

# Bible History

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**Romans 15:4** - "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."

**1 Corinthians 10:6** - "Now these things became our examples"

**4100** years of recorded Bible History

- **4000** in the Old Testament
- **2,286** years in the Book of Genesis
- **100** in the New Testament
- **2 000** in Genesis, chapters 1-11

**THE BIBLE UTILIZES 2** Testaments . . . **1,189** chapters . . . **31,100** verses . . . **783,088** words . . . and **2,930** Bible characters to tell us this great story.

**Genesis 1:1** - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

**ADAM & EVE:** Garden of Eden. 1st prophecy in the Bible - **Genesis 3:15** – "And I will put enmity (hatred) Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head (mortal wound), And you shall bruise His heel ( minor wound)."

- **126** years after the death of Adam (960 years(, Noah was born.
- **1,656** years passed from Adam to the flood.
- **427** years from the flood to Abraham

**THE FLOOD:** The world was corrupt before God and "filled with violence."

**Genesis 6:8** - "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord."

- Ark of Gopher wood - **300** cubits long. **50** cubits wide. **30** cubits high.
- In the ark **1 year and 17 days**. Floated some 500 miles before coming to rest on one of the Mountains of Araat located in present day Turkey.

**TOWER OF BABEL:** **101** years after the flood and **326** years before the call of Abraham.

- Scattered because they would not go of their own accord and replenish the earth.

**ABRAHAM:** Age **75** when he entered Canaan. **600** miles from Ur to Haran. **400** miles from Haran to Canaan.

- **86** when Ishmael was born • **100** when Isaac was born. • **127** when Sarah died. • **174** when he died. “Father of the faithful” “The friend of God”
- **Four Great Promises**
  - (1) Great nation promise.
  - (2) Great name promise.
  - (3) All nations to be blessed
  - (4) Land promise

**ISAAC:** Age **40** when he married Rebecca. Age **60** when Jacob & Esau were born. Died at age **189**

**JACOB:** Worked **7** years to get Rachel, but was given Leah instead. **1 week later** married Rachel on condition of working another **7** years. Worked another **6** years for flocks & herds. Worked for Laban a total of **20** years.

- **11** of his **12** sons were born in Haran. Joseph (11th) son last to be born in Haran, **8 years before** Jacob returned to Canaan. 12th son Benjamin was born in Canaan. His mother died in his childbirth.
- 1st **77** years in Canaan, Next **20** years in Haran. **33** more years in Canaan. Last **17** years in Egypt.
- Entered Egypt at age **130** and died at age **147**.

**JOSEPH:** **14** chapters of Genesis devoted to his story.

- Favored by Jacob. Born in Haran **8** years before Jacob returned to Canaan.
- Lived in Canaan **9** years before being sold into slavery at age **17**
- Was **30** when made a ruler of Egypt. Governed Egypt **80** years during 16th Dynasty line of kings.
- Was **37** when the famine began and **44** when it ended. Governed Egypt for **66** years after the famine had ended.
- Died at the age of **110**. **400** years later (**4** centuries) Joshua (who also died at age **110**) buried him in Canaan.
- Nothing negative is recorded about Joseph or Daniel
- Daniel was a minimum of **86** years old when he was thrown into the den of lions. **Age 16** at **1<sup>st</sup> deportation + 70 years of captivity**.

**MOSES:** 300 years between Genesis and Exodus.

- 40 years in Egypt
- 40 years in Midian
- 40 years in the wilderness
- Died at age 120
- The story of Moses constitutes about **one-seventh** of the whole Bible.
- The Exodus occurred in approximately 1446 B.C. 1 Kings 6:1 is the beginning Scripture for arriving at the date of the Exodus. “And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.”
- The 12 spies. 10 negative and 2 positive (**Joshua and Caleb**) 40 days = 40 years. Added 38 more years to the 2 years that had already passed.

**CONQUEST OF CANAAN:** At age 75, Joshua succeeded Moses and led Israel for 25 years. He died at age 110.

- Joshua used the “Divide and Conquer” method.
- Conquered the **Central** part of Canaan first.
- Conquered the **Southern** part of Canaan second.
- Conquered the **Northern** part of Canaan last.
- Following the conquest of Canaan, Joshua buried the bones of Joseph.  
“Pre-Burial Arrangements”
  1. The **request** had been made by Joseph in Genesis 50:25
  2. The Bones were **taken from Egypt** during the Exodus. Exodus 13:9
  3. The bones of Joseph were **buried in Canaan**. Joshua 24:29

**THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES:** Lasted some 300+ years.

- The Book of Judges mentions some 13 Judges.
- The Book of 1 Samuel mentions another 4
- A total of 17 Judges mentioned in the Bible.
- 7 apostasies (fallings away from God) . . . 7 servitudes . . . 7 deliverances.
- **Three great lessons from the Book of Judges:**
  1. Sin will **take** you farther than you wanted to go. Judges 16:4-20
  2. Sin will **keep** you longer than you wanted to stay. Judges 16:2
  3. Sin will **cost** you more than you wanted to pay. Judges 16:30

Wickedness was well known during the time of the Judges:

1. **Judges 1:10-13** – “When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.

11 Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals;

12 and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger.

13 They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.”

2. **Judges 21:25** – “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

- In **1 Samuel 8:5**, the people said to Samuel – “. . . You are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.”

### **THE UNITED KINGDOM - 120 years - 1053 to 933 B.C.**

- King Saul - reigned **40** years
- King David - reigned **40** years
- King Solomon - reigned **40** years

Note: Solomon completed construction of the Temple around 953 B.C. (some 20 years before the beginning of the Divided Kingdom), then it was destroyed some 367 years later by Nebuchadnezzar.

### **THE DIVIDED KINGDOM - 931 to 722/721 B.C.**

**931 B.C.** — The United kingdom ended and the Divided Kingdom began.

- The Northern Kingdom (Israel) - 10 tribes - Jereboam - Samaria as capital
- The Southern kingdom (Judah) - 2 tribes - Rehoboam - Jerusalem as capital

**722 B.C.** The Northern Kingdom fell to Assyria. (931 - 721 B.C.)

- Had existed for **209** years.
- Had been served by **19** different kings representing nine dynasties (Family)
- The reigns averaged about **11** years.
- **8** of the **19** kings died by violence.
- All the rulers were bad.

**605 B.C.** **117 years later**, the Southern Kingdom (Judah) fell to the Babylonians after an existence of **326** years. (931 - 605 B.C.)

- Judah had been served by **20** kings.

- The reigns averaged about **16** years.
- Some were good.
- One dynasty. All were from the lineage of David.

### **PUTTING THESE EVENTS IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE.**

- United Kingdom — **120** years
- Northern Kingdom — **209** years
- Southern Kingdom — **326** years

**626 B.C.** **96 years** after Assyria conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel,

**612 B.C.** **16 years later**, Babylon overthrew Nineveh, the capital city of Assyria.

- This takes place about **150 years** after Nineveh had been spared from destruction, having repented at the preaching of Jonah in about 762 B.C.

**605 B.C.** **7 years later**, the armies of Babylon defeated the armies of Egypt at Carchemish, thus positioning itself as a world empire.

### **BABYLON TURNED ITS ATTENTION TOWARD JUDAH - THERE WERE THREE DEPORTATIONS FROM JERUSALEM TO BABYLON (900 MILES)**

- (1) **605 B.C.** Nebuchadnezzar overcame King Jehoiachin and carried off key hostages including Daniel (16 years old) and his friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Jehoiachin remained in Jerusalem as a vassal king.
- (2) **597 B.C.** **8 years later**, the rebellion of Jehoiachin brother further punishment. Nebuchadnezzar made Jerusalem submit a second time.
  - He carried off 10,000 more hostages including Jehoiachin and Ezekiel.
- (3) **586 B.C.** **9** years later, Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem from **January 588 B.C. to July 586 B.C.**, a period of **1 year and 7 months**.
  - One month later on **August 15, 586 B.C.**, Nebuchadnezzar and his army burned the city of Jerusalem and its temple (Solomon's Temple. NOTE: The Ark of the Covenant probably disappeared during this siege.
- (4) **October, 539 B.C** In one night the Babylonian empire fell to the Medes and the Persians . . . Thus becoming the Medo-Persian Kingdom.
  - **200** years (**two** centuries) before it happened, **Isaiah 45:1-2** named Cyrus (a Persian King) as the one who would allow the Jews to return to their homeland. "Thus says the LORD to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held -- To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be

shut: I will go before you And make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze And cut the bars of iron.”

- Darius continued Cyrus the Greats’ policy of restoring the Jewish people to their homeland.

**JUST AS THERE HAD BEEN THREE DEPORTATIONS FROM JERUSALEM TO BABYLON, SOME 900 MILES AWAY, OVER A 19 YEAR PERIOD, THERE WOULD ALSO BE THREE RETURNS FROM BABYLON BACK TO JERUSALEM OVER A PERIOD OF 92 YEARS.**

(1) **536 B.C.** Led by Zerubbabel – The temple was rebuilt

- The work was begun in **536 B.C.** but discontinued in **534 B.C.**
- The work was resumed in **520 B.C.** and completed in **516 B.C.**
- 6 years of actual work done over a twenty-year period of time.
- The work was begun under Cyrus and finished under Darius.

(2) **456 B.C.** **80** years later – led by Ezra – The law was restored.

(3) **444 B.C.** **12** years later – led by Zerubbabel. The wall of Jerusalem was built in **52** days. Wonderful statements in the Book of Nehemiah.

**100** years later, the Old Testament closed **with the last Old Testament historical book to have been written being the Book of Nehemiah.** The last Old Testament prophetic book to have been written was the Book of **Malachi**. It is important to remember as the Old Testament closes that a **REMNANT RETURNED.**

**THE PROPHETS:** During this time the writing prophets worked.

- **17** books of prophecy. **5** Major and **12** minor. Covering approximately **400** years.
- 2 Classifications of prophets: (1) Oral Prophets. (2) Writing Prophets
- Oral Prophets Include:
  - Samuel
  - Nathan
  - Ahijah
  - Elijah
  - Elisha

- 16 Writing Prophets:

- Samuel	- Hosea	- Jonah	- Zephaniah
- Jeremiah	- Joel	- Micah	- Haggai
- Ezekiel	- Amos	- Nahum	- Zechariah
- Daniel	- Obadiah	- Habakkuk	- Malachi

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