

THE R.U.S.H. BIBLE STUDY INTRODUCTION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT



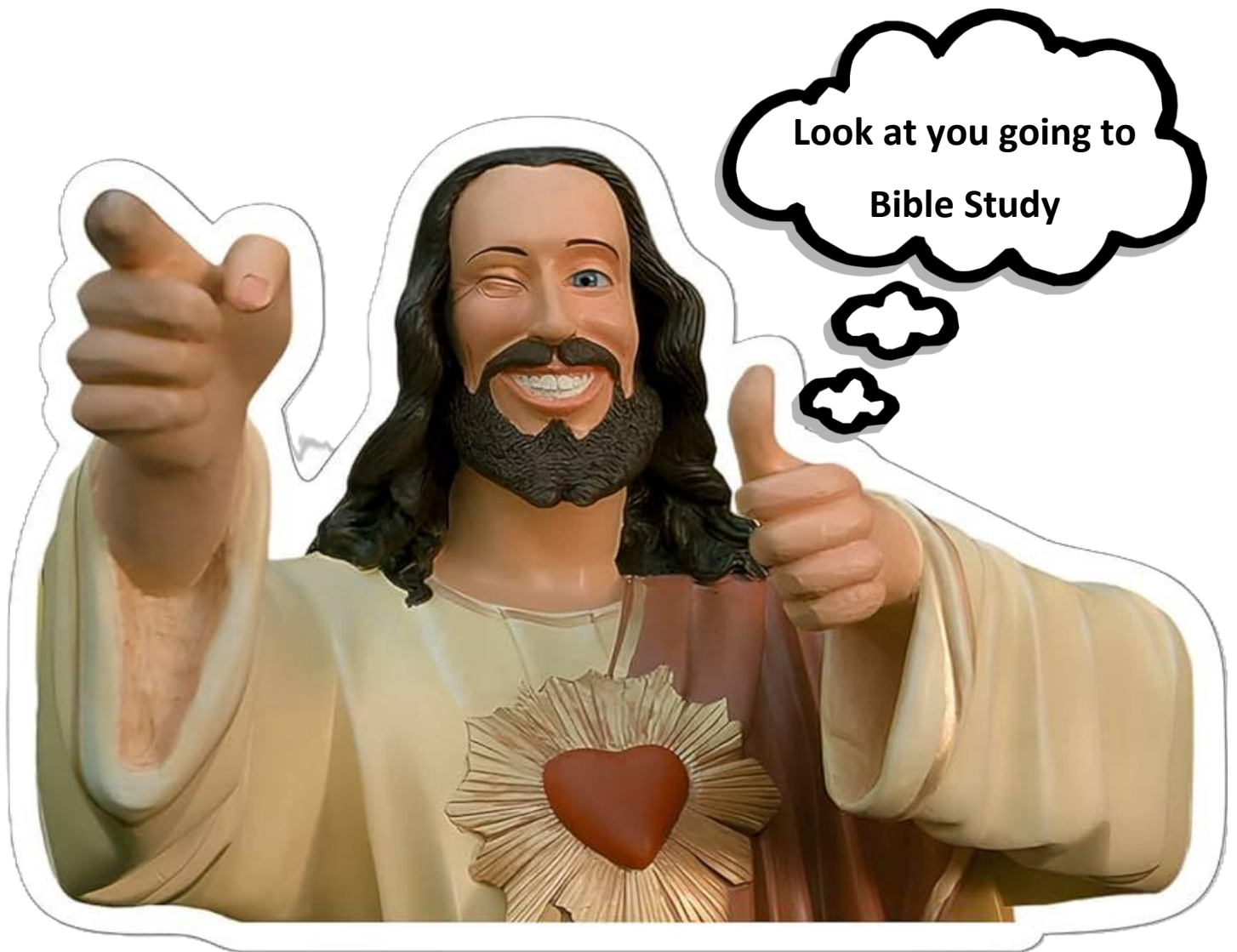
KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT FAST



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY FIRST EDITION 2020 VER.26

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*A very special thank you to my lovely wife Stacey Hebrath for more help than I can list,
and Robin White who so carefully prepares every handout I have ever distributed with such
great love for this class that I am humbled to know these two women of God. DH*



R.U.S.H. BIBLE STUDY
Read. Understand. Spread. Harvest.

(Old Testament/TaNaKh)
(The Pentateuch/Torah)

GENESIS

Genesis covers the 1st one third of the world's history. It explains how the universe was created, including the origin of life. The list of stories include, the six days of creation, the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve, The Fall of Mankind, Cain and Abel, Noah's Ark, the Tower of Babel, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Jacob's ladder, and Joseph's coat of many colors among others.

Author: Moses.

In Genesis – Jesus is the Creator

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

EXODUS

In Exodus, God saves Israel from captivity in Egypt after 400 years of slavery, and then enters into a special covenant relationship with them. You will find Pharaoh, the 10 plagues of Egypt, The Ten Commandments, and the Crossing of the Red Sea here.

Author: Moses

In Exodus – Jesus is the Passover Lamb

"The Lord will fight for you. You need only to be still." Exodus 14:14

LEVITICUS

God gives Israel instructions for how to behave as members of His family. This book is the constitution for a theocratic Israel. This book is the Law.

Author: Moses.

In Leviticus – Jesus is our High Priest

"You are to be holy to Me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be My own." Leviticus 20:26

NUMBERS

Israel fails its very 1st test to trust and obey God, and wanders in the wilderness for 40 years as a result. Of the millions delivered from slavery in Egypt only a handful enter the Promised Land from this generation (*later in the book of Joshua*).

Author: Moses.

In Numbers – Jesus is the Pillar of Fire and the Pillar of Cloud

"God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that He should change his mind." Numbers 23:19

DEUTERONOMY

Moses gives a brief review of Exodus and Numbers and teaches them how to love and obey God in the Promised Land.

Author: Moses.

In Deuteronomy – Jesus is our Leader Greater than Moses

"The Lord your God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commands." Deuteronomy 7:9

(The History Books/Nevi'im)

JOSHUA

Joshua (Moses successor) leads Israel to invade and conquer the Promised Land of Israel. In Joshua you will find the Battle of Jericho and the day the sun stood still, the formation and division of Israel into the twelve tribes. Much of the last half is dividing the spoils, in the form of real estate to the twelve tribes.

Author: Most likely Joshua and at least one other author.

In Joshua – Jesus is the Commander of the Army of the Lord

"Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." Joshua 1:8

JUDGES

Israel enters a cycle of turning from God, crying out to God, and being delivered through leaders, otherwise known as "judges". Stories include Samson and Delilah, Deborah and Gideon. This exciting book covers roughly 450 years.

Author: Samuel

In Judges – Jesus is the One who saves us from Judgement

"But when they cried out to the LORD, He raised up for them a deliverer." Judges 3:9

RUTH

Two widows named Naomi and Ruth, lose everything they have but their faith in the God of Israel. Much like a female version of the Book of Job, which leads to a new life, and starts the lineage of the future King David.

Author: Samuel

In Ruth – Jesus is our Kinsman-Redeemer

"May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me." Ruth 1:17

1 SAMUEL

Israel demands a king. This is the history of Israel from Samuel to Saul and the story of David and Goliath among others.

Author: 1 Chron. 29:29 hints at authors from the schools of Samuel, Nathan and Gad. These 3 schools were located in Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah. Samuel would travel this circuit throughout his life according to 1 Samuel 7:16.

In 1 Samuel – Jesus is the All in One, He is the Prophet/Priest/King

"The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

2 SAMUEL

David, a man after God's own heart, becomes the King of Israel.

Author: 1 Chron. 29:29 hints at authors from the schools of Samuel, Nathan and Gad.

In 2 Samuel – Jesus is the King of Grace and Love

"How great thou art, O Sovereign LORD! There is no one like You, and there is no God but You." 2 Samuel 7:22

1 KINGS

The kingdom of Israel enjoys a time of peace and prosperity under King Solomon, but after he dies, the kingdom splits, and the two lines of kings that follow both turn away from God.

Author: 1st and 2nd Kings spans four hundred years, so many contributors and authors must have been involved.

In 1 Kings – Jesus is the Ruler greater than Solomon

“You alone know the hearts of all men.” 1 Kings 8:39

2 KINGS

In 2 Kings both kingdoms continue to ignore God and His prophets until they both ultimately fall captive to other world empires.

Author: 1st and 2nd Kings spans four hundred years, so many contributors and authors must have been involved.

In 2 Kings – Jesus is the King of Kings

**“Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the Lord...
I have heard you, declares the Lord.” 2 Kings 22:19**

1 CHRONICLES

This is an abbreviated history of Israel from Adam to David, culminating with David commissioning the temple of God in Jerusalem. 1 Chronicles covers the same period of 1 & 2 Samuel.

Author: Most likely Ezra

In 1 Chronicles – Jesus is the Son of David that is coming to rule His People

“I know, my God, that You test the heart and are pleased with integrity.” 1 Chronicles 29:17

2 CHRONICLES

David’s son Solomon builds the temple, but after centuries of rejecting God, the Babylonians take the southern Israelites captive and destroy the temple. 2 Chronicles covers the same period as 1 & 2 Kings.

Author: Most likely Ezra

In 2 Chronicles – Jesus is the King who reigns eternally

“The LORD is with you when you are with Him.” 2 Chronicles 15:2

For he said to Judah, “Let us build these cities and surround them with walls and towers, gates and bars.

The land is still ours because we have sought the Lord our God; we have sought Him, and He has given us rest on every side.”

So they built and prospered. 2 Chronicles 14:7

EZRA

The Israelites rebuild the temple in Jerusalem under a scribe named Ezra who teaches Israel to renew their love for God’s laws. His ministry was so vast he was called the 2nd Moses. He re-assembled and presented the Law to the people. His ministry was so effective the people entered a solemn covenant before God to learn and to comply with the demands of the Law.

Author: Ezra, a contemporary of Nehemiah, was in the Babylonian captivity.

In Ezra – Jesus is our Wall of Defense

“Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws.” Ezra 7:10

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NEHEMIAH

The city of Jerusalem is in bad shape structurally, so Nehemiah rebuilds the wall around the city under great hostility from their neighbors, but with the support of the Persian Empire.

Author: Nehemiah contemporary of Ezra, he was in Persian captivity.

In Nehemiah – Jesus is the One who restores what was broken down

“Stand up and praise the LORD your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting.” Nehemiah 9:5

ESTHER

Haman, who is Xerxes chief advisor, devises an evil plot to bring about Israel’s extinction, and Esther must face the emperor to intercede for God’s people in this exciting book.

Author: Nobody is sure, but my guess....Mordecai her cousin/uncle/adopted father.

In Esther – Jesus is our Protector

“Who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?” Esther 4:14

(The Poetry or Wisdom Books/Ketuvim)

JOB

Satan slanders a righteous man’s motives named Job, before God. So God allows Satan to test his character, and Job and his friends argue about why terrible things are happening to him. Many scientific references are included here.

Author: Nobody knows, most likely Job himself or Elihu his friend who is mentioned in Job.

In Job – Jesus is the Mediator between God and man

“I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth.” Job 19:25

“He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; He suspends the earth over nothing.” Job: 26:7

PSALMS

A collection of 150 songs and poems, that Israel sang to God (and to each other)—a type of hymnal for the ancient Israelites.

Author: David, Asaph, Sons of Korah, Heman, Solomon, Moses, & Ethan.

In Psalms – Jesus is our Song

“Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens.” Psalm 68:19

PROVERBS

A collection of sayings and adages written to help people make wise decisions in life.

Author: Solomon, Agur, King Lemuel.

In Proverbs – Jesus is our Wisdom

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6

ECCLESIASTES

A philosophical exploration of the meaning of life—with a blunt, humanistic tone. King Solomon was having a bad day.

Author: Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived. Great King. Built the first temple. He was a writer, poet, scientist writing over 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs according to 1 Kings 4:32.

In Ecclesiastes – Jesus is the Meaning of Life

“Stand in awe of God.” Ecclesiastes 5:7

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SONG OF SOLOMON/SONG OF SONGS

A love song written with operatic structure celebrating love, desire, and marriage.

Author: Solomon

In Song of Solomon – Jesus is the One who loves us

“His banner over me is love.” Song of Songs 2:4

(Major Prophets)

ISAIAH

God sends the prophet Isaiah to warn Israel of future judgment—but also to tell them about a coming king and servant who will “bear the sins of many.” A book of miracles and wonders.

Author: Isaiah (and maybe some of his followers) He had audience with several Kings.

In Isaiah – Jesus is the Prince of Peace

**“He tends His flock like a shepherd. He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to his heart.
He gently leads those that have young.” Isaiah 40:11**

“It is He that sitteth on the circle of the earth…….” Isaiah 40:22

JEREMIAH

God sends a prophet to warn Israel about the Babylonian captivity, but the people reject the news. Key stories include, King Nebuchadnezzar, and the Rechabites.

Author: Jeremiah, he was one of the few prophets who lived to see his prophesy fulfilled.

In Jeremiah – Jesus is the Righteous Branch

**“‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.’” Jeremiah 29:11**

LAMENTATIONS

A collection of funeral type dirges and poems lamenting the fall of Jerusalem to Babylon.

Author: Jeremiah, written after seeing his own prophesy filled.

In Lamentations – Jesus is the One who hears our cries

“Pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord.” Lamentations 2:19

EZEKIEL

God calls Ezekiel to speak to Israel, preach holiness, and teach justice.

Author: Ezekiel, he was preaching to Jews in Babylon during the captivity.

In Ezekiel – Jesus is the Son of Man

**“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and
give you a heart of flesh.” Ezekiel 36:26**

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DANIEL

Daniel becomes a wise man and advisor in the Babylonian and Persian empires, and has prophetic visions concerning Israel's future. Stories include, the Lion's Den, The Fiery Furnace, The Handwriting on the Wall, Angels, and the resurrection of the dead in Daniel 12:2.

Author: Daniel (with other contributors) Like Ezekiel, his ministry was in Babylon.

In Daniel – Jesus is the Fourth Man in the Furnace

"I... raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored." Daniel 4:34

(Minor Prophets)

HOSEA

Hosea is told by God to marry a prostitute named Gomer who leaves him, and he must continue to bring her back: a picture of God's relationship with Israel.

Author: Hosea, *(Hosea and Jonah were the only prophets living in the northern kingdom).*

In Hosea – Jesus is the Faithful Spouse

"For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings." Hosea 6:6

JOEL

God sends a plague of locusts to Judge Israel, but his judgment on the surrounding nations is coming as well. Joel says to "rend your hearts, not your clothes", and prophesies of the coming of the Holy Spirit, fulfilled in the second chapter of Acts.

Author: Joel. Note that Peter quotes Joel in his sermon on the Day of Pentecost.

In Joel – Jesus is the One Who is sending His Spirit to His people

"Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved." Joel 2:32

AMOS

A shepherd named Amos preaches against the injustice of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. He prophesies of the Messiah's coming kingdom. He pronounces judgement on surrounding countries for crimes against Israel, and on Israel for crimes against God.

Author: Amos who was the father of Isaiah the prophet, and friend to Hosea. He was a shepherd who farmed fig trees in Tekoa.

In Amos – Jesus is the one who Delivers Justice to the oppressed

"Seek the Lord and live." Amos 5:6

OBADIAH

Obadiah warns the neighboring nation of Edom that they will be judged for plundering and sacking Jerusalem. Shortest book in the Old Testament being only 21 verses long.

Author: Obadiah was an Edomite servant of King Ahab. He was given the gift of prophesy many think because he hid the 100 prophets from Jezebel's persecution in 1 Kings 18:4.

In Obadiah – Jesus is Mighty to Save

"The day of the LORD is near for all nations. As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return upon your own head." Obadiah 1:15

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JONAH

A disobedient prophet runs from God, is swallowed by a great fish, and then preaches God's message to the city of Nineveh.

Author: Traditionally Jonah

In Jonah – Jesus is the Great Missionary

"Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs." Jonah 2:8

MICAH

Micah confronts the leaders of Israel regarding their injustice, and prophesies that one day the Lord himself will rule in perfect justice. Prophecies include the Messiah's birth in Bethlehem.

Author: Micah, who was a contemporary of Isaiah, was mentioned in Jer. 26:18-19.

In Micah – Jesus is the One Who casts our sin into the sea of forgetfulness

**"He has shown you, o mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly before your God." Micah 6:8**

NAHUM

Nahum foretells of God's judgment on Nineveh, 100 plus years after the revival of Jonah in Nineveh.

Author: Nahum

In Nahum – Jesus is the One Who avenges us

"The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him." Nahum 1:7

HABAKKUK

Habakkuk pleads with God to stop the injustice and violence in Judah, and God does, through the even worse Babylonians. Why? The end result is both nations have a revival,

Author: Habakkuk

In Habakkuk – Jesus is the Praying Evangelist

"The Sovereign LORD is my strength." Habakkuk 3:19

ZEPHANIAH

God warns that he will judge Israel and the surrounding nations, but also that he will restore them in peace and justice.

Author: Zephaniah, probably of royal blood, according to Zeph. 1:1

In Zephaniah – Jesus is the Warrior who Saves

**"The LORD your God is with you, The Mighty Warrior who saves.
He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with his love, He will rejoice over you with singing." Zephaniah 3:17**

HAGGAI

The people have abandoned the work of restoring God's temple in Jerusalem, and so Haggai takes them to task.

Author: Haggai, contemporary of Zechariah.

In Haggai – Jesus is the One Who Restores our Worship

"The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the Lord." Haggai 2:8

ZECHARIAH

The prophet Zechariah calls Israel to return to God. Prophetic visions include the new temple, angels, and the coming of Christ.

Author: Zechariah, from the tribe of Levi, both a priest and prophet.

In Zechariah – Jesus is the Messiah Pierced for us

"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the LORD Almighty." Zechariah 4:6

MALACHI

God has been faithful to Israel, but they continue to live apart from him, today you might say they were going through the motions. So God sends Malachi to challenge them. Prophesies the calling and inclusion of the gentiles, and the soon coming of the Christ.

Author: Malachi, Jewish tradition strongly asserts he was a member of “the Great Synagogue”, along with Haggai and Zechariah. The Great Synagogue was a group of scribes, prophets and leaders who organized religious life and culture after the Babylonian exile collecting and adding the Minor Prophets into the rest of the Old Testament Canon. *The TaNaKh. (Talmud, Nevi'im, Ketuvim)*

In Malachi – Jesus is the Son of Righteousness who brings healing in His Wings

"But for you who revere My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings." Malachi 4:2

End of the Old Testament

THE INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD

THE INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD is considered to cover roughly four hundred forty-four years, spanning the end of the ministry of Malachi (c. 436 BC) to the appearance of the Archangel Gabriel to Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist in the early 1st century AD. It falls completely with-in the age of Hellenistic Judaism. (516 BC-70 AD).

PERSIAN EMPIRE

The purpose of the Persian Empire in God's plan is 2 fold. 1st is they returned Israel to their homeland. 2nd they developed the world's 1st postal service throughout their empire. This would later be ESSENTIAL in spreading the Gospel.

This postal service would be continued and maintained by all subsequent empires to this day.

The Greek historian Herodotus once wrote in 500 BC: "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." He was describing the Persian postal service, which he deeply admired.

This same inscription is carved on New York's General Post Office Building.

GREEK EMPIRE

The purpose of the Greek Empire in God's plan was uniform language and corporate, free, education. This system of public education would simplify and establish a means of amassing and spreading information, news and innovation in a uniform language. By the time of Christ's ministry the entire world could read and write, or at least had the option, and would speak only 3 languages. Their mother tongue, Greek & Latin, making the Gospel available, teachable and understandable on a global scale. The end result? The Septuagint. The Old Testament in the Greek language.

JEWISH INDEPENDENCE

The purpose of Jewish Independence in God's plan was that the Jewish nation would remain distinct from the rest of the world as they are "God's Prophetic Clock."

Most importantly, the end result of Jewish Independence was that Israel was now looking for the soon coming Messiah.

ROMAN EMPIRE

The purpose of the Roman Empire in God's plan was primarily infrastructure. Specifically the Caesars wanted "all roads to lead to Rome". Moderately safe travel was accomplished by the time Jesus was born, allowing the Gospel to spread through the entire known world, along with Latin being taught globally, enabling scholars to compare early correspondence in 2 well chronicled languages to compare Biblical translations and meanings.

GENESIS 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. [CONTINUUM]



JOB 26:7

He.... hangeth the earth upon nothing.

JOB 38:14

It is turned as clay to the seal...

ISAIAH 40:22

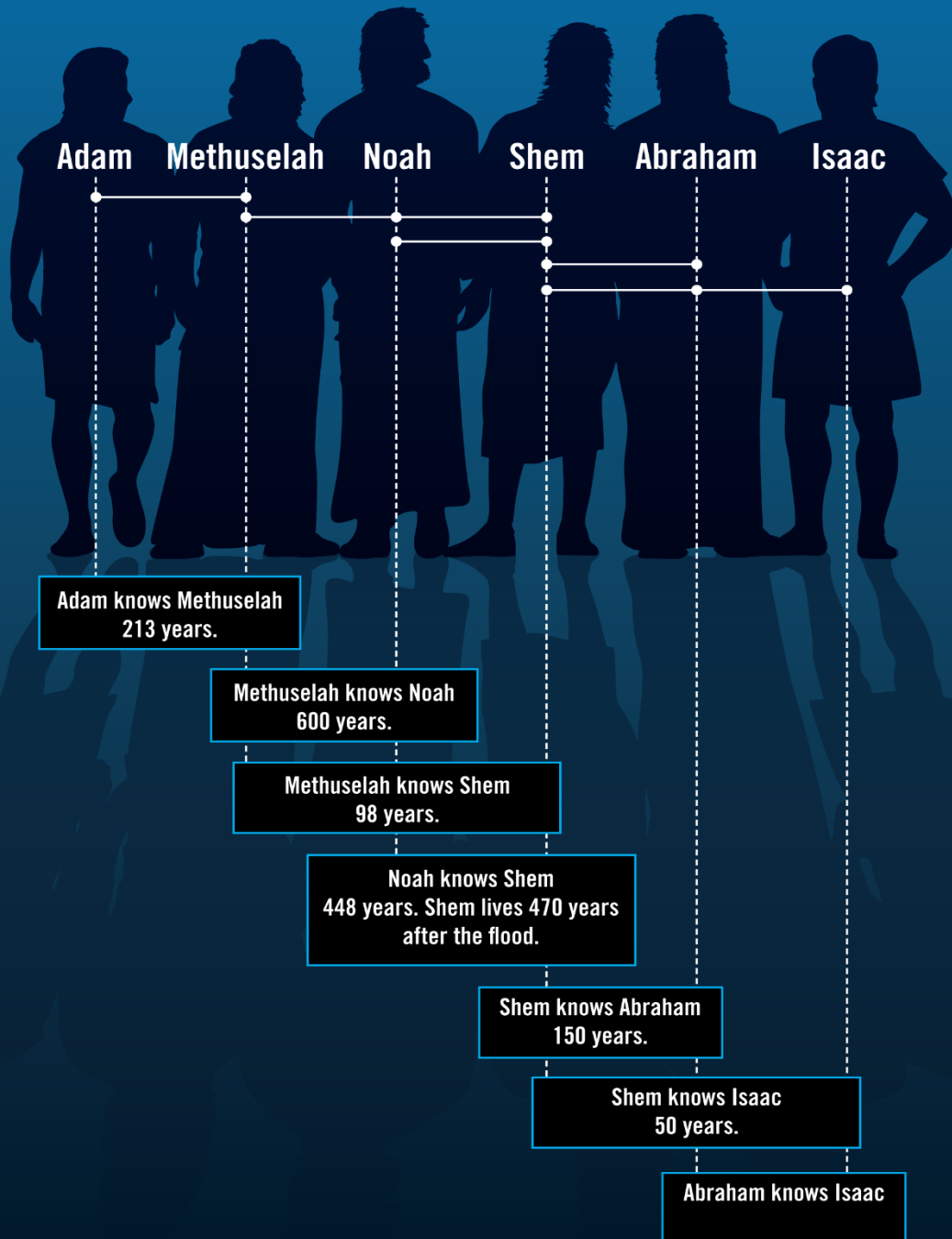
It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth.

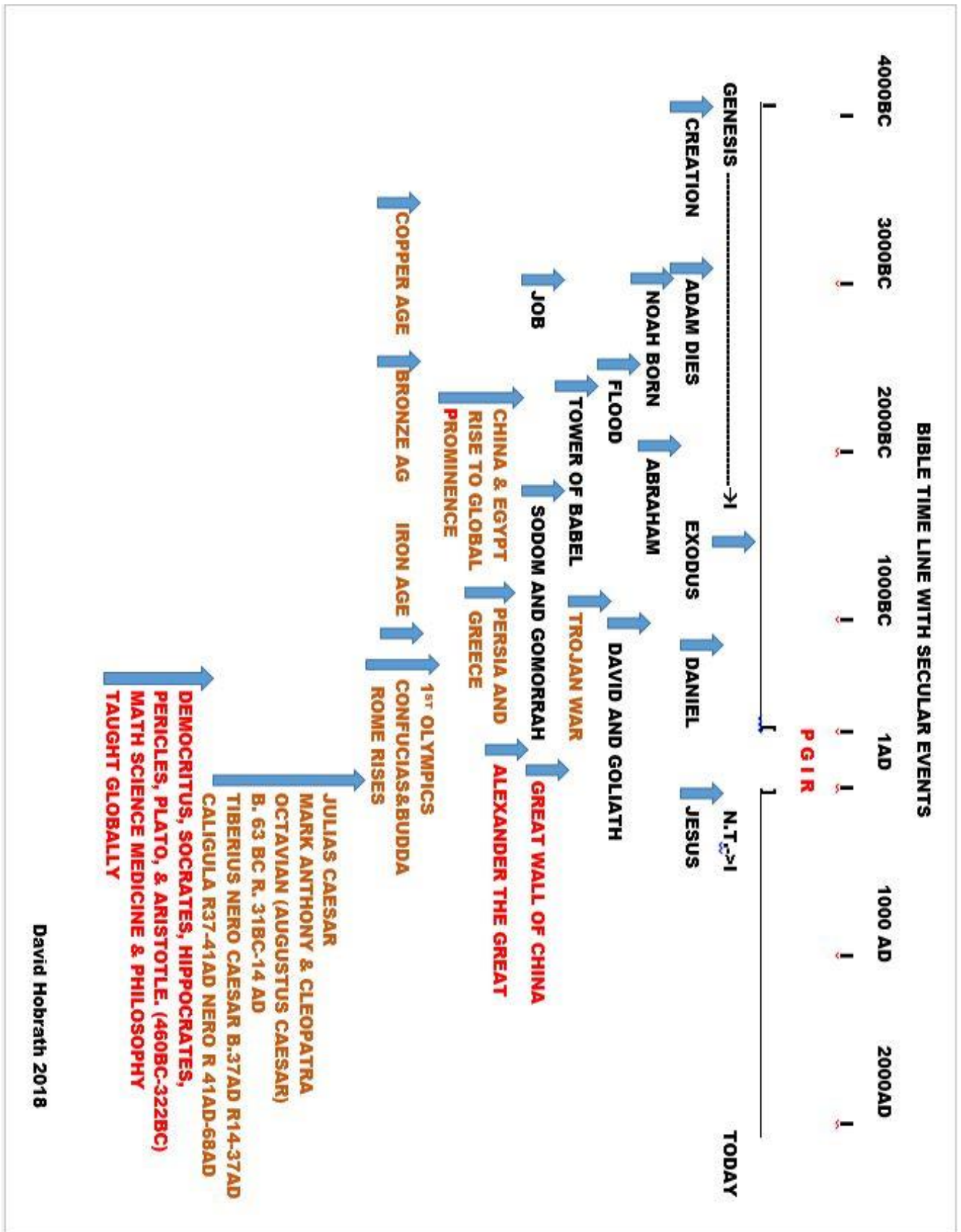
The earth is round, existing in time, spinning on its axis, and floating in space.

But sure...the Bible isn't science.



THE PATRIARCHS





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