

BIBLE LITERACY COURSE

OLD TESTAMENT PART I

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Bible Literacy, Old Testament Part One

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Our Mission is to teach Bible basics as well as His Word, which will encourage
Bible growth through the “renewing of our minds” which will lead us to test
and approve “God’s perfect will” in our lives.

“How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth.”

Ps. 119:103 NIV

Old Testament Part One

5
12
5
5
12
39

5 books of Law
12 books of History
5 books of Poetry
5 Major Prophets
12 Minor Prophets

The Old Testament consists of 39 books. The best way to memorize and understand them is in categories. (Say out loud, 5, 12...5, 5, 12)

- There are five books of **Law**, (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy). Genesis is the history of the world's beginnings and traces Adam to Abraham to the founding of the Israelite nation. The latter four books consist primarily of the law that was given to Moses (Exodus-Deuteronomy).
- There are 12 books of **History**, (Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I and II Samuel, I and II Kings, I and II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther). These books trace the nation of Israel, their blessings, problems, leaders, and historical periods. *The nation of Israel and the family of Christ can be traced throughout these books.*
- There are 5 books of **Poetry**, (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon [or Song of Songs]). They were mostly written during the periods of the second and third kings of Israel and contain great wisdom that can be expressed in the spoken word and/or song. These books are from a golden era of Israel's history and reflect thinking that includes praises, applies principles, and worships God.
- There are 5 books of **Major Prophets** (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel and Daniel). They are called major prophets due to the length of the books, not their importance. All 17 prophetic books are important. However, three of these books, except for Lamentations and Daniel, contain more chapters than the books of the Minor Prophets.

- There are 12 **Minor Prophets**: (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi). Their length is shorter in chapters but their content is equally as important as the Major Prophets.

Challenge! Memorize the books of the Old Testament one category at a time!

5 Law	5 Poetry
12 History	5 Major Prophets
	12 Minor Prophets

- *Why are there 5 and 12 listed on the left side and 5, 5, 12 on the right?* The history of the Old Testament is primarily in the first 17 books. The other 22 (add up 5, 5, 12) fit back into the history of Israel. Later, it will be apparent that these books fit into the history. (This is in Part II of this Bible Literacy course.)
- **The 8 periods of history.** To understand the Old Testament, remember the 17 books on the left are expanded upon by the 22 books on the right. Visualize it when memorizing the books. Finding one's way through the Bible will be much easier when the books are memorized in these categories.

The 8 periods of Israel's history will be taught three ways:

- By listing the period to be studied with the books to be covered.
- By seeing maps of where these periods of history took place, with some commentary added.
- By seeing the periods of history with the major stories or incidents listed under each period. This time, a major emphasis is given to predictions of Christ in the Old Testament and where they are fulfilled in the New Testament. Sometimes these scriptures show either a type or shadow concerning Him.

As the teacher, look carefully at this third time through the Old Testament and decide how you want to use this section. The teacher can form small groups and assign each group to research these Christ-correlations in the N.T. When I have been in East Africa, I have taught just the first two sections and challenged the church leaders/students to look at the third section for their own enhancement and possible sermon material.

As you go through the first section with the class, say the name of the period of history and have the students repeat at least three of the historical markers that are important to this period. Every time you go to a new historical period, have the class repeat the markers under each one already studied along with the new one.

While teaching the class, you can verbally give extra information that will help the students. For instance, in the first period, I point out that there are only 11 chapters covered, but the actual length of that period in years is often disputed by Biblical scholars. Some say 2,000 years, other say longer. You can use your discretion in how to help the class with your accurate comments.

Please note: The dates in the Old Testament decrease in number. For example 1440 B.C. (Before Christ) is descending toward the time when Christ arrives, which is 0. After He is born in the flesh, time ascends so when He died it was 33 A.D. (It is taken from the words in Latin that mean "Anno Domini or in the Year of our Lord".)

The *First Period of History* is called:

ERA OF BEGINNINGS

Genesis Chapters 1-11: The Beginning of Time

Creation

Fall

Flood

The *Second Period of History* is called:

PATRIARCHAL PERIOD

Genesis Chapters 12-50, 2000 to 1800 B.C.

Abraham

Isaac

Jacob (who later becomes Israel)

The *Third Period of History* is called:

ISRAEL BECOMES A NATION

Exodus through Deuteronomy, 1800-1400 B.C.

This also includes

the Wilderness Wanderings, 1440 to 1400 B.C.

Egypt

Moses

Wilderness Wanderings

Law

The *Fourth Period of History* is called:

**CONQUEST AND OCCUPATION OF THE
PROMISED LAND**

Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1400-1100 B.C.

Name the three books as the history markers

Joshua

Judges

Ruth

The *Fifth Period of History* is called:

UNITED KINGDOM

I and II Samuel, I Chronicles, II Chronicles 1-9, I Kings 1-11,

1100 to 931 B.C.

Saul

David

Solomon

The *Sixth Period of History* is called:

DIVIDED KINGDOM

I Kings 12 to II Kings 25, II Chronicles 10-36

930 to 722 B.C. is the Kingdom of **Israel**

930 to 586 B.C. is the Kingdom of **Judah**

Israel is marked by 20 kings all evil, 10 tribes, and is also call the Northern Kingdom.

Judah is marked by 20 rulers; 19 kings and one queen, It is also called the Southern Kingdom and had only two tribes, Judah and Benjamin. Judah is significant because David and Christ are from that tribe.

The *Seventh Period of History* is called:

EXILIC PERIOD (Captivity)

Ezekiel, Daniel, 605 B.C. to 538 B.C.

Ezekiel

Daniel

Both lived in Babylon and wrote their books there.

The *Eighth Period of History* is called:

POST-EXILIC PERIOD

Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, 538 to 444 B.C.

Ezra

Nehemiah

Esther

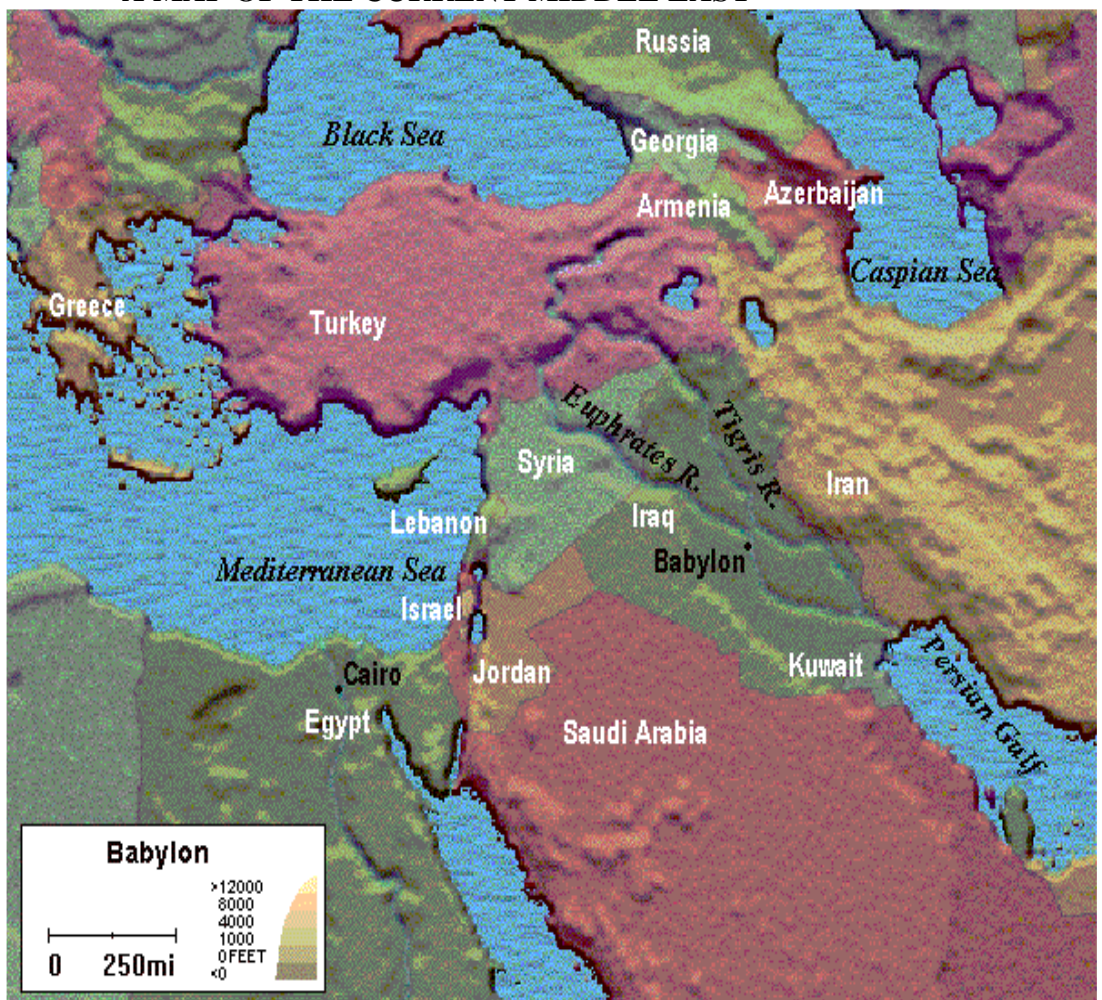
These historical books start with the story of the 50,000 people that go back to the land. See the maps to understand how small their territory was compared to the United and Divided Kingdom's land.

THEN COMES FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OF
GOD'S SILENCE TO HIS PEOPLE BEFORE HE
SPEAKS AGAIN. HE ONCE AGAIN SPEAKS
THROUGH THE PROPHET JOHN SAYING "MAKE
WAY FOR THE COMING ONE." GOD THEN
FULFILLS HIS PROMISE OF A MESSIAH IN THE
PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST.

MAPS OF THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL

As you teach, use a lazer pen or pointer to show things of interest and comment on today's countries, where they are and why they are in the news.

A MAP OF THE CURRENT MIDDLE EAST



Please note that many of these countries including Israel are included in today's headlines.

OLD TESTAMENT WORLD

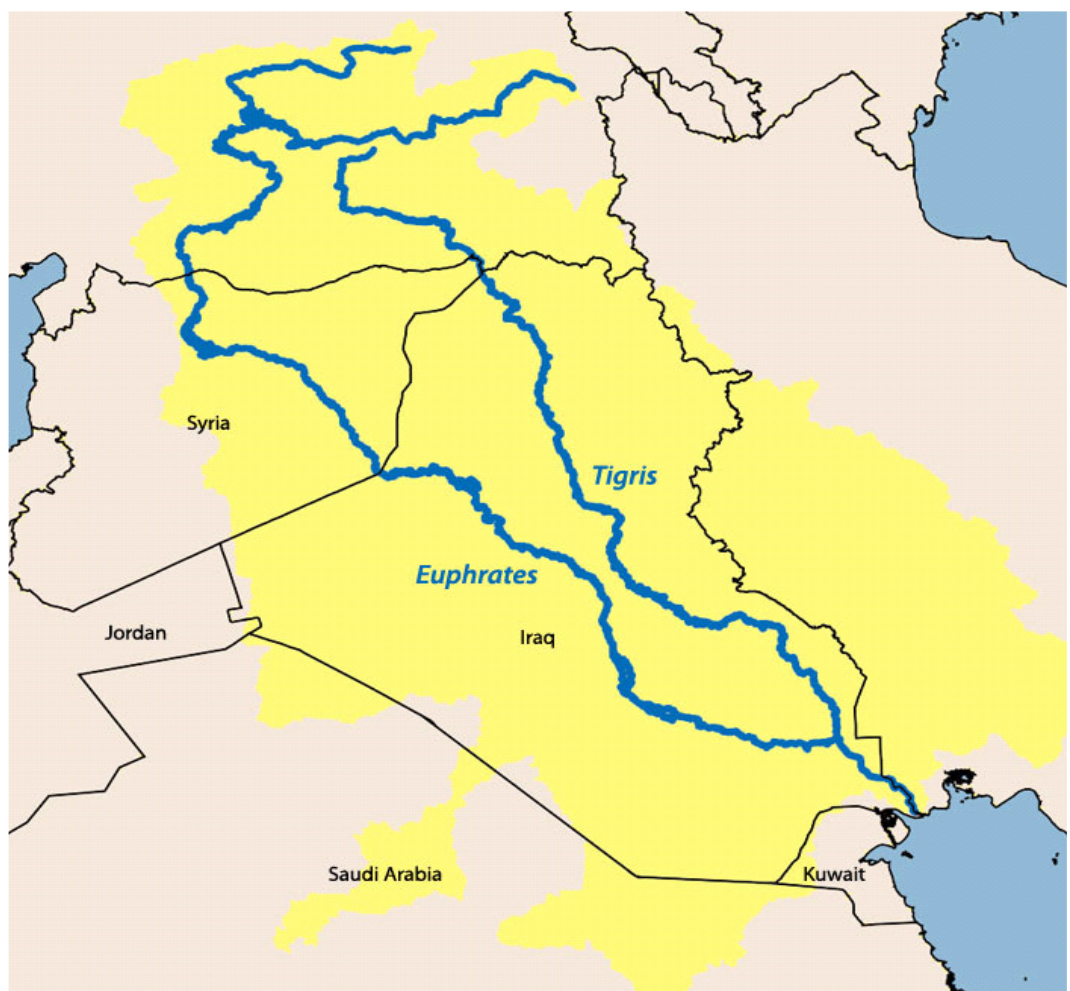


Perhaps the only names recognizable on this map are Jerusalem and Syria. Before Israel became a country, the land that would become Israel was known as Canaan and was inhabited by many different tribes that later became enemies of Israel. Some of the major empires during Israel's time were Egypt, Assyria and Babylon. (The city of Babylon is on the map.) Later, the people of Israel were subjected to other empires/kingdoms which were Medes/Persia, Greece and Rome. There has not been a world empire since Rome.

ERA OF BEGINNINGS (1st period)

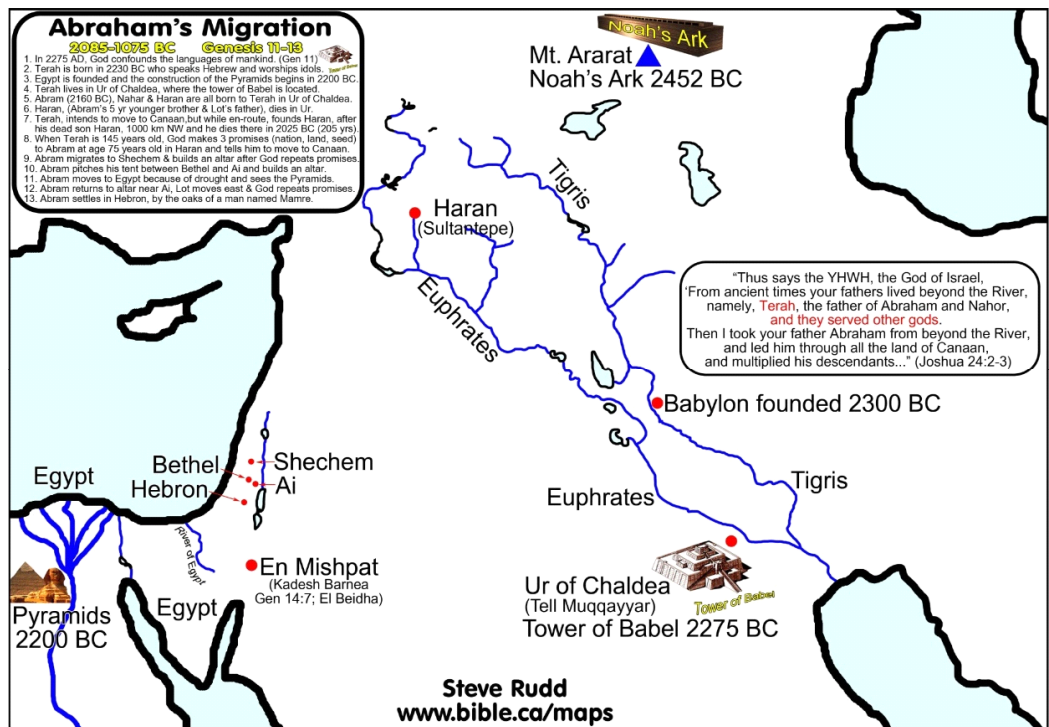
Beginning of time to 2000 B.C.

Genesis 1-11



Some scholars put the Garden of Eden somewhere between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. The first period of the world's history begins here. It is also the area of Babylon and Persia.

PATRIARCHAL PERIOD (2nd period)
 2000 to 1800 B.C.
 Genesis 12-50



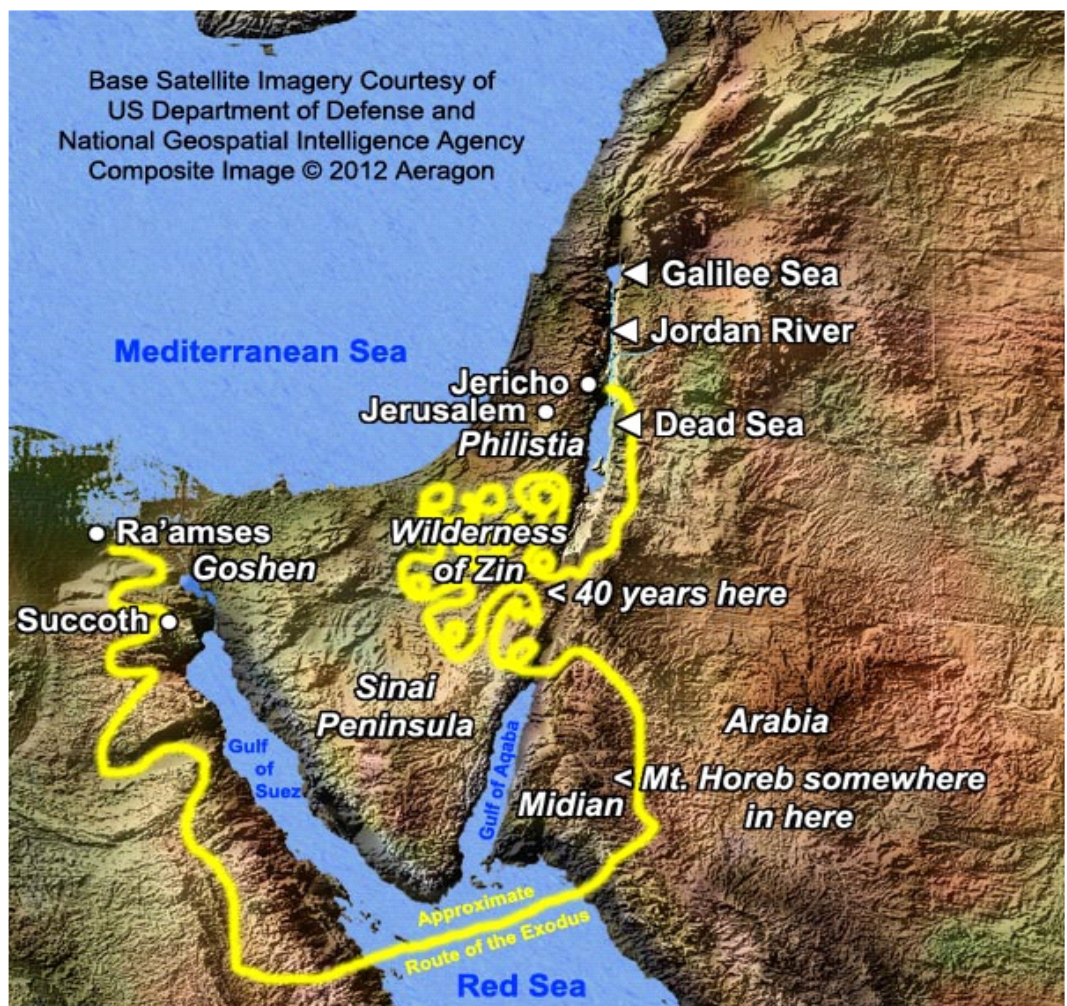
This map shows Ur of Chaldea because that is where Abraham started his life and where the second period of Israel's history begins. Later, with his father, Terah, he went to the city of Haran in the northern area. (Genesis 11:27-32). Abraham was called by God in Genesis 12 to go to a land that God would show him. It was the land of Canaan, which was shown on the Old Testament map. The cities of Shechem, Bethel, Ai and Hebron are in this land. The country of Egypt, which was the Empire of that time, is also shown. Canaan and Egypt are the places where the Patriarchal Period took place, in Genesis 12-50.

ISRAEL BECOMES A NATION (3rd period)

1800 to 1400 B.C.

Includes WILDERNESS WANDERINGS

1440 to 1400 B.C. Exodus to Deuteronomy



The third period of Israel's history begins in Egypt, where the Israelites were for 400 years. Most of the four books (Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy) take place in the desert area and cover the wilderness wanderings of the Israelites. Ra'amses, Goshen, and Succoth are cities in Egypt. The yellow line traces the wilderness wanderings.

CONQUEST AND OCCUPATION OF THE PROMISED LAND (4th period)

1400-1100 B.C.

Joshua, Judges, Ruth



The fourth period of history is led by Joshua, who was Moses' assistant. He is a military man who obeys the Lord in ridding most of the Promised Land of Israel's enemies. The land is then divided according to the population of the 12 tribes of Israel. (Numbers 26:52) This map is a bit distorted. The largest tribe in population was Judah. The tribes received a portion of land in relation to their population but also according to location requests. The first tribes to receive land on the east side, before going into the land, were the half-tribe of Manasseh, Gad and Reuben. The other nine and one half tribes received land later.

UNITED KINGDOM (5th period)

1100 to 931 B.C.

I & II Samuel through I Kings 11,
and I Chronicles to II Chronicles 10



The fifth period of Israel's history follows the stories of the first three kings of Israel who reigned over all 12 tribes. The map traces the land mass over which each king ruled. Israel was in its "Golden Era" under Solomon's rule.

DIVIDED KINGDOM (6th period)

930 to 722 B.C. is the Kingdom of Israel

930 to 586 B.C. is the Kingdom of Judah

I Kings 12 to II Kings 25,

II Chronicles 11-36



The sixth period of Israel's history covers the division of the land of Israel into two nations. They are Israel, the northern ten tribes, and Judah, the southern two tribes.

EXILIC PERIOD (7th period)

605 to 538 B.C.

Ezekiel and Daniel

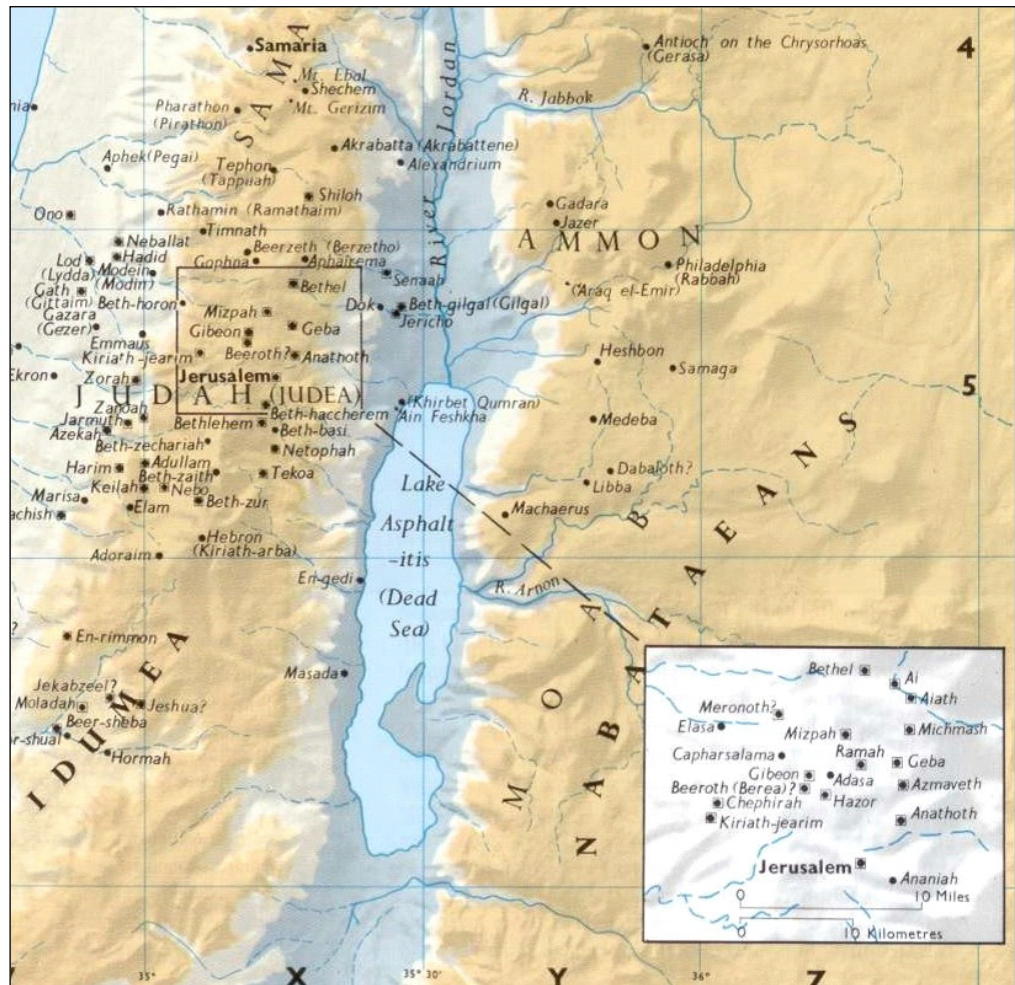


The Northern Kingdom had already been taken into captivity by Assyria in 722 B.C. and now Judah is taken into captivity by Babylon. There were three times that people were taken into captivity. They were 605 B.C., when Daniel and friends were taken, 597 B.C., when Ezekiel and others were taken, and finally the rest of the people in 586 B.C. The map shows the route that the Babylonians took the captives.

POST-EXILIC (8th period)

538-444 B.C.

Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther



From 538 to 536 B.C., 70 years after the first captivity, 50,000 Israelites returned to their land. They were sent to a specific area. Notice how small it is compared to the original Promised Land.

DISCOVERING THE OLD TESTAMENT

There is so much benefit for us in the Old Testament. If only we would read it, we would:

- *Gain a better understanding of the Old Testament concepts and allusions found in Hebrews, Jude, Revelation and other New Testament books.*
- *Begin uncovering the layers of richness in the epistles and gospels that shed light backward on the Old Testament.*
- *Understand more about what God is really like and how he has worked -- and is working -- in the lives of his people.*
- *Benefit from the lessons of faith discovered by ancient Old Testament heroes.*
- *Have a richer, deeper understanding of the redemptive love story between God and his people that continues to unfold today.*
- *Begin to grasp the degree to which what we say, how we behave, and even what we think and feel influences God and how much He delights in us.*
- *Learn the lessons of faith -- faith that is entirely human, yet rock solid -- that sustained so many Old Testament characters and can sustain us when we face life's challenges.*

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THIRD TIME THROUGH THE 8 PERIODS OF HISTORY

(Your participation is needed!)

Be ready to share what you find in the Old Testament time period that you are assigned. You will be discovering how Christ and His principles are a fulfillment of scriptures in the Old Testament.

One person from your group should be ready to share and present your findings to the class.

Please note: It will be much appreciated if you discover any on your own other than what is presented here.

THE ERA OF BEGINNINGS (1)

The Beginning of Time: Genesis 1-11 (2000 B.C. to 1800 B.C.)

Creation: Chapters 1-2

Read John 1:1-10. Who does it say is the Creator? What are His characteristics? Are there other scriptures from the New Testament that you know that relate Christ as Creator?

Remember to do this after each section!

The Fall: Chapters 3-4

Read Romans 5:12-19. What happened as a result of Adam's sin? Who is the second Adam and what did he do? Genesis 3:15 is a prophecy of Christ crucified and Satan defeated and Christ defeating death. How was His heel bruised and how was Satan's head crushed?

John 19:28-30; I Cor. 15:3-8; Rev. 20:10

The First Civilization: Chapter 4

Read Rev. 21:1-5. How is this last civilization different from the first? How does God/Christ enter into it? Although Eden passed away, there will ultimately be a new heaven and a new earth.

The Flood: Chapters 5-9

Noah's ark kept Noah and his family safe. How is Christ like the ark? See the words "in Him" in Eph. 1:3-14. How does being in Him save, protect, and bless us? How is Noah a type (or example) of Christ? Read Matt. 7:13-14. How do these verses compare to the ark experience?

Tower of Babel and Confusion of Languages: Chapters 10-11

Read Gen. 10:3-11. Why did God confuse the languages? Who brings Jews and Gentiles together again? Read Eph. 3:6. What else do you see in Eph. 3? Who will bring unity again? Jn 17: 20-23

PATRIARCHAL PERIOD (2)

Genesis 12-50, 2000-1800 B.C.

Remember to find other verses, if you can, in the New Testament regarding these Patriarchs in relationship to Christ. Be ready to share.

Abraham (Chapters 12-23, 25:1-18)

Abraham was known throughout the Bible for his faith. See Gen.12:6 and Gal.3:6-9.

In Whom did Abraham have faith? Who is the object of our faith and how does He fulfill the promise to Abraham that he would have a seed? How does Jesus make Abraham's name great? How is He his seed? Gen 12:2, Acts 3:25, Gal 3:16-18.

Isaac (Chapters 24, 25:19-34, 26-27)

How is what happened to Isaac a type of Christ? Gen. 22:9-12; Heb. 11:17-19. How did Abraham and Isaac show faith in God here? Heb. 11:6; Eph. 2:8-9

Gen. 21:12 shows that it was Abraham's line through Isaac, not Ishmael, that leads to the Messiah.

Jacob (Chapters 28-37)

Read Gen. 27:27. Jacob went to his father and kissed him and received the blessing that was meant for Esau. (It was a betrayal.) How do Matt. 26: 48-49, Luke 22:48 and John 14:6 compare to this?

Read Gen. 28:12. Jacob dreamed of the stairway from heaven. Read John 1:51. Compare what Jesus is saying in John to Jacob's dream and how Jesus is marked as God's elect One through Whom redemption comes from the world. The NIV study notes say, "As in Jacob's dream, thus marking Jesus as God's elect one through whom redemption comes into the world-perhaps identifying Jesus as *the* true Israelite."

Joseph and Egypt (Chapters 37-50)

How is Joseph a type of what Christ did? Compare Gen. 50:20 and Luke 23:34

Read the complete story of Joseph. How else was he like Jesus? How did he deliver his people? Joseph saved lives physically. What does Jesus do? See I John 5:12-13. What else can you find?

DISCOVERING THE OLD TESTAMENT

I've met a lot of Christians who have only read the New Testament. They may have tried the Old Testament here or there, and found it a little [difficult] and just gave up. I feel sad for those Christians, frankly, because I don't think we get a full picture of how a life with God works from the New Testament.

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ISRAEL BECOMES A NATION (3)

Exodus through Deuteronomy

1800-1400 B.C.

Wilderness Wanderings

1440-1400 B.C.

Israel increases greatly, but is oppressed. (Exodus 1)

Moses is born, becomes a prince and flees Egypt. (Exodus 2)

Who is the Prince of Peace? Isa. 9:6, Acts 5:31, Eph. 2:14

How is Moses a type of Christ?

The burning bush; Moses returns to Egypt. (Exodus 4-5)

The Plagues (Exodus 6-12)

How are these plagues like the judgment that will come in Revelation 6 and 16? How does the flood in Gen: 7-8 express a type of God's wrath? Who

does not suffer God's wrath? See I Thess. 5: 9, Rom. 5: 9, I Thess. 1:10

The Passover (Exodus 12)

Jesus was like a lamb without blemish or defect. See I Peter 1:19, I Cor. 5:7.

How does this relate to what happened in Exodus? How is He our Passover lamb?

John 19:36 says that not one of His bones was broken. How is this like the Passover lamb? See Exod. 12:46 and Numb. 9:12. Rev. 5:6-10 also shows us how Jesus was like a lamb.

The Exodus, the Red Sea divided. (Exodus 14-16)

How is the Exodus related to what Christ did for us? I Cor. 10:1-4

How did Christ make a way for us? John 14:6

The Wanderings (Exod. 16 - Deut. 34.)

How is Jesus like the bronze serpent in Numbers 21? See John 3:14-15.

Other stories from Exodus:

Manna (Exod. 16)

How is Jesus like the manna? John 6:31-35

Ten Commandments Exod. 20; Deut. 5

How does Jesus deal with Old Testament laws? See Matt 5:17

Other Old Testament stories:

The 12 spies. Numb. 13

38 more years in the desert Numb. 13 - Deut.

Moses remembers and repeats the Law Deuteronomy

CONQUEST AND OCCUPATION OF THE PROMISED LAND (4)

Joshua, Judges, Ruth (1400-1100 B.C.)

JOSHUA

In this book, Joshua wanted to lead his people into the Promised Land and to the rest and peace it promised. See Joshua 11:23 and 22:4. How does God, through Jesus, lead us into a promised rest?

Heb. 4:8-16; Roman 8:31-39; Col 1:20

Rahab and the Israelites (Chapter 2)

Rahab (who later is in the genealogy of Christ) ties a red cord in the window to rescue her family from the Israelites' destruction. How does this represent Jesus and what He does for us?

Read Rom. 5:9; Eph. 1:17; I John 1:7.

Jordan River divided (Chapter 3)

Fall of Jericho (Chapter 6)

Christ is the first fruit of all men eternally (see I Cor. 15:20-23). All are made alive in Him. How does this compare to what happened in Jericho when God asked the Israelites to give Him the first fruits, meaning the spoils of Jericho? The Israelites would then receive all the spoils of all the other battles. Why did God ask for the first fruits of the first battle in the Promised Land? What comparison to Christ being the first fruit is there to this? (There may be multiple answers.)

Deception of Gibeonites (Chapter 9)

JUDGES

No king

13 judges

Cycles include sin, calling out to God, deliverance, period of rest, sin again.
“Everyone did that which was right in his own eyes” Judges 17:6

Judges 7:2 says Gideon needed to depend on God for his victory.

How does this compare to II Cor. 4:7 and II Cor. 12:9-10?

The people of Israel needed judges to deliver them through the cycles of sin.

See Judges 2:16-17, 17:6.

Jesus delivers us from the ultimate consequences of sin. All the judges had flaws. Therefore, it was truly God Who was the Deliverer through them. How is Christ the permanent and ultimate Judge and Deliverer? See I Cor. 15:56-58; Roman 6:11-14.

RUTH

During the time of Gideon (or Jephthah.)

Matt. 1:5 includes Ruth in the genealogy of Christ.

Why is a Gentile included in the line of Christ and why is this important in what Christ did?

See Eph. 3:6-11

Kinsman/Redeemer story

Boaz was Ruth and Naomi’s kinsmen/redeemer. Ruth 4

How is Christ our Kinsmen/Redeemer? Gal. 3:13-14

UNITED KINGDOM (5)

I and II Samuel, I Chronicles,
II Chronicles 1-9, I Kings 1-11

SAMUEL

Last judge and first prophet (I Samuel 1-8)

I Sam 2:26 says Samuel grew in stature and in favor with the Lord.

How is this a type of how Jesus grew? See Luke 2:52

People rejected Samuel as their judge because they wanted a king (I Sam. 8:7)

They also rejected Jesus as their King or Ruler. Read John 1:9-13; John 5:43; John 15:18-19.

Who will ultimately be our King and Ruler in the future? Rev. 19:11-16

Hannah praises God, in I Sam. 2: 8-10, for the hope that is to come. Mary does the same in Luke 1:46-56. How is the worship of these two women similar? Where do you see Christ?

KINGS

1100 to 931 B.C.

SAUL

Reigned 40 years (1112 B.C. to 1072 B.C.)

He lost the kingdom due to disobedience. See I Sam. 15.

It is not how you start but how you finish that is important. Saul started well.

Read I Sam. 9:2; 10:23-24.

How did Jesus start? Read Luke 2:7; Isaiah 53:2.

Saul was the people's choice, as seen in I Sam 10: 17-25, just like the anti-christ will be in

Rev. 13. David and Jesus are God's choice. I Sam. 16:7-13; Rev. 19: 11-16.

DAVID

Reigned 40 years, (1072 B.C. to 1032 B.C.)

David and Goliath (I Sam. 17)

Runs from Saul, who had made him his enemy (I Sam. 18-26)

Becomes king (II Sam. 2:1-5:5)

The Davidic Covenant (II Sam. 7)

How does the Davidic Covenant point us toward Christ?

David and Bathsheba (II Sam. 11 to 12)

David spent his youth in his father's fields (I Sam. 16:11; 17:34)

Jesus spent his youth in his father's carpenter shop. See Mark 6:3.

Both lived normal and humble lives. Neither one appeared to be special. However, God eventually used them both mightily.

David was anointed king long before he became one. (I Sam. 16: 7-13; II Sam. 5:4)

Jesus is still waiting for his kingdom. See John 18:36-37; Rev. 19:11-16.

Both met opposition when first starting their service. David met Goliath in I Sam. 17.

Jesus met the devil in the wilderness. Matt. 4:1-11.

SOLOMON

Reigned 40 years, (1032 B.C. to 992 B.C.) *Called the Golden Era of Israel*

Solomon's reign begins with judgment of men from David's kingdom.

(I Kings 2:25-26, 32-34, 44-46)

How is Jesus' reign going to show judgment also? See Matt 25: 31-32; I Cor. 4:5.

Solomon prays for wisdom, (I Kings 3)

God gives him wisdom and more (I Kings 3:5-13; I Kings 4:20)

God says he wais the wisest man to live or whoever will live. How is Jesus' wisdom even greater? Read Isa 11:1-5; Isa. 2:1-5; Col 2:2-3.

Solomon is known as the King of Peace. See I Chron. 22:6-9.

Jesus is called the Prince of Peace. How is He greater?

Read Isa. 2:3-4; 9:6-8; 11: 6-9.

Solomon builds the temple (I Kings 5-8)

Where can you see Jesus represented in the temple, i.e. candles, showbread, etc.

God judges Solomon by dividing the kingdom, due to his worship of other gods

(I Kings 11:1-3)

DISCOVERING THE OLD TESTAMENT

When we begin to see how the Old Testament story unfolds, God's message to us becomes more understandable. Through the trials and tribulations and ups and downs of God's family, we see recurring themes of sin and repentance, forgiveness and judgment, hope and sorrow, joy and despair. We discover a greater understanding of God's love for us—a fuller picture of his mercy and patient longsuffering.

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DIVIDED KINGDOM (6)

I Kings 12 to II Kings 25, II Chronicles 10-36

Two great prophets, Elijah and Elisha. How were Elijah and Elisha like Jesus?
Elijah multiplied oil and meal for a starving widow and her son when she was willing to share her portion. (I Kings 17:4.) Jesus multiplied food (loaves and fishes) for the crowds when a boy gave the disciples his lunch in John 6 1-15.

Who did Elijah bring back to life in I Kings 17:22?

Who did Elisha bring back to life in II Kings 4:33-35?

What did Jesus do in Matt. 9:24-25 and John 11:43? How did prayer and/or faith play a part?

Elisha cured Naaman of leprosy in II Kings. 5:1-14

Who did Jesus cure in Luke 17:11-19?

Elisha turned a small amount of oil into abundance in II Kings 4:1-7.

Jesus turned water into wine in John 2:1-10.

What else can you find? There is more.

ISRAEL, THE NORTHERN KINGDOM

931 to 722 B.C.

Twenty kings, all were evil

Who was one of the most evil kings in Israel? (I Kings 16:29-33, I Kings 21:25)

Can someone like Ahab repent? (I Kings 21:17-29)

What does Jesus and the New Testament say about repentance?

Read Luke 5:31-32, Acts 3:19, II Peter 3:9.

Unlike Ahab's repentance, how does Jesus bring full repentance to all those who ask?

Come up with your own verses if you can.

FULL LIST OF THE KINGS OF ISRAEL

Jeroboam I, bad, 931—910 BC

Nadab, bad, 910—909 BC

Baasha, bad, 909—886 BC

Elah, bad, 886—885 BC

Zimri, bad, 885 BC

Tibni, bad, 885—880 BC

Omri, (overlap), extra bad, 885—874 BC

Ahab, the worst, 874—853 BC

Ahaziah, bad, 853—852 BC

Joram/Jehoram, bad mostly, 852—841 BC

Jehu, not good, but better than the rest, 841—814 BC

Jehoahaz, bad, 814—798 BC

Joash, bad, 798—782 BC
Jeroboam II (overlap), bad, 793—753 BC
Zechariah, bad, 753 BC
Shallum, bad, 752 BC
Menahem, bad, 752—742 BC
Pekahiah, bad, 742—740 BC
Pekah (overlap), bad, 752—732 BC
Hoshea, bad, 732—722 BC

Recommended Resource: “Bible Answers for Almost all Your Questions” by Elmer Towns

JUDAH, THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM 930 to 586 B.C.

Nineteen kings, one evil queen. Only a few kings were good.

Uzziah (Asa) (I Kings 15:9-24)

Jehoshaphat (I Kings 22:41-50)

Jehoshaphat trusted and obeyed God when there seemed to be no hope. (II Chron 20:1-30)
How did he do this? How did this show him doing God’s will? Whose was the battle? (v.15)

How did Jesus trust, obey, and do His Father’s will?

See John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; 8:26; 10:18; 12:49-50; 14:30-31; 15:10.

Joash (II Kings 12:1-21)

Hezekiah (II Kings 18:1 - 20:21)

Josiah (II Kings 22:1 - 23:30)

Josiah is also mentioned in II Chronicles. How do the verses about Josiah in II Chron. 35:1-3 and 19-21 show the New Testament principle given in Colossians 3:23-24?

Josiah was said to be what kind of King? (II Kings 23:25)

What kind of King is Jesus? How is this so much greater than any Old Testament King?

See Isa 9:6-7; 11:4; I Tim.6:15; Rev. 1:5; 17:14; 19:16.

FULL LIST OF KINGS OF JUDAH

Rehoboam, bad mostly, 931—913 BC

Abijah, bad mostly, 913—911 BC

Asa, good, 911—870 BC

Jehoshaphat (overlap), good, 873—848 BC

Jehoram/Joram (overlap), bad, 853—841 BC

Ahaziah, bad, 841 BC

Athaliah (queen), devilish, 841—835 BC

Joash/Jehoash, good mostly, 835—796 BC

Amaziah, good mostly, 796—767 BC

Uzziah/Azariah (overlap), good mostly, 790—739 BC

Jotham (overlap), good, 750—731 BC
Ahaz, wicked, 735—715 BC
Hezekiah, GREAT, 715—686 BC
Manasseh, the worst, 695—642 BC
Amon, bad, 642—640 BC
Josiah, THE BEST, 640—609 BC
Jehoahaz, bad, 609 BC
Jehoiakim, wicked, 609—597 BC
Jehoiachin, bad, 597 BC
Zedekiah, bad, 597—586 BC

EXILIC PERIOD (7) (Captivity)

605 to 538 B.C.

Three phases of Exile in Babylon

605 B.C. Includes Daniel and friends

597 B.C. Ezekiel and King Jehoiachin, and others

586 B.C. King Zedekiah and everyone but the poor

EZEKIEL

Ezekiel Summary by Jay Smith

The book of Ezekiel is Narrative History, Prophetic and Apocalyptic in genre and even contains Parables. The prophet Ezekiel wrote it approximately 571 B.C. (this date is accurately precise because this book contains more defined dates than any other book in the Bible.) Key personalities include Ezekiel, Israel's leaders, Ezekiel's wife, King Nebuchadnezzar, and "the prince".

It was written to announce judgment upon Judah, to allow them one last chance to repent. It also foretells of the coming deliverance of God's nation from captivity in Babylon. It mainly discusses the events during the Babylonian captivity. Ezekiel is a priest who is called by God to deliver His messages.

- *In chapters 1-3, God commissions his servant Ezekiel. He receives visions, and his message is to confront God's sinful nation, "I am sending you to the sons of Israel, to a rebellious people who have rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day" (2:3).*
- *Chapters 4-24, Ezekiel delivered the message of doom to the captives. He told several parables, one that compared Israel to an adulterous woman (16:1-63). He taught them that God was cleansing His chosen nation, "For you have borne the penalty of your lewdness and abominations", the LORD declares" (16:58).*
- *From chapters 25-32, Ezekiel condemns judgment upon seven particular nations who mocked YHWH, the God of Israel because of the captivity; they too would soon see their fate. These nations are Ammon, Moab, Edom, Philistia, Tyre, Sidon, and Egypt.*
- *In chapters 33-48, a message of deliverance and restoration is written. This includes not only the current nation of Israel but also the future of the coming Messiah, the Temple, and*

the Kingdom of God in the End age. In chapter 37, he writes the famous vision of the valley of bones, “He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord God, You know” (37:3)

[Summaries Courtesy of the Ultimate Bible Summary Collection; Bible Summary; Bible Hub](#)

How is Jesus revealed in Ezekiel, chapter 1? Is Jesus the God Man in chapter 1?

In his vision, Ezekiel encounters the Lord Jesus, in the very first chapter. He sees “high above on a throne was a figure like that of a man... glowing... as if full of fire... and brilliant light surrounded him.” (Ezekiel 1:26-27).

Look at Rev. 1:5, 8, 13-17. Could this be the same person?

Ezekiel talks about false shepherds in Chapter 34.

How is Jesus the GOOD Shepherd? See John 10:11-16; I Peter 5:1-5

In Ezekiel 34, the prophet speaks against the false shepherds, ungodly leaders who cared for themselves and not for God’s people. Find what Jesus said about some of the leaders of his day and summarize it. See Luke 11:45-54 False teachers are written about in many of the Epistles. Can you find a place where this happens? Read Ezek. 36:26-27. Compare with II Cor. 5:17, Eph. 4:24, John 14:15-17 and 27, and John 16:12-15. Give a definition of the New Covenant.

DANIEL

Jesus quoted Daniel in Matt 24:15

Four Jewish boys go to Babylon but stay true to God (Chapter 1)

Nebuchadnezzar has a dream (Chapter 2)

The fiery furnace (Chapter 3)

God takes Nebuchadnezzar off the throne until he recognizes Him. (Chapter. 4)

The handwriting on the wall (Chapter 5)

Daniel in the lions’ den (Chapter 6)

Daniel makes statements about God and predictions about future events concerning Israel (Chapters 7-12)

Do you see the Empires in the future that the Jews will be under? What are they? Whose hand (revealed in Daniel) is behind all of them?

The scriptures below give titles and names that Jesus fulfilled.

How do they do this? Look them up.

God of Heaven (2:18), see Rev. 11:13

The Fourth Man (3:25), see Rev.1:12-16.

The Most High God (3:26), see Rev. 5:13

The King of Heaven (4:37), see Rev. 15:1-4

The Living God (6:20), see Matt 16:16; Heb. 9:14

The Son of Man (7:13), see Matt 26:64; Mark 14:62; Rev.14:14

(There are many other references. If you know any, list them.)

The Glorious One from Heaven (10: 5, 6), see Rev. 1:12-16; Matt. 17:2

The God of Gods (11:36), see Deut. 10:17; I Tim 6:15; Rev. 17:14; Rev. 19:16.

Consider this: Daniel was a man who was able to keep his Jewish faith while in a hostile land. How are we to keep our Christian faith in a hostile land? Come up with your own answers and scriptures if possible. Where is our true citizenship or home? Phil 3:20-21

POST-EXILIC PERIOD (8)

538 to about 400 B.C.

Three phases of returning to the land:

538 B.C. (Zerubbabel)

458 B.C. (Ezra)

444 B.C. (Nehemiah)

EZRA

Persian King Cyrus sends 50,000 Jews back to the land under Zerubbabel

See Isaiah 44:28 to Isaiah 46:6

Isaiah wrote between 740 and 681 B.C.

Cyrus allowed the Jews to go home in 538 B.C. about 100 years AFTER Cyrus was named in Isaiah. (Chapters 1 and 2)

Rebuilt foundations of temple but stopped due to enemy resistance. (Chapter 3-6)

Temple was finally finished 20 years later. (Chapter 6)

Ezra sent to teach the people the law, others go too. (Chapters 7-8)

Ezra discovered and confronted the intermarriage problem. (Chapter 9-10)

In Ezra 10:18-24, the names of those who sinned are written down. What is yet to happen to people in Rev. 20:11-15? Where is your name? Who can deliver you from this wrath that is to come? See Rom. 7:24-8:1; I Thess. 5:9-11.

Read Heb. 9:22. It says there is no remission of sin without the shedding of blood. What did the Jews do first before building the temple? See Ezra 3:1-6. How does this relate to Heb. 9? Who is our sacrifice for sin? Heb. 9:11-14. He was sacrificed once for all time and we never need another sacrifice! Heb. 10:5-10

NEHEMIAH

King's cupbearer who lead the people in Jerusalem to rebuild walls, which they did in 52 days.

Return and repair of the walls (Chapters 1-7)

Repentance and revival (Chapters 8-10)

Settlement and separation (Chapters 11-13)

Nehemiah can represent Jesus by challenging the people to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. How does Christ rebuild our lives through His sacrifice? In fact, he makes our lives new.

See II Cor. 5:17. Can you list any other verses?

How does Jesus rebuild our lives? Give personal testimony.

The gates in Chapter 3 can reflect a representation of Christ. Here are 3 examples:

- The Sheep Gate 3:1: This was a gate of sacrifice. Look at John 1:29 and Rev. 5. What do you see as our sacrifice there?
- The Fish Gate in 3:3: Who said we are to be fishers of men? See Matt. 4:19.

- The Valley Gate: There are days when Christians go through valleys of difficulty. Read about Jesus in Phil: 2:5-8; Matt 27:45-46. What was His deepest valley in Matt. 27?

ESTHER

483-473 B.C.

Story of a Jewish queen in Persia who saved her people from annihilation that was connived by an Agagite named Haman.

The name of God is never used in the book.

I. The activities in Ahasuerus' Court.....	1:1-2:23
A. The debauched feast of king Ahasuerus.....	1:1-22
B. Esther replaces Vashti as queen	2:1-18
C. Mordecai exposes an assassination attempt on Ahasuerus	2:19-23
II. Haman's plot to kill the Jews.....	3:1-4:17
A. Haman, an Agagite, devises a plot to kill Mordecai.....	3:1-15
B. The Jews mourn and fast.....	4:1-17
III. Mordecai and Esther work to save their people	5:1-7:10
A. Esther's initial banquet for the king	5:1-8
B. Haman's mistaken notion about his status.....	5:9-14
C. The ironic honoring of Mordecai by Haman.....	6:1-14
D. Esther's second banquet, request, and hanging of Haman.....	7:1-10
IV. The Jews delivered	8:1-10:3
A. Resistance allowed and the Jews' joy	8:1-17
B. Complete Jewish victory and Feast of Purim instituted.....	9:1-23
C. Review of the events that led to Purim	9:24-32
D. Mordecai honored	10:1-3

Esther has two identities; that of royalty and that of a Jew. Who else in the New Testament is both royalty and a Jew? See John 18:33-38; His genealogy is in Matt. 1 and Luke 3.

(Line of King David)

Esther is given the challenge of saving her people (a deliverer.) She says in Chapter 4:16 that if she perishes in carrying out her plans of deliverance, so be it. Who did perish for His people (as well as Gentiles) but rose from the dead in victory? I Cor. 15: 3-5.

400 YEARS OF SILENCE

No word from God