

TRAVELLING THROUGH TIME WITH GOD

by Colin W. Lancashire

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A Summary of Our Journey
Further Reading and Study

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Dear Student

This course has been written with a clear conviction that the greatest knowledge a person can have is a knowledge of God. The highest level of human thought centres on God: who He is, what He has done, is doing and will yet do.

The Bible brings this knowledge to us. God desires to communicate with us for our enlightenment and blessing. He has not, therefore, presented us with a book of puzzles for us to solve as best we can. The Bible has been written to clarify and inform, not to mystify and mislead. God clearly intends us to understand what has been written, for He wishes to make Himself and His purposes known to us.

Our God is engaged in an eternal work with important events taking place during the ages of time. Divine purposes move ever onwards. They can never be defeated, deferred or deflected. The eternal God is steering the course of the ages with unerring precision, in spite of the way things often seem. The Bible presents to us the unfolding of these purposes, with God working progressively through time towards His desired end.

This course has these great truths in mind. It will take you on a journey - perhaps the most important journey of your life. As you travel you will visit many places and meet many people. The journey is a long one for it covers the whole of time, from its beginning in Genesis to its conclusion in Revelation. But the most important feature is that you will be travelling with God, for this is a journey through His book, the Bible, from the past, up to the present and on into the future.

We invite you to prayerfully take this journey and then to answer the questions by going to our website (www.emmausuk.co.uk) and clicking on the EXAM FORM.

Enter your answers and submit them for marking.

Emmaus Bible School

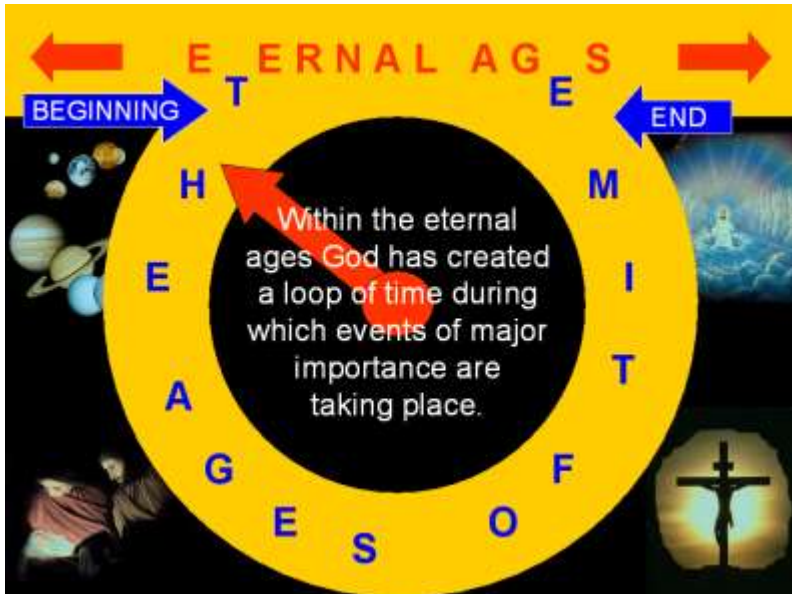
INTRODUCTION

GOD is eternal, **“the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy”** (Isaiah 57.15). He is timeless in His existence, limitless in His power, changeless in His character, boundless in His wisdom, faultless in His actions and ceaseless in His love.

In His divine purpose God has designed the ages of time – a short but highly significant interlude within the ages of eternity – in order to extend the sphere of His glory and of His love through His Son. God’s ultimate purpose is stated in Ephesians 1.10,

**‘That in the administration of the fullness of the times
He might gather together in one all things in Christ,
both which are in heaven and which are on earth even in Him.’**

Four major events in time centre around the Son of God, namely -
CREATION INCARNATION CRUCIFIXION EXALTATION



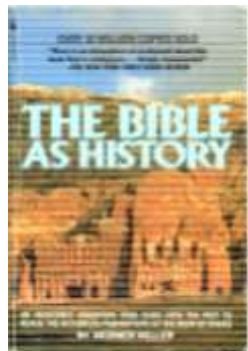
This study is divided into sixteen stages. Twelve in the Old Testament and four in the New Testament, which reflects the comparative lengths of the two testaments. The following chart shows these stages and the times, some approximate, which they cover.



1. THE BIBLE IS HISTORICALLY ACCURATE - the Past

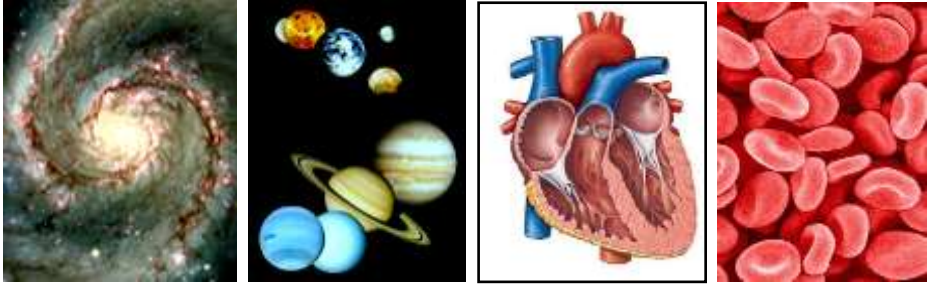
Numerous artefacts have been discovered which confirm the historical accuracy of the Bible. Werner Keller, in his book "*The Bible As History*", writes – "In view of the overwhelming mass of authentic and well-attested evidence now available, as I thought of the sceptical criticism which from the 18th century onwards would fain have demolished the Bible altogether, there kept hammering on my brain this one sentence :

‘The Bible is right after all’ ”.



2. THE BIBLE IS SCIENTIFICALLY ACCURATE - the Present

The Bible provides us with the best and most satisfying explanation for the existence of the universe, the earth and life itself, especially the existence and behaviour of man. Design is seen everywhere in the universe especially here on Earth. Whether you look through a tele-scope, a microscope or with the unaided eye there are numerous examples of pattern and design - and design requires a Designer.

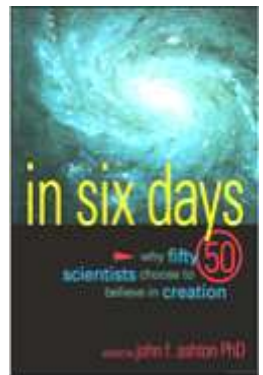


All living things show a highly complex system of structure and function which the evolutionary mechanism of random mutations and natural selection cannot explain. The former describe mistakes that happen by chance and the latter results in the loss, not the gain, of genetic material. Scientific investigation increasingly shows that biblical creation is a viable alternative to evolutionary theory.

Although many believe that evolutionary theory has dealt a death blow to the reliability of the Bible, there is a growing number of highly educated scientists who have serious doubts about evolution and many of them believe the biblical account of Creation.

There is now a vast amount of scientific literature which shows that a biblical world-view provides answers to many of the questions being asked today.

In this book, for example, fifty scientists explain their reasons for this choice. All the contributors have an earned doctorate from a State recognised university and include professors and researchers, geologists, zoologists, biologists, botanists, medical researchers, chemists mathematicians and engineers.



The editor writes, "Having reviewed the discussions posed by these scientists, in the light of my own education and experience, I am convinced that a literal understanding of the Genesis account of creation is the most reasonable explanation out of all the current theories of how we came to be here."

John Ashton PhD

3. THE BIBLE IS PROPHETICALLY ACCURATE - the Future

There are numerous prophecies and promises in the Bible, especially about Christ the Messiah, many of which have already been fulfilled and some await fulfilment. Here are just a few -

CHRIST TO BE ...	PROPHECY	FULFILMENT
Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7.14	Matthew 1:22/23
Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5.2	Matthew 2.4/5
Called out of Egypt	Hosea 11.1	Matthew 2.15
Anointed with the Spirit	Isaiah 11.2, 61.1	Math 3.16, John 3.34
Healer of the sick	Isaiah 53.4	Matthew 8.17
Hated without cause	Isaiah 49.7, Psa 69.4	John 15.24/25
Betrayed by a friend	Psalms 41.9, 55.12-24	Math 26.21, Jhn 13.18
Given vinegar to drink	Psalms 69.21	Matthew 27.34
Buried with the rich	Isaiah 53.9	Matthew 27.57-60

Jesus said, **“all things must be fulfilled, written in the law of Moses, and the prophets, and the psalms, concerning me.”** Luke 24.44

The most important statements as to the authority of the Bible are those found within itself. The words of Scripture are the product of the breath of God which means, therefore, that the Bible is of divine origin. The men God used to record His word were **“carried along”** (2 Peter 1.21) by the Holy Spirit, as a sailing ship is borne along by the wind. This does not mean that there was a mechanical transmission



of Scripture which suppressed the writers' own characters, but rather that the minds of the human authors were in willing and active co-operation with God. As a result the Bible is accurate and authoritative.



The events of the Bible centre around the eastern end of the Mediterranean. The land of Israel is at the centre of biblical events and of the promises of God. This small stretch of land is of great importance in both history and prophecy. Ten of the stages took place in specific areas, mainly in Israel, but the first and last three stages are worldwide in their extent and effect.

On our journey we will encounter both NATURAL and SUPERNATURAL events, and it is very important for us to understand the differences.

Evolutionary theory is firmly based on naturalism and the false assumption that everything in the universe can be explained through discoverable, natural laws. This makes belief in God unnecessary, which is what many would prefer.

Evolutionists see the universe as a self-determining and self-regulating natural system, so that all events and phenomenon are explained in terms of the factors within that system. The



The natural world, accessible to science, is all that there is - there is nothing outside. This is an unnecessarily restrictive belief: there is no sound reason for rejecting even the possibility of the existence of God. It is an act of irrational faith to conclude that the supernatural realm does not exist simply because science cannot access it. Such self-imposed restrictions to our thinking seriously inhibit our access to the whole panorama of truth as revealed by God in Scripture. The Bible speaks of events that cannot be attributed to natural causes. God has performed many miracles, starting with creation itself. Satan also has the power to cause supernatural events to occur as witnessed by those who practice spiritism today. (see Exodus 7.11, 22; 8.7).

- Evolution disguised as science, promotes the religion of naturalism.
- Naturalism excludes God; science does not.
- Science can help us to understand how the universe functions but not how it was formed.
- Science cannot be used to disprove the existence of God for it only operates in the natural world.
- For anything to begin in time something or Someone must exist in eternity.
- Genesis begins with God but God does not begin in Genesis,

Stage 1

CREATION (Genesis 1-2)



The biblical, creation account is an historical narrative which proceeds from the less complex to the more complex. It presents an ordered sequence of events which took place in close succession throughout the creation week and which culminated in the creation of man. God's progressive work here can be likened to the work of a potter as he forms his work on the wheel.

DAY 1 - EARTH PRODUCED - v1-5

God creates the universe bringing time, energy, space and matter into existence. He produces the Earth with its water and light.

DAY 2 - EARTH PARTITIONED - v6 - 8

God divided the waters with an expanse or sky in between.

DAY 3 - EARTH PREPARED - v9 -13

God shaped the unformed earth resulting in sea, land & vegetation.

DAY 4 - EARTH PROGRAMMED - v14 - 19

God created the sun, moon and stars to regulate life on earth.

DAY 5 - EARTH POPULATED - v20-23.

God began to fill the earth with life in the sea and in the air .

DAY 6 - EARTH POSSESSED - v24 - 31.

God created land animals and finally man as head over creation.

DAY 7 - EARTH PERFECTED - 2:1 God's six day work completed.

There is no sound, biblical reason for introducing vast time intervals between the verses or between the days, or for regarding the days as of indefinite length. Interpretations like these do not come from the Bible itself but are often imposed on the biblical text in an attempt to harmonize the account with perceived, evolutionary demands.

A plain, straightforward reading of the creation account makes it clear that God worked in stages from start to finish. At the end of each of the first five days the creation remained incomplete; it did not reach its final, finished state until the end of the sixth day.

The First Seven Words of Scripture

בראשית ברא אלהים את הסמים ואת הארע

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”

Evolutionary theory would seek to replace this statement with -

“In the beginning nothing exploded into something which eventually became everything.”

But this raises more questions than it answers. How, in the natural, scientific sphere, could something be produced from nothing in the first place, and how could the complexity of life be attributed to numerous chance events over millions of years? Such a belief system must surely be regarded as unscientific, unbiblical and therefore totally implausible and completely unacceptable. Every living creature has a story to tell about its Creator, and scientific discovery is continually adding more amazing detail.

The human brain, three pounds of the most complex material in the universe, is clearly the work of a highly intelligent Designer and could not possibly be regarded as the result of any evolutionary process, even over vast periods of time.



There are numerous examples of specialization in living things that could not have developed gradually but which needed to be fully formed and functional from the start to ensure the organism's survival. It is clearly evident that the earth is finely tuned for life. Everything that exists points continually to this conclusion - it is all meant to be here. A genuine searcher for truth, when confronted with all the evidence, will find the case for a Creator overwhelming.

Although relatively very small compared with the vast universe, the earth is central to God's purposes. Not only is man, God's masterpiece, here, but God Himself in the Person of His Son, Jesus Christ, came here, lived here, died here, returned to heaven from here and is coming back here.

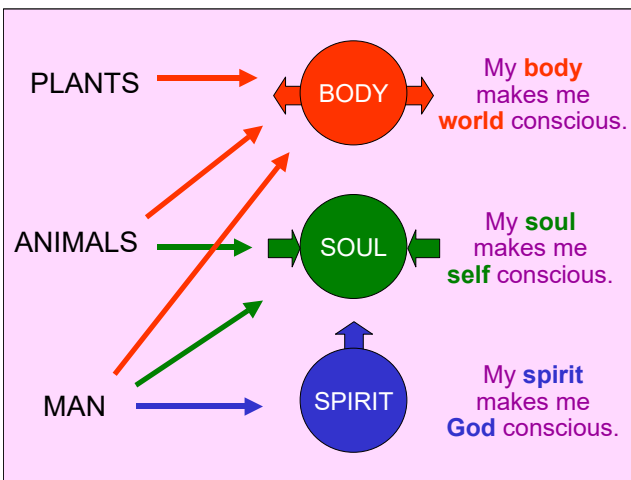
On day six, when the earth was fully prepared and ready, God said, **“Let us make man in our image, after our likenessso God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them”** Genesis 1.26

“the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and the man became a living soul.” Gen 2.7

The word **“image”** means to shade, so that as a shadow represents its substance, so man represents God on earth. The word **“likeness”** refers to spiritual similarity. We too are eternal beings like God (1 Tim 1.17).

Plants, animals and Man have similarities in structure but they are essentially different in the way and purpose for which they were made. Plants were made for food (Genesis 1.29/30)and their life and death is not the same as that of animals. There is also a clear distinction between the life and death of animals and that of Man (Math 10.31),who is a complex being distinct from all other forms of life. He is made up of three parts - **BODY**, **SOUL** and **SPIRIT** (1 Thessalonians 5.23).

My body enables me to interact with the environment using my five senses. It is described as, **“the earthly tent we live in”** (2 Cor 5.1). My soul is my unique self identity; it is the life force or factor and includes my emotions, thoughts and will. Man **“cannot kill the soul”** (Math 10.28),it lives on beyond the death of the body.



My spirit enables me to communicate with God and to confirm my relationship with Him as a Christian.

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God”.

Romans 8.16

"Thus (in this way) the heavens and the earth were finished" (Genesis 2:1). The earth was **FOUNDED, FORMED, FILLED** and **FINISHED** in **six** days. This is confirmed in Exodus 20.8-11 and 31.16/17 where we read, **"In six days the Lord made heaven and earth"**. Here the seventh day, the Sabbath day, is clearly a normal day of 24 hours and therefore, to be consistent, the other six days must be of the same duration.

It is very important to see that the New Testament confirms the accuracy of the Old Testament, for the two stand together. The Lord Jesus clearly regarded Adam, Eve, Abel and Noah as genuine historical characters and the events connected with creation, Satan's deception and the flood as being as historically accurate as any other Old Testament narrative. The One who spoke about these events which took place at the beginning was actually there Himself, not simply as a witness, but as the active Creator (John 1.3; Colossians 1.16), and therefore He would only give support to a record of any of those events if it was accurate and authoritative. The bible gives us a true record of real places, real people and real events.

As a pilot can fly manually or on autopilot so in a similar way we get

some idea of God's control over His creation. After His initial supernatural acts over six days, God has 'switched' the universe to 'autopilot' so that it continues to function according to His built-in laws. At any time, however, God can change back to 'manual control' in which He intervenes to perform an action contrary



to the normal. Events in the world today can be the result, directly or indirectly, of man's misuse or mismanagement of God's earth or they can be the result of God's direct intervention, as we may well experience today and as will be seen in days to come.

Stage 2

CORRUPTION (Genesis 3-5)

The results of sin in God's world are summarized in Romans 5.12.

1. **SIN'S ENTRANCE** - **"Through one man sin entered into the world"**
Sin did not originate on earth. It came from an outside source and entered the world in its full force through one man.

2. **SIN'S EFFECT** - **"and death through sin,"** Its results were certain – **"dying you shall die"** (Genesis 2.17).

On the day Adam sinned the sure sentence of death was passed. Genesis chapter 5 records the carrying out of this sentence.

3. **SIN'S EXTENT** - **"and so death passed to all men for all have sinned."**

It was not confined to Adam and Eve, for the sin of the first man caused the second man to murder the third man.



Sin originated with Satan – the sin of pride (1 Timothy 3.6). This high-ranking but created being, in an act of almost unbelievable foolishness, dared to challenge his Creator. Having been cast down he brought sin into the world in order to ruin man. Thus two of God's creatures, each supreme in his own realm, rebelled against God (Isaiah 14.12-15)

God said to Satan,

"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." Genesis 3.15

The Bible records Satan's persistent attempts throughout time to oppose the purposes of God and the people of God. The devil was defeated at Calvary (Hebrews 2.14) but his eternal sentence will not be put into effect until the end of time (Revelation 20.10).

(Read 1 Chronicles 21.1; Job 2.7; Zechariah 3.1; Matthew 13.39; 16.23; Mark 4.15; Luke 22.3; 1 Thessalonians 2.18; 1 Peter 5.8)

Sin has also had a devastating effect on the natural world for,

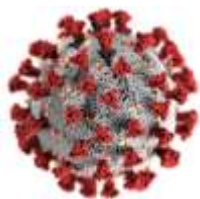
“the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now” Romans 8.22

God judged the whole of creation when its head, Adam, sinned. Creation is now restricted and awaits its freedom to fully function according to the original, intended purposes of God. Nature will not always be as it is today. When Christ returns to reign He will recover the earth for God and the natural realm will realize its full potential. (eg Isaiah 11.6-9; 65.25)

We need to understand the true cause of suffering, disease and death and of the numerous undesirable aspects of God’s otherwise beautiful creation. Many conclude that God must either be non-existent or very cruel for such conditions to exist. Some believe that they are



the natural by-products of an evolutionary process that is moving towards the eradication of all forms of evil. The Bible, however, teaches that we live in a fallen, cursed world in which death is an enemy (1 Corinthians 15.26). It was not part of God’s original creation for that was pronounced as **“very good”** (Genesis 1.31).

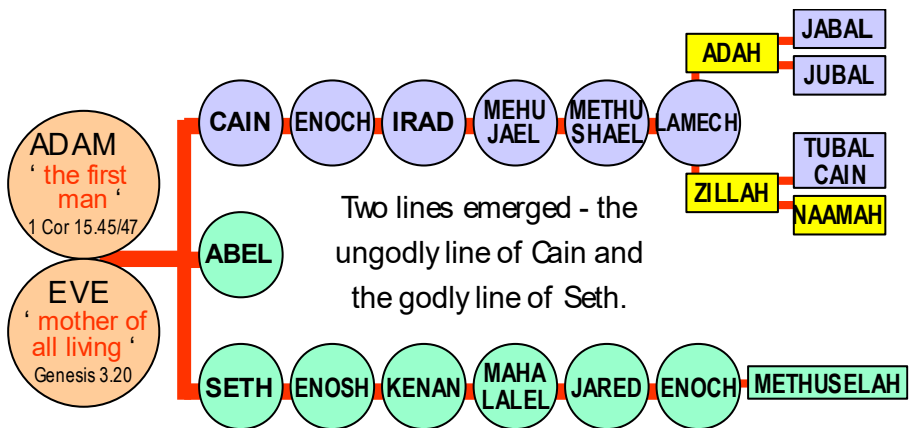


So we live in two worlds, God’s world and man’s world and God allows this to continue with the beauty of creation, as produced by God, and the results of sin, as introduced by man, evident everywhere. However God will not allow this to continue indefinitely.

God’s answer to the problems brought in by the first man Adam has been to bring in a **“second Man”** (1 Corinthians 15.47), Jesus Christ His Son, Who won a mighty victory at Calvary over Satan, sin and death. Through Christ alone God will retrieve all that was lost through Adam and will gain much more beside.

“as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive”

1 Corinthians 15.22



After the birth of Seth's son Enosh (235 A.H.), there was a spiritual revival for, **“people began to call upon the name of the Lord”**. Genesis 4.26

The question is often asked as to where Cain and his brothers got their wives. Note that Adam and Eve had plenty of time to produce a large family.

“all the days that Adam lived were 930 years ... and he had other sons and daughters” Genesis 5.4/5

The Jewish historian, Josephus, wrote, **“The number of Adam’s children, as says the old tradition, was thirty-three sons and twenty-three daughters.”**

Every person inherits a set of genes from his/her mother and father which today contains many mistakes or mutations. The more closely related two people are, the more likely it is that they will have similar mistakes in their genes which could pair together in any offspring and so result in defects.

By the time of Moses (about 2,500 years later), degenerative mistakes would have accumulated to such an extent in the human race that it was necessary for God to bring in laws restricting sexual relationships to keep Israel distinct from other nations (see Leviticus 18). But, being the first human pair, Adam and Eve were able to pass on perfect genetical information to their children. Brother and sister could then have married without any potential to produce defective offspring. Cain and his brothers could, therefore, marry their sisters or nieces.

A Chronology from Adam to the Flood

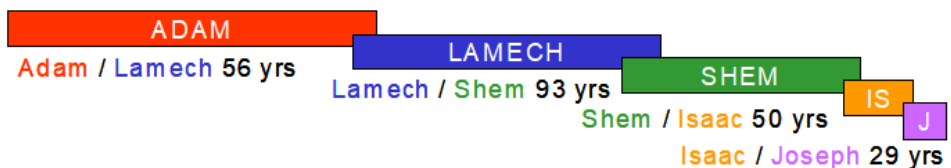
	Year AH	Son born	Death	Year
Adam	0	130	930	930
Seth	130	105	912	1042
Enosh	235	90	905	1140
Cainan	325	70	910	1235
Mahalalel	395	65	895	1290
Jared	460	162	962	1422
Enoch	622	65	365	987
Methuselah	687	187	969	1656
Lamech	874	182	777	1651
Noah	1056	502	950	2006
Shem	1558	100	600	2158
[Abraham born 2008 AH]				
[Sarah died 2145 AH – Isaac was 37]				

There is no sound reason to suppose that this genealogy from Genesis 5 has gaps in it. The precise way in which it has been recorded indicates its unbroken continuity.

eg. **“When Seth had lived for 105 years he fathered Enosh. Seth lived after he had fathered Enosh for 807 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Seth were 912 years, and he died.”** Genesis 5.6-8

How could God convey to us that Genesis 5 is an unbroken, continuous chronology? Surely in exactly the way He has done here. The formula

is simple and closed. **A** lived for **X** years then fathered **B** after which **A** lived for **Y** years. The total lifespan of **A** was **X + Y** years. Even if the son born was a grandson or great grandson the years of the life of **A** would remain the same. The onus is firmly on those who believe otherwise to explain why God has given us the distinct impression that this is a gapless, family tree, if in truth it is not! To confirm the accuracy of the above details, we note that the genealogies of 1 Chronicles 1.1 and Luke 3.36/37 are in full agreement and that Jude 14 confirms Enoch was indeed the **“seventh from Adam”**. The chart shows that Noah died two years before Abraham was born and that Shem died after Sarah died when Isaac was 37. This huge overlap would have made it easier for oral as well as written details of the creation, the flood and many other events to be passed on to successive generations. The lives of five men overlap to cover the whole of Genesis.



Stage 3

CONDEMNATION (Genesis 6-9)

1. THE FAILURE GOD SAW *and* THE GENERATION NOAH FACED

“giants were on the earth in those days ... the sons of God came into the daughters of men ... the wickedness of man was great on the earth and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”

Genesis 6.4/5

The **“sons of God”** refers to angelic beings, who joined Satan in his rebellion against God. These fallen angels were probably the evil or unclean spirits who, significantly, were prominent in the days of the Lord Jesus and the early church, (eg Luke 7.21; 8.2,29; 9.42; Acts 19.16; Rev 16.13) and took control of people. This may well have been what happened here (see 2 Peter 2.4). Noah and his family lived in the most dangerous times in human history so far. Satan launched an all-out attack in an attempt to take control of the human race and thus annul the promise of God made in Genesis 3.15. But God prevented Satan from taking the last eight persons.

2. THE FAMILY GOD SAVED *and* THE GRACE NOAH FOUND

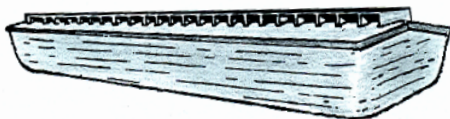
“Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house” Hebrews 11.7

“God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved.” 1 Peter 3.20

“Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord” Genesis 6.8

Probably at least ten people worked on the ark but only eight were still living when the flood came. Lamech, Noah’s father, died four years before the flood came and significantly Methuselah, Noah’s grandfather, died in the year of the flood; a testimony to the longsuffering grace of God. The ark was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high (half the length of the Titanic and 17 feet narrower).

It had an 18 inch skylight above the roof to allow air and light to enter. It was designed to float and to remain upright in very severe conditions.



Its three floors covered over 100,000 square feet (1.3 football pitches) with space for the equivalent of 125,000 sheep (or 432 double-decker buses) and a cargo capacity of 15,000 tons. It had numerous 'nests' or 'cells' to house the animals. A larger vessel, the *Great Eastern*, was not built until **1858**, over 4,200 years later, and that had an iron hull.

3. **THE FLOOD GOD SENT** and **THE GOD NOAH FEARED**

“every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground ... Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.” Genesis 7.23

Jesus said, **“Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.”** Luke 17.27

Events associated with the flood were both natural and supernatural. God did not just simply allow it to happen - He caused it to happen.

The flood was sent to,

1. terminate Satan's evil plan;
2. show the seriousness of man's sin;
3. show the certainty of God's judgement.

EXTRA-BIBLICAL PROOFS OF THE FLOOD

1. **Ancient Civilisations**

Flood traditions from all parts of the world tell of gods, a flood and a floating object which saved people from death. The descendants of Noah would have passed on details of the flood as well as the details they had received about the creation of the world. As tribes and families spread across the world the story of the flood would have changed over time, with local heroes and beliefs being mixed with the true account of the flood. It is evident however, that these numerous accounts have a common origin, and this points once again to the historical accuracy of the word of God - **“The Bible is right after all.”**

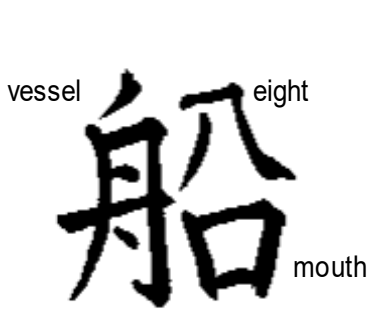


Babylonia

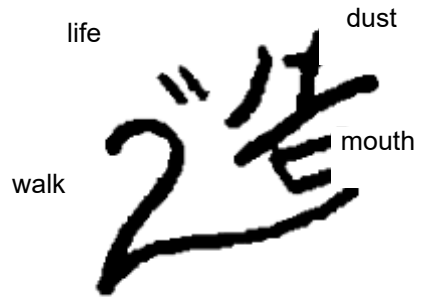
Aztecs of South America

Fiji Islands

The Chinese people developed pictograms, which were combined to form words. These symbols indicate that the early Chinese had a knowledge of creation and of the flood, which they built into their own language.



Chinese pictogram for ' boat '



Chinese pictogram for ' create '

2. Sedimentary Rock

Three quarters of land surface is covered by rock laid down by water, such as sandstone, limestone, shale and conglomerates which are mixtures containing sand, gravel, pebbles and rocks cemented together. The world - wide flood in Noah's day provides us with a sound explanation for such massive, widespread deposits.



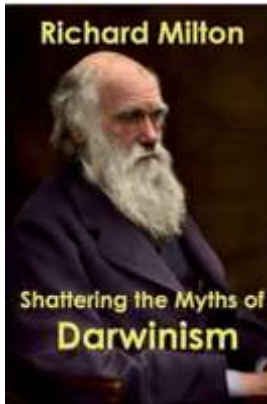
3. Fossils



trilobite fossil

Fossils are remains of creatures preserved from the past. All over the world sedimentary rock forms graveyards for millions of fossilized creatures, many showing signs of sudden death. To be preserved these would require rapid burial by vast amounts of water-borne sediment.

Extracts from
The Facts of Life
by Richard Milton



Northern Scotland - "In an area 100 miles across, the Old Red Sandstone contains the fossils of billions of fish, contorted and contracted as though in convulsion and resulting apparently from some catastrophic event."

Siwalik Hills, India - "contain extraordinarily rich beds crammed with fossils: hundreds of feet of sediment, packed with the jumbled bones of scores of extinct species ... these animals must have been killed by some singular event over a relatively short space of time."

Burma - "deposits ... containing mastodon, hippopotamus and ox ... thousands of fossilized tree trunks scattered in sandstone sediments."

New Mexico - "scores of skeletons on top of one another ... they all died together and were buried together."

Wyoming - "a veritable mine of dinosaur bones"

Belgium - "the fossil boneyard was evidently one of gigantic proportions, especially notable because of its vertical extension through more than a hundred feet of rock."

Milton adds, "these examples can be multiplied almost endlessly."

Whatever explanation evolutionists give for these deposits, the fact remains that they fit very well indeed with the biblical explanation and are just what would have been produced by a worldwide flood.

The following sources (among many others) give a deeper and fuller explanation of the book of Genesis, especially the early chapters.

The Genesis Account by *Jonathan D. Sarfati*

The Genesis Record by *Henry M Morris*

The Authenticity of the Book of Genesis by *Bill Cooper*

www.creation.com

www.csm.org.uk

www.icr.org

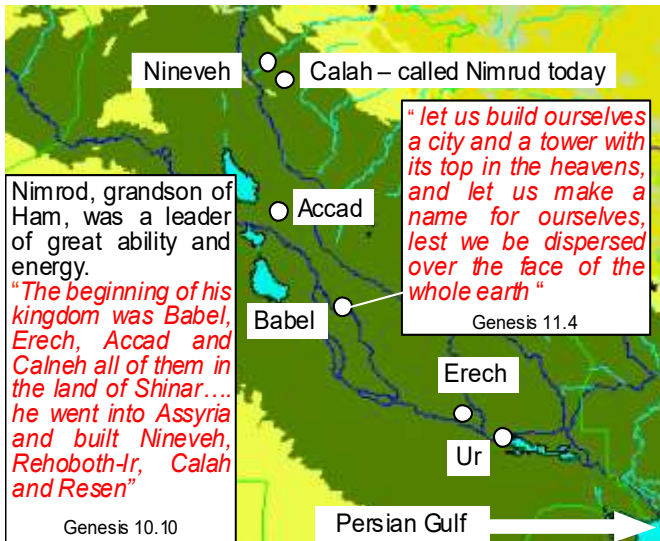
www.creationresearch.net

Stage 4

CONFUSION

(Genesis 11)

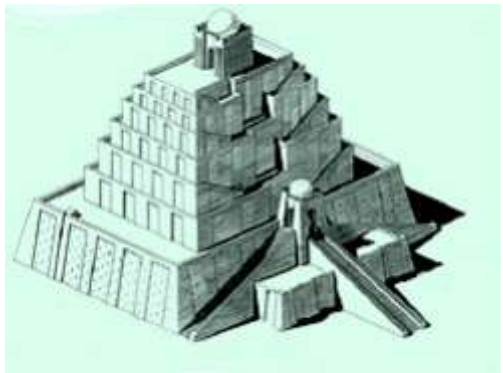
1. THE PLAN DETERMINED - The Tower



Although sinful people were removed at the time of the flood, sin still remained. Man once again asserted himself against God. This rebellion seems to have been led by Nimrod, who built the first post-flood cities.

The tower they began to build was not a primitive, scientifically naive effort to reach the highest heavens. Rather it was an enterprise, dominated by human pride and self-will, to ignore God who had commanded man to

“be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth” Genesis 9:1



The top compartment of this huge tower was intended, like the later Mesopotamian ziggurats, to represent heaven and to house man-made gods. Satan almost succeeded in completely dominating mankind again, as he had done at the fall of Adam and Eve and as he had almost done before the Flood. But God moved swiftly and this highly complex building project, involving the entire human race, was brought to an end through the introduction of multiple languages.

2. THE PROJECT DISRUPTED - The Tongues

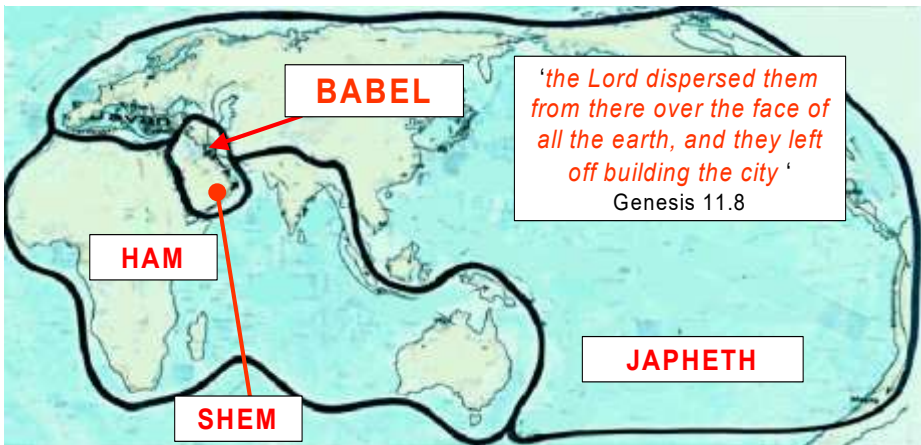
God said, **"let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech "** Genesis 11.7

Before Babel everyone spoke the same language (Genesis 11.1). Only a relatively small number of new languages would have been introduced with estimates generally between 8 and 20; 12 or 13 being common. Each of these has subsequently diversified considerably. Today, the similarity between the words for "mother", for example, indicate developments from a common source.

English	German	Danish	Latin	Spanish	Italian	French	Greek
Mother	Mutter	Mor	Mater	Madre	Madre	Mère	Metera

"The evidence is wonderfully consistent with the notion that a small number of languages, separately created at Babel, has diversified into the huge variety of languages we have today." *Creation*, Vol 22 (1) (1999)

3. THE PEOPLE DISPERSED - The Table



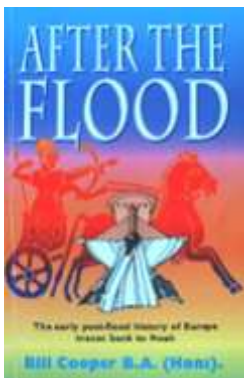
The dispersal probably took place during the lifetime of Peleg, for **"in his days the earth was divided"** (Genesis 10.25 - some believe this verse refers to the breaking up of the land mass). Peleg was the sixth generation from Noah and was born 100 years after the flood. Noah had three sons and sixteen grandsons. Assuming a similar birth rate and a similar ratio of sons and daughters, the population at the dispersal, would have been at least 1000 and possibly as many as 12,000.

The dividing of the people at Babel was along family or tribal lines (Genesis 10), so that children would be born to closely related couples for many generations. Distinctive characteristics, such as hair texture, facial features, skin colour and temperament, would thus develop from smaller gene pools and also as a result of environmental factors. At creation, God built into the genetic code of every living organism the capacity for wide variation, but within limits.

The Bible divides mankind according to **clans, languages, lands and nations** (Genesis 10), but never into “races”; a term which has evolutionary overtones. In the past, evolutionary ideas led to Aborigines being considered as links between ape-like ancestors and man (*New York Tribune* 10 Feb 1924) and an African pygmy being displayed in a zoo along with an orangutan. (*Creation Vol 16(1) 1993*).

Stephen J. Gould, a leading evolutionist, states, “Biological arguments for racism may have been common before 1850, but they increased by orders of magnitude following the acceptance of evolutionary theory.” Gould S.J. *Ontogeny and Phylogeny*, 1977

Although these ideas are no longer accepted by evolutionists they illustrate how wrong conclusions can be reached by building on a wrong foundation. There is only one race - the human race, and God has built into it the potential for wide variations. This means that all humans are equal in the sight of God.



“ In this book the author gives astonishing evidence showing how the earliest Europeans recorded their descent from Noah and Japheth in meticulously kept records, knew all about creation and the flood, and had encounters with creatures we would call dinosaurs. These records lend chapters 10 and 11 of Genesis a degree of accuracy that sets them apart from all other historical documents of the ancient world.” (Book Cover)

“The Bible is right after all “

A Chronology from the Flood to the Exodus

Again, as in Genesis 5, there is no good reason to assume that there are gaps in the chronology of Genesis 11. The way in which it is recorded is clearly intended to safeguard against such a conclusion.

eg. **“when Nahor had lived for 29 years, he fathered Terah. And Nahor lived after he fathered Terah for 119 years and had other sons and daughters”**

Genesis 11.24

	Born	Son	Lived	Died
Arphaxad	1658	35	438	2096
Salah	1693	30	433	2126
Eber	1723	34	464	2187
Peleg	1757	30	239	1996
Reu	1787	32	239	2026
Serug	1819	30	230	2049
Nahor	1849	29	148	1997
Terah	1878	130	205	2083
Abraham	2008	100	175	2183
Isaac	2108	60	180	2288
Jacob	2168	91	147	2315
Joseph	2259	-	110	2369
Egypt	2298			
Moses	2428	-	120	2548
Exodus	2508			

The line of Shem shown in the above chart is confirmed in 1 Chronicles 1.24 and Luke 3, except that the latter includes Cainan as a son of Arphaxad, which makes no difference to the lifespan of Arphaxad.

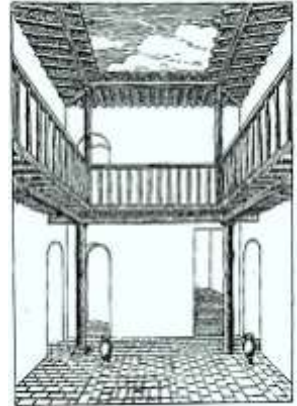
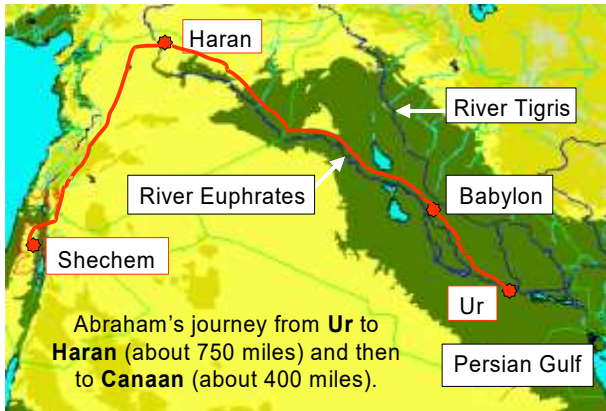
Terah was 70 years old when his first son was born but 130 years old when Abram was born (comp Acts 7.4; Genesis 11.32,12.4). The first son named in a sequence of names is not necessarily the eldest. Another example is in the sons of Noah. We usually read of Shem, Ham and Japheth but Japheth was the eldest and Ham the youngest (see Genesis 11.10, 9.24).

The average length of life before the flood was 912 years. After the flood this dropped dramatically to around 400 years, then 200 years. The average life span of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph was 153 years. This decrease can be attributed to environmental and genetical changes brought about as a result of the worldwide flood and the dispersal of the people from Babel.

Stage 5

COVENANT (Genesis 12-50)

ABRAHAM was born in 2008 A.H. and he lived for 175 years.
His life highlights **God's Call and Promise**
(Genesis chapters 11 to 25).



Archaeologists have discovered that Ur of the Chaldees, the city in which Abraham lived, was an advanced society. One wrote -

“how well its citizens lived, and in what spacious homes ... large two-storied villas with thirteen or fourteen rooms ..walls neatly coated with plaster and whitewashed”.

But something happened in the experience of Abraham which changed his life forever -

“The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia ... and said to him, go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you”. Acts 7.2

“By faith Abraham ...obeyed, not knowing where he was going.”

Hebrews 11.8

God made an unconditional promise to Abraham.

“ I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Genesis 12.2/3

Major events in his life include the three visitors to his tent (18.1), the birth of Isaac (21.1-3) and the call of God to sacrifice him (22.1).

In all these experiences -

“Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness, and he was called a friend of God.”

James 2.23; Genesis 15.3

Faith is the great principle that pleases God (Hebrews 11.6). It involves taking God at His word in total trust

and dependence on Him. Abraham was justified (made righteous) by his faith and then by his works. His belief determined his behaviour and his behaviour confirmed his belief.



ISAAC was born in 2108 AH. and he lived for 180 years.

His life emphasizes **God's Choice and Provision**

(Genesis chapters 21 to 35).

1. HIS BIRTH - "in Isaac shall your seed be called " Genesis 21.12

Isaac was the promised son, and through him the promised blessings of God continued. He was not born first but, as seen in other instances, he inherited all the rights of the firstborn. (See Romans 9.7; Hebrews 11.18)

2. HIS BRIDE - "Isaac ... took Rebekah and she became his wife"

Genesis 24.67

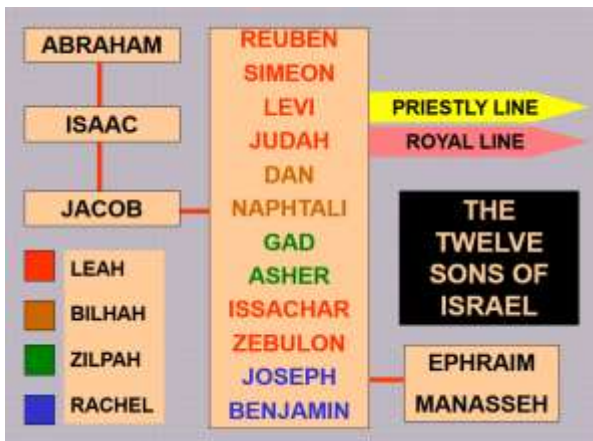
Abraham's servant was clearly guided by God to the right place and to the right person in his choice of a bride for Isaac.

3. HIS BLESSING - "Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him" Genesis 26.12

This happened as a result of Isaac staying in the land in spite of a famine. God's unconditional promise made to Abraham was also confirmed to Isaac (Genesis 26.24), who **" by faith ... blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come."** Hebrews 11.20

JACOB was born in 2168 AH. and he lived for 147 years.
 His life demonstrates **God's Care and Protection**
 (Genesis chapters 25 to 49).

Jacob was a deceiver by nature, but at Bethel he met God (Genesis 28.13-15) and his life and character began to change completely. As he progressed in the school of God, Jacob the deceiver became Israel, a prince with God. God did not require Jacob's deceit (Genesis 27.19) for the fulfilment of His promise, but in ways hard to understand, divine purpose both incorporates and over-rides human failure. The covenant promises God made to Abraham and Isaac were confirmed to Jacob.



From Jacob's twelve sons came the twelve tribes of Israel. The characteristics of these sons can be traced in the tribes as prophesied by Jacob (Gen 49). His natural sight had diminished (Gen 48.10) but his spiritual vision was clear.

"By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshipped on the top of his staff." Hebrews 11.21

JOSEPH was born in 2259 AH. and he lived for 110 years.
 His life clearly shows **God's Control and Purpose**
 (Genesis chapters 30 to 50).

"the patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him into Egypt but God was with him and rescued him out of all his afflictions and gave him favour and wisdom before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who made him ruler over Egypt and all his household "

Acts 7.9

1. DREAMER

The course of Joseph's life was marked out by three pairs of dreams. Joseph himself had the first two significant dreams in which his family bowed down before him. This caused his brothers to hate him and when the opportunity arose they sold him as a slave and he was taken to Egypt.

2. PRISONER

While working for Potiphar, the captain of the king's guard, Joseph was falsely accused of immorality and put into prison. There he met two men who both had dreams which Joseph was enabled to interpret. Pharaoh himself had two dreams and their meanings, which God again revealed to Joseph, concerned seven years each of plenty and famine.

3. RULER



It was in this high position over Egypt that Joseph's own dreams, as a boy of seventeen, came to pass. The king made him second in command over Egypt so that he could make preparation for the seven years of famine.

Joseph accepted his circumstances because he recognized that God was not only working behind the scenes but also out on the open stage determining and controlling the course of history. When his brothers later asked for forgiveness Joseph said,

“ you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good ”

Genesis 50.20

“ By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.”

Hebrew 11.22

Some of the clearest pictures of the Lord Jesus can be seen in the life of Joseph. He came from the Father into a world where He was despised and rejected. But God has appointed the day in which He will reign in righteous, with Israel and the nations bowing to His authority.

Stage 6

CRUELTY (Exodus 1-13)

Seventy male members of Jacob's family (plus females and servants) entered Egypt (Genesis 40), where they grew into a nation of probably over two million people.

' As the time of the promise drew near, which God had granted to Abraham, the people increased and multiplied in Egypt' Acts 7.17

The Egyptians responded to this seeming threat -

' they made their lives bitter with hard bondage' Exodus 1.14.

1. GOD DEVELOPED HIS MAN - The Promise (Exodus 2 - 4)

Moses' life of 120 years was divided into three lots of 40.

(a) **LEARNING** in Egypt. After his divine preservation at the age of three months, he was brought up amid Egyptian royalty -

"instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds."

(b) **LIVING** in Midian. In a moment of anger he killed an Egyptian for his cruelty to an Israelite slave, and then for his safety -

"he fled and became an exile in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons."

(c) **LEADING** in Sinai. Here he was prepared by God to set Israel free,

"he led them out, performing wonders and signs in Egypt and at the Red Sea and in the wilderness .." Acts 7.22,29,36

Two thirds of Moses' life was in training for the task that would occupy the last third. God had more to do in him than through him. He occupies a prominent place in Scripture; his name is recorded over 800 times. The Jews held him in high esteem (eg John 9.29) but they failed to understand the significance of what he said and did (eg Mark 12.26; John 7.19; Acts 3.22). The Lord Jesus often spoke of him (eg Luke 16.31, John 5.46) and he also spoke to him (Matthew 17.3).

2. GOD DEMONSTRATED HIS MIGHT – The Plagues (Exodus 7-12)

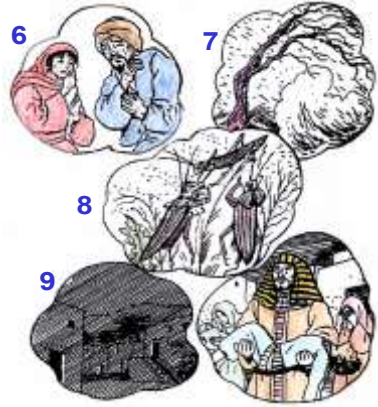
Egypt reeled under the mighty hand of God as the plagues came on the land to force Pharaoh to let God's people go free from slavery.

The changing of the rod to a snake and the first two plagues were copied by the Egyptian magicians, but they could not reverse the effects of any of the plagues God sent. Satan is powerful, but God is all-powerful (Exodus 8.18/19). At least four of the plagues did not affect Goshen, where the Israelites lived.

- 1. Water to blood
- 2. Frogs
- 3. Gnats
- 4. Flies
- 5. Livestock



God sent
10
plagues
on
Egypt.



- 6. Boils
- 7. Hail
- 8. Locusts
- 9. Darkness
- 10. Death of Firstborn

3. GOD DECLARED HIS MIND – The Passover (Exodus 12)

“by faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.” Heb 11.28

The great event of the Passover changed the Israelites’ calendar, making the seventh month in which it occurred the first month of the year. This night was to be remembered throughout all generations (Exodus 12.14). Applying the blood of the Passover lamb on the door brought salvation to the household and the eating of the lamb gave them strength for the journey. So likewise Christ our Passover Lamb has provided salvation (John 1.29, 1 Corinthians 5.7) and He gives us strength for our journey as we enjoy the spiritual food He provides.



“by faith the people crossed the Red Sea as if on dry land”

Hebrews 11.29

God led His people out of Egypt as He said He would (Exodus 3.7/8) and made a way for them through the sea, the desert and the mountains (Psalm 78.14; 106.9; 107.7, Isaiah 48.21). They witnessed His protection and His power against the pursuing Egyptians (Exodus 17.13) for,

‘ the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea’ Exodus 14. 27



The route of the Exodus and the location of Mt Sinai have not been established beyond doubt. The traditional site in the south of the Sinai desert is probably not the true location of Mt Sinai (Horeb). A search of all the relevant scriptures (eg Exodus 3.1; 4.27, Deuteronomy 1.2, Galatians 4.25) indicates that Mt Sinai, the mountain of God, is in Midian in Arabia.

Consider the following -

1. The apostle Paul refersto Mt Sinai as being in Arabia where Midian was situated (Galatians 4.25).
2. When the children of Israel left Egypt their destination was Canaan which lay to the east and north, so to journey south for about 100 miles and then to have to travel north again seems completely unnecessary.
3. Moses lived in Midian and cared for his father in law’s sheep, taking them to Horeb (Mt Sinai) the mountain of God. (Exodus 3.1). From Midian to the traditional site of Mt Sinai is over 100 miles. Moses would surely not take sheep such a distance !

4. Aaron came from Egypt to meet Moses who came from Midian. They met at Horeb, the mountain of God (Exodus 4.27). Why would they both need to journey to the southern part of the Sinai desert to meet each other and then return to Egypt? Clearly Mt Sinai was not in this part of the desert.

5. We are told in Deuteronomy 1.2 that it was eleven days journey from Horeb to Kadesh Barnea via Mt Seir. These details fit very well with Mt Sinai being in Midian.

It is possible that the Israelites crossed the western arm of the Red Sea near Egypt, journeyed through the desert and entered Midian via Ezion Geber at the head of the eastern arm of the Red Sea (See 1 on the map). It is also possible that because the Israelites did not need to cross the sea near Egypt as it did not extend up to the Mediterranean Sea, they could have crossed to the desert on dry land, then journeyed through the desert to the eastern arm of the Red Sea where the crossing took place. (See 2 on the map). Note, there is no reference to Moses or Aaron having to cross any sea in their own journeys to and from Midian.

Numbers 33 mentions 42 places where the Israelites stopped on the way from Rameses in Egypt to the plains of Jordan opposite Jericho. Most of these places however cannot be identified with certainty today, but we know that God directed and protected His people day and night in the pillars of cloud and fire (Exodus 13.21/22); and miraculously provided them with food and water (Exodus 15.25,27; 16.4) for forty years until they reached the border of Canaan (Exodus 16.35). Yet they complained continually about their conditions and often expressed their desire to return to Egypt (eg Exodus 17.3). Their behaviour even reached the point of open rebellion against God and against Moses which resulted in judgement on them. God said,

“ For forty years I loathed that generation, and said they are a people who err in their heart, and they do not know My ways.”

Psalm 95.10; Acts 13.18

The most important aspect of this amazing journey is to see the power, presence and preservation of God who faithfully kept the promise He made to Abram many years before.

Stage 7

COMMANDMENTS (Exodus - Deut)

1. THE EDICT OF THE LAW (Exodus 19 - 24)



“The Lord said to Moses, Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction”

Exodus 24.12

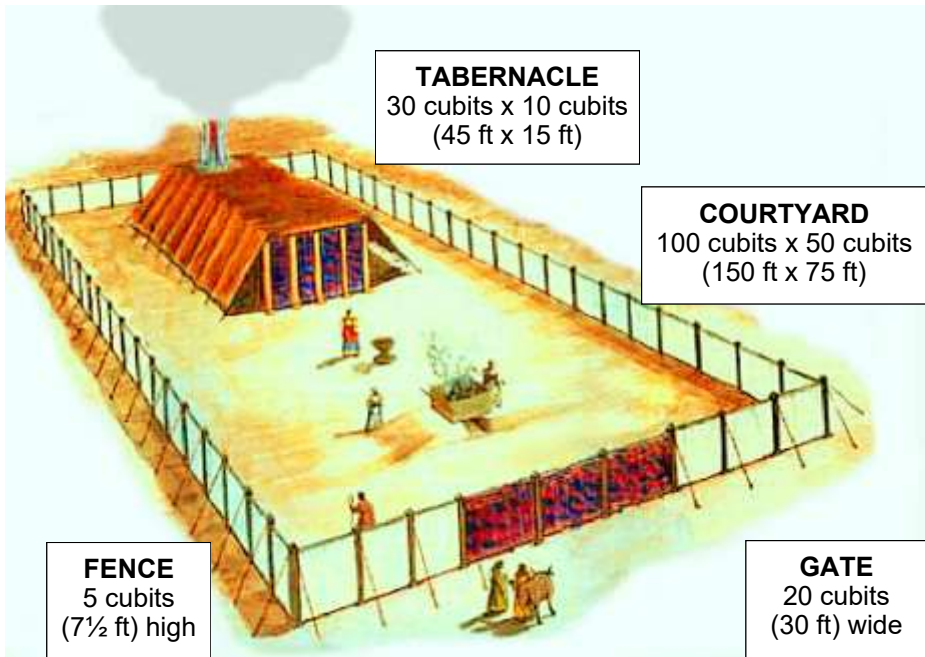
About forty-five days (or perhaps sixty days - Exodus 19.1) after leaving Egypt the Israelites camped by Mt Sinai and remained there for over twelve months. Here they witnessed the majestic power of God as He came down onto the mountain making it holy ground on which the Israelites were instructed not to tread (Exodus 19.12). Only Moses (and sometimes others such as Aaron and Joshua) was permitted to climb the mountain to speak with God, to see His glory and to receive His commandments for Israel. These commandments were for the establishment and maintenance of right relationships between God and man and between man and man.

No one can attain to the holy and righteous standards of God. The law shows our weakness and leads us to Christ (Galatians 3.24).

Moses was alone with God on the mountain for forty days and nights receiving detailed instructions for the orderly and God-honouring life of the nation of Israel. The law was recorded on two stone tablets, **“written with the finger of God”** (Exodus 31.18). When the people saw Moses was away so long they produced their own god in the form of a golden calf which brought God’s hand of judgement against them.

2. THE ERECTION OF THE TABERNACLE (Exodus 25-40)

Moses was given full details for the construction and erection of the tabernacle in which God would dwell in the centre of His redeemed people.



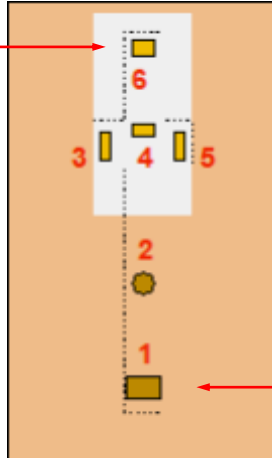
The tabernacle had three main areas - the outer court with the bronze altar and the laver; the Holy Place containing the table of shewbread, the lampstand and the altar of incense and, beyond a thick curtain, the inner Holy of Holies which housed the ark of the covenant with its cover called the mercy seat, where God spoke with Moses (Exodus 25.22). Each piece of furniture had its own pattern, position and purpose.

The tabernacle itself was made of 48 boards overlaid with gold. Four different coverings (fine white linen, goats' hair, rams' skins dyed red, badgers' or seals' skins) were draped over these boards.

There were five main offerings (Burnt, Meal, Peace, Sin and Trespass) burnt on the bronze altar. Every item and every event was important and necessary for Israel to maintain their relationship with God. However, we can only begin to understand the full significance of the tabernacle as we look at the Person and work of Christ.



The cross formed by the positions of the furniture is probably not intentional, but it serves to remind us that the whole tabernacle system was a shadow of Calvary.



- Diagram of courtyard, enclosures and furniture of the tabernacle.
1. Brazen Altar
 2. Laver
 3. Lamp stand
 4. Altar of Incense
 5. Table of Shewbread
 6. Ark of the Covenant



THE APPOINTED FEASTS OF THE LORD - Leviticus 23											
1. PRACTICE											
FIRST MONTH (Nisan)			MONTH	THIRD MONTH (Sivan)		FIFTH MONTHS	SEVENTH MONTH (Tishri)				
Feast of Passover	Feast of Unleavened Bread	Feast of First Fruits		14th Day	15th Day. seven days		16th Day	Feast of Trumpets	Day of Atonement	Feast of Tabernacles	1st Day
2. PURPOSE											
Remember deliverance from Egypt	Food offering to the Lord	First of grain harvest consecrated	SECOND	Harvest completed	FOURTH SIXTH	Call to Israel to gather	Remember sins	Rejoicing in God's goodness			
3. PICTURE											
Redemption at Calvary	Removal of evil	Resurrection of Christ		Pentecost. Present Church Age	No Feasts	Israel regathered	National repentance	Reign of Christ			

3. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PRIESTHOOD (Exodus 28-39)

The tribe of Levi was commissioned, cleansed and consecrated by God for priestly work in the courtyard and in the holy place of the tabernacle. Only the high priest was permitted to enter the most holy place on behalf of the people and that at specified times (Leviticus 16.2). The clothes worn by the high priest indicated the dignity and honour of his office (Exodus 28). He represented the people before God, as is seen, for example, by the twelve precious stones attached to the breast plate, one for each of the tribes.

The tabernacle system showed the way in which the redeemed nation of Israel were to approach God. and maintain their fellowship with Him. The tabernacle is God's picture book which speaks to us of Christ and heavenly things. It was only a provisional measure which anticipated the time when Christ would come to offer a superior, once for all sacrifice and thus establish an eternal relationship with God for all who come to Him through Christ.

“Christ came as High Priest of good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and of calves, but with His own blood, He entered the Holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.” Heb 9.11/12



About fourteen months after leaving Egypt, the Israelites reached Kadesh-Barnea on the border of Canaan. Twelve spies (one from each tribe) went into Canaan for forty days to assess it. They found an abundance of good things in the land but were afraid of the strength of its inhabitants, although two of them, Joshua and Caleb, told the people that God would give them the victory, and they brought back a huge cluster of grapes as a sample of what they could expect. However the other ten spies persuaded Israel not to go forward into the land.

God was angry with His unbelieving people and He sent them back into the desert to wander for forty years until all those who had rebelled had died. Those years were eventful ones marked by disobedience, defeat, disease and death. Even Moses himself disobeyed God and forfeited his right to enter the promised land.

Before his death Moses rehearsed with the people what God had done for them and warned them not to make the same mistakes again. Eventually, with Joshua as the new leader of a new generation of Israelites, they came to the border of the land once again.

Stage 8

CONQUESTS (Joshua - Judges)

1. DOMINATION



After the death of Moses, God gave instructions to Joshua, Israel's new leader,

“go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them”

Joshua 1.2/3

The strategy was to divide and conquer. The secret of success was faith and obedience. It took seven years to defeat

“seven nations greater and mightier than you”

Deuteronomy 7.1

The land was taken because **“the Lord fought for Israel”** (Joshua 10.14), but there were some set-backs on the way. These were caused by **disobedience**, as when Achan took some treasures from Jericho for himself (Joshua 7.1); **deceit**, as when the Gibeonites tricked Israel into forming an alliance with them (Joshua 9.15) and **distress**, as when the enemy seemed to be formidable.

Jericho was the first city to fall. Three main excavations during the twentieth century confirm the biblical details.

John Garstang (1930's)
Kathleen Kenyon (1950's)
Bryant Wood (1990's).



“The Bible is right after all “

Garstang – “the walls fell outwards so completely, the attackers would be able to clamber up and over the ruins of the city.” (see Joshua 6.5,20)

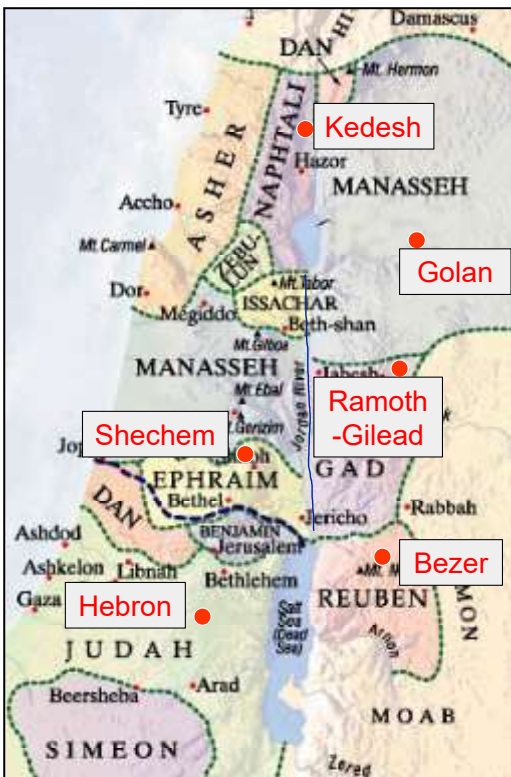
Kenyon – “The destruction was complete. Walls and floors were blackened or reddened by fire and every room was filled with fallen bricks.” (see Joshua 6.24)

Wood – “The pottery, stratigraphic considerations, scarab data [stone ornaments] and a carbon-14 date all point to a destruction of the city around the end of the Late Bronze Age, about 1400 B.C.”



2. DIVISION

The land was divided between the tribes according to their numbers. No territory was given to the Levites, but they were allocated 48 cities throughout the land (Joshua 21). Six cities were appointed as places of refuge (Joshua 20) where a person who had unintentionally killed another could enter and be safe from an avenger.



“Thus the LORD gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers. And they took possession of it, and they settled there. And the LORD gave them rest on every side just as he had sworn to their fathers. Not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for the LORD had given all their enemies into their hands. Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.”

Joshua 21.43-45

3. DEFEAT

The Enemy	Subjection	Deliverer	Peace
Mesopotamians	8	Othniel	40
Moabites Ammonites Amalekites	18	Ehud Shamgar	80
Canaanites	20	Deborah & Barak	40
Midianites	7	Gideon (Abimelech - a usurper) Tola, Jair	40 3 23, 22
Ammonites	18	Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon	6, 7 10, 8
Philistines	40	Samson	20
Total = 410 yrs		Samuel	299 yrs
111 yrs			

Allowing for overlap, the period of the Judges was about 350 years. Judges 11.26 confirms that from entry to the land until the time of Jephthah was 300 years.

After the death of Joshua and his contemporaries, a new generation arose, **‘who did not know the Lord nor the work He had done for Israel’**. (Judges 2.10). The victories experienced by Israel were often replaced by cycles of defeat because of compromise and incomplete obedience (Judges 1.27-33, 2.11). Sin resulted in suffering as God allowed the enemy to take the upper hand. When this was eventually followed by supplication to God, He sent a judge, a saviour, who brought salvation to God’s people again. This cycle occurred at least twelve times.

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INTRODUCTION - Test 1

NAMEDateTutor

Choose the correct answer/statement

1. God's ultimate purpose is to
a. create a new human race
b. condemn everyone
c. glorify His Son
2. Hosea 11.1 and Matthew 2.15 speak of Christ as
a. betrayed by a friend
b. born in Bethlehem
c. called out of Egypt
3. The human authors of the Bible were '*carried along*'
by the Spirit. This means that the writers
a. were in willing co-operation with God
b. had freedom to write what they wanted
c. own characters were suppressed
4. Science
a. excludes the existence of God
b. cannot operate in the natural world
c. helps us to understand how the universe functions
5. To access the truth about God we
a. need a good knowledge of science
b. should not restrict ourselves to naturalism
c. should reach our own conclusions without the Bible

Enter TRUE (T) or FALSE (F) for each statement

6. Many believe that evolutionary theory has dealt a death blow to the reliability of the Bible
7. The Bible is both accurate and authoritative
8. Biblical chronology is irrelevant to a study of Old Testament Scripture
9. Satan cannot cause supernatural events to occur
10. The conclusion that the supernatural does not exist is an act of irrational faith.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Why is a timeline of biblical events very useful?

CREATION & CORRUPTION - Test 2 (Stages 1 & 2)

NAMEDateTutor

Choose the correct answer/statement.

1. In Genesis 1.9 - 13 we see
 - a. the Earth Programmed
 - b. the Earth Prepared
 - c. the Earth Populated

2. There is no sound Biblical reason for
 - a. introducing vast time intervals between the verses or between the days
 - b. regarding the days as of indefinite length
 - c. both the above

3. Which of the following statements is **incorrect**?
 - a. God created man in His own image
 - b. Man is an eternal being
 - c. Man is made up of two parts, body and soul

4. Sin, disease and death in the world
 - a. show that God is either non-existent or very cruel
 - b. are by-products of an evolutionary process, which is moving towards the eradication of evil
 - c. are the results of sin.

5. Which of the following statements is **incorrect**?
 - a. The lives of 5 men overlap to cover Genesis
 - b. Sarah died when Isaac was 27 years of age.
 - c. Noah died two years before Abraham was born

Enter TRUE (T) or FALSE (F) for each statement

6. The earth is central to God's purposes
7. The Lord Jesus never referred to the early chapters of Genesis.
8. Nature will always be as it is today.
9. After the birth of Enosh, *'people began to call on the Name of the Lord'*.
10. Through Christ God will retrieve all that was lost through Adam.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

How would you explain the three-part being of man?

CONDEMNATION & CONFUSION- Test 3 (Stages 3 & 4)

NAMEDateTutor

Choose the correct answer/statement

1. The flood was sent to
a. terminate Satan's evil plan
b. show the seriousness of man's sin
c. show the certainty of God's judgement
d. all the above
2. The ark
a. is not mentioned in the New Testament
b. was designed to remain upright in severe conditions
c. was larger than the famous *Great Eastern*
3. The building of the tower of Babel was
a. in obedience to God's command
b. man asserting himself against God
c. an attempt to reach heaven
4. Man's project was disrupted by God
a. confusing their language
b. dividing the earth
c. sending a famine
5. Which of the following is correct?
a. About 8 to 20 new languages arose at Babel.
b. The average lifespan of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph was 150 years.
c. Terah was 70 when Abraham was born.

Enter TRUE (T) or FALSE (F) for each statement

6. The world-wide flood could not account for the deposits of sedimentary rock across the world.
7. Fossil deposits all over the world are just what would have been produced by a world-wide flood.
8. Noah had three sons and sixteen grandsons.
9. The population at the dispersal was less than 1000.
10. At creation, God built into the genetic code of every living organism the capacity for wide variation, but within limits.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Give an example of an extra-Biblical proof of the flood.

COVENANT & CRUELTY- Test 4 (Stages 5 & 6)

NAMEDateTutor

Choose the correct answer/statement

- 1.
 - a. Jacob was born after the death of Abraham
 - b. Joseph never saw his grandfather
 - c. Isaac lived for 180 years
 - d. From the birth of Abraham to the death of Joseph was less than 350 years.

- 2. God's unconditional promise to Abraham included
 - a. I will make of you a great nation
 - b. I will make your name great
 - c. I will bless those who bless you
 - d. all the above

- 3. Joseph
 - a. was Jacob's youngest son
 - b. became second-in-command in Egypt
 - c. refused to forgive his brothers

- 4. The great event of Passover
 - a. changed the Israelites calendar
 - b. was to be remembered throughout all generations
 - c. involved applying the blood of the lamb to the door posts and lintel
 - d. all the above

- 5. Moses
 - a. lived for 150 years
 - b. spent half of his life in Egypt
 - c. was often spoken of by Jesus

Enter TRUE (T) or FALSE (F) for each statement

- 6. Archaeologists have discovered that Ur of the Chaldees was an advanced society.
- 7. Joseph gave instructions that he was to be buried in Egypt.
- 8. Moses' name is recorded in Scripture over 900 times.
- 9. Only two plagues did not affect Goshen.
- 10. God directed His people by pillars of cloud and fire.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

In your own words, state what faith is, according to Hebrews 11:1.

COMMANDMENTS & CONQUESTS - Test 5 (Stages 7 & 8)

NAME**Date****Tutor**

Choose the correct answer/statement

- 1. Which dimensions are correct
 - a. Tabernacle 45ft x 35ft
 - b. Courtyard 150ft x 70ft
 - c. Fence 7.5ft high
 - d. Gate 20ft wide
- 2. Which is the correct order for the Feasts
 - a. Passover, Tabernacles, First Fruits
 - b. Trumpets, Unleavened Bread, Atonement
 - c. Trumpets, Atonement, Tabernacles
- 3. The land was taken
 - a. in a single campaign
 - b. because the enemy was weak
 - c. because the Lord fought for Israel
- 4. The judges were
 - a. raised up to judge and condemn God’s people
 - b. raised up to bring salvation to God’s people
 - c. all males
- 5. Samuel
 - a. challenged the people about their responsibilities
 - b. established a school for the sons of the prophets
 - c. anointed and advised Israel’s first two kings
 - d. all the above

Enter TRUE (T) or FALSE (F) for each statement

- 6. The tabernacle system showed how the redeemed nation of Israel were to approach God and maintain their fellowship with Him.
- 7. Any priest could enter the most holy place at any time.
- 8. Seven cities were appointed as places of refuge.
- 9. Israel experienced cycles of defeat because of compromise and incomplete obedience.
- 10. The Philistines subjected the Israelites to the longest servitude.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

In what ways is Samuel an example for us?

CROWNINGS - Test 6 (Stage 9)

NAMEDateTutor

Choose the correct answer/statement

1. Saul
a. was a very unpopular king
b. was noted for his obedience to God
c. had a promising start but a tragic end
2. David
a. was God's choice; a man 'after His own heart'
b. was a lover of God and a leader of men
c. failed many times
d. all the above
3. Solomon
a. received wisdom from God to rule the people
b. was not a well-known king
c. always obeyed God's Word
4. Rehoboam
a. had a good relationship with the people
b. became king after Solomon's death
c. ruled over ten tribes
5. Which of the following statements is **incorrect**?
a. All the kings of the northern kingdom, were evil
b. In 722 BC the Assyrians took Israel into exile.
c. All the kings of Judah followed the Lord

Enter TRUE (T) or FALSE (F) for each statement

6. Israel's desire for a king was a rejection of God.
7. David is mentioned a few times in the New Testament.
8. Solomon had many wives who took him away from the worship of God into idolatry.
9. The southern kingdom of Judah had eight good kings who brought the people back to God assisted by the prophets.
10. The historical accuracy of Scripture has never been confirmed by archaeological discoveries.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

The Psalmists expressed their thoughts and experiences of God and life. Choose one that has been particularly meaningful to you and say why.

CAPTIVITY - Test 7 (Stage 10)

NAMEDateTutor

Choose the correct answer/statement

- 1. In 605 BC the following were taken to Babylon
 - a. The leading nobles including Daniel
 - b. The king and important people, including Ezekiel
 - c. The remainder of the people
- 2. The Sabbath of rest for the land
 - a. was commanded by God
 - b. was to take place every six years
 - c. was faithfully observed by the nation of Israel
- 3. Daniel
 - a. was given a privileged position in the king's palace
 - b. remained faithful under all conditions
 - c. was called by God a 'man greatly loved'
 - d. all of the above
- 4. The third kingdom
 - a. was the lion with eagles wings
 - b. took control over Israel in 63 BC
 - c. was represented by the belly and thighs of bronze
 - d. was the Medo-Persian empire
- 5. Which is correct
 - a. the 70 'weeks' is divided into four parts
 - b. the final 7 years are still future
 - c. there is agreement as to when the 70 'weeks' began

Enter TRUE (T) or FALSE (F) for each statement

- 6. The exile to Babylon took place in two stages.
- 7. With the destruction of Jerusalem, the 'times of the Gentiles' began and will continue until the reign of Christ.
- 8. Daniel was able to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
- 9. History has confirmed Daniel's prophecy.
- 10. Daniel understood from reading Jeremiah that the captivity would last 100 years.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

"Those who honour me I will honour" (1 Samuel 2:30)
In what ways was this Scripture fulfilled in Daniel's life?

CONSTRUCTION & CONFLICT - Test 8 Stages 11 & 12)

NAMEDateTutor

Choose the correct answer/statement

- 1. The walls of Jerusalem were destroyed and rebuilt in
 - a. 536 B.C and 445 BC
 - b. 520 B.C and 516 BC
 - c. 586 BC and 445 B.C

- 2. Zerubbabel
 - a. led the first group of exiles back to Jerusalem
 - b. took the majority of the people with him
 - c. organised the rebuilding of the walls

- 3. Ezra
 - a. led a group of exiles back in the reign of Cyrus
 - b. organised the rebuilding of the temple
 - c. sought to bring the people back to God by teaching them the Scriptures

- 4. Nehemiah
 - a. heard good news from Jerusalem
 - b. returned fifty years after Zerubbabel
 - c. organised the rebuilding of the walls

- 5. The guardians of the written and oral law were
 - a. the Pharisees
 - b. the Sadducees
 - c. the Herodians

Enter TRUE (T) or FALSE (F) for each statement

- 6. Malachi commended the people for their behaviour.
 - 7. There were 500 years between the two Testaments.
 - 8. Daniel's prophesies about empires were fulfilled.
 - 9. Heathen were brought in as colonists and Jerusalem was paganised.
 - 10. In 164BC Jerusalem was re-occupied, the temple purified and the worship of God reinstated.
-
-
-
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-
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-
-
-

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Study and comment on the timeline chart on page 72.

CHRIST & CHURCH- Test 9 (Stage 13 & 14)

NAME**Date****Tutor**

Choose the correct answer/statement

1. Matthew and John focused on the
 - a. Servant in His Ministry and The Sovereign in His Majesty
 - b. Saviour in His Mercy and The Servant in His Ministry
 - c. Sovereign in His Majesty and the Son in His Mystery
2. The Lord Jesus came to
 - a. show us what God is like
 - b. to experience Manhood
 - c. to die
 - d. all the above
3. The Lord Jesus
 - a. will set up His Kingdom on earth in a day to come
 - b. experienced tiredness, hunger and thirst
 - c. is now able to understand and sympathise with us
 - d. all the above
4. The Church
 - a. existed in the Old Testament
 - b. is a building for worship
 - c. consists of anyone who is baptised
 - d. was established on the day of Pentecost
5. The practices which formed the Church were
 - a. the teaching and fellowship of the apostles
 - b. the breaking of bread
 - c. prayers
 - d. all the above

Enter TRUE (T) or FALSE (F) for each statement

6. Pilate found Jesus guilty.
7. Christ now occupies the highest throne in the universe.
8. The gospel spread beyond Jerusalem into Judea and Samaria following the martyrdom of Stephen.
9. Paul only went on two missionary journeys.
10. John wrote to the seven churches about AD90.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Explain the practices of the first church. Are these a blueprint for today?

CLIMAX & COMPLETION- Test 10 (Stage 15 & 16)

NAMEDateTutor

Choose the correct answer/statement

1. In John 14:3 Jesus tells us that
a. He will not return to earth
b. He will send angels for those who believe in Him
c. He Himself will come again

2. The Christians in Thessalonica
a. were expecting Jesus to return at any time
b. did not believe that Jesus would return
c. served idols

3. The 1000 year reign of Christ will
a. fulfil Old Testament prophesies to Israel
b. release the earth from its curse
c. display perfect government & provide man with a final test
d. all the above

4. Satan
a. will be released before Christ's 1000 year reign
b. will find few people to join him in his battle against God
c. will finally be dealt with by God

5. Every Christian should
a. Learn the truth
b. Love the truth
c. Live the truth
d. All the above

Enter TRUE (T) or FALSE (F) for each statement

6. The great purposes of God will approach their climax with the sudden return of Christ.
7. Christ's earthly kingdom will be noted for its righteousness, holiness, truth, and fullness of the Spirit.
8. The Lord Jesus Christ is going to reign forever.
9. Every member of the human race will receive an individual judgement based on the way he/she lived.
10. Only those whose names are written in the book of life will enter into the joys of eternal salvation.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

What does the anticipation of heaven mean to you?

CONTINUE TO THE NEXT PAGE

The Spirit of the Lord came upon these judges enabling them to bring deliverance to the people of God. They were God's men raised to meet the needs of the people in times when, **"every man did what was right in his own eyes"** Judges 17.6; 21.25.

The priesthood also was in a poor condition. Eli lacked discernment and determination in dealing firmly with his immoral sons who defiled holy things. God prepared Samuel, the last of the judges. He was raised by a godly mother who gave him back to the Lord for service.

From the start he **sought God's will**, not his own, for when God spoke to him he answered,

"speak for your servant hears"

1 Samuel 3.10

He was a man who **wrought God's work**, not his own. As a result he,

"judged Israel all the days of his life"

1 Samuel 7.15.

He also **taught God's word**, not his own, for we read,

"Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people"

1 Samuel 8.10



Samuel brought to Eli (1 Samuel 1.28)

The Philistines were subdued and territory was restored in Samuel's time and through him the people of Israel were continually challenged about their responsibilities before God. As a prophet he established a school for the sons of the prophets and he played a significant role in the establishment of the monarchy, anointing and advising Israel's first two kings. His life is an example of faithfulness to God.

Stage 9 **CROWNINGS** (1 Sam - 2Chron)

1. The Demand for the Kingdom



SAUL (1093 -1054) - **The Tragedy of a Disobedient Life**

God intended to give Israel a king but it was to be one of His own choice and in His own time. Israel wanted a king like the other nations. Their desire was in fact a rejection of God (1 Samuel 8.7).

Saul had a promising start but a tragic end. As Israel's **first king** he had popularity with the people and a great opportunity to rule the nation for God. He began with humility and gained an early victory over the enemy, but he became the **foolish king** marked by pride, presumption and partial obedience to God. He ended as the **failed king**, noted for his self will, his involvement with the spirit world and his eventual suicide. Saul did not learn that, **"to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams."** 1 Samuel 15.22

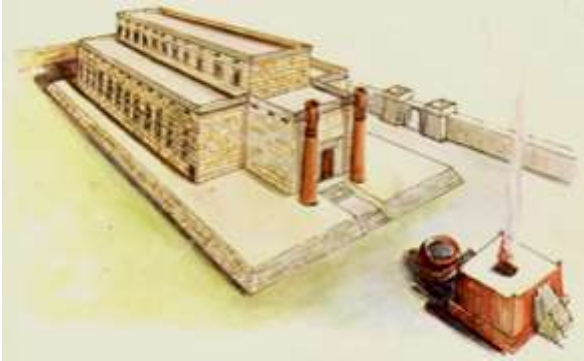
DAVID (1054 - 1015) - **The Triumphs of a Devoted Life**

David was God's choice; a man **"after his own heart"** (1 Samuel 13.14). He proved himself a **man of courage** in feeding and defending the sheep and in fighting the giant. He was a **man of conquests**, showing victory over self and hence over Saul. He was a **man of character** as a lover of God and a leader of men.

Although there were several notable failures in David's life, his heart remained true to God, and his throne has been established forever (1 Kings 2.45, Luke 1.32/33). The importance of his place in Scripture is seen by the fact that his name is mentioned over 1000 times in the Old Testament and about 60 times in the New. David wrote many psalms in which he expressed his thoughts and experiences of God and of life.



SOLOMON (1015 - 976) - The Troubles of a Divided Life



Solomon began his reign well by requesting and receiving wisdom from God to rule the people. He demonstrated this **wisdom** by the decisions he made, and he displayed his **wealth** in the palace and temple he built. He became

renowned for these and his fame spread far and wide. But his downfall began when his many **wives** took him away from the **worship** of God into idolatry. Solomon ignored the clear warnings of Deuteronomy 17.16/17, and thus the seeds were sown for the future disruption of the kingdom. Solomon was the last king to reign over a united Israel, the next and final King will be the Lord Jesus Himself.

2. The Division of the Kingdom



After Solomon's death, his son Rehoboam had a wonderful opportunity to establish a good relationship with the people, but he took the wrong advice and increased their burden. This led to rebellion and the disruption of the kingdom, with ten tribes owing allegiance to Jeroboam and two tribes remaining with Rehoboam (1 Kings 12).

As always, God had foreseen these events and had forewarned Jeroboam (1 Kings 11.31-40) of His purposes in allowing them to happen. God gave Jeroboam the great opportunity to obey Him and thus to establish the kingdom God had given him. However, Jeroboam introduced his own system of worship by erecting golden calves at Dan and Bethel and proclaiming them as the gods who brought the nation out of Egypt (1 Kings 12.28). He appointed his own priests and his own special days, contrary to the commandments of the Lord. The awful indictment against this king is stated several times in Scripture as **"Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin"**. (eg 1 Kings 22.52).

The historical accuracy of Scripture has been confirmed many times by various artefacts that have been discovered. Here are three.

The Moabite Stone

Discovered in 1868, this stone bears an inscription by Mesha, King of Moab. It is 3½ feet high and 2 feet in breadth. It consists of thirty-four lines, written in Hebrew - Phoenician characters. It was set up by King Mesha (2 Kings 3) as a record and memorial of his victories including his wars with King Omri of Israel (885 – 874 B.C), who is mentioned in 1 Kings 16.



Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III

This obelisk of black marble, seven feet in height, records the annals and conquests of the Assyrian king Shalmaneser. Each of its four sides is divided into five sections representing the tributes brought to the King by vassal princes, including Jehu of Israel (841–814 B.C.). Shalmaneser died in 823 B.C. after a reign of thirty-five years.

Sennacherib's Prism

This six-sided clay prism was discovered among the ruins of Nineveh. It contains the annals of Sennacherib, the Assyrian king who besieged Jerusalem in 701 B.C. during the 14th year of the reign of King Hezekiah of Judah. (2 Kings 18.13).

Sennacherib boasted that he shut up “Hezekiah the Judahite” within Jerusalem his own royal city, “like a caged bird.”



3. The Decline of the Kingdom



This chart shows that Israel and Judah were divided for 390 years as Ezekiel 4.5 confirms (see chart on page 70).

All the kings of Israel, the northern kingdom, followed in the steps of Jeroboam, and the nation departed from the ways of the Lord in spite of the calls to repentance from His prophets. In 722 B.C. the Assyrians **“captured Samaria and carried the Israelites away to Assyria”** 2 Kings 17.6.

The southern kingdom of Judah had eight good kings who repeatedly brought the people back to God assisted by the prophets of the Lord. But finally the longsuffering of God with His rebellious nation gave place to judgement and He used the Babylonians to scourge His people.

JUDAH'S 8 GOOD KINGS

ASA
JEHOSHAPHAT
JOASH
AMAZIAH
UZZIAH
JOTHAM
HEZEKIAH
JOSIAH

Stage 10

CAPTIVITY (2 Kings, Daniel)

The fall of Jerusalem and exile to Babylon took place in three stages.

1. In **605 BC** - "**Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand.**" Daniel 1.1/2; 2 Chronicles 36.6

The leading nobles, including Daniel, were taken to Babylon.

2. In **598 BC** - "**the city was besieged ... Jehoiachin ... gave himself up to the king of Babylon ... in the eighth year of his reign**" 2 K 24.10
The king and people of importance, including Ezekiel, were taken away.

3. In **586 BC** - (the 7th day of 5th month of Nebuchadnezzar's 19th year).
"**the army of the Chaldeans ... broke down the walls ... and the rest of the people carried into exile**" **2 Kings 25.10/11**

Zedekiah, the puppet king, had broken his agreement with Nebuchadnezzar who thus returned to destroy the city and deport the remainder of the people to Babylon.

The reasons for this were clear. God had given His people instructions -

"For six years you shall sow your field ... but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest for the land." Leviticus 25.3/4

The nation of Israel were in the land of Canaan for over 800 years and should have observed about 120 sabbatical, or seventh, years. But they failed to do so 70 times and God was now to claim back those lost years by removing the people from the land and allowing it to lie desolate.

" to fulfil the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths ... to fulfil seventy years." 2 Chron 36.21

With the downfall and destruction of Jerusalem, God no longer dwelt among His people as He had done. The glory had departed (Ezekiel 10.4,18). The "**times of the Gentiles**" (Luke 21.24) had begun and will continue until the return and reign of Christ. The years of exile were times of testing and triumph for Daniel and his friends. He was given a privileged position in the king's palace where he stood firm for God from the start and God honoured him (Daniel 1.8,20).

He experienced the truth of God's words to Eli, **“them that honour me I will honour”**. (1 Samuel 2.30).

Daniel's courage and conviction were put to the test many times but he remained faithful under all conditions, no wonder God called him a **“man greatly loved”** (Daniel 9.23; 10.11,19). He was given knowledge and understanding of divine purpose and control in the kingdoms of men.

Nebuchadnezzar had a dream (Daniel 2) which troubled him greatly but which he could neither understand or even remember. The mystery of the image was revealed by God to Daniel who made it known to the king. It concerned four successive kingdoms allowed by God to rule, mainly in Old Testament times. These kingdoms were also prefigured as wild beasts in a dream and vision given to Daniel himself (Dan 7). The fourth-kingdom vision (the Roman empire) has both a short and a long term fulfilment (several Bible prophecies have a partial and a complete fulfilment - see page 65).



1. **BABYLONIAN EMPIRE**

605 - 538 B.C.

Head of gold – Lion with eagle's wings



2. **MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE**

538 - 331 B.C.

Chest /arms of silver – Bear with 3 ribs



3. **GRECIAN EMPIRE**

331 - 167 B.C.

Belly/thighs of bronze – Leopard 4 heads



(Period of Jewish Independence)

4. **ROMAN EMPIRE**

63 B.C. - 476 AD

Legs of iron – Beast with iron teeth

(The ten toes and ten horns represent ten future kingdoms)



History has confirmed prophecy - **“The Bible is right after all ”**.

The Roman empire came to an end about 476 AD, but a power similar to it in character is to arise again in the future, during which the complete fulfilment of the momentous events of Daniel 2.44-45 and 7.9-14,24-27 will take place. But the outcome of all human conflict and aspirations for power is clearly stated -

“a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.” Daniel 2. 34

Here is a clear picture of the glorious return and reign of Christ and the destruction of all man-made systems raised in defiance of God.

“in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever.” Daniel 2. 44

After many years in Babylon, Daniel read the words of Jeremiah the prophet (Jeremiah 25.11/12;29.10, Daniel 9.2) and realized that the seventy years captivity (**10 x 7**) was coming to an end. As he prayed earnestly about the condition of his people, God revealed to him the details of another period seven times longer than the first (**70 x 7**) which again concerned the Jews and Jerusalem.

“Seventy sevens are decreed for your people and your holy city” Daniel 9.24. This time period is divided into three parts:

7 x 7 = 49 yrs, 62 x 7 = 434 yrs, 1 x 7 = 7 yrs

Note that this prophecy is in sevens of years and does not require conversion into days as some believe. The edict of Cyrus in 538 BC (Ezra 1.1) was undoubtedly the main authority for the return of the people and the rebuilding of the temple and the city. (Note Isaiah 44.28, 45.13). Subsequent kings of Medo-Persia referred to this edict when granting or confirming permission for the work, which was delayed several times, to continue in their day (Ezra 5.17, 6.3,14).

From 538 BC to the completion of the temple in 516 BC (Ezra 6.15) was 23 years (inclusive), during the days of Zerubbabel. There was then a period of 58 years during which there was a spiritual decline and no restoration activity (the book of Esther fits in here). From the arrival of Ezra in 458 BC (Ezra 7.8) to the return of Nehemiah to Babylon in 433 BC (Nehemiah 13.6) was 26 years (inclusive).

Adding these two periods of time together (23 + 26) gives 49 years. These two distinct periods are referred to in Nehemiah 12.26 and 12.47 as **'the days of Zerubbabel'** and **'the days of Nehemiah the governor and of Ezra the priest, the scribe'**. The significance of these four points in time is seen in that the years are specified in scripture for each and in two cases the exact day is given. This leaves 62 'weeks' or 434 years from 433 BC (inclusive) to the birth of Christ (v25 **'until Messiah the Prince'**). His coming into the world is the obvious point of fulfilment not some later date in His life. Note Daniel 9.26, **'after the sixty two weeks Messiah shall be cut off'**. This does not necessarily imply immediately after, but allows for the life of Christ.



Furthermore it is surely significant that the angel Gabriel who announced the prophecy in Daniel 9.21 should also announce its fulfilment in Luke 1.26. He is only mentioned by name twice in Daniel and twice in Luke. Consider also the visit of the wise men who clearly had some knowledge of the coming Messiah as found in the records of Babylonia from Daniel's time. They were intelligent and influential men who had authority within the Parthian empire. Their understanding of the timing and fulfilment of Daniel's prophecy and the journey they made under the guidance of God gives further confirmation that the 69 'weeks' culminated in the birth of Christ.

Seven years remain for future fulfilment. This will take place after the completion of the intervening Church age during the period of time known as the Day of the Lord (see page 85).

Stage 11 CONSTRUCTION (Ezra, Nehemiah)

1. Restoring the Temple - Zerubbabel 536 BC

Like the exile from the land, the return took place in three stages. It began when King Cyrus said, " **The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has charged me to build Him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all His people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the LORD, the God of Israel - He is the God who is in Jerusalem**". **Ezra 1.3**

About 50,000 people returned with Zerubbabel, who was of the line of David (Matthew 1.13), but the majority preferred to stay in Babylonia under Persian rule where the conditions were good. For the rising new generation, the pull of the homeland they had never experienced or seen was not very strong. (Compare Judges 2.10)



The Cyrus Cylinder tells how Cyrus of Persia captured Babylon and remedied the evil done by the Babylonians. He sent captives back to their own lands and gave help with the restoration.

He gave the returning remnant the original treasure taken from the temple. The journey back was slow and hazardous, and on arrival they had to face opposition from the people who had settled there. They began with the erection of the altar and then with the foundation for the temple, but opposition caused the work to stop. In 520 B.C. the prophets Haggai and Zechariah (Ezra 5.1/2) encouraged the people to continue, and Zechariah gave Zerubbabel personal encouragement from the Lord (Zechariah 4.9). The temple was finished in 516 B.C., seventy years after it had been destroyed and twenty years after the return. On the fourteenth day of this first month they kept the Passover and there was great rejoicing.

2. Reforming the People - Ezra 458 BC

It was nearly sixty years after the completion of the temple that Ezra and some of the people went to Jerusalem from Babylon in the reign of Artaxerxes of Persia (465 - 424 BC). His purpose was to bring the people back to God by teaching them the Scriptures and explaining the promises and purposes of God for Israel.



"Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel."

Ezra 7.10

"They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the meaning, so that the people understood the reading."

Nehemiah 8.8

It seems that some earlier attempts had been made to rebuild the walls, but those opposed to this sent a letter to the king and the work was stopped (Ezra 4.12,13.16, 5.9). It is also apparent that although most of the people who returned came from the two tribes of Judah, there were many from the other ten tribes also. (Note 2 Chronicles 10.16, 15.9; Ezra 2.70,6.17, 8.29 and also that the Persian empire had conquered the Assyrians who had taken the ten tribes into exile.)

The people of God had become mixed with the people of the land and as a result had compromised or abandoned the law of God. But a revival came about following Ezra's clear teaching. There was conviction and confession of sin, and at great cost the people of God severed their alliances with the people of the land. Ezra saw the necessity of this in order to preserve the unique identity of Israel, whose purpose was still to testify to the name and character of God before all other nations.

3. Rebuilding the Walls - Nehemiah 445 BC

HIS VISION

"send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it."

Nehemiah 2:3

HIS VENTURE

"Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for the good work." Nehemiah 2:18

HIS VICTORY

"so the wall was finished ... in fifty-two days."

Nehemiah 6:15



About fourteen years after Ezra's return to the land, Nehemiah was deeply disturbed by news from Jerusalem and he obtained permission from the king to return and rebuild the walls of the city. It seems logical to conclude that the destruction of the walls and gates referred to in Nehemiah 1.3 was not that done by Nebuchadnezzar 140 years previously but rather that done by those opposed to the work of the Jews when attempts were made to rebuild the walls as mentioned in Ezra 4. Although it was over ninety years since the first return under Zerubbabel, conditions left much to be desired, and there remained much to be achieved. Nehemiah demonstrated his godly, skilful leadership in encouraging and organizing the people to rebuild the walls and to defend what they built at the same time (Nehemiah 4.6, 9). He worked tirelessly, exhorting them, **"Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord who is great and awesome our God will fight for us"** (Nehemiah 4.14,20).

The wall was thus finished in fifty-two days. Nehemiah also had to deal with social injustices, conspiracies against him, the establishment of divine order and the consecrating of the people for the service of the Lord.

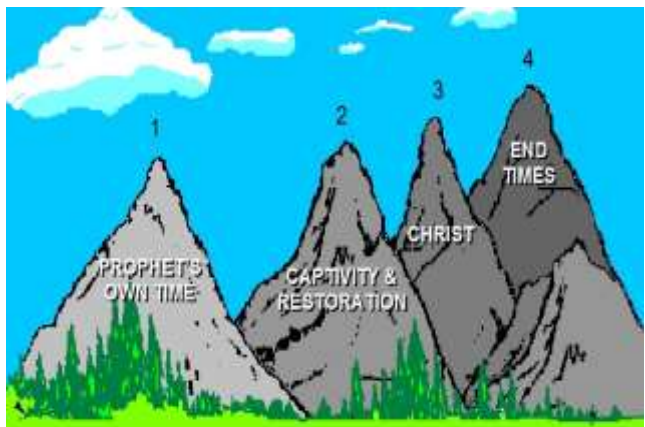
Malachi spoke for God in the latter days of Nehemiah and beyond, when the people had again become complacent and casual in their attitude towards God. Even when God challenged them about their behaviour, they questioned Him and protested their innocence.

'How have you loved us?' 1.2 'How have we despised your name?' 1.6
'How shall we return?' 3.7 'How have we robbed you?' 3.8
'How have we spoken against you?' 3.13

Once again the storm clouds gathered for Israel. One thousand years after entering the land of promise they would have to learn, yet again, the lessons so frequently demonstrated throughout their history. As the Old Testament record came to an end God renewed His promise concerning the coming Messiah (Malachi 3.1) and spoke of the day of refinement for Israel and of retribution for all nations. Once again a remnant held true to His name; the faithful, who awaited the time of His visitation (Malachi 3.16; 4.2).

Malachi demonstrates the twofold work of a prophet. He was a forth teller and a foreteller in that he brought the message of God to the people regarding their present circumstances and he announced the message of God regarding future events that were to take place. He brought the last message from God. Several centuries were to pass before John, the forerunner of Christ, announced the wonderful news of the arrival of the long-awaited Saviour of the world.

Our view of prophecy is like looking at a range of mountain peaks without knowing fully the



distances of the valleys between. There were some that were fulfilled within the prophets' lifetime, others were more distant and some have yet to be fulfilled.

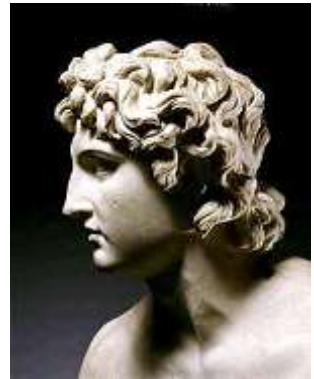
Stage 12

CONFLICT (Daniel)

The political, religious, and social atmosphere of Palestine changed significantly during the next 400 years between the two testaments with the main course of events prophesied by Daniel. The Jews, under the control of the Persian Empire (538-332 BC.) had been allowed to rebuild the temple and reinstate the worship of God (2 Chronicles 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4). However, this relatively peaceful time was just the calm before the storm.

The great empire of the Medes and the Persians corresponded to the breast and arms of silver in Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Daniel 2.32); to the bear raised up on one side (Daniel 7.5); and to the ram with the two horns, one of which was higher than the other (Daniel 8.20).

Alexander the Great defeated Darius of Persia in 332 B.C. His was the third, bronze kingdom of Daniel 2.39, the leopard-like beast of Daniel 7.6 and the goat of Daniel 8.21. Alexander required that Greek culture be promoted in every land that he conquered. As a result, the Hebrew Old Testament was translated into the Greek Septuagint, from which many of the New Testament references to Old Testament



Alexander the Great

Scripture are taken. Alexander allowed the Jews religious freedom but he still strongly promoted Greek culture, which was a threat to their worship of God.

After Alexander died the empire was divided up between his four generals (Daniel 8.8,21,22), Ptolemy, Seleucus, Lysimachus and Cassander. The first two, who ruled in Egypt and Syria, affected the history of the Jews as they continually contended for control of Palestine. Ptolemy I (323-283 B.C.) favoured the Jews and brought many of them to Alexandria. The Ptolemaic kings ruled in Palestine until 198 B.C. when the Seleucids drove them back to Egypt and Palestine became part of the Seleucid empire.

The Seleucid king Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-163 B.C.) was known for his hatred and cruelty towards God's people and for his determination to destroy their faith and bring them completely into Greek culture. He killed many Jews, took many into slavery, robbed the temple of its valuable items, replaced the rightful line of the priesthood and defiled the altar with unclean animals, causing the Jews to abandon the temple, putting an end to the daily sacrifices as predicted by Daniel (Daniel 11.31). In that historic act of Antiochus we have a foretaste of what Antichrist will do in the end times (Matthew 24.15). In another attack, on the Sabbath, he killed many more people, plundered and burned the city and pulled down the walls.



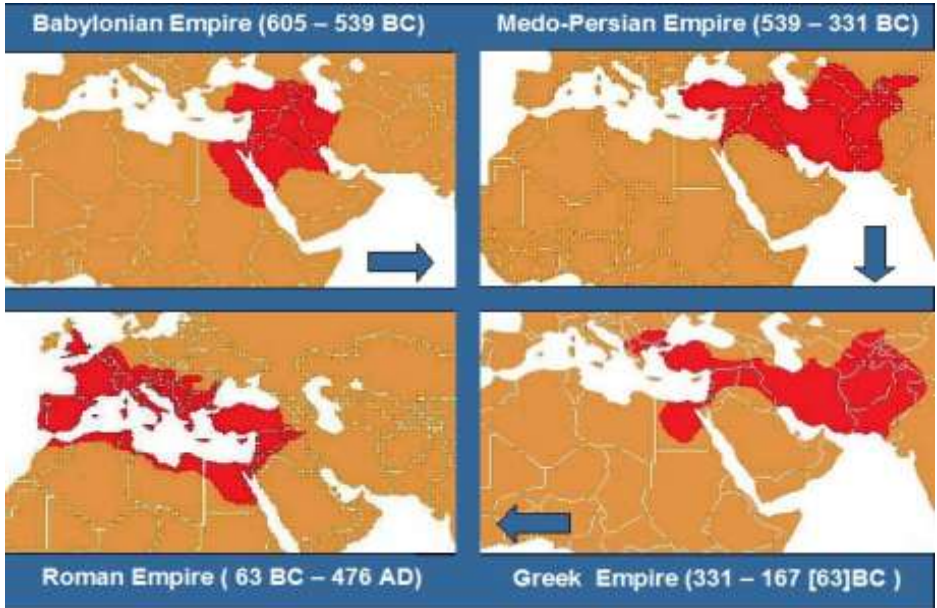
A coin of Antiochus IV Epiphanes.

The inscription reads, 'Antiochus, image of God, bearer of victory'.

Many escaped to Egypt or to caves in the mountains. Heathen were brought in as colonists and Jerusalem was paganized. Copies of the Law were destroyed and the Jews who remained were forced to participate in heathen feasts.

Daniel had written, **“the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action”** (Daniel 11.32). Mattathias and his five sons, Johanan, Simon, Judas, Eleazar and Jonathan began their opposition to this cruelty and desecration. They took to the mountains from where they launched numerous successful attacks against the enemy. In 164 B.C. under the leadership of Judas, known as Judas Maccabeus, they re-occupied Jerusalem, purified and rededicated the temple and reinstated the worship of God. The sons of Mattathias continued their struggle for freedom beyond Jerusalem, eventually losing their lives as a result.

After twenty-five years the Seleucids granted the Jews their independence (142-63 B.C.) Although a time of peace and prosperity followed, further conflict from without and within resulted in continual unrest. It was towards the end of this period that the prophetess Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, was born (Luke 2.36-38) and probably Simeon (Luke 2.25) and others who were **"waiting for redemption in Jerusalem "** and for the **"consolation of Israel "**.



The extent of the four empires referred to in Daniel's vision.

About 63 B.C., Pompey of Rome (106 - 48 B.C.) conquered Palestine, putting all of Judea under the control of the Caesars. This eventually led to Herod being made King of Judea by the Roman emperor and so the dream and visions made known to Daniel centuries before were fulfilled. This fourth empire, the Roman empire, was thus in control of Palestine when the Son of God came to our troubled world. Here He lived, was crucified and rose again, and to this same land He will soon return to terminate centuries of man's evil deeds and to replace man's gross misuse of God's earth with a glorious reign in righteousness and peace (Zechariah 14). **'Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment'**. Isaiah 32.1. (see Revelation 20.4).

Many of the political and religious parties mentioned in the Gospels arose during, or before, the inter-testamental period.

The **Pharisees** originated as a separate group just after the times of the Maccabees and by 135 BC they were well established in Judaism. The long conflict between the Jews and the surrounding people, from the Babylonian captivity onwards caused them to withdraw from all evil associations and to give complete obedience to every precept of the oral and written law. The standards they set for themselves tended towards self righteousness and hypocrisy, as clearly seen in New Testament times.

The **Sadducees** were a political party. Their members all belonged to the high priestly or aristocratic families. They adhered to a strictly literal interpretation of the books of Moses and they rejected the thinking of the Pharisees. They did not believe in the supernatural or in immortality. Politically, they were prepared to ally themselves with the dominant power if it was to their advantage.

The **Samaritans** were a mixed people consisting of those left behind after the Assyrian captivity, together with people re-colonized by the Assyrians. The Jews prevented them from participating in the rebuilding of the temple (Neh 4.2) and accused them of hindering the work. This animosity was still evident in New Testament times.

The **Synagogue** probably dates back to the captivity in Babylon where the exiles had no temple but felt the necessity of gathering together to keep alive the knowledge of the Law. Even when the temple was re-established in Jerusalem there were many who could not attend its ceremonies. Synagogues were founded in various communities where people could gather for prayer and worship on the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week. It was a social and educational centre where instruction was provided in Judaism.

GOD'S TIMETABLE

In this section an attempt has been made to bring together some of the dates and time factors recorded in the Old Testament. Many different conclusions have been reached in this respect so Bible students are encouraged to be like the Bereans who **'searched the scriptures daily to see if these things were so'** (Acts 17.11)

Having completed our Old Testament journey we will now seek to establish a sound framework of biblical chronology which will provide us with a backbone to its history. It is important to realise that God's word is historically accurate. It deals with real people, real places and real events and is completely reliable. By establishing an order of events, with dates, we can see yet again the clear evidence that God controls the events of time. He **'works all things according to the counsel of His will'** (Ephesians 1.11). He determines the stages and scenes of history, who the actors are and when they will appear and disappear. This gives us great confidence in God and underlines the accuracy of what He has made known to us (Daniel 2.20 - 22).

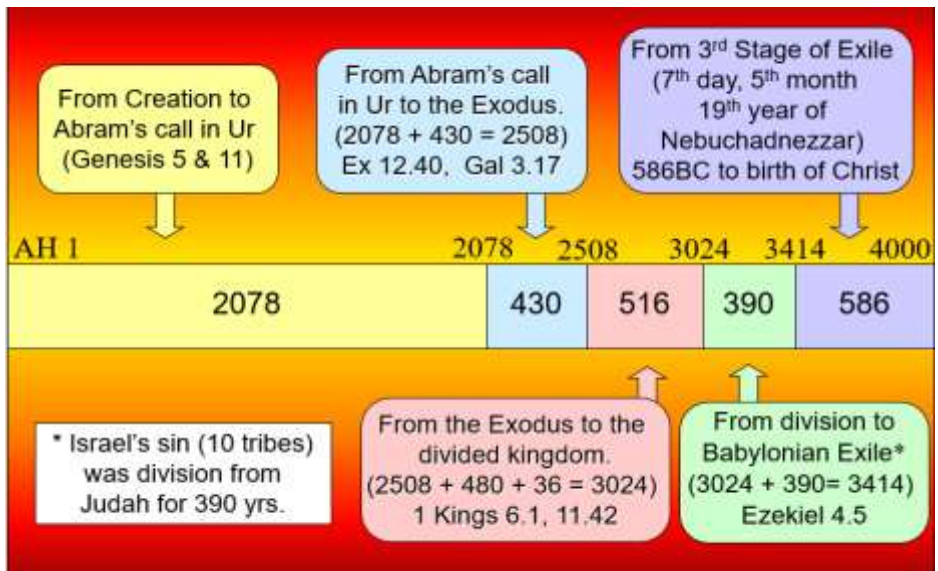


CHART 1

Chart 1 gives us a timeline based on the details given in Scripture, so that we not only know **what** God has done but also **when** He has done it. The chart shows five important stages in the unfolding of 4000 years of Old Testament history and the time factors between each one, and so provides us with a framework upon which we can build. This timeline does not depend on outside sources although many of these confirm what the bible tells us.

A CHRONOLOGY OF GENESIS									
Name	YoB	Son	Death	Yr AH	Name	YoB	Son	Death	Yr AH
Adam	0	130	930	930	Peleg	1757	30	239	1996
Seth	130	105	912	1042	Reu	1787	32	239	2026
Enosh	235	90	905	1140	Serug	1819	30	230	2049
Cainan	325	70	910	1235	Nahor	1849	29	148	1997
Mahalalel	395	65	895	1290	Terah	1878	130	205	2083
Jared	460	162	962	1422	Abraham	2008	100	175	2183
Enoch	622	65	365	987	Isaac	2108	60	180	2288
Methuselah	687	187	969	1656	Jacob	2168	91	147	2315
Lamech	874	182	777	1651	Joseph	2259		110	2369
Noah	1056	502	950	2006	Levi	c2248	c40	137	c2385
Shem	1558	100	600	2158	Kohath	c2288	c72	133	c2421
Arphaxad	1658	35	438	2096	Amram	c2360	c68	137	c2497
Salah	1693	30	433	2126	Moses	2428		120	2548
Eber	1723	34	464	2187	Egypt	2298		Exodus	2508
5 men span it. 7 men sum it (Heb 11)					Sarah b 2018 d 2145 age 127 7 men contemporary with Abraham				

CHART 2 .

PERIOD 1 from Creation to the Call of Abram - 2078 years.

As we have already noted these time factors come from the two chronologies in Genesis 5 and 11 (pages 17 and 25). They give us de-tails of the human race for the first 2000 years. In Acts 7:2 we read, **'The God of glory appeared to our father Abra-ham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran ...'** So this call and promise came to Abram in 2078 AH when he was 70 years of age and living in Ur of the Chaldees.

PERIOD 2 from the Call of Abram to the Exodus - 430 years

There is a seeming difficulty in determining when the 430 years began. Some conclude that it refers to the total time the Israelites were in Egypt, others take it from Abram's call in Ur. In situations like this it is important to examine ALL the relevant texts.

"Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt* was 430 years. And it came to pass at the end of 430 years, on that very same day all the armies of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt."

Exodus 12.40

* some texts read , 'Egypt and Canaan'. The AV and NKJV add 'who'. Both of these would confirm Galatians 3.17.

"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made the law, which was 430 years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed "

Galatians 3.17

"your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years."

Genesis 15.13

"his descendants would dwell in a foreign land and that they would bring them into bondage and oppress them four hundred years."

Acts 7.6

A careful consideration of these and other scriptures indicates that the 430 years of Exodus 12.40 and Galatians 3.17 began with Abram's call in Ur of the Chaldees (Acts 7.2) when God made the first promise to him (Genesis 12.1). The mention of the 430 years and then the 400 years shows that the countdown to Egypt began with Abram's call and 30 years later when Isaac, the first of Abram's descendants was born, the time had reduced to 400 years. Abram was 75 years of age when he left Haran and Isaac was born 25 years later so 5 years must have been spent in Haran. Note also that Abram's sojourning after leaving Ur included Syria, Canaan, Philistia and Egypt where he and his family lived as strangers.

Chart 3 uses the information in Exodus 6.16/17, Numbers 26.58/59 and 1 Chronicles 6.1-3 to show that the time spent in Egypt, covering four generations, was about 210 years. Note the reference in Genesis 15.16 to the fourth generation. If a scale drawing is made (as below) it will be seen that 430 years is too long for four generations to be fitted in but a timescale of 210 years fits well. This is further confirmation of the intended interpretation and understanding.

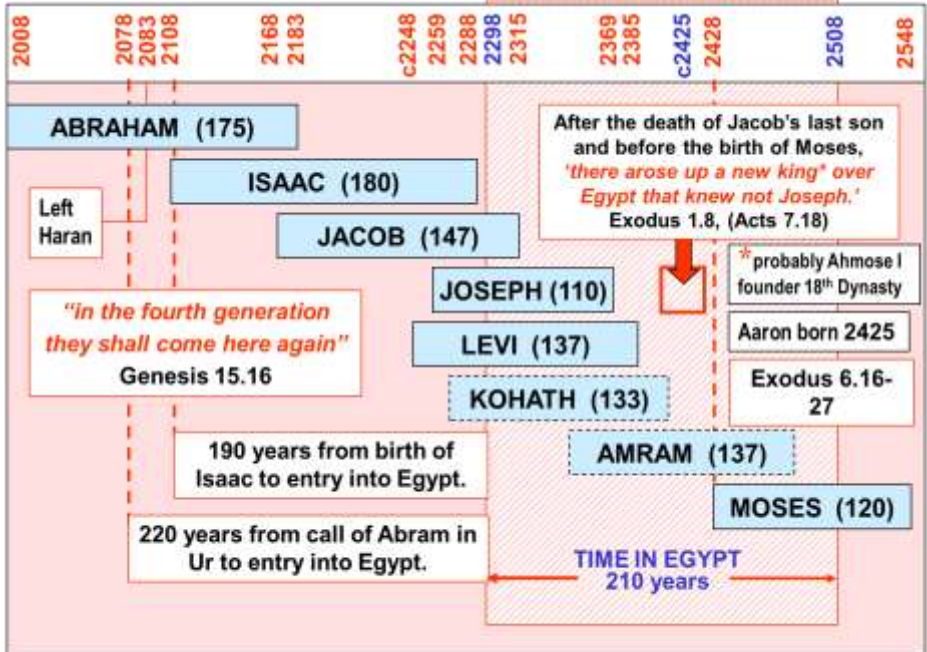


CHART 3

The above chart also shows that Jacob and his family moved to Egypt in 2298 AH when Jacob was 130 and Joseph was 39 (Genesis 47:9). It was sometime after his death and that of his brothers and all their generation that, **'there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph'** (Exodus 1:6, 8).

Joseph was alive for the first 71 years, (Genesis 50:26) and the slavery would not begin until after the passing of his generation but before the birth of Moses in 2428 AH, so the length of the slavery would have been between 80 and 120 years.

PERIOD 3

From the Exodus to the Divided Kingdom - 516 years.

For this period of time we have a clear reference in 1 Kings 6:1 which enables us to reach a total of 516 years from the Exodus to the start of the temple building and on to the division of the kingdom.

' And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the sec-ond month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.'

Solomon reigned for 40 years (1 Kings 11.42, 2 Chron 9.30) and after his death the nation was divided into ten tribes (Israel) and two tribes (Judah). Adding 36 years to the 480 years gives 516 years taking us to 2988 AH. Chart 4 summaries periods 2 and 3.



CHART 4

PERIOD 4

From the Divided Kingdom to the Babylonian Exile - 390 yrs

T

This period of time was given to Ezekiel when God said, **"I have laid on you the years of their (Israel's) iniquity, according to the number of days, three hundred and ninety days a day for each year'.**

Ezekiel 4:5

Israel's 'iniquity' was separation from Judah for 390 years, that is from 3024 AH to 3414 AH (Chart 1). The siege spoken of in Ezekiel is the two year siege in the days of king Zedekiah (2 Kings 25.1/2)

PERIOD 5

From the Babylonian Exile to the Birth of Christ - 586 yrs

As we have already noted (p58) Judah's defeat and exile took place in three stages. The first as recorded in Daniel 1.1/2, 2 Chron 36.6, the second in 2 Kings 24.10 and the third on the 7th day of 5th month of 19th year of Nebuchadnezzar as recorded in 2 Kings 25.10/11, 2 Chron 36.20 and Jer 52.12.

This final period of 586 years began with the third of these events when Jerusalem was besieged and finally destroyed, 390 years after the division of Israel and Judah. It is interesting and significant to note that secular chronology also places this final destruction of Jerusalem at 586 BC which coincides with 3414 AH. This date has wide agreement and, being confirmed by scripture, can be regarded as reliable.

By working backwards, dates BC can now be added to this chart showing that the creation of the universe was about 4000 BC.

AH 1	2078	2508	3024	3414	4000
	2078	430	516	390	586
4000 BC	1922	1492	976	586	1

Several chronologists have arrived at similar dates, notably James Ussher, Archbishop of Ireland (1581 - 1656) and Sir Isaac Newton (1642 - 1726) who spent many years studying bible chronology.

It is important for us to accept plain statements of scripture without subjecting them to interference from outside sources. The bible is self explanatory and stands alone. God has written it that way so that its truths can be accessed by anyone indwelt by the Holy Spirit and using a sound translation. Extra-biblical sources can be used to 'fine tune' our understanding but not to lead us to a conclusion about scripture that is not found within itself.

Stage 13

CHRIST (Four Gospels)

We cannot write 'The End' after the Old Testament as this would leave many practices unexplained, many purposes unachieved and many of God's promises unfulfilled. The Old demands the New, for all its roads converge in Christ.



The four gospel writers each focus on a different aspect of the Person of Christ. They are like four artists drawing an object from four different perspectives, each complete in itself but each complemented by the others.

1. HIS COMING IN

God's perfect timing that we saw throughout the Old Testament continues into the New Testament, for we read,

'when the fulness of time had come, God sent forth His Son',

Into this world the Son of God came; the One on whom all the hopes of the past and the future are centred. He did not originate here, but the eternal Son entered the world He had made - **'God manifested in flesh'** (1 Timothy 3.16). God chose Mary as the human vessel through whom His Son would be born. To her the angel said,

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God." Luke 1.35

Thus in the most wonderful miracle of all, the timeless Son of God entered

time - the seamless blending of perfect humanity with eternal deity. Satan launched a swift attack on the seed of the woman (Genesis 2.15) but God had already moved to protect His Son, for the divine plan of salvation could never be terminated neither could the Lord Jesus fail. From an early age the mind of the Lord Jesus was set to do exactly what His Father had sent Him to do (Luke 2.49), and for thirty years in His earthly home in Nazareth, **"Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man "** (Luke 2.52).

2. HIS PASSING THROUGH

The gospels record about thirty of the journeys the Lord Jesus made. He taught with authority using over 50 parables. People said, **"No one ever spoke like this man"** (John 7.46). Of His 35 recorded miracles, 3 were in raising the dead; 9 were over nature and 23 were healing. **"the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear and the dead are raised"** Matthew 11.5.

Christ's public work began with His baptism by John in the Jordan when He was about thirty years of age. He chose twelve disciples to **"be with Him"** (Mark 3.14) as He **"went about doing good"** (Acts 10.38). As He lived among us the Lord Jesus displayed the character of His Father so that for the first time we have a full revelation of what God is like. Again, as He lived among us the Lord Jesus experienced what it was like to be a man on earth. He felt the opposition of man in its many forms and He experienced human weakness through tiredness, hunger and thirst. Having been **"one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin "** (Hebrews 4.15), He is now able to understand and to sympathize with us as our great High Priest in heaven.

Christ came to set up the kingdom long promised to Israel (Mark 1.15), but the nation ultimately rejected the King and in so doing denied themselves the kingdom (Luke 19.11/12). However, the divine plan has not been abandoned but simply deferred to a future time. The Lord Jesus, moved on to Calvary to obtain an even greater prize.

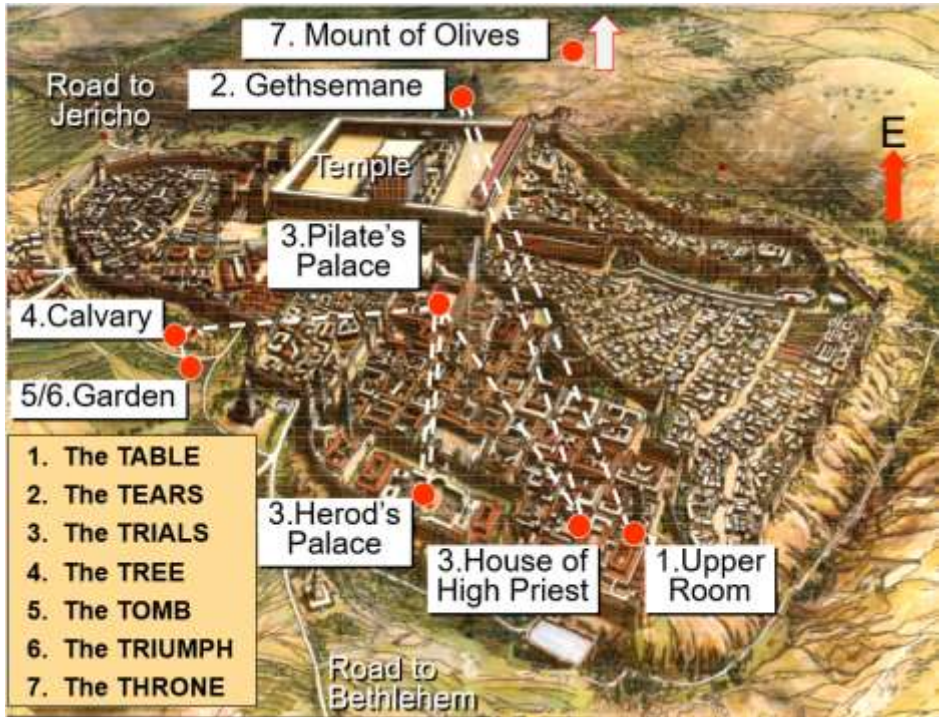
PARABLE		FEATURE	MEANING
SOWER	The SPREAD of the Kingdom	proclamation	There will be a sowing of the word of God throughout the age,
TARES		imitation	which will be imitated by a false counter-sowing;
MUSTARD SEED		expansion	the kingdom will assume huge outer proportions,
LEAVEN		corruption	but will be marked by inner corruption in its teaching and practice.
TREASURE	The SUBJECTS of the Kingdom	preciousness of the good	Nevertheless the Lord will gain for Himself a treasure from Israel,
PEARL		purchase of the good	and from the church;
DRAGNET		preservation of the good	the age will end in judgement with the righteous taken into the blessings of God's kingdom and the unrighteous excluded.

The seven parables of Matthew 13 outline the course of this age during the absence of the King. (Adapted from Pentecost J.D. *Things To Come*)

3. HIS GOING OUT

On the evening before the day of crucifixion the Lord Jesus gathered His own disciples around a **table** in an upstairs room in Jerusalem. There they kept the Passover and then the Lord used the bread and the cup as symbols of His death. From the room they crossed the Kidron brook and entered the garden of Gethsemane where the Lord engaged in earnest prayer and **tears** to His Father regarding the awful events that lay ahead. A large, armed crowd arrived in the garden led by Judas the traitor. Jesus was arrested and several **trials** took place. First He came before the high priest, but they could not place a real charge against Him until He confessed to being the Son of God, for which they condemned Him.

He was taken to Pilate the Roman governor and then to Herod, but neither could find any fault in Christ. Finally Pilate, in order to please the people, passed the sentence they wanted and the Lord of glory (1 Corinthians 2.8) was crucified upon the **tree**, where He died for our sins. His body was placed in a new **tomb**, but on the third day He rose



in triumph as He said He would (Luke 24.7). He appeared to many, proving that He was indeed alive. Forty days later, from the Mount of Olives, He ascended through the clouds, re-entered heaven and took the highest **throne** of the universe.

“I am He that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore” Revelation 1.18

“Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.”

1 Peter 3.22

The disciples, along with many others, remained together in Jerusalem as the Lord had told them, awaiting the coming of the promised Holy Spirit who would indwell them, unite them and empower them to be witnesses for Him. (Acts 1.4/5), enabling them to, **“go into all the world and preach the gospel ...”** Mark 16.15.

Stage 14

CHURCH (Acts of the Apostles)

1. THE CHURCH EXPECTED

The Lord Jesus said to His disciples,

"upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hades shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16.18

"this rock" is the God-given statement of Peter (Matthew 16.16) as to the true identity of Christ as the Son of God. This is confirmed in that,

"no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 3.11

The church is not built on a set of principles or even on a set of practices but on a **PERSON** – the Lord Jesus Christ. His church is built both on Him and by Him. There is no other foundation and no other builder.

2. THE CHURCH ESTABLISHED

On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came down and filled the room in Jerusalem where about 120 disciples had gathered. They were all baptised in, anointed by and filled with the Holy Spirit. Note -



(a) The **PEOPLE** who formed the Church

"those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls." Acts 4.41

A local church consisted then, and consists now, of people who have had the life-changing experience of salvation through receiving the gospel and who then express their desire to follow and serve their Lord by being baptised and becoming part of a local fellowship in which there is a common appreciation, enjoyment and promotion of spiritual things.

(b) The **PRACTICES** that formed the Church

"they continued steadfastly in the teaching and fellowship of the apostles, in the breaking of bread and the prayers." Acts 2.42

More principles and practices were taught by the apostles as the church developed. The completed Scriptures contain all that God wants us to know now for our individual and collective Christian living.

3. THE CHURCH EXTENDED

The Lord Jesus said to His disciples, **"you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."**

Acts 1.8.

"Go ... and make disciples of all nations ..." Matthew 28.19

The gospel began to be spread beyond Jerusalem into Judea and Samaria following the martyrdom of Stephen when,

"there arose ... a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria ... those who were scattered went about preaching the word."

Acts 8. 1,4

But God had His eye on a man who was at the centre of the persecution. On a journey of hatred to Damascus (Acts 9), Saul of Tarsus met the Lord and spiritual enlightenment and understanding flooded his soul. The transformation was outstanding. He was chosen and commissioned by God to take the name of Christ to the Gentiles (Acts 9.15/16). The Christians said of him, **"He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy."** Galatians 1.23



Paul travelled many miles across Asia and into Europe proclaiming the gospel, teaching the believers, defending the truths God had revealed to him and suffering as a result. (2 Corinthians 11.23-33).

In AD 60/61 Paul was taken to Rome at his own request to stand before Nero, the Roman emperor (Acts 27). He stayed in Rome for two years, apparently under some form of house arrest, after which he was released to travel again in the service of the Lord. He visited Philippi (Philippians 2.24), Macedonia (1 Timothy 1.3), Ephesus (1 Timothy 4.13, 2 Timothy 1.18) and Crete (Titus 1.5). After this he went to Nicopolis (Titus 3.12), Miletus (2 Timothy 4.20), Corinth (2 Timothy 4.20) and Troas (2 Timothy 4.13). He was again apprehended and taken to Rome (2 Timothy 2.9) where he anticipated his death (2 Timothy 4.6). Paul was beheaded in Rome in about the year AD 67.

THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM

In AD 70 Titus, the Roman general, came to take Jerusalem, with about 80,000 soldiers, because of its constant rebellion. He built a siege wall around the city and within three months it was taken and destroyed.

This arch was built in Rome to commemorate his victory.

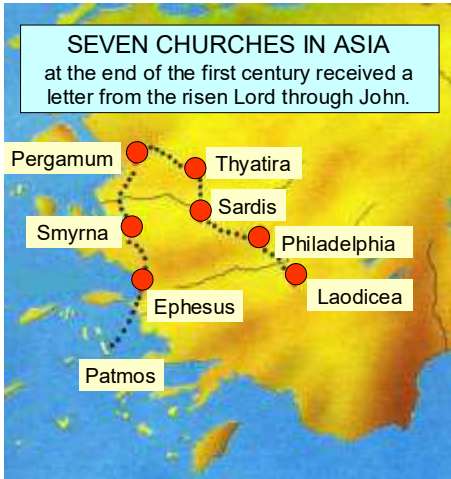
Thus the prophecy given to Daniel was fulfilled -



“the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.”

Daniel 9.26

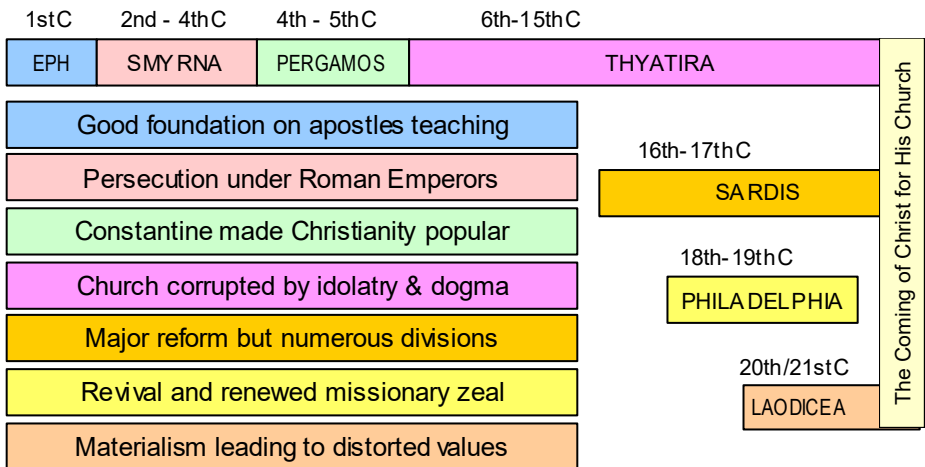
The menorah, or lampstand being removed from the temple by the Romans.



John wrote to seven churches from exile on Patmos island about AD 90. These churches can be viewed in three ways -

- Historically** - Actual churches existing in first century Asia.
- Typically** - Conditions found in churches at any point in time.
- Prophetically** - The church as viewed through the ages from commencement to completion.

The chart below gives a view of the significant events and trends during the centuries of the church age which began when the Spirit came and will end when the Lord comes.



This, of course, is only a general trend over the centuries. There have always been churches which answer to the conditions in one or more of these seven.

A study of the [seven feasts](#) of Israel (page 36) together with a study of the [seven parables](#) of Matthew 13 (page 78) and a study of the [seven churches](#) will give the student of scripture a good overview of the unfolding of divine purpose during these end times.

Stage 15

CLIMAX (Romans - Revelation)

The great purposes of God will approach their climax with the sudden return of Christ for His own in fulfilment of His promise -

"if I go ... I will come again and take you to myself ..." John 14.3

"the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God ..."

1 Thessalonians 4.16

The **SHOUT** will send the Command **The Divine Announcement**

The first indication will be a great shout from the Lord Himself.

The **VOICE** will sound the Challenge **The Divine Authority**

No power in the universe will be able to stop His coming or our going.

The **TRUMPET** will signal the Change **The Divine Activity**

Our bodies will be changed and made suitable for heaven.

(1 Corinthians 15.35-58; Philippians 3.20/21)

This long awaited and often mentioned event will most surely take place for God has promised and He cannot lie or break His promises. We are told that it is from heaven that we, **'eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.'** Philippians 3.20. The Christians at Thessalonica were described as people who had, **"turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he [God] raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."** 1 Thess 1.10

Clearly, they were expecting the Lord to come at any time - certainly within their lifetime - and His coming would be an act of deliverance from coming wrath. Christians will never face God's wrath at any time, for we have obtained salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 5.9; Romans 5.9). Because we are not told when Christ is coming, every generation of Christians should be prepared at all times for that which can take place at anytime and should show the reality of this by living for Christ now.

The chart below gives an overview of events still to take place. The Church Age will come to an end with the return of the Lord Jesus for His own (1 Thess 4.16/17). With the removal of the Church (the restraint mentioned in 2 Thess 2.6), the Holy Spirit (the Restrainer mentioned in 2 Thess 2.7 *) will no longer hold back the tide of evil as He does now and so the **“mystery of lawlessness”** will advance rapidly with the appearance of the **“man of lawlessness”** and the coming of the Day of the Lord. There is enough evil in the world today to wreck civilization and when God takes the brakes off sin will advance unrestrained with inevitable consequences.

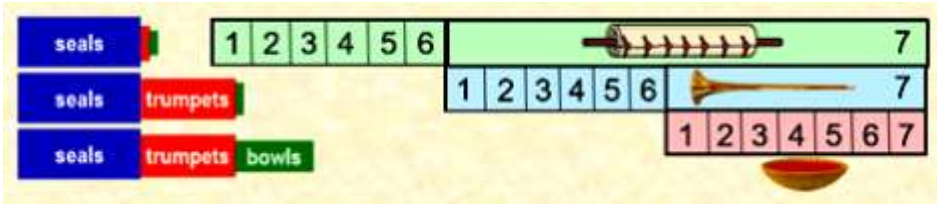
* These verses of scripture are important in determining the order of events in the last days.



The final seven years of Daniel’s vision will then be fulfilled, details of which are given by the Lord Jesus in Matthew 24 and 25 and also under the seal, trumpet and bowl judgements in the book of Revelation. This part of the Day of the Lord (a phrase often used by the Old Testament prophets) will be a momentous time when God will be seen to intervene in earth’s affairs, both against the nation of Israel and against all the ungodly, Gentile nations.

You can read descriptions of this period of time in Isaiah 13.6,9; Ezekiel 30.3; Joel 1.15, 2.1,11; Amos 5.18,20; Obadiah 1.15, Zeph 1.14.

After the removal of the Church, God will turn again to the nation of Israel. Since their rejection of the Messiah and throughout the Church Age, God has not dealt with them as a nation. Individual Jews are saved today on the same grounds as the Gentiles (Ephesians 2.11-22), for there is no distinction and no difference. Because of their rejection of the true Messiah and their future acceptance of the false messiah, the Day of the Lord for Israel will include a time of great persecution as God finally refines the nation (Zechariah 13.9).



The three sets of judgements spoken of in Revelation from chapter 6 to 16, will take place during the final ‘week’ or seven years of Daniel’s prophecy (Daniel 9). They occur consecutively with the six trumpets following the six seals and the six bowls following the six trumpets. The seventh seal incorporates the trumpets and the seventh trumpet incorporates the seven bowls, so there is a progression of increasing detail and severity.

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

Matthew 24.29/30

The Day of the Lord will reach its climax with the return of Christ in power and glory (Revelation 19.11) to put down His enemies and take the throne of David and reign for 1000 years. His coming is spoken of clearly in many Old and New Testament scriptures.

The purpose and character of the 1000 year reign of Christ.

1. To fulfil Old Testament promises to Israel
2. To release the earth from its curse
3. To display perfect government
4. To provide man with a final test

The first time the Son of God came to earth He was rejected and crucified, but at His second appearance, with the vast host of heaven, man's verdict, declared at Calvary, will be seen to have been reversed.

"They lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years" (Revelation 20.4). The reign of Christ on earth is both prophesied and demanded by Old Testament Scripture. Much prophecy, as yet unfulfilled, is devoted to the character and conditions of this glorious age in which all of God's covenants with Israel will be realized. This is the time when the disciples' prayer will be fully answered - **"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is [now] in heaven"** (Matthew 6.10). Thus an earthly kingdom will be established in the millennial age. It will be spiritual in character, noted for its -

Righteousness Isaiah 60.21, Malachi 4.2, Matthew 25.37.

Holiness Isaiah 4.2-4, 35.8, Ezekiel 39.7, 43.7, Zechariah 14.20/21

Truth Isaiah 16.5, 65.16, Zechariah 8.3-8

Fullness of the Spirit Ezekiel 36.27, 37.14, Joel 2.28/29

The **character** of the kingdom age will determine its **conditions**. With Satan absent and Christ present (Revelation 20), it will be marked by **peace, joy, justice, full knowledge, healing, prosperity** and **unity**. In that day, **"the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."** Isaiah 11.9, Habakkuk 2.14.

God will demonstrate His rule on earth where it was first challenged. His eternal sovereignty will be established as divine purpose throughout the ages reaches its climax and fulfilment in the enthronement of the Man of Calvary. These conditions will continue into the eternal state, for the Lord Jesus Christ is going to reign forever (Luke 1.33).

Stage 16 **COMPLETION** (Revelation 20 - 22)

After the thousand year reign of Christ, Satan will be released and allowed to continue his evil work for a short time (Revelation 20.3,7). He will find a vast number of people willing to join him in battle against God and against Jerusalem, but fire from heaven will destroy them. The devil will finally be dealt with by God, and then every member of the human race will stand before God's throne for judgement.

'I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books



were opened and another book was opened which is the book of life.'

The names of all men and the deeds they have done have been placed in heaven's records. Every member of the human race will receive an individual judgement based on the way he/she lived. Men will then realize that God knows everything about them and can therefore pass a just sentence. Although there will be different degrees in judgement (Matthew 11.22,24), these will not be the basis for eternal life. Only those whose names are written in **"another book"**, the book of life, will enter into the joys of eternal salvation. (Revelation 20.11-15. See also 13.8; 17.8; Luke 10.20; Philippians 4.3). The Judge will be the Lord Jesus Christ, the One who went to Calvary now clothed in majesty, for the Father, **"has committed all judgement to the Son"** (John 5.22).

In the closing chapters of God's book, John sees a city coming down out of heaven. This will be God's dwelling place among men; that for which Abraham and those who lived and died by faith looked (Hebrews 11.10, 16). We also look for this city (Hebrews 12.22, 13.14).



"The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him and they shall see His face". Revelation 22.3/4

We are only given a glimpse into God's eternal heavens and earth. It is significant, however, to read the description of eternal conditions in terms of what is NOT there (Revelation 21.4; 22.3-5). The numerous results of sin - sorrow, suffering, pain and death will never exist again for **"the former things have passed away"** (Revelation 21.4). When all authorities and powers have been destroyed and all has been made subject to Christ the Son (Ephesians 1.10), then the universal kingdom will be placed into the hands of God the Father, who will be **"all and in all "** (1 Corinthians 15.24/28). The ages of time, created by God as an arena for the glory of His Son through the unfolding drama of redemption, will have served their divine purpose and will be submerged into the vastness of the eternal ages.

"Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." 2 Peter 3.11-13

There are momentous times ahead for those who are saved - the future belongs to those who belong to Christ.

In the light of God's wonderful revelation every Christian should -

LEARN THE TRUTH

This involves the **MIND**

We need to fill our minds with the truths of Scripture.

LOVE THE TRUTH

This involves the **HEART**

We need to love what we learn so that it affects the heart.

LIVE THE TRUTH

This involves the **WILL**

That which fills our minds and hearts should be evidenced in our lives.

It is the prayerful desire of all at the Emmaus Bible School that this course will contribute towards an increase in your knowledge, understanding, love and practice of the Scriptures and that, as a result, your life will count more for God in our times as we await the soon return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A SUMMARY OF OUR JOURNEY

1. CREATION

God displayed His awesome power
As the universe He made -
Creating the heavens, then the earth,
With sure foundation laid.

He worked in order through the week
According to His plan;
Reaching the climax on day six
When He created Man.

3. CONDEMNATION

To Noah God said, A boat you must build
In order your family to save
Then the earth was immersed in a fearful flood;
Man destroyed in a watery grave.

For over a year they remained in the ark,
Then out to restart on new ground;
With memories spreading across the world
The proof in the rocks still is found.

5. COVENANT

Abraham heard the call of God
And moved out to a land unknown.
Through Isaac, his son, God's choice
can be seen
In calling a people His own.

Jacob, the twister, spent time in God's school
Experiencing much of His care;
And Joseph submitted his life to God
Of God's hand he was so
much aware.

7. COMMANDMENTS

A new nation born, they crossed the Red Sea
On their way towards their new land
God's presence among them and food
for their need
And the law written down by God's hand.

Their hard hearts delayed the blessings of God
They began to complain and to moan;
So God turned them back to the
desert again
And for forty years there they did roam.

2. CORRUPTION

But sin came in and ruined all,
It led to death and pain;
Man expelled from the presence of God
And Abel murdered by Cain.

Although there were some who sought
after God,
Mankind sank lower in sin
As Satan sought to destroy the seed
God promised would one day destroy him.

4. CONFUSION

But sin still remained in the nature of man,
And he sought to increase his own power
By building a city in defiance of God,
Then constructing a gigantic tower.

God came down to see what men had done
Which was contrary to what He had said;
He confused their speech and the work had to stop
And out from that place they were spread.

6. CRUELTY

In Egypt the people were subdued as slaves,
Then came Moses, God's man for the hour;
Preserved and prepared for his
leadership task
And to demonstrate God's mighty power.

Ten plagues hit the land with an awful result
Causing Egypt to reel from its plight;
Then God moved for His people;
His final display
And they came out on that Passover night.

8. CONQUESTS

And so into Canaan at Joshua's command
Sounds of victory filling the air
Defeating the foe and dividing the land
So that each of the tribes had their share.

But they never learned God's way
is the best,
Repeating the cycles of sin;
With nations allowed to subjugate them
Through which God brought them
back to Him.

9. CROWNINGS

They wanted a king like the nations around,
So Saul was the first on the throne;
But he wasted his life and David was crowned,
A man with a heart like God's own.

Solomon's wisdom and wealth were known
near and far,
God's temple with glory did shine;
Then the nation divided, the North and
the South
And both kingdoms went into decline.

11. CONSTRUCTION

Seventy years on, it was time to return
To the land that is close to God's heart;
Rebuilding the temple, the city and walls,
So the people could have a new start.

They met opposition and the work
had to stop,
Problems within and without;
Men of God took the lead with
courage and strength,
And a great reform came about.

13. CHRIST

In the fullness of time God sent forth His Son
Upon Him all the ages depend;
Miraculous birth, impeccable life,
He is both God and Man – perfect blend.

But man gave God's Son a cruel cross
Where He died an object of shame;
But He rose from the grave in
conquering power,
And He'll never die again.

15. CLIMAX

The Lord has promised to return,
We do not know the hour;
But He will come to take us home
In an act of mighty power.

And from the clouds He will descend,
Shout, voice and trumpet blast;
And those 'in Christ' all caught away,
This present life then passed.

10. CAPTIVITY

Because of their sin, the enemy came,
And took them away from the land;
The temple and city were razed
to the ground,
And they tasted the force of God's hand.

In the country of exile some stayed faithful to God,
Such as Daniel and his three friends;
God made known His control in the
kingdoms of men,
And His use of them for His own ends.

12. CONFLICT

The nation went back to its old ways,
Not giving to God what was right;
With attitudes hard they questioned
His love,
Not weighing values true in His sight.

Between Old and New Testament days
times were hard
Under Greek and Roman control;
As ever, a remnant standing for God
Divine plan moving on to its goal.

14. CHURCH

The church, the bride of Christ, began
The day the Spirit came;
From Jerusalem the gospel spread
Like an unquenchable flame.

And so, today, the people of God
Are found in every land;
Upholding the truth of the Word of God
For Christ they make their stand.

16. COMPLETION

Upon the earth turmoil and fear
The full results of sin
Then Christ in glory shall appear
Every eye focused then on Him.

He will defeat His every foe,
And then in righteousness reign;
With Christ and His people
triumphant at last
As God did foreordain. CL

Further Recommended Reading

Emmaus Courses

Catron J.R. *Survey of the Bible* (An advanced Course in three parts)

Gossett D.L. *A Journey Through the Bible*

MacDonald W. *Summary of the Bible*

MacDonald W. *What The Bible Teaches*

Other Books

Baxter J. Sidlow (1951) *Explore the Book*, Marshall, Morgan & Scott

Jenson I.L. (1978) *Jenson's Survey of the Old Testament*, Moody Press

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Morris H M (1993) *The Genesis Record* Baker Book House

Pentecost J.D. (1964) *Things To Come*, Zondervan

Phillips J. (1965) *Exploring the Scriptures*, Victory Press

Sarfati J D (2015) *The Genesis Account*. Creation Book Publishers

Commentaries

MacArthur J. *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary*

MacDonald W. *The Believer's Bible Commentary*

Walvoord J.F. & Zuck R.B. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*

Wilson T. & Stapley K. (Eds) *What The Bible Teaches* -Ritchie N/T Commentaries

Websites

www.emmausuk.com This is the Emmaus Correspondence School's website where students can complete courses online.

www.answersingenesis.org

www.csm.org.uk

www.creationresearch.net

www.Creation.com

www.icr.org

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NASA for satellite images, pages 32 and 38

Answers in Genesis, image of people, page 24

Gene Fackler (Associates for Biblical Research), walls of Jericho, p39

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