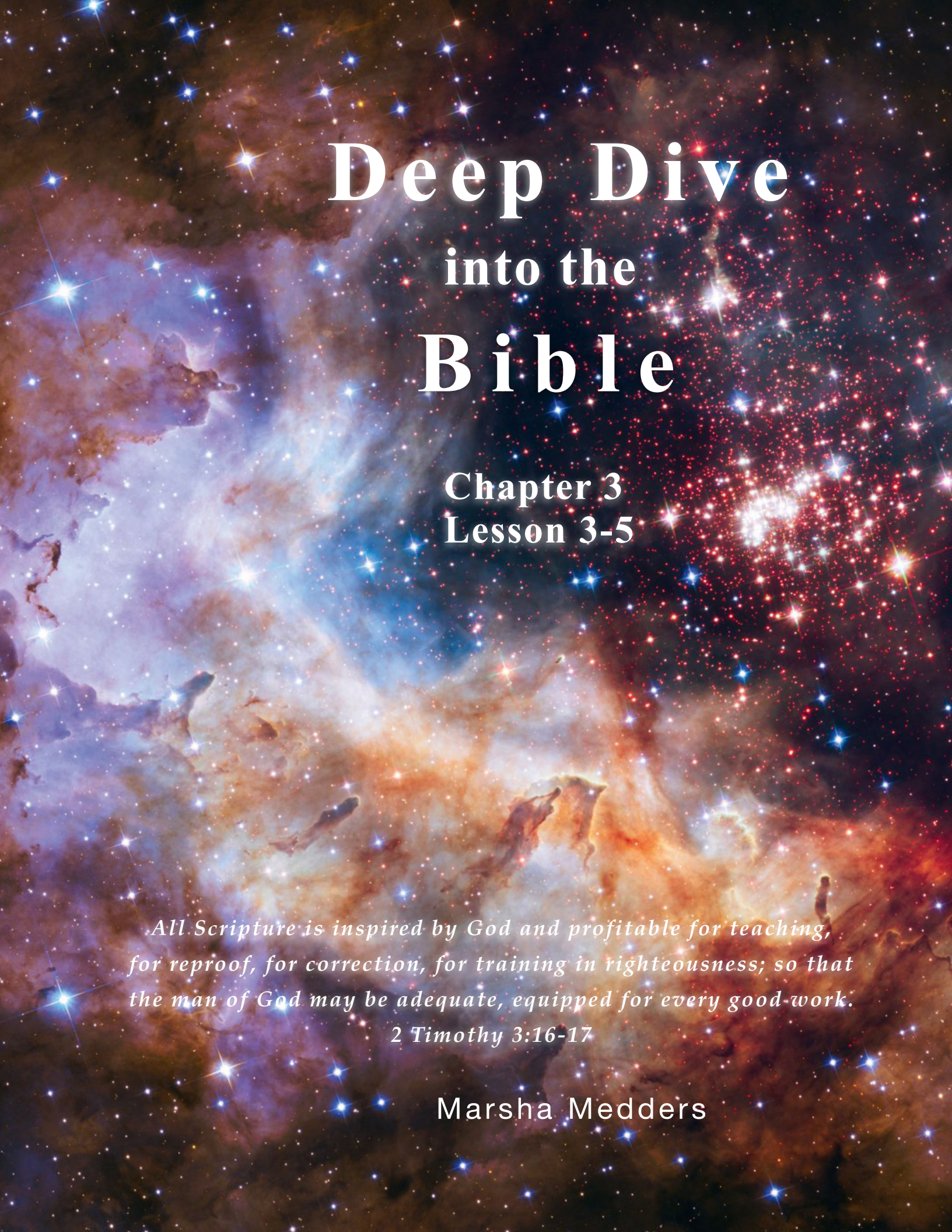




Deep Dive into the Bible

Chapter 3
Lesson 3-5

*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that
the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Marsha Medders

Deep Dive into the Bible

The Grand Tapestry of Biblical Times

Chapter 3: Lesson 3-5

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Hubble Picture Acknowledgements: Cover Page: 229 Westerlund-21. Produced by NASA and the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI). Westerlund 2 is a remarkable star cluster located in the Milky Way galaxy, renowned for its collection of some of the most brightest, hottest, and massive stars known. It is a giant cluster of about 3,000 stars located 20,000 light-years away in the constellation Carina.

Deep Dive into the Bible

Book Outline

Chapter 1 - Tracing the Bible's Ancient Roots

Chapter 2 - Exploring Bible Translations & Study Techniques

Chapter 3 - The Grand Tapestry of Biblical Times

Chapter 4 - The Great Story, Inspired by God

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
2 Timothy 3:16-17

The Grand Tapestry of Biblical Times

Chapter 3: Lesson 3-5

Outline

Israel

- Call of Abraham - Kingdom of God on Earth
- Exodus - The Law & Mosaic Covenant
- Entering Canaan
- Judges
- Kings of Israel
- Exile
- Nation of Israel Restored - Decree of Cyrus
- Silent Years

Jesus - Period of Grace

- Birth, Resurrection & Ascension of Christ
- Diaspora - Destruction of Jerusalem
- The Church
 - Early Church
 - State Church - Medieval Church
 - Reformation
 - Modern Church

Future Promise

- Rapture of Church
- Tribulation Period
- Millennial Period
- Eternal State

Israel

Although there was a new beginning for humanity after the Flood, Scripture tells us that humanity was traveling down the same road of decline as before the Flood. Nimrod, the founder of both Babel and Nineveh started up a rebellion against God by constructing the Tower of Babel. God came down and confused their single language and they dispersed. This rebellion took place about 166 years after the Flood, around 2182 BC.

The Call of Abraham

With the call of Abram in Genesis 12, God counters the rise of the kingdom of man. This is the beginning of the Kingdom of God on earth and will culminate in the Millennial reign of Christ.

The call of Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldeans is an unconditional covenant known as the Abrahamic Covenant. It includes three major provisions.

*Now the Lord said to Abram,
"Go forth from your country,
And from your relatives
And from your father's house,
To the land which I will show you;
And I will make you a great nation,
And I will bless you,
And make your name great;
And so you shall be a blessing;
And I will bless those who bless you,
And the one who curses you I will curse.
And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed." Genesis 12:1-3*

Exercise 10 - What are the three major provisions of the Abrahamic Covenant as stated in Genesis 12:1-3?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

God did something unique when making His contract or covenant with God.

Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, terror and great darkness fell upon him. Genesis 15:12

Exercise 11 - God did something unique in His covenant with Abraham.
What was it?

God alone would keep this promise as an unconditional covenant. God's promise to the patriarchs is an everlasting covenant and brought hope to humanity. The patriarchs were the forefathers of the nation of Israel.

Exercise 12 - Who were the four great patriarchs?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Isaac was the promised son of Abraham, born when Abraham was one hundred years old and Sarah was ninety years old. The miraculous birth of Isaac initiated the Messianic line and foreshadowed the miraculous birth of Jesus.

Years later Abraham passed God's test of faith when God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac on Mt. Moriah (Genesis 22:1-6). Instead God provided the lamb which was another foreshadowing of Jesus, the Lamb of God.

The younger twin of Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob, would continue the promise. From the marriages to Leah and Rachel (and from their hand maids) came the twelve sons who would become the ancestors of the twelve tribes of Israel (Genesis 29:1 - 30:4).

Jacob promised that the scepter of leadership would go to Judah, one of Leah's children (Genesis 49:10). This was a Messianic promise for the birth of Jesus. During period of severe drought, Joseph relocates his entire family to Egypt where they survived the drought and were blessed for many years until they were enslaved.

Exodus

God call Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt. The Israelites had been enslaved in Egypt for over 400 years. They entered Egypt as a family and leave Egypt as a nation. An entire race of people sheds their shackles of slavery, migrates to a new country and continues to a new life as a nation and a new society.

Through a series of plagues, the institution of the Passover, the Exodus from Egypt and the parting the Red Sea, the Israelites are free from their bondage and out of Egypt.

Upon their arrival at Mt. Sinai, they receive God's laws and commandments, the Ten Commandments. These become the basis of Israelite society. This begins a new dispensation or era in God's plan for His people, the time known as The Law.

The provisions of the Mosaic Covenant explained in Exodus 19-40 explain the theocratic organization and social structure under God's sovereign kingship. God provides the Ten Commandments as the way for people to live in a covenant relationship with Him. The commandments make it possible for sinful people to live with a holy God in their midst.

Exercise 13 - The Ten Commandments

Please review Exodus 20:1-17 and answer the following questions.

1. The first four commandments have to do with our relationship with _____.
2. The second six commandments have to do with our relationship with _____.

God's relationship with His people has two parts: the Ten Commandments and God's own presence. God wants to dwell with His people. The tabernacle is instituted and represents God's desire to dwell among His people. More space in the Bible is devoted to the description of the Tabernacle than any other topic than Christ.

Exercise 14 - The Tabernacle

The Tabernacle has three sections. Please review Exodus 40:4-15 and list the three sections below.

Tabernacle	Represents for Man
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____

_____ and his sons are anointed as priests establishing the Israelite priesthood. (Exodus 40:13-15). All priests appointed thereafter must descend from the Levite tribe. God is pleased with the Tabernacle and His _____ fills it.

*Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.
Exodus 40:34*

One of the most remarkable persons in the Bible is Moses. He takes a nation of slaves and molds them into a powerful nation that changed the course of history. The Mosaic Covenant offered Israel the opportunity to be the vessel God would use to communicate His redemptive plan to the rest of humanity. Moses is also the author of the first five books of the Old Testament.

Entering Caanan

It took only forty hours to get Israel out of Egypt, which is the Passover. But it took forty years of wandering in the wilderness before the Israelites were ready to enter the land God had promised to Abraham's descendants. (Genesis 15:18-21)

Exercise 15 - The Wilderness

Why did the Israelites have to wonder for forty years in the wilderness?

For the sons of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, until all the nation, that is, the men of war who came out of Egypt, perished because they did not listen to the voice of the Lord, to whom the Lord had sworn that He would not let them see the land which the Lord had sworn to their fathers to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. Joshua 5:6

shall by no means see the land which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who spurned Me see it. Numbers 14:23

And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief. Hebrews 3:19

God provided for the Israelites during their forty years of wondering in the wilderness. Now Joshua succeeded Moses to lead the Israelites into the land God promised to Abraham.

Through a series of great military conquests that depended on their resilience and faith in God they defeat even the walled city of Jericho. Once again God demonstrates His covenant promise of the land for His people.

Joshua divided the land among the twelve Israelites tribes according to God's directions. Joshua, a man of great faith urges the Israelites to keep trusting God and obeying His commands. (Joshua 24)

The land was given to them unconditionally (Genesis 15:16-18); their obedience determined God's continued blessing (Deuteronomy 6:10-19; 8:1-20; 28:1-26). The Israelite's failure to be obedient to God's commands and to maintain all they conquered leads to the chaotic era of the judges and kings.

Exercise 16 - Their desire

The Israelite's desire for _____ led to God granting their wish and appointing King Saul, who was ultimately defeated by the Philistines and died on a battlefield. (1 Samuel 31:1-13)

Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah; and they said to him, "Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations." 1 Samuel 8:4-5

The tribes of Gad, Reuben and half the tribe of Manasseh petitioned Moses to stay on the east side of the Jordan because the land looked very rich. Moses prayed about their request and then agreed. They did their part during the military conquest but then returned to the Golan Heights. It was the first region to fall to idolatry and the first to go into captivity. Today it is the vulnerable buffer between Israel and Syria.

Joshua, a man of great faith, a mighty warrior, led a victorious life in God. He was a divinely appointed leader who led the Israelites to their Promised Land.

Judges

Entering Caanan was a time of conquest that lasted about seven years (1406-1399 BC). The period that followed is long and known as a period of chaos and confusion. It lasts about 410 years.

After Joshua died, the Israelis tribes governed over their allotted territories in a loose tribal confederation. This time period revolves around six cycles of apostasy, distress and deliverance. Judges were raised up by God and empowered by the Spirit of God to bring deliverance to the Israelites from their enemies. God intervened many times to deliver Israel from military oppression, spiritual decline and physical annihilation keeping His covenant promises and the Messianic promise alive.

Exercise 17 - Period of the Judges

The story of Judges ends in spiritual, moral, and social chaos. How does the Bible describe this time period?

*In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.
Judges 17:6*

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

The light and hope during the days of the judges is the story of Ruth's commitment to Yahweh, the God of Israel. Her determination to follow Naomi to Bethlehem led to her marriage to Boaz. They became the great grandparents of David, Israel's greatest king. (Ruth 4:13-22) The stage is now set for the arrival of Samuel, the prophet. Samuel would help usher in the kings of Israel.

Kings of Israel

The Israelites insisted on selecting a king. They wanted a visible and powerful king like the Gentile nations surrounding them. The people's choice for a king was Saul.

Exercise 18 - The People's choice

What qualities did the people focus on for their king?

He had a son whose name was Saul, a choice and handsome man, and there was not a more handsome person than he among the sons of Israel; from his shoulders and up he was taller than any of the people. 1 Samuel 9:2

Samuel had a message for the Israelites when they requested a human king. What was his message?

But you have today rejected your God, who delivers you from all your calamities and your distresses; yet you have said, 'No, but set a king over us!' Now therefore, present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and by your clans." 1 Samuel 10:19

Saul did unite the twelve tribes into a united nation. Over time Saul's disobedience and poor leadership caused the kingdom of Israel to deteriorate.

What ultimately happened to Saul?

*"For rebellion is as the sin of divination,
And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry.
Because you have rejected the word of the Lord,
He has also rejected you from being king." 1 Samuel 15:23*

This time God selects the next King, which is David. David's victory over Goliath leads Saul to a murderous rage, sends David into hiding and eventually leads to Saul and his son Jonathan's death at a battle against the Philistines.

David is initially anointed king over the tribe of Judah at Hebron and then eventually over all of Israel at the age of thirty-seven (2 Samuel 5:1-4). David quickly captured Jerusalem and made it the capital of all Israel. Eventually the ark of the Covenant was moved to the capitol city.

Under David's leadership Israel prospered and won military victories over Philistia, Moab, Ammon, Aram and Edom. Israel extended their borders and received the Davidic Covenant from God.

Exercise 19 - The Davidic Covenant

What did God promise David?

I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth. I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly, even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies.

The Lord also declares to you that the Lord will make a house for you. When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.”” 2 Samuel 7:9-16

Urged by the prophet Nathan, David names his son Solomon to succeed him as King. (1 Kings 1:1-2:12). God blessed Solomon greatly with wisdom, prosperity, international fame and the construction of the Temple.

Sadly, over the years, Solomon’s heart grew away from the Lord and his empire began to disintegrate. His political marriages and attempts to keep peace with surrounding countries caused him and the nation to accommodate other gods and their pagan religious practices.

Solomon’s son Rehoboam became king of Israel in 931 BC. He was young, inexperienced and made some rash decisions that led to the revolt and split of the Northern Kingdom from the nation of Israel. The bible shows that all nineteen of the subsequent Northern Kings were ungodly. They were destroyed by the Assyrians in 722 BC.

In Judah, the Southern Kingdom, there were some great and godly kings such as Asa, Hezekiah and Josiah; out of twenty kings there eight godly and 12 ungodly kings. As time went on reforms implemented by the godly kings could not fully turn the Southern

Kingdom from their rebellion and wickedness. The Babylonians attacked Jerusalem three times: 605BC, 597 BC and 586 BC. During the last attack Jerusalem and the Temple were completely destroyed. The great United Kingdom established by David and Solomon was demolished by a series of corrupt leaders who fell under God's judgment.

The Exile

The destruction and subsequent exile of the Jews from their homes in both the Northern and Southern Kingdom's came as a result of the people's rebellion toward God and His commandments. Time and time again God sent His prophets to warn the peoples to turn from their rebellion and wicked ways or God would send His judgment on them including their destruction and exile.

Although many in the the Southern Kingdom lost their lives, many were exiled to Babylon for seventy years, along with God's promise given through the prophets of their return to their land. There would be a time of ultimate fulfillment of God's covenant with Abraham and David. God had not forgotten them.

The people in the Northern Kingdom were taken into captivity by the Assyrians and remained in captivity and then were scattered throughout the nations. They never returned to Jerusalem.

The Israelites entered the Promised Land around 1400 BC. They were deported to Babylon around 600 BC. The chart below shows the three phases of exile to Babylon.

Southern Kingdom

Phase	Year	Key Figures to Babylon
1st Phase	606 BC	Daniel, the wealthy, prominent citizens
2nd Phase	597 BC	King Johoichin & Ezekiel
3rd Phase	586 BC	King Zedekiah

The number of Jews returning will be about 50,000, the godly remnant.

God sent His prophets to preach to their own generation and to future generations through their predictions during the Kingdom Era, the Exile and beyond. The prophets proclaimed messages that were direct revelations from God.

In the Bible, there are five major prophets and twelve minor prophets. Below is a chart showing the prophets and their major theme.

Major Prophets

Isaiah	God is with us
Jeremiah	The Babylonians are coming & Jerusalem is burning
Ezekiel	The glory will return
Daniel	The Messiah will come

Minor Prophets

The writings of the Minor Prophets span the time from the Assyrian threat to the Babylonian captivity and beyond to the post-exile return.

Minor Prophets to the Northern Kingdom

Hosea	Unquenchable love
Amos	Ultimate justice
Jonah	Universal concern

Minor Prophets to the Southern Kingdom

Joel	Day of the Lord
Obadiah	Doom of Edom
Micah	Divine lawsuit
Nahum	Destruction of Nineveh
Habakkuk	Destruction of Babylon
Zephaniah	Disaster is imminent

Prophets in Chronological Order

Obadiah	850-840 BC
Joel	835-800 BC
Jonah	780-775 BC
Amos	c. 750 BC
Hosea	750-710 BC
Micah	740-710 BC
Isaiah	740-680 BC
Nahum	c. 650 BC
Zephaniah	635-625 BC

Habakkuk	610-605 BC
Ezekiel	590-570 BC
Jeremiah	610-570 BC
Daniel	560-530 BC
Haggai	c. 520 BC
Zechariah	480-470 BC
Malachi	433-424 BC

Adapted From: Charting the Bible Chronologically: A Visual Guide to God's Unfolding Plan

The messages of the prophets echo throughout time, calling us today, just as they did to the generations they were spoken to: repent, believe, return and experience God's grace. Their message is one of hope for salvation and restoration.

Israel Restored - Decree of Cyrus

The kingdom of man began with the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11. God began His counter-Kingdom the Kingdom of God, with the call of Abraham. God's city is Jerusalem.

God used His arch-enemy Babylon to discipline His people in Judah. After the seventy year captivity was completed God made it possible for the people of Judah to return to their land.

Those who had escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon; and they were servants to him and to his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its sabbaths. All the days of its desolation it kept sabbath until seventy years were complete. 2 Chronicles 36:20-21

This whole land will be a desolation and a horror, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years. Jeremiah 25:11-12

"For thus says the Lord, 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you,' declares the Lord, 'and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,' declares the Lord, 'and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.' Jeremiah 29:10-14

The Persian Empire arose after Cyrus defeated Babylon. The Decree of Cyrus released the Jews to return and rebuild the Temple. Cyrus even gave them financial assistance. In AD 536, under the leadership of Zerubbabel, 49,697 people returned to Jerusalem. Around 80 years later about 50,000 returned under Ezra's leadership.

Through a series of events, Nehemiah, a high ranking Jewish official in Persia, is granted authority to rebuild the city of Jerusalem, including their protective outer wall. Nehemiah and the people finish and dedicate the walls of Jerusalem. (Nehemiah 12:27-47).

Ezra, the priest and scribe, then calls the Jewish people together and reads the scrolls to call the people to repentance, to follow God's commandments, and to restore religious practices. As we learned earlier Ezra is also credited with establishing the canon, the official version of the Old Testament.

Many Jews choose to stay in the nations they had settled in during the exile. They were comfortable in their new homes and had built businesses. The ones who did return to their homeland returned to hardship and destruction.

Silent Years

There is a period of time between the Old and New Testament that has been called the silent years or the Inter-Testament period. There were no messages from prophets during this time period, thus the term silent years. The remnant Jews who wished to return to the Promised Land have returned and they build the second temple. The Persians are now ruling over Israel.

There is a period of about four hundred years between the Old and New Testaments. When the New Testament begins, the Romans are now ruling the world. The time between can be divided into four periods:

Late Persian	400-323 BC
Greek Period	323-167 BC
Period of Independence	167-63 BC
Roman Period	63 BC - AD 325

Adapted From: Charting the Bible Chronologically: A Visual Guide to God's Unfolding Plan

Greek Period

The Jews enjoyed a time of relative peace and prosperity during the Persian rule. However, Alexander the Great, at the age of 21, set out to destroy Persia and take over the Middle East. He also founded many Greek cities and colonies, such as Alexandria, Egypt, and Greek became the international language from Athens to India.

Following Alexander's death in Babylon at age thirty three in 323 BC his generals divided the Greek (Hellenistic) empire into four regions:

- Greece
- Macedonia
- Egypt
- Babylonia

Over time the Jews were caught between the rulers in Egypt and Syria (the Selencids). The Egyptians allowed the Jews to maintain their religious practices. Even so, the Greek customs became more common and they continued to speak Greek. It was during this period that the Hebrew Bible was translated into Greek and became known as the Septuagint.

Period of Independence

The Jews eventually revolted against the Seleucids and captured Jerusalem. Antiochus IV Epiphanes attempted to impose Hellenistic culture and religion on the Jews and desecrated the Temple in 167 BC by erecting a statue of Zeus and sacrificing pigs on the altar. This triggered the Maccabean Revolt, led by Judah Maccabee. The Temple was then cleansed and rededicated on the 25th day of the month of Kislev in 167 BC. According to the Hebrew calendar this date can fall from late November to late December. This event is commemorated today by the Jews as the Feast of Hanukkah, also known as Festival of Lights.

Later, a civil war between Jewish brothers, Hyrcanus II and Aristobulus II, about their right to the political throne of Judea led to Pompey intervening and naming neither as King. Instead he named Antimatter, the Idumaen (Edomite) who was of Edom and Arabian descent.

A descendant of Antimatter, Herod, would rule over Judea from 40 BC to 4 BC. Herod, brilliant but a tyrant, ruled over Judea, Samira, Galilee, Petrea, and Idumea with an iron fist.

In an attempt to gain favor with the Jews, Herod remodeled and expanded the Second Temple into a glorious sanctuary.

Jesus - Period of Grace

Birth, Resurrection & Ascension of Christ

At last, the long awaited Messiah has come. The One who was not only at Creation, but created all things, the One who was foretold by prophets, enacted by Abraham, Joseph, and Boaz. The promised Savior, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace has arrived. The One who will fulfill the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants will establish and uphold justice and righteousness forevermore.

All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. John 1:3

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. Colossians 1:16-17

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this. Isaiah 9:6-7

From the beginning to the end, the Old Testament consistently predicts the coming of Jesus Christ, the Jewish Messiah. As predicted he came from the seed of the woman, son of Abraham, tribe of Judah, born of a virgin in Bethlehem, betrayed for thirty pieces of silver, pierced through His hands and so much more.

He came from heaven, is equal with God, is the very incarnation of God. He is fully human and fully divine and possesses the power and authority of God. He came to die on a cross for forgiveness of our sin before God, so that everyone has the opportunity to accept Him as Lord and Savior and spend eternity with Him in heaven. He is the Second Person in the Trinity, Jesus Christ.

Exercise 20 - Jesus' Ascension

In the book of John, we learn that Jesus was resurrected and ascended into heaven for what reason?

"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. John 14:1-3

Jesus was resurrected to go and prepare a place for us in heaven and so that the Holy Spirit could come and indwell us. His ascension into heaven assures we have a _____ who understands us so that we may receive _____ and find grace to _____ in time of need.

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:14-16

His birth was not welcomed by some, just as His ministry was not received by some. When the wise men arrived in Jerusalem looking for the baby who had been born, "king of the Jews", Herod, the Edomite ordered the execution of all male babies in the village of Bethlehem (Matthew 2:2). Forewarned by an angel, Jesus' family fled to Egypt. They would later return to raise Jesus in Nazareth in Galilee.

Below is a summary of Jesus' earthly life and ministry.

Birth at Bethlehem	c. 4 BC
Visit to temple at age 12	c. AD 8
Baptism by John the Baptist	AD 29
Calling the disciples	AD 29
Ministry in Samaria & Galilee	AD 30
Great Galilean ministry	AD 31
Sermon on the Mount	AD 31
Feeding of the 5000	AD 32

Travels to Phoenicia & Decapolis	AD 32
Transfiguration	AD 32
Feast of Tabernacles	AD 32
Later Judean ministry	AD 33
Later Perean ministry	AD 33
Triumphal entry	AD 33
Crucifixion	AD 33
Resurrection	AD 33
Ascension	AD 33

Adapted From: Charting the Bible Chronologically: A Visual Guide to God's Unfolding Plan

During His ministry on earth, many were healed, saved, accepted and received Him as their Lord and Savior. But many despised Him and He would suffer a terrible death on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven, we could have a new life here on earth, and then spend eternity with Him and holy God in heaven.

Jesus selected and ministered with twelve disciples who would begin the New Testament Church. Jesus left His disciples with the same message we have today.

Exercise 21 - Jesus' Final Instructions

What instruction did Jesus give His disciples that still applies today to us?

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

Matthew ends his book with the Great Commission to go to others with the Gospel, teach and guide others to follow Jesus' teachings, to be baptized as a commitment to Christ, and to be obedient to His commands.

Diaspora - Destruction of Jerusalem

Some begin the Jewish Diaspora when Nebuchadnezzar took the inhabitants of Jerusalem into captivity in 587-6 BC. This was the destruction of the first Temple. Still others begin the Diaspora when Rome demolished the Jewish Temple in 70 AD.

The word diaspora means a scattering or dispensing according to Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Whether one views one, two, three or more scatterings of the Jewish people it is a significant time in Jewish history. It highlights the endurance of the Jewish people despite centuries of dispersion and the resulting blurring of their natural characteristics.

The Diaspora is a fulfillment of prophecy. Many of the Old Testament prophets foretold of the exile of the Jews under Nebuchadnezzar and Jesus told what was going to happen to Jerusalem and His heart ached (Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21). The Jewish peoples return to their land and establishment of a nation again in 1948 marks the preparation for the End Times which is explored in the Future Promise section of this study. It is the beginning of the ultimate fulfillment of the Abrahamic and Davidic covenant. God has not forgotten His people even though there was a period they were scattered among the nations.

We learned earlier that after the Jews returned to Jerusalem they re-built the Temple but over the years were under several different Gentile rulers including Persians, Greeks and then the Romans.

The Diaspora years can generally be divided into the following periods:

135 - 638	Roman & Byzantine Era
638 - 1099	Muslim Domination
1099 - 1291	Crusader Period
1187 - 1517	Saladin & Mamluk Periods
1517 - 1917	Ottoman Turkish Period
1917 - 1947	British Rule

Adapted From: Charting the Bible Chronologically: A Visual Guide to God's Unfolding Plan

Roman Era 135 - 638

Augustus Caesar and the Romans are ruling over Israel at the beginning of the New Testament. At that time Israel was divided into several areas including Judea, Samaria,

Galilee, Perea, Decapolis. Israel religious leaders including the Sadducees, Pharisees, Herodians, and the Essenes were all striving for leadership among the Jews. This was the era that Jesus was born.

The Romans persecuted Jews primarily due to religious and political tensions. The Jews refused to worship the many Roman gods, including the emperor. Further their customs and practices such as dietary restrictions and circumcision were seen as a threat to Roman authority and society. The Jews revolted a number of times under Roman rule.

The first Jewish Roman War was from 66-73 AD. The Jewish uprising against Roman rule started a brutal and devastating war. The Romans laid siege to Jerusalem which resulted in destruction of the second Temple in 70 AD. Known as the Siege of Jerusalem, it resulted in profound tragedy for the Jewish people. Romans mercilessly sacked and burned Jerusalem and the Temple was destroyed. Survivors were enslaved or forced into exile. Records of the priesthoods and tribes were demolished and Judaism was changed. But as we will see in the Future Promise section of this study, God knows who belongs to which of the twelve Tribes and will raise up 12,000 from each Tribe to spread the Gospel during the Tribulation Period. Today, the Western wall of this temple survives and is the holiest site in Judaism.

In 72 AD, a group of Jewish rebels led by Eleazar ben Yair, numbering in the one hundreds, found refuge within the fortress of Masada. They were zealots who were determined to fight for freedom at all costs and so they did. In the final days of the siege, they took their own lives rather than become Roman prisoners. The survivors of the war were taken as slaves or scattered through out the Roman Empire.

The second Jewish Roman War was from 115-117 AD. There were widespread Jewish uprisings against Roman Oppression. The Roman response was brutal which led to loss of countless Jewish lives and displacement of more Jewish people.

The third Jewish Roman War was from 132-136 AD. The Jewish rebels gained control of Jerusalem only to be crushed in 136 AD. The consequences were severe with enforced oppressive measures to stop any further rebellion. The Romans renamed the province of Judea as “Syria Palaestina” to erase the Jewish identity of the region. These three wars laid the groundwork for the Jewish Diaspora.

Muslim Domination 638 - 1099

Muslim armies defeated the Romans in 638 and took Jerusalem. The Mosque of Omar (Dome of the Rock) and the al-Aqsa Mosque were built on the Temple Mount during the 7th century. These structures still stand today, nearly 1300 years later, as symbols of Muslim domination and influence. Their presence has prevented the Jews from rebuilding the Temple on this holy site.

Crusader Period 1099 - 1291

European Catholic warriors conquered Jerusalem after nearly one hundred years of fighting. They wanted to take back the Holy Land from the Muslims who had desecrated Christian sites including the tomb of the Holy Sepulcher. Both Muslims and Jews were slaughtered by the over zealous crusaders. The Roman Catholic Church established the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem.

Saladin & Mamluk Periods 1187 - 1517

Saladin defeated the crusaders at the Horns of Hittim in Galilee in 1187. It was a renewed call for jihad or Holy War and six months later they over took Jerusalem, restoring Muslim control. Saladin's nephew ordered the depopulation of the city and destruction of the city walls in order to keep the crusaders out. By 1260 Jerusalem came under control of the Mumluks from central Asia. By 1291 the crusaders were driven out of the Holy Land.

Ottoman Turkish Period 1517 - 1917

Suleiman the Magnificent conquered Jerusalem in 1517 and rebuilt it as Turkish Muslim city. The city walls were completed and still stand today. Jews were forbidden to pray at the Western Wall of the Temple Mount. In the nineteenth century, Turkey became more Western oriented and permitted some Christians and Jews to settle in Jerusalem.

British Rule 1917 - 1947

During WWI the Turks sided with Germany and Kaiser Wilhem. At the end of the war the Allied powers took Turkey's holdings in the Middle East and Palestine was placed under British rule.

Modern Israel: 1948 - Present

The British withdrew in May 1948 and on May 14, 1948, the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel was proclaimed. Israel is a nation again and all prophecy has ben fulfilled until Jesus returns.

*“Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things?
Can a land be born in one day?
Can a nation be brought forth all at once?
As soon as Zion travailed, she also brought forth her sons. Isaiah 66:8*

The wars have not stopped over the fight for Jerusalem and the Promised Land. Against all odds, Israel continues to win:

- War of Independence when attacked by combined armies of Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq
- Six Day War in 1967 against Egypt, Syria and Jordan, recapturing the city of Jerusalem for the first time since the Roman era.
- Three Week Yom Kippur War taking possession of the Golan Heights.
- Gulf War in 1991, in which Israel drove Iraq out of occupied Kuwait.
- 2014 destroyed dozens of Palestinian invasion underground tunnels at the Israeli border.
- October 7, 2023, Gaza Conflict War in which Israel responded to the terrorist group Hamas’ killing of Israeli citizens and taking of Israeli hostages with a major offensive strike in Gaza and bombing of Iran, the financial backer of Hamas, to stop the imminent threat of nuclear destruction of the US and Israel.

One of the most significant changes for the Jewish people during the Diaspora years was they they no longer had a Temple, nor a place to worship, nor a place to sacrifice and that God was no longer living in their midst.

As they settled in their new countries or remained in Jerusalem or Judea they built synagogues as a place for worship of God, without sacrifices. The synagogues also provided a place for instruction of God’s Word. The worship and many of the religious events as set forth in the Law could only be performed in the Temple in Israel.

The ability of Jewish communities to adapt, survive and thrive in the face of adversity has been a testament to their resilience and enduring nature as God’s chosen people.

When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, “If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.” Luke 19:41-44

“Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city, so that upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’” Matt 23:34-39

We will soon study God’s plan to fulfill the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants restoring all their land, making them a great nation, restoring David’s throne forever and so much more.

The Church

Church history can generally be divided into four periods:

Early Church AD	33 - 600
State Church (Medieval Church)	500 - 1500
Reformation	1500 - Present
Modern Church	1900 - Present

Adapted From: Charting the Bible Chronologically: A Visual Guide to God’s Unfolding Plan

Exercise 22 - The Early Church (fill in the blanks)

The Day of _____ (Acts 2) is usually considered the birth of the Church.

The early church was first established in _____ and then spread to Judea and Samaria, then globally.

Acts 1:8 contained the _____, which was the marching order for the Church. Two thousand years later it remains the Church’s mission.

but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” Acts 1:8

_____ spent forty days teaching truths concerning the Kingdom of God

after He was resurrected.

To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. Acts 1:3

The _____ was never spoken of in the Old Testament. It was kept

_____ as a mystery until revealed through the apostle Paul.

Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith; Romans 16:25-26

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace which was given to me for you; that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God’s grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. Ephesians 3:1-10

that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Colossians 1:26-27

_____ from Jerusalem and throughout Israel made up the early church. Early

leaders and members faced persecution from the leaders of _____.

_____ was the first martyr of the Church (Acts 8). _____ one of the

most zealous persecutors of the people in the early church was converted on the road to

_____.

Paul would go on to spread the gospel into the _____ world. During his

ministry Paul made three major missionary journeys. First he went to _____ ,

Cyprus, his hometown and then to various cities in Galatia. (Acts 13-14)

Paul's second missionary trip he revisited the churches he established on his first trip and then on then went on to Macedonia, Greece, Thessaloniki, Berea, Athens and Corinth where he established many more churches. (Act 15-18).

On his third missionary trip, Paul went to Greece, Asia Minor, and what is now western Turkey. (Acts 18:23-21:26)

After Jesus' ascension, His disciples became His Apostles, with Paul taking the place of Judas, teaching, preaching, establishing churches, healing the sick and writing letters to the various early churches. These letters addressed salvation, the Kingdom of God, eternity, faith, justification, how to live the Christian life in their various situations and how to deal with persecution and other topics important to the Christian life. The letters also included the words of Jesus, spoke of the future time periods including the Rapture, Tribulation Period, Millennial Kingdom and eternity.

The apostolic era of the early church lasted until John died in about 90 AD. Their letters to the various churches later would be canonized by church leaders who came after the Apostles and studied for generations to come until Jesus returns.

Some of the earliest leaders in the church after the Apostles died (post-Apostolic period) included Clement of Rome (died in 99), Ignatius of Antioch (35-107), Polycarp of Smyrna (69-156). These three left a lasting imprint on the Church and all died as martyrs.

Persecution would continue for the Church along with the formal division of the church into the Western Church and the Eastern Church in 1054. Gnosticism was one of the earliest heresies to plague the church. It taught that the physical is corrupt and spiritual is holy and pure.

There were a number of councils established over the years to address and record various teachings of the Bible, such as the nature and diety of Christ. Augustine was perhaps the most significant theologian, author and pastor of the post Apostolic era in the early church. Many of his writings are stilled utilized in the church today.

State Church (Medieval Era)

The Middle Ages period began with the fall of the Western Roman Empire and ended with the Protestant Reformation. During the Medieval era the power of the papacy grew and the Biblical Gospel decreased. God preserved His remnant throughout the time period until the Gospel was restored with the Protestant Reformation.

After the fall of the Western Roman Empire, Western Europe turned to various regional kingdoms and tribal leaders for political stability. As a result the Pope (Bishop of Rome) became a dominant figure in the life of the church and in politics. The number of monasteries grew rapidly feeding the hungry, hosting pilgrims, caring for the sick, and providing education.

The papacy continued to grow in power and especially involved in political affairs. Military campaigns were conducted against the growing threat of Islam. There were rivalries for Popes in various countries, demands for more financial contributions, sale of indulgences and more. The Latin translation of the Bible was the main translation available.

As a result there were increasing numbers of clergy and lay people calling for church reform. One was John Wycliffe (1330-84) who is referred to as the morning star of the Reformation. The combination of moral corruption, theological error and social and political anxiety set the stage for the Reformation of the Western Church.

Reformation

The Protestant Reformation protested the issue of justification by faith alone, challenging many dogmas that emerged in Rome, especially during the Middle Ages. The Reformation's roots were in a deep and serious individual study of the Bible.

As a result of Martin Luther's writings, the Reformation swept through Germany and then to the Huguenots in France, to Scotland, England, Switzerland, Hungary and Holland. John Knox led the movement in Scotland and John Calvin in Switzerland.

The Reformers called the church to return to the pure Gospel of the New Testament. They were severely persecuted, burned alive, and ran out of their own countries. In 1534 King Henry VIII resisted the authority of Rome, establishing and becoming the head of the Anglican Church. The bloody persecutions of evangelicals continued.

Persecutions were suspended under Queen Elizabeth I. Reformation spread to Scotland and Geneva. In the seventeenth century the Reformation spread to the new world with the arrival of the Pilgrims and colonies of the Puritans.

Modern Church Era

Reformation theology dominated Protestant evangelicalism for decades but by the nineteenth century, dispensational and Neo Pentecostal Charismatic churches dominated in America. Fueled by the Bible School movement, prophecy, and the preaching of men like DL Moody, dispensationalism gathered support. This theology was forged by men who had their roots predominately in Reformation thought, especially salvation by saving faith in Jesus alone. Today there are many varieties of denominational and non-denominational churches.

Future Promise

In God's timing and according to His will, God will bring forth His future final plan for all people and the world. The story is told in the Book of Revelation and many of the Old Testament Prophets. The believers in Christ (the Church) will be raptured to heaven, the Holy Spirit (the restrainer) will be removed from the earth and then a seven-year period of intense suffering and tribulation will occur as Satan takes his last stand on earth. Jesus Christ will return in all His glory to conquer Satan and all evil culminating in a one-thousand rule on earth to fulfill the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants then ushering in the Eternal State where believers from all generations will spend eternity in the new heavens and earth with God and Jesus.

Rapture of the Church

Exercise 23 - The Church

Prior to the Tribulation Period in which God pours out His wrath on an unbelieving world, there will be a change with the church. What will happen?

For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. Romans 5:9

Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Revelation 3:10

Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but

we will all be changed, in a moment in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. 1 Corinthians 15:50-53

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:14-19

The believing Church will be raptured to Heaven so as not to endure the wrath of God prior to the start of the Tribulation. At the Rapture we see Jesus coming from Heaven to collect His saints; those who believe in Him. His coming will be so fast if you blink your eyes you may not see it. First the bodies of the dead in Christ will come out their graves and resting places; their bodies will ascend from the earth and their spirits will descend from Heaven. Then those who are alive and believe in Him will also meet Him in the air to be with the Lord forever. We will also be with all of our deceased loved ones who are believers forever.

Christ will honor us with the diplomatic protocol of antiquity. The city magistrate would welcome a visiting guest outside the wall of the city, walk in through the city gates and then continue the formalities. Christ will come out of Heaven to greet us before taking us with Him into Heaven. At that moment, our reunion will be complete with Christ, there will be no subsequent parting and we will spend eternity in uninterrupted union and communion with our Lord.

During the Rapture the Lord does not return to earth so this is not to be confused with His second coming as described in Revelation. The Rapture ends the Church Age and believers will receive imperishable bodies in preparation to spend eternity with the Lord in Heaven forever.

There is no sign or event that must take place before the Rapture. Some day, some hour, some minute, God will say to His Son, Jesus Christ, "Son go get your bride." In the twinkling of eye, no sign, no warning, the Archangel will shout, the trumpet of God will resound and the Lord will descend to collect His believers. This will usher in the Tribulation Period, which the dead in Christ and believers alive at the time of Christ's coming will not be a part of. We are promised that we will not incur the wrath of God.

At the Rapture we will be with the Lord forever and *the beginning of all things* will begin. First we will receive our rewards at the Judgement Seat of Christ and then we will be the guests of honor at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. We will return with Christ at the end of the Tribulation Period as He conquers Satan and the evil world to usher in the Millennial Kingdom. After the final rebellion on earth and judgment of the nonbelievers we will enter the Eternal State and abide with God and Christ in the new Heavens and new Earth forever.

Paul understood the implications of this sign-less event. It means that we must be ready for the Lord's return at any time and at all times. Thus, he urged his protege Titus to be:

looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, Titus 2:13

So should we be also!

Tribulation Period

The Tribulation Period described in the Book of Revelation, is a future seven-year period of intense suffering, persecution and divine judgment upon the earth and the peoples of the earth. It is a time of unprecedented hardship, including wars, famines, disease, and natural disasters, culminating in the Second Coming of Christ who will then usher in the Millennial Period in which the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants will be fulfilled.

During this time period evil will spread without restraint. Satan and his Anti-christ will persecute and slaughter more believers than during any other time period in history. God will pour out His wrath on an unbelieving and evil world in a series of scroll, bowl and trumpet judgements. At the same time God will raise up many, including 144,000 Jewish believers (12,000 each from the twelve Jewish Tribes), two witnesses to preach in Jerusalem, and eagles flying overhead to spread the Gospel so that more people will become believers in Christ during the Tribulation Period than in any other time period.

God will use a series of unprecedented hardships, wars, and disasters to reach people so that all can be saved. Sadly many continue to reject Christ during this seven year time period and suffer the consequences of eternal separation from God.

At the end of the seven-year period Christ returns in all His glory accompanied by His bride, the Church, conquers evil and death, and ushers in the Millennial Period. Beautiful songs,

worship in heaven, and the throne room of God are depicted throughout the Book of Revelation giving us a glimpse of heaven and eternity.

For the believers in Christ this will be a period of great celebration with the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and receiving their eternal rewards while in heaven. For the non-believers it will be a time of great and eternal sorrow as they are judged at the Great White Throne of Christ to spend eternity in Hell separated from Christ forever.

Millennial Period

Six times in Revelation 20 it is stated that there will be a literal thousand years in which Christ will reign on earth. In John's vision he sees only the fact and duration of the millennial kingdom. The character of Christ's reign on earth is fully described in many Old Testament passages such as Psalm 72, Isaiah 2:2-4; 11:4-9 and many others.

From these Scriptures we learn that Christ's dominion is from sea to sea, Jerusalem will be the capital, Israel is regathered from the various parts of the earth and brought back to her ancient land, Israel will be exalted and Gentiles will be blessed, the earth shall be full of the knowledge and glory of the Lord, there will be no war, there will be peace, justice, tranquility, prosperity, physical health and well being for all.

God's people will sit on thrones reigning with Christ. Satan will be bound and cast into the abyss and released at the end of the thousand years. Even though the initial inhabitants of the Millennial Kingdom will be redeemed, they will still possess a sinful nature and will pass that sin nature on to their children. Each generation born during the Millennial Kingdom will be in need of salvation. Despite the personal rule of Christ on earth, despite the most moral society the world will ever know, many will love their sin and reject Christ (Romans 8:7).

Satan will once again deceive the nations. Those who are not saved will be fertile soil for Satan to sow his seeds of rebellion. They will be just as unmoved by the peace, joy and righteousness of the Millennium as earlier sinners were by the devastating judgments of the Tribulation (Revelation 9:20-21; 16:9,11,21).

Vast numbers will join Satan in his final rebellion against God. The rebel forces will come up on the plain surrounding Jerusalem. Like Armageddon a thousand years earlier (Revelation 19:11-21), there will be no battle. Fire comes down from Heaven and destroys

God's enemies. They are instantly exterminated. Satan is thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and false prophet have been for one thousand years. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever (Revelation 20:10).

We now move to the most serious, sobering and tragic passage in the entire Bible. John describes a terrifying scene before him. Christ is seated on His throne of judgement and all the accused, the unsaved of all generations, are standing before Him. The verdict Jesus hands down from this throne will be absolutely just.

All the unsaved dead will be raised from the sea, the earth and Hades. They are given resurrection bodies suited for eternal punishment. They are summoned individually for their final sentence based on the book of life and the other books which are probably the divine records of their works.

The book of life will determine where they will spend eternity; their deeds will determine their degree of punishment in hell. All whose names are not recorded in the book of life were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death. Just as the new heaven and new earth are an eternal existence so is the lake of fire eternal for its inhabitants.

There is a clear over-riding message within the Book of Revelation: Good will triumph over evil, judgement will occur and the righteous will receive their rewards. Satan and all evil is conquered forever more.

Eternal State

John also describes another startling reality; the uncreation of the universe. The earth will still be tainted with sin and subject to the effects of the fall so it will be destroyed also. The present earth will not be moved or reshaped; it will go out of existence. In its place God will create a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21:1). History has ended, time will be no more, eternity has begun forever and ever.

God will create a new realm for the redeemed and the holy angels to dwell forever. Not much information is given about the new heaven and the new earth's characteristics, vegetation, color or form. However, enough information is given that we know that the ordering of the new heaven and new earth will be radically different from the present earth.

Exercise 24 - Twelve No Mores

There are a number of “No Mores” in the new heaven and new earth. See if you can identify twelve “No Mores.” Below are some Scriptures that list some the “No Mores.”

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. Revelation 21:22

And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; Revelation 21:23-25

And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever. Revelation 22:5

No more terminal diseases, hospitals, disabilities, or funerals. No more crime, courts or prisons. No more divorces, breakdowns or breakups. No more heart attacks, strokes, cancer or debilitating illnesses. No more doctors, medications or surgeries. No more decay, decline and no waste. No famines, plagues, hurricanes, tornadoes, or devastating disasters. No more murders, abuse, corruption, or crimes of any sort. All human experience related to the original creation is gone forever. God has made all things new.

Heaven's capital will be the New Jerusalem. It will be the third city named Jerusalem in redemptive history. The first is the historic Jerusalem, the City of David, which currently exists in Palestine. The second Jerusalem will be the restored Jerusalem where Christ will rule during the Millennial Kingdom. The New Jerusalem is called the holy city because everyone in it is holy (Revelation 20:6). Unlike the prior Jerusalem, the inhabitants in the new Jerusalem will live together in perfect harmony.

The supreme glory and joy of heaven is that God dwells there. No more will God be located far away from believers. No longer will His presence be veiled and no longer will believers not be able to behold His majestic glory. We will live in His glorious presence and enjoy His fellowship. We will see Him as He really is, worship Him, and serve Him.

The most distinguishing characteristic of the capital city is that it is the throne of God. As such it radiates God's glory so much so that it does not need any other light. The city is laid out as a square and has three gates on each side with an angel standing guard at each gate. The city walls are about 1,380 miles in each direction. Its length and width and height are equal. There will be plenty of room for all the redeemed.

The names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel are written on the gates. The foundation stones bear the names of the twelve apostles of Jesus. The gates were each made of a single gigantic pearl which would mean that they were nearly 1,400 miles high. The streets are made of pure gold. We will walk on the material we hold in highest esteem. Gold will be trodden upon like asphalt. There will be no vanity, no materialism, no envy or greed. Best of all, no one will be poor in a city that paves its streets with gold.

There will no longer be any curse and we will serve God for all eternity. His name will be on our foreheads and we will reign with Them. The city will be the dwelling place of the united people of God: Old and New Testament believers. The nations will be in the city as well as Israel and the Church. It is evident that the city is the dwelling place of the saints of all ages, the angels, and God Himself, forever.

Wrap Up

As we wrap up our study of the chronological time periods of the Bible, one can only be amazed at the sovereignty of God. His plan for the redemption of sinful mankind is laid out from Genesis to Revelation. No world events, world leaders, weather events, or catastrophes of any type can change His plan. No student of the Bible need be concerned for their future. God has made it clear. Those who have accepted Him as Lord and Savior will spend eternity with Him in the new heavens and the new earth. The Bible begins with the wonderful story of creation that God declared was good, continues with the struggles and triumphs of sinful man in their relationship to God, and culminates with a happy ending as sin and death are banished forever.

Answers to the Exercises

Exercise 10 - What are the three major provisions of the Abrahamic Covenant as stated in Genesis 12:1-3?

1. Land to Abram and his descendants (Israel)
2. A seed or descendants of Abraham
3. Worldwide blessing

Exercise 11 - God did something unique in His covenant with Abraham. What was it?

Only God signed the covenant. God put Abraham to sleep.

Exercise 12 - Who were the four great patriarchs?

1. Abraham
2. Isaac
3. Jacob
4. Joseph

Exercise 13 - The Ten Commandments

1. God
2. Each other

Exercise 14 - The Tabernacle

Tabernacle	Represents Man
1. Courtyard	Body
2. Holy Place	Soul
3. Holy of Holies	Spirit

Fill in the Blanks:

Aaron
glory

Exercise 15 - The Wilderness

Unbelief, Unfaithfulness (Unfaithful generation had to die)

Exercise 16 - Their Desire

A king like the other nations

Exercise 17 - The Judges

Everyone did what was right in their own eyes

Exercise 18 - People's choice

Choice, handsome and tall - physical characteristics

They rejected their God when they wanted a human king

Saul rejected God and God then rejected Saul as king

Exercise 19 - Davidic Covenant

God promised David fame, land, rest, seed, a kingdom, a throne and a dynasty forever

Exercise 20 - Jesus' Ascension

To prepare a place for us in heaven

Fill in the blanks:

High Priest, mercy, help us

Exercise 21 - Jesus Final Instruction

to go to others with the Gospel, teach and guide others to follow Jesus' teachings, to be baptized as a commitment to Christ, and to be obedient to His commands.

Exercise 22 - The Early Church (fill in the blanks)

Pentecost, Jerusalem, Great Commission, Jesus, Church, hidden, Jews, Judaism, Stephen, Saul, Damascus, Gentile, Antioch

Exercise 23 - The Rapture

The church will be raptured and believers in Christ will spend eternity with Jesus. The Church Age ends.

Exercise 24 - Twelve no mores

There are twelve "No Mores" in the new heaven and new earth:

1. No more sea - Life will no longer be dependent on water for survival. Believer's glorified bodies will not require water.
2. No more tears - Anything that brings sadness or pain will be gone.

3. No more death - The greatest curse of human existence will be gone.
4. No more mourning - Death will be no more.
5. No more crying - Grief and sorrow will not exist.
6. No more pain - There will be perfect holiness and absence of sin. There will be no suffering.
7. No more thirst - God will graciously quench all desires.
8. No more wickedness - All evil will be banished.
9. No more temple - The Father and Son are personally present. (Revelation 21:22)
10. No more night - God's glory will give eternal light. (Revelation 21:23-25; 22:5)
11. No more closed gates - God's doors will always be open as there is no evil.
12. No more curse - Christ's blood has forever lifted that curse.

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