

## A Walk Through the Old Testament

Show how history is dated: B.C. 1500 to 2005 A.D.

A.D. is also called C.E. Common Era by Jews and others who do not want to use the religiously significant A.D. (Anno Domino-Year of Our Lord) or B.C. (before Christ). The B.C. equivalent of C.E. is B.C.E. (Before Common Era).

Show three maps to orient people to middle east:

1. Whole world noting especially the middle east
2. Middle East map
3. Close-up of Mediterranean, Egypt, Israel with Sinai Peninsula.

Next determine how the room or house will be set up as a map of the third map (close-up of Middle East).

Make sure you have a place for:

Ur in Mesopotamia later called Babylon  
 Palestine later called Israel and Judah  
 Dead Sea, Jordan River, Sea of Galilee  
 Mediterranean Sea  
 Egypt with Red Sea

Ask the group to tell you **what five elements** are usually included in a good news story: **Who, what, where, why and when.**

The “Why” will come more specifically in our next section – Salvation History.

Tell the group that you are going to break O.T. history down into FIVE parts: Beginnings

Patriarchs  
 Exodus and Conquest  
 Monarchs  
 Captivity and Restoration

Each part will have the “who, what, where and when”.

## I BEGINNINGS!

Have the whole group move to stand in the area of Mesopotamia between where the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers join.

There are three key events to this first section called BEGINNINGS.

Creation

Flood

Babel

What: Creation

Who: Adam and Eve

Where: Mesopotamia

The Garden of Eden probably was located in this part of the world where we are standing now (Mesopotamia). We don't know.

What: Flood

Who: Noah

Where: Turkey

Noah of the Flood probably started out in the area of Ur but by the time the flood waters subsided he was on Mt. Ararat which is probably located in what is now Turkey.

When: We don't know.

What: Tower of Babel

Who and where: unknown

We don't know where Babel was located but we know that it forced the people out of one location into many areas of the world.

When: We don't know.

The dating for these three events is impossible to determine with even any idea of accuracy. We simply know they happened in antiquity.

REVIEW the three key events of "Beginnings": creation, flood, babel.

Which book of the Bible are these events found? Genesis.

## II PATRIARCHS

In this section there are two key events, four key figures in three major geographical locations.

The Two key events are: God's call of a particular people and Egyptian slavery.

A.1. What: God's call of a particular people.

Who: Abram called of God.

Where: Abram lived with Sarah and other relatives in Ur of Mesopotamia between the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers.

When: Approximately 2000 B.C.

Abram left Ur and traveled northwest up the Fertile Crescent to Haran (probably in present Syria) where God once again told him to leave his relatives and travel to the land that God would give him.

Abram then went southwest down to Canaan. (Move people out of Mesopotamia and up toward Syria and then down into Canaan)

A. 2 What: God's call to particular people (cont.)

Who: Isaac is born as God's promised child through whom the nations of the world would be blest.

Where: Canaan

A.3. What: God's call of a particular people (cont.)

Who: Jacob and Esau are born. Jacob the line through whom the world would be blest. Esau the father of the Arab nations.

Where: Canaan

B. What: Egyptian Slavery

Who: Joseph is born the 11th of 12 sons of Jacob and is sold by his brothers into slavery into Egypt. When famine plagues Canaan, the other brothers and Jacob move to Egypt.

Where: Egypt

(Move people out of Canaan and down into Egypt)

REVIEW: Name the two key events of this period and the four key characters: God's call of a particular people, Egyptian Slavery, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph. Where was Abram called from? (Ur) To where did Abram move? (Canaan) Name Abram's son? (Isaac) Grandson? (Jacob) To what country was Joseph sold into slavery? (Egypt) What is the key date to remember for Abraham? (2000 B.C.) What book of the Bible can these events be found in? (Genesis)

### III. EXODUS AND CONQUEST

This section has four key events, three key figures in four places. The date of the exodus is approximately 1500 B.C.

The four key events are:

- A. Exodus
  - B. Desert wanderings
  - C. Conquest of Canaan
  - D. Cycles of Disobedience
- A. What: Exodus (meaning leaving) from Egypt.  
 Who: Moses was the leader of the rebellion  
 Where: Egypt  
 In what book of the Bible could you expect to see these events recorded? (Exodus)  
 Walk the people out of Egypt across the Red Sea and into the Sinai desert.
- B. What: Desert Wanderings  
 Who: Moses was the leader  
 Where: Sinai desert  
 In what books of the Bible are these events recorded? (Numbers and Deuteronomy).  
 Walk the people south in the Sinai to the Southern tip and around Mt. Sinai where they get the 10 commandments and then up to the northern part of the Sinai but not into Canaan.

At Kadesh Barnea (just south of what is Canaan) the 12 spies are sent in to Canaan.

Only two believe that God can give them the land and so because of the unbelief of the people they are condemned to march in the wilderness for 40 years until all of the people over 20 have died.

Walk around for a few seconds.

C. What: Conquest of Canaan.

Who: Joshua became the leader after the death of Moses.

Where: Canaan entered first from East side of Jordan into Jericho just above the Dead Sea.

In what book of the Bible are these events recorded? (Joshua).

*Have the people march North on the East side of the Dead Sea to the North end of the Dead Sea and then have them cross the Jordan and approach Jericho just West of the Jordan. Remind them of the Jericho account. March into Canaan central first and then south and north mentioning that the army of Israel divided and then conquered the inhabitants.*

D. What: Cycles of Disobedience.

After the death of Joshua and for the next 300 years the Israelites would go through cycles of disobedience which would start with their disregard for the Commandments of God which would result in God's judgment upon them usually through an enemy who would attack their cities and take their land while enslaving their people. After such judgment the people would finally realize that they needed to repent and turn back to God at which time God would raise up a "Judge" (a military leader who also acted as the ruler of the people) who would by God's grace lead the people back into control of their land as they drove out the enemy. There would follow a period of peace and prosperity until again the people would forget God and disobey before God would again judge them by an invading army and the cycle would be repeated.

Who: Some of the better-known judges among others are Deborah, Barak, Sampson, and Gideon.

Where: In Canaan now called Israel (named after Jacob who was renamed Israel the father of his 12 sons who became the fathers of the “12 tribes (families) of Israel”).

In what book of the Bible are these events recorded? (Judges).

#### IV. MONARCHS

This section has five key events, three key people in one place.

The five key events are

- A. Reign of first King
- B. Reign of second King
- C. Reign of third King
- D. Division of the nation
- E. Decline of the nation

The key people to remember are: Saul, David and Solomon and the prophets.

Where: Canaan.

When: The key date to remember to place the Monarchy is 1000 B.C. which is the approximate date for King David.

A. What: The first King

Who: Saul

B. What: The Second King.

Who: David

C. What: The Third King.

Who: Solomon

D. What: The division of the nation.

Following King Solomon was his son Rehoboam who unwisely taxed the people until the northern 2/3 of the nation under the leadership of a general Jereboam seceded from the union and formed their own country (not unlike the Southern states did in the United States in the last century). This Northern section of the country retained the Israel to identify it while the remainder of the country still under Jereboam's leadership called itself Judah (named after the largest and most populous tribe (state) in that part of the country).

So now the Northern part of Canaan is called Israel and the Southern part is called Judah.

E. What: The decline of the nation(s)

Following the division of the nation into two countries there followed a series of kings in each country. In Israel (North) each king was successively worse than the former and the country slowly sank into chaos and increasing wickedness.

In Judah (South) most of the kings were likewise evil with about five exceptions. But over the course of time Judah also sank into increasing sin.

During this period of the Decline God raised up Prophets such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea etc. who spoke to the kings and the people about repenting and returning to obedience to God. With few exceptions the prophets were ignored and/or killed as the people slowly sank into total apostasy and were finally fully judged by the total defeat of their countries.

In what books of the Bible are these events recorded:

I and II Samuel

I and II Kings

I and II Chronicles

## V. CAPTIVITY AND RESTORATION.

This fifth section of Old Testament history has four key events and the key people are the props.

The key events are:

- A. The Fall of Israel
- B. The fall of Judah
- C. The Exile
- D. The Return to Jerusalem

### A. What: The Fall of Israel.

Following the division of the kingdom was a period of nearly three hundred years in which the two new nations now fought among each other and fought outside invaders. There is in both Israel and Judah a series of kings until in 722 B.C. Israel is finally fully defeated and totally destroyed by Assyria. The tribes of Israel are carried away into captivity or so decimated that they are never restored.

*Have some of the people pretend to be Assyrians who come from the East and enter Israel and take the people captive.*

### B. What: The fall of Judah.

Judah is saved from total destruction for nearly 150 more years than Israel because from time to time God would raise up a good king who would restore the people to obedience.

But in spite of these temporary periods of obedience the nation as a whole slid into total apostasy and was finally fully judged.

When: In 586 B.C. Judah is destroyed and its inhabitants carried away into captivity in Babylon the center of the new world power that defeated Assyria.

In what books of the Bible are these events recorded:

- II Kings
- II Chronicles

*Have some of the people pretend to be from Babylon and come into Judah and take the people captive back to Babylon.*

#### C. What: The Exile.

Israel had been carried away into Assyria and all over the world and the Israelites lost their identity.

The 10 tribes of Israel have never been rediscovered since as an identifiable group knowing their heritage.

Judah on the other hand was carried away into Babylon where they retained their sense of identity as descendants of Jacob.

In what books of the Bible are these events recorded?

Daniel, Ezekiel, and Esther. Daniel and Ezekiel are the two prophets that God raised up to minister to the people while they were in captivity in Babylon. Esther is a woman who lived during the time that the people were in captivity in Babylon.

#### D. What: The Return.

It was in 586 that the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed and the last king of Judah was carried away into Babylon. Some people had been taken to Babylon as early as 606 B.C. when Babylon first laid siege to Jerusalem. Daniel was among these who went in 606.

Some year's later Babylon itself fell from world domination to the Medic-Persian alliance with Persia being the dominant power. Under the Persians the Jews in Babylon were allowed to return to Jerusalem. Zerubbabel became the leader of that first group to return. Under his leadership and that of Ezra the Temple was rebuilt.(516 B.C. and 70 years after the destruction of the Temple).

Still later others returned and under the leadership of Nehemiah the walls of the city of Jerusalem were rebuilt.

Who: Ezra and Nehemiah are the key figures during this period.

When: Approximately 400 B.C.(actually 445) is when the walls were rebuilt marking the completion of the return to Jerusalem.

In what books of the Bible are these events recorded?

Ezra and Nehemiah and in the prophecies of Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

*Have the people who are exiled in Babylon now return to Jerusalem.*

What follows is a period of approximately 400 years before Christ is born in Bethlehem. These 400 years are not recorded in the Scriptures but are written about in other sources.

## OLD TESTAMENT WALK-THROUGH OUTLINE

### I. BEGINNINGS

Creation	Adam & Eve
Mesopotamia	
Flood	Noah
Turkey	
Babel	

### II. PATRIARCHS 2000 B.C.

God's call of a particular people

		Abram		
		Mesopotamia		
		Isaac		
		Canaan		
		Jacob		
		Canaan		
	Egyptian Slavery	Joseph		Egypt
III.	EXODUS AND CONQUEST	1500 B.C.		
	Exodus	Moses		
	Egypt			
	Desert Wanderings	Moses		
	Sinai			
	Conquest	Joshua		
	Canaan			
	Cycles of Disobedience		The Judges	
	Israel (Canaan)			
IV.	MONARCHS			
	First King	Saul		Israel
	Second King	David	1000B.C.	Israel
	Third King	Solomon		Israel
	Divison	Series of Kings		
	Israel/Judah			
	Decline	Prophets		
	Israel/Judah			
V.	CAPTIVITY AND RESTORATION			
	Fall of Israel	Prophets		Assyria defeats
	them			
	Fall of Judah	Prophets	600 B.C.	Babylon
	defeats them			
	Exile	Prophets		in Babylon
	Return 400 B.C.	Ezra/Nehemiah		Jerusalem