

I. Creation (~4,000 BC)

God's creative acts (Genesis 1-2) brought into existence time, space, and matter-energy. In *six literal days* He created the entire universe, including our planet and all life on it. "For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day..." (Exodus 20:11). We also read in John 1:3 (referring to Christ) that "*All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*" The account of Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden is a literal narrative of the first two human beings on the Earth. For information on how dinosaurs fit into the Bible, see: <http://creation.com/images/pdfs/cabook/chapter19.pdf>. For a defense of a young Earth, see <http://creation.com/young-age-of-the-earth-universe-qa>

II. Fall (probably days, weeks or months after the creation week)

Adam and Eve, exercising their free will, disobeyed God and ate of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil (Genesis 2:17/ 3:6). God placed a curse upon His creation (Genesis 3:14-19) and banished Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden (Genesis 4:24). Here we also have the very first prophetic reference to Christ, the Messiah (Genesis 3:15 / Galatians 3:16).

III. Flood (2400 BC) --- *and ensuing Ice Age*

Approximately 1,656 years after the creation of Adam and Eve, "*God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually*" (Genesis 6:5). So "*the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air... But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD*" (Genesis 6:7-8). Although when most people think of the flood, they just think of it raining for 40 days and 40 nights, the flood actually lasted for just over one year and the majority of water came when the fountains of the great deep were opened up (Genesis 7:11). The entire geography and climate of the Earth was changed. This was God's judgment on a world that had decided to worship the *creation*, and not the *Creator* (Genesis 6:13 / Romans 1:25). Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives, all found safety on the ark that God had instructed Noah to build 120 years earlier (Genesis 6:14-16). For further information on the flood and the ice age, see: <http://creation.com/ice-age-questions-and-answers> and <http://creation.com/noahs-flood-questions-and-answers>

IV. Tower of Babel (Possibly 2247 BC)

Not long after the flood, most of the descendants of Noah's sons had already stopped serving God, and contrary to God's original plan for them to "fill the Earth" (Genesis 1:28, 9:1), they decided to stay in one place and build a city and a tower reaching up unto heaven so that they could make a name for themselves (Genesis 11:4). God "confused" their language and dispersed the people, scattering them over the face of the Earth (Genesis 11:7-8). This scattering was the primary origin of what people today call "races", even though there is truly only one race (Acts 17:26). For details regarding the "origin of the races" see: <http://creation.com/images/pdfs/cabook/chapter18.pdf>

V. The Age of the Patriarchs (2100 BC - ??? BC)

The "Age of the Patriarchs" is represented by men who were the founders or rulers of a family or clan. Two major empires were in existence at this time: the Babylonian Empire (descendants of Noah's son, Shem) and the Egyptian Empire (descendants of Noah's son, Ham).

Polytheism & godlessness had become so wide spread that God chose one family to: a) develop a nation that would be a testimony to the One True and Living God in the midst of wide-spread idolatry [Isaiah 43:10], b) to receive, protect and preserve Divine revelation [Romans 3:2], c) provide the Messianic lineage [Genesis 3:15 / Matthew 1:1] and d) to be a living testimony of the Wisdom & blessings that come from serving the True God [Deut 4:5-8].

A. *Calling of Abram [Abraham] (1921 BC)*

Out of all of the people on Earth, God chose Abram (later named Abraham), through which He would make a covenant, promising to make of him "a great nation" and that all the people of the Earth would be blessed through him (Genesis 12:1-3 *et al*). This universal blessing through Abram was a reference to the coming Messiah (Galatians 3:16 / John 8:56-58).

B. *Isaac/Ishmael* (1891/1905 BC)

God promised Abram & his wife Sarai a son, through whom would continue God's Covenant blessing. Because Sarai was past the age of having children, they decided to "help God out" and have a child through Sarai's maid-servant, Hagar. This son, born out of a lack of faith and patience, was named Ishmael and became the father of the Arab nations. This spawned the great conflict that exists to this very day; between the Arabs (Ishmaelites) and the Jews (Israelites). The Arabs claim Palestine as their land, because their father, Ishmael, was the first-born of Abram. On the other hand, the Jews rightfully claim the land because of the covenant God made with Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob (Gen 15:18, 17:8, 26:3-4, 28:13-14).

God spoke again to Abram 14 years later, declaring that they would have a son. He also renewed the Covenant and instituted circumcision as a pledge of its certain fulfillment. This son's name was Isaac. It was at this time that Abram's name was changed to *Abraham* ("father of a multitude") and Sarai's name was changed to *Sarah* ("princess"). God soon tested Abraham's faith by asking him to sacrifice his son Isaac as an offering unto the Lord. Abraham proved faithful and God spared Isaac (Genesis 22:1-14).

C. *Jacob/Esau* (Twins: 1831BC)

Abraham's son Isaac had twin sons, Jacob & Esau. The first-born (and therefore heir of the Birthright*) was Esau. One day, while returning famished from a hunting trip, Esau foolishly sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of stew (Genesis 25:27-34). Esau, whose name was changed to Edom, became the father of the Edomites. [* The *birthright* was basically a "double portion of inheritance" normally given to the first son.]

Jacob (whose name was changed to Israel) fathered 12 sons**, each of which became the father of a tribe bearing his own name. (Genesis 35:23-26) [**Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Assher. Genesis 35:23-26]

D. *Joseph* (1740 BC)

As his father Jacob (Israel) grew older, Joseph became his favorite because of his obedience. (Genesis 38:7-10). Even though he was the second youngest, Joseph was given the birthright and given a "coat of many colors" (from his father), which was apparently a great sign of favoritism. Because of jealousy, Joseph's brothers wanted to kill him, but instead decided to sell him to some merchants who were traveling on their way to Egypt. Joseph was then sold in the Egyptian slave market to an officer of Pharaoh's household. Because of Joseph's moral character, he was promoted by Pharaoh to Prime Minister (second only to Pharaoh).

Thirteen years after Joseph's brothers sold him, a great famine in all the lands caused the people of the surrounding countries to go to Egypt for food, including Joseph's family (70 people). They (Joseph's brothers) were given land to live on and prospered greatly.

VI. Exile in Egypt (1706-1491BC)

Jacob eventually died and 54 years later, Joseph died. The succeeding Pharaoh did not know who Joseph was and was also very concerned about the growing multitude of the children of Israel (Jacob). In less than 400 years, they grew from 70 to over 2 million.

The Israelites spent a total of 430 years in Egypt (Exodus 12:40), about 215 of these years as slaves. This was actually a time God used to develop the nation of Israel and also to give the people who were currently living in the land that was promised to the Israelites, a chance to repent.

A. *Calling of Moses – Burning Bush* (1491 BC)

The new King of Egypt, seeing that the Israelites had the best land and prospered greatly, feared they might join with other nations in an attack against Egypt. In response to this concern, he issued a decree to have all the male Hebrew babies killed. It was at this point that a young Hebrew mother hid her baby in a basket and placed it in the Nile river. The baby was later found by the daughter of Pharaoh, who claimed the child as her own son and named him *Moses* [Mashah - "to draw out"] (Exodus 2:5-10). Moses was trained in all the knowledge of the Egyptians and was actually a contender for the next leader of Egypt.

The Israelites were under tremendous persecution at this time. One day, Moses killed an Egyptian guard, because he was beating a Hebrew slave. Fearing for his own life, he then fled Egypt and lived in the wilderness for 40 years, where God prepared him for Israel's impending 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. While in the wilderness, Moses was called by God (through the burning bush) to lead His people out of the Egyptian slavery (Exodus 3:2).

B. The 10 Plagues

The 10 plagues were not just intended to make Pharaoh and the Egyptians uncomfortable, but to act as a sign against all of the false gods of Egypt (Exodus 12:12).

1. Water turned to blood (Exodus 7:14-25)
 - The Nile river was turned to blood.
2. Visitation of Frogs (Exodus 8:1-15)
 - The land was over run by frogs.
3. Lice (Exodus 8:16-19)
 - The dust of the ground was turned into lice
4. Swarms of Flies (Exodus 8:24)
 - Flies filled all the land and houses.
5. Cattle Disease (Exodus 9:1-7)
 - The Egyptians cattle were killed by this disease.
6. Boils (Exodus 9:8-12)
 - All of the Egyptians were stricken with open, running sores.
7. Hail (Exodus 9:13-35)
 - All the land, except for the land of Goshen (where the Israelites were) was stricken by extremely devastating hail and lightning.
8. Locust (Exodus 10:4)
 - Locust covered the land and devoured the vegetation that had not been destroyed by the hail.
9. Darkness (Exodus 10:21-23)
 - A darkness that could be felt, was upon the Egyptians, but the Israelites had light in their dwellings.
10. Death of the First-born (Exodus 11:4-7, 12:29-30)
 - The first-born of every house in Egypt was killed, except for those houses that had the blood of a lamb sprinkled on their door.

The celebration of the "Passover" was instituted in memorial of this great event.

VII. The Exodus (1491 BC)

God's promise of deliverance and wealth was fulfilled upon the exodus of the Israelites out of Egypt. "*The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing... ..and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians.*" (Exodus 12:33-36)

A. Parting of the Red Sea (Exodus 14)

Shortly after Pharaoh let the Israelites go, he changed his mind and set out after them. Having caught up to them by the Red Sea, the Israelites felt trapped, but God, remaining faithful, parted the Red Sea, so that they might cross in safety. When Pharaoh's army followed after, they were destroyed by the returning waters.

B. Giving of the Law -Mt. Sinai

Three months into their journey out of Egypt, the Israelites set up camp around Mt. Sinai, where they encamped one year. It was during this time that God organized them into the nation of great promise (Genesis 12:2) and was the official beginning of Israel as a nation (Exodus 19:5-8). God gave the Israelites the 10 Commandments, verbally. (Exodus 20:1-17)

C. *Rebellion in the Camp*

Growing impatient waiting for Moses to return from Mt. Sinai, the Israelites, under the leadership of Aaron, fashioned their own gods out of gold, and began to worship and offer sacrifices to it (Exodus 32:1-6). Moses intervened for Israel and pleaded with God not to destroy them for their wickedness.

Moses journeyed back up to Mt. Sinai to replace the original tablets which he had broken when he saw the wickedness of his people (Exodus 34:1).

The Mosaic Law is made up of three distinct parts: 1) The Moral Law, 2) The Ceremonial Law, and 3) The Judicial Law.

D. *Spies into Canaan*

From neighboring Kadesh-Barnea, 12 spies were sent to check out the land of Canaan (part of the land that God promised to the Israelites). Ten of the 12 spies said it would be impossible to conquer, because there were giants in the land (Numbers 13:32-33). Two men (Joshua & Caleb) believed God and thought they should move into the land.

VIII. *Wilderness Wandering (1491-1451 BC)*

A. *The Cause*

Because of their unbelief, the Israelites were made to wander in the wilderness for 40 more years; one year for each day the spies were checking out the land (Numbers 14:29-34). All of the people age 20 and older (with the exception of Joshua & Caleb) would die in the wilderness and not be allowed to enter the promised land.

B. *God's Faithfulness*

Even though they would not be allowed to see the promised land, during the 40 years of wandering God continually provided for the Israelites. He gave them manna from heaven, there was no sickness, and their clothes didn't even wear out!

C. *Preparation for Entering Canaan*

God brought the new generation of Israelites back to the entrance of the promised land, and there, before he died, Moses gave the Law once again. (Deuteronomy - *deuterous nomos*: "second law" - the law repeated) At this point, it is well over 400 years since God called Abram to "go to a land which I will show thee..."

IX. *Entering into Canaan (1451 BC)*

A. *Jordan River*

Joshua (appointed by God to lead the Israelites after Moses died) led the people across the Jordan River into Canaan. There were 300 cities in the land, many of them being fortified.

B. *Jericho*

The first conquest in Canaan (among many) was the fortified city of Jericho. Once Jericho was conquered, Joshua divided up the land among the 12 tribes.

As long as Joshua and the Elders lived, the Israelites served the Lord, but as soon as they died, disobedience came, followed by tragedy. Instead of completely destroying the people of the land as God instructed, the Israelites saved some for their own use (Judges 2:1-3). *Note:* Complete destruction came only after God's extended patience with the people of the land, and was also for the preservation of the nation of Israel.

X. Period of the Judges (1409 - 1115 BC)

With no God-appointed leaders since the death of Joshua and the Elders, Israel was once again under great oppression; this time by the people they had failed to drive out. God called various men to be "judges", through whom He would execute His judgments and deliver Israel (Judges 2:16). Each judge was in charge of a specific geographical area. The office of Judge was not hereditary, nor immediate, but by Divine appointment.

The period of the judges (over 300 years) is marked by 17 cycles of failure. These cycles consisted of 1) backsliding, 2) chastisement, 3) repentance, and 4) deliverance. A key phrase describing this period is *"And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian..."* (Judges 6:1).

"In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes." (Judges 21:25). This verse summarizes the plight of Israel at the end of the period of the judges. The 12 tribes were at war with the surrounding nations, as well as each other, the national religion had fallen, and the Priesthood was completely corrupt.

One of the more well-known Judges was Samson. It is during this period that we learn of his great God-given strength and his fleshly weakness (Judges 16:14-16, 16:17).

God raised up Samuel, who would be the last judge, to bring Israel back to God. Fearful of the surrounding nations, Israel wanted a king (like the other pagan nations had) so that they might unify under a "visible" leader. Samuel warned them strongly against this and also told them exactly what would happen if they did so, but never-the-less, they did not listen.

XI. Period of the Kings - United Kingdom (1095 - 975 BC)

After refusing to listen to Samuel's warnings regarding having a king (I Samuel 8:19), God allowed them to have one, and told Samuel to give them a king (I Samuel 8:22). This brought Israel out from a Theocratic rule (God ruled), to a monocratic rule (man ruled).

A. *Saul* (40 years: 1095 - 1055 BC)

The first King of Israel (chosen of God through Samuel) was a man from the tribe of Benjamin named, Saul. He was physically great, mentally average, and spiritually extremely lacking. Saul started out strong, but ended up involved in spiritism, finally committing suicide (I Samuel 31). He ruled for a total of 40 years.

B. *David* (40 years: 1055 - 1015 BC)

The second King was a shepherd boy named David. Although not a son of Saul, he was anointed by God through Samuel. Saul even tried to kill David, because he knew that God had anointed him next in line, rather than his own son, Jonathan.

The brightest spot in Israel's history was during the 40 year reign of King David. The Davidic Covenant is established during this time (I Samuel 7:12-16). This covenant mainly concerns the messianic seed and the eternal kingdom.

David wanted to build a temple for the Lord, but God did not allow him to, because he had shed too much blood (I Chronicles 22:8).

C. *Solomon* (40 years: 1015 - 975 BC)

David was succeeded by his own son Solomon, who is best known for the wisdom God bestowed upon him. Under Solomon's 40 year reign, the temple was constructed and the Ark of the Covenant was placed inside the chamber called the "Holy of Holies."

Solomon, in following with the Oriental Kings of his time, eventually subjected his people with heavy taxes and unbearable burdens, in order to maintain his extravagant kingdom. Solomon even built shrines dedicated to the heathen gods which many of his foreign wives worshipped.

It was because of the many evil deeds of Solomon and the people of that era, that a great judgment was brought upon Israel. However, this judgment (the dividing up of Israel) did not occur in Solomon's lifetime, out of God's respect for Solomon's father, David (I Kings 11:11-13).

XII. Division of the Kingdom (975 BC)

After Solomon's death, his son Rehoboam was crowned King. Rehoboam was even harsher on the Israelites than was his father. (I Kings 12:11) However, the people revolted and Rehoboam fled for his life. One of Solomon's officers, named Jeroboam, encouraged the Israelites not to remain loyal to Rehoboam, but to follow him, instead. Eventually, 10 of the 12 tribes followed Jeroboam, and the remaining two (Benjamin & Judah) followed Rehoboam. Thus, the once great nation was now divided. The two new kingdoms were the northern "Kingdom of Israel" and the southern "Kingdom of Judah."

A. *The Northern Kingdom (Israel)*

The northern "Kingdom of Israel", consisted of the 10 tribes and had its capitol in Samaria. Jeroboam, king of the northern Kingdom, discouraged his people from going down into Jerusalem for worship and set up two golden calves for their worship. This idolatrous northern kingdom lasted for 250 years and had 19 different Kings, all of which were bad.

B. *The Southern Kingdom (Judah)*

The southern "Kingdom of Judah," consisted of the 2 tribes Judah & Benjamin and had its capitol in Jerusalem. The southern Kingdom lasted for 400 years and was governed by 19 kings and one queen. All of the Kings of Judah were descendants of David and many of them were Godly men. However, during the reign of Queen Athaliah, all but one of King David's descendants were wiped out. God protected Joash, so that he would continue the Messianic lineage. It was during the era of the Kings of Judah, that many of the great prophets lived (e.g. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Haggai, Zachariah, and Malachi).

XIII. The Fall of the Kingdoms (721 & 586 BC)

A. *The Fall of the Northern Kingdom (721 BC)*

In 722 BC, Assyria invaded Israel, ravishing the land, seizing the capitol, and taking the people captive, bringing them back to Assyria (II Kings 17). The majority of the Israelites from the northern kingdom would eventually be scattered throughout the face of the earth.

B. *The Fall of the Southern Kingdom (586 BC)*

Towards the end of the history of the Kingdom of Judah, the King of Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar) seized Jerusalem, which was the capitol city of Judah. However, he spared the King, taking only some of the Temple Vessels and a company of chosen captives, including Daniel and the three men who would be renamed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 1:1-7).

Nine years later, Nebuchadnezzar invaded again, but this time he took captive the new King, all of the treasures of the land, and all but the poorest of citizens.

Nebuchadnezzar made one final attack on Judah, demolishing Jerusalem and destroying the Temple. Israel was in terrible shape at this point. Famine had driven even princes to search dunghills for food (Lamentations 4:5) and much worse, caused mothers to eat their own children (Lamentations 4:10). Anyone who had survived the torturous take over was taken back to Babylon as a prisoner.

The Kingdom of Judah would now be a captive of Babylon for 70 years: 10 years for every year the Hebrews had violated God's Sabbath rest for the working of the land (Leviticus 25:3-4). This was just as Jeremiah prophesied (Jeremiah 25:11).

XIV. 70 Years of Captivity (586 - 516 BC)

A. *Babylon*

It was during the 70 year captivity in Babylon that Daniel interpreted King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, foretelling of the fall of Babylon and the rise and fall of 3 other world empires, to be followed by a fifth which was mightier than all before (Daniel 2).

B. *Medo-Persia*

Babylon fell to the Medes and the Persians in 539 B.C. The River Euphrates, (the life-blood of impenetrable fortress of Babylon) was cut off, and the armies of the Medes and the Persians marched in and conquered the great city.

While in the hands of the Medo-Persians, Daniel confronted their King (Cyrus) and told him of a prophecy that had be foretold more than 160 years earlier. This prophecy, which even called the King by name, told of God using King Cyrus to subdue many nations, and more importantly, that through him (this King who "knew not God"), Jerusalem and the Temple would be rebuilt! Cyrus even gave the Israelites money and materials to rebuild the Temple. He then issued a decree, setting free the Israelites from their 70 year captivity. Some of the Israelites returned to their homeland, but the majority actually stayed in the land of their captivity.

XV. Return to Jerusalem (538 - 432 BC)

A. *First Phase (538 BC)*

The first wave, being lead by Zerubbabel (a prince of Judah) and consisting of less than 50,000 men, women, and children, traveled the 700 miles from Babylon to Jerusalem. Because they were predominantly from the Tribe of Judah, the people from that point on were called "Jews." Twenty years later, the Temple was completed (Ezra 5-6; fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah 44:28).

B. *Second Phase (458 BC)*

The second wave, lead by Ezra (a scribe), occurred about 78 years after the first group. Ezra had obtained permission from King Artaxerxes to return to Jerusalem with a small band of 6-7 thousand people. However, upon his arrival in Jerusalem, he found that the first wave of people had already turned to abominable religious practices and inter-married among the heathens. Ezra then brought about a great spiritual revival, as he turned their heart's back to God (Ezra 9-10).

C. *Third Phase (432 BC)*

The third wave, lead by Nehemiah (a pious Jew who had found favor in the court of the Kings of Persia), occurred about 94 years after the first return. Nehemiah's primary task was to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, which had been destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar (Nehemiah 2:5).

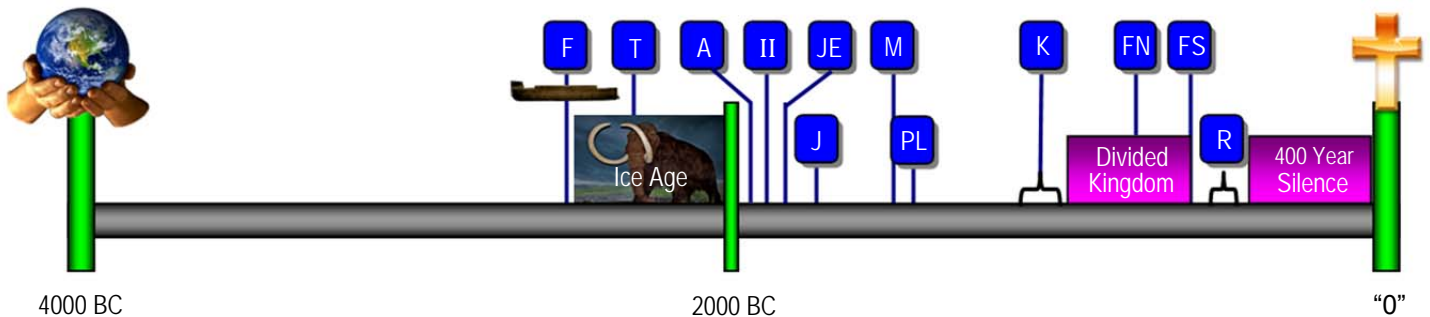
XVI. The Prophets of the Old Testament

- A. *Before the Captivities*
 - Jonah
- B. *To the Kingdom of Israel (10 Tribes)*
 - Amos • Hosea • Obadiah • Joel
- C. *To the Kingdom of Judah (2 Tribes)*
 - Isaiah • Micah • Nahum • Habakkuk • Zephaniah • Jeremiah
- D. *During the Babylonian Exile*
 - Ezekiel • Daniel
- E. *After the Exile*
 - Haggai • Zechariah • Malachi

XVII. Close of the Old Testament (432 BC)

During the 400 years of (prophetic & revelatory) silence between the Old & New Testaments, the current Persian world power, fell to the Grecian Empire (fulfillment of Daniel 8:21). The Grecian Empire eventually was conquered by the Roman Empire (fulfillment of Daniel 2:40), which remained in power as the pages of the New Testament unfold.

Old Testament History Timeline



Key to Timeline

F	Flood (2400 BC)	J/E	Jacob & Esau (1831BC)	K	Kings – Saul/David/Solomon (1095-975 BC)
T	Tower of Babel (2247? BC)	J	Joseph (1740 BC)	FN	Fall of Northern Kingdom (721 BC)
A	Call of Abraham (1921 BC)	M	Moses (1491 BC)	FS	Fall of Southern Kingdom (586 BC)
II	Ishmael & Isaac (1891/1905 BC)	PL	Promised Land (1491BC)	R	Return to Jerusalem (538-432 BC)

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