Leviticus shows how God's people are to fulfill their priestly calling. God instructs how they are to worship, serve and obey a holy God. The way to God is through sacrifice and one must be holy to walk with God.

[The Red Thread of Jesus](#): The five offerings, the high priest, the seven feasts.

Numbers

Author: Moses

Numbers was written to record Israel's history from their departure from Mount Sinai to their arrival in Moab on the east side of the Jordan River. Numbers continues the account of God's faithfulness in making of Abraham a "great nation". The land of Canaan would be Israel's despite this record of unbelief and unfaithfulness on Israel's part.

[The Red Thread of Jesus](#): The serpent on the stake, the rock that quenches thirst, the star that shall come from Jacob (24:17), the pillar of cloud, and the six cities of refuge.

Deuteronomy**Author: Moses**

The messages of this book were given to Moses as Israel camped in the plains of Moab. Moses was about to die, and a new generation in Israel needed special instruction in the Law of God. Moses reminds the nation of the importance of obedience.

The Red Thread of Jesus: The Prophet (18:15) and seen in Moses as prophet (Dt 34:10-12), priest (Ex 32:31-35), and king/leader (Dt 33:4-5).

History (12 Books)**Joshua****Author: Joshua**

The purpose of Joshua is to record the conquest of the land of Canaan by Israel and therefore show the faithfulness of God in making of Abraham “a great nation”. The first half of Joshua (chapters 1-12) describes the seven-year conquest of the land; the second half (chapters 13-24) relates the partitioning and settlement of the land among the twelve tribes of Israel.

The Red Thread of Jesus: Seen in the life of Joshua, the Commander of the army of the Lord (5:13-15), Rahab’s scarlet cord (2:21).

Judges**Author: Samuel?**

Judges was written to record the experiences of Israel during the era of the theocracy. Judges shows how the nation has set aside God’s law and, in its place, “everyone did what was right in his own eyes”.

The Red Thread of Jesus: Each judge portrays Jesus as the Savior-King for His people.

Ruth**Author: Unknown**

One purpose of the book of Ruth is to reveal that there were godly people during the era of the theocracy. In the book of Judges Israel forsakes the Lord and turns to idols, whereas in the book of Ruth, one Gentile woman turns from idols to serve the Living and True God. The book closes with a brief genealogy in which Boaz’s name is prominent as the great-grandfather of King David through whom would come the Christ.

The Red Thread of Jesus: The Kinsman-Redeemer (3:9)

1 Samuel**Author: Samuel?**

This book records the great transition in the national life of Israel, as Israel left the theocracy and went into the monarchy. Samuel, the last judge and first great prophet in Israel, anoints the first king of Israel (Saul). Due to Saul’s indifferent heart toward God, the kingdom is removed from him. Samuel anoints young David as the king-elect. The book ends with the death of Saul and his sons.

The Red Thread of Jesus: Samuel is a type of Christ as is David, the Anointed One.

2 Samuel**Author: Unknown**

The purpose of 2 Samuel is to continue the account of the development of the monarchy in Israel. Second Samuel is the record of the 40-year reign of King David, Israel’s greatest king. Throughout his life, David seeks God zealously and confesses his sin promptly, actions befitting the one called by God “a man after My own heart”.

The Red Thread of Jesus: The promised Messiah as the Son of David.

1 Kings**Author: Jeremiah?**

This book was written to continue the story of the united monarchy under David's son Solomon. It also records the division of the kingdom into North and South. For the next century traces the twin histories of these two kingdoms of disobedient people who are growing indifferent to God's prophets and precepts.

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) Solomon is a type of Christ with his wisdom and leadership.

2 Kings**Author: Jeremiah?**

Second Kings continues the story of the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah as they pursue a collision course with captivity by the Assyrians and Babylonians. God's patience is long; God's pleading is persistent; but when ignored, God's love can also be severe.

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) Elisha points to Christ in his ministry of grace, life, and hope, the coming King.

1 and 2 Chronicles**Author: Ezra?**

These books are complementary to 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings. They were intended to strengthen the remnant of the nation who had made it through the Babylonian Captivity. They needed to be reminded that the Lord was still with them and that they still had a glorious future because God was faithful to His covenants. The nation's apostasy had brought it down, but the nation would rise again.

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) The Davidic Covenant, the tribe of Judah, the Temple.

Ezra**Author: Ezra?**

This book shows how God fulfilled His promise to return His people to the Land of Promise after seventy years of exile. Zerubbabel leads the first group of people back to the land to rebuild the temple (chapters 1-6) and the second group is led by Ezra to rebuild the spiritual condition of the people (chapters 7-10).

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) The fulfillment of God's promise to David, the entire book points to Christ's work of forgiveness and restoration.

Nehemiah**Author: Nehemiah and Ezra**

Nehemiah, a contemporary of Ezra, leads a third and last return to Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile. The book records the building, fortifying and reestablishing of the city of Jerusalem. The book also reveals the beautiful balance in the life of Nehemiah between zealous human efforts and planning and divine empowering.

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) Christ's message of spiritual restoration.

Esther**Author: Unknown**

The book complements Ezra. It describes a fascinating story of God's providence that transpires back in Persia while many of God's people were resettling in the Promised Land. This story of Esther's life fits between chapters 6 and 7 of Ezra.

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) Esther is a type of Christ as Advocate and sacrifice.

Poetry (5 Books)

Job

Author: Unknown

The book of Job addresses the issue of suffering people who are righteous. If God is sovereign and loving, then why does He permit His own to experience terrible (and apparently needless) suffering? No intellectual solution is provided but the spiritual solution is tied to the absolute sovereignty of God. When Job met God, he did not demand answers but humbly submitted himself to his sovereign God, recognizing in a fresh way the Creator-creature relationship.

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) Redeemer (19:25-27), Mediator (9:33; 25:4; 33:23).

Psalms

Author: David and others

The various Psalms were written and compiled over a period of 1000 years, from the time of Moses to the time of the return from exile. The book was used as the temple hymnbook of the Kingdom Period and covers a wide range of subjects. But the single element found in just about every Psalm is that of praise.

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) The most messianic book in the Old Testament. The whole of Christ's life and ministry can be found here.

Proverbs

Author: Solomon and others

Proverbs gives wisdom on all areas of human experience. Wisdom is not simply a matter of the intellect, it is viewing life and self from God's perspective, which is the only true and valid perspective. A proverb is a brief saying that is used to communicate much truth. The root of the "proverb" carries the idea of "to govern" or "rule". Therefore, proverbs are wise, concise sayings that are to be used in governing our lives.

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) Christ is our wisdom.

Ecclesiastes

Author: Solomon

This book records man's struggle to find meaning and fulfillment in life. The basic theme is that life is empty and meaningless apart from a right relationship with God. Unless a man comes to know the Creator, nothing in the creation can bring him peace and satisfaction. Everything will be "vain". Power, prestige, pleasure – nothing can fill the God-shaped void in man's life – except God Himself.

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) The Teacher, the One Shepherd (12:11).

Song of Solomon

Author: Solomon

This is a love song written by Solomon filled with metaphors and imagery. It depicts the wooing and wedding of a shepherdess by King Solomon, and the joys and heartaches of wedded love. This Scripture shows the joys of physical love within the boundaries of marital commitment. It also pictures Israel as God's espoused bride, and the church as the bride of Christ.

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) The Bride of Yahweh (OT) – the Bride of Christ (NT).

Major Prophets (5 Books)

Isaiah

Isaiah was raised up by God to **speak of coming judgment on Judah** because of her many sins and to reveal the coming of “the Servant of the Lord”. Isaiah was one of the past prophets who offered the nation the opportunity to repent and avoid a national calamity. He also revealed truth about the person, work, and kingdom of the coming Messiah.

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) Many prophecies of Christ fulfilled in NT, the Suffering Servant.

Jeremiah

Jeremiah’s **messages were given to kings, rulers, priests, and the people of Judah** for forty years. His message was heavy with irreversible judgment on Judah through the Babylonians. In response to his sermons, this prophet experienced opposition, beatings, isolation, imprisonment. Though rejected, Jeremiah lived to see many of his prophecies come true.

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) The coming Shepherd, the righteous Branch, the New Covenant Maker.

Lamentations

This lament was **written by Jeremiah over the destruction of Jerusalem** at the hands of the Babylonian armies, following the months of siege of the city. Though the present is bleak with judgment, the future sparkles with the promise of renewal and restoration. [The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) The weeping prophet, Man of Sorrows (3:28-30).

Ezekiel

Because Ezekiel was in Babylon when he began his prophetic ministry, **the captives of Judah residing in Babylon heard his messages**. His messages informed his listeners about the impending and final judgment coming at the hands of the Babylonians. He also told of days of glory and hope in the future. Ezekiel is a man of visions. And those visions stretch from horror to hope: from condemnation upon Judah’s faithless leaders and godless foes, to consolation regarding Judah’s future. Through it all, mankind would see the glory of Israel’s sovereign God and “they shall know that I am the Lord”.

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) The tender twig (17:22-24), the true Shepherd (34:11-31), the glory of God.

Daniel

The Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, and Romans will come and go, but God will establish His people forever. Nowhere is this theme more apparent than in the life of Daniel, a young God-fearing Jew transplanted from his homeland and raised in Babylonia. Through Daniel, God provides dreams, and interpretations of dreams, designed to convince Jew and Gentile alike that wisdom and power belong to God alone! This book would have encouraged Israel by revealing that God was not through with them as a nation. God did have an order of events for the future, and Israel had a significant place in this program.

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) Christ is the Great Stone (2:34-35, 44), the Son of Man (7:13-14) the coming Messiah (9:25-26)

Minor Prophets (12 Books)

Hosea

This prophecy was **God's last voice to the Northern Kingdom of Israel** before its destruction. It was a gracious attempt to rescue individuals out of the doomed nation. This message was fulfilled within a few years.

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) Lover of the unfaithful.

Joel

Joel uses a locust invasion as a starting point of his sermon **prophesying judgment on the Southern Kingdom of Judah**. As bad as the locust plague was, it would pale by comparison with what God was about to bring upon His people. An army from the north would come to attack the nation, leaving behind devastation. The only hope for Joel's hearers: heartfelt repentance before that terrible day arrives.

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) The Giver of the Holy Spirit (2:28), the Judge (3:2, 12), Refuge and Stronghold (3:16).

Amos

In the days of Amos, the Northern Kingdom of Israel was still deeply involved in their worship of the golden calves. Although Amos was from a town in Judah, **God chose him to go to the Northern Kingdom to deliver his message of coming judgment**. The nation, like a basket of rotting figs, stands ripe for judgment because of its hypocrisy and spiritual indifference.

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) Rebuilder of David's Temple, the Husbandman of His people (9:13).

Obadiah

The **message of Obadiah was directed to Israel's southern neighbors, the Edomites**. The Edomites were descendants of Esau and had a history of hostility toward Israel. God held them accountable for what they did to Israel. God's people would be vindicated, and God would be recognized as Judge over all the earth.

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) The Judge of Nations, the Savior of Israel, the Possessor of the Kingdom.

Jonah

God desired the salvation of Gentiles and extended his grace toward them. Although God had established a covenant relationship with Israel alone, He did not abandon the rest of mankind. **Jonah's message was directed to the powerful nation of Assyria**, with its capital city at Nineveh. We also learn of Jonah's heart toward these people that was not aligned with God's heart.

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) Jonah is a type of Christ (3 days/nights in belly of fish), the Resurrected One.

Micah

Micah was **sent by God to call Judah to repentance and practical righteous living**. He denounced the leaders of Judah for oppressing the poor and for using their position for their own personal gain. He brought a message of coming judgment on Judah. But in the midst of this dark time there was hope. A Divine Deliverer would appear, and righteousness would prevail. Though justice is now trampled underfoot, it will one day triumph.

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) Ruler of Israel born in Bethlehem (5:2), the God of Jacob (4:2), the Judge of nations (4:3).

Nahum

Nahum was called to deliver a message of judgment on a nation that previously had been given revelation of the true God. **The Assyrians, with their capital at Nineveh, were the ones addressed in this message**. They had heard about the true God through the ministry of Jonah. Since then, they were sinning in spite of the light of revealed knowledge. Nahum's preaching is not a call to repentance (like Jonah's), but a decree of death for an evil people who have "worn out" the patience of God.

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) Jealous God (1:2), the Avenger of His adversaries.

Habakkuk

Habakkuk observes the violence and injustice everywhere in Judah and cries out to God with some perplexing questions. The dialogue between the prophet and God gives insight into this matter for all times. **The sinful, law-breaking people of Judah were a concern to Habakkuk**. God surprises him when he says that the Babylonians will be used to judge Judah. God eventually leads Habakkuk to respond with a psalm of praise: "I will rejoice in the Lord; I will joy in the God of my salvation".

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) The Holy One (1:12), the One who justifies the righteous by faith, the One who will come to fill the earth (2:14).

Zephaniah

Zephaniah was **raised up by God to assist the godly King Josiah in his attempt to bring Judah back to God**. The message of Zephaniah revealed, however, that it was too late for the nation of Judah. Judgment was coming, though some individuals could still be saved. But after the chastening process is complete, blessing will come in the person of Messiah, who will be the cause for praise and singing.

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) The One who fulfills the great promises (3: 9-20), the Righteous Lord of Israel (3:5), the King of Israel, Lord (3:15).

Haggai

With **the Babylonian exile now history and a newly returned group of Jews back in the land**, the work of rebuilding the temple can begin. But sixteen years after the process is begun, the people have yet to finish the project, because their personal affairs have interfered with God's business. Haggai preaches a series of short sermons to motivate the nation to finish the temple. He calls the builders to renewed courage in the Lord, renewed holiness in life, and renewed faith in God who controls the future.

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) Zerubbabel is a type of Jesus, the Desire of nations.

Zechariah

Zechariah's prophecies were given to **the people who had returned from Babylon**. These people had already responded to Haggai's message and had resumed the construction of the temple. Now Zechariah ministered encouragement to them. The prophet told of God's abundant future blessings on the nation. This filled the people with courage and hope.

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) The Angel of the Lord (3:1-2), the righteous Branch (3:8, 6:12-13), the King-Priest (6:13), the Cornerstone, the Good Shepherd, the pierced One (12:10), the cleansing fountain (13:11), the coming Judge and righteous King (14).

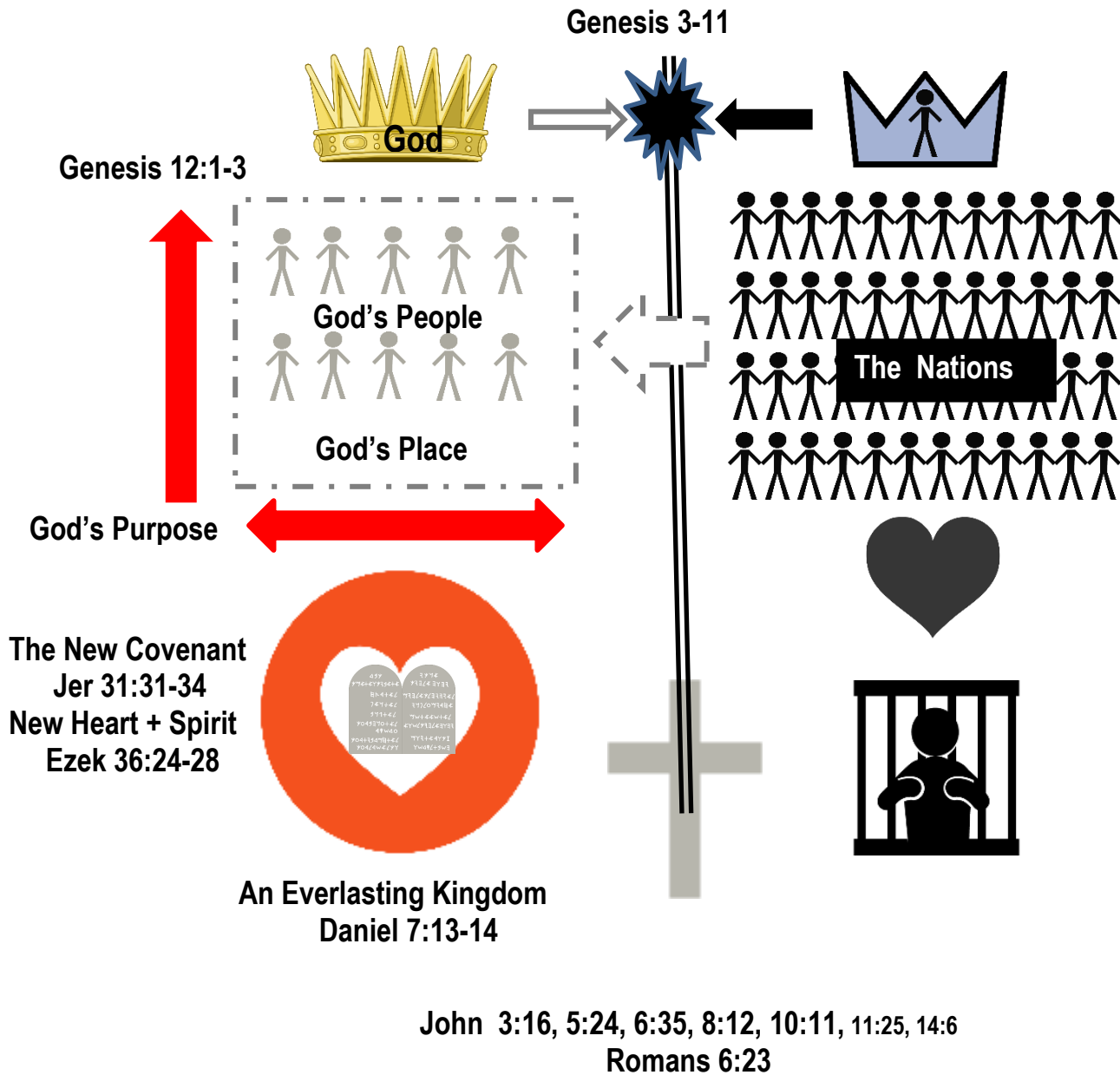
Malachi

Malachi marks the close of Old Testament prophesy, and the beginning of four hundred years of silence between the Old and New Testaments. **The priests, leaders, and people in Jerusalem** have already lapsed into many of the same sins that resulted in their exile to Babylon. A proper view of God was Malachi's great burden. If people took God seriously, then their sinful ways would be corrected.

[The Red Thread of Jesus:](#) The messenger of the covenant (3:1), the refiner's fire (3:2), the sun of righteousness (4:2).

Appendix IX – The Story of The Kingdom of God in the Old Testament

44 Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for^a the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem”. (Luke 24:44-47)



Appendix X - Bibliography

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