

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Beginning of Creation to the Patriarchs (c. 4100-2100)

Book:

Genesis 1-11

The Creation (chs. 1-2)

Six Days

Young Earth

Adam & Eve

The Image of God

Original Righteousness - "able not to sin"

The Covenant of Works

The Fall & Progress of Sin (chs. 3-5)

Original Sin - "not able not to sin"

The Seed of the Woman

The Covenant of Grace

Cain & Abel

The Flood (chs. 6-9)

Noah & his family

Universal in scope

The Noahic Covenant

Table of Nations & Tower of Babel (chs. 10-11)

Confusion of languages

Mankind scattered

The Patriarchs (2166 to 1876)

Book:

Genesis 12-50

Abraham (2166-1991)

2091 Abram moves into Canaan

Isaac (2066-1886)

2051 Abraham offers Isaac on Mt. Moriah

2026 Isaac marries Rebekah

Jacob/Israel (2006-1859)

- 1929 Jacob goes to Haran
- 1922 Marries Leah and Rachael
- 1876 Jacob and family migrate to Egypt

See Chart 1 on page 5 for the names of Jacob's 4 wives and 12 sons.

The Egyptian Sojourn (1876-1446)

Joseph (1915-1805)

- 1909 Jacob & family move to Canaan at age 6
- 1898 Sold into slavery and taken to Egypt at age 17
- 1885 Made vice-ruler at age 30
- 1876 Moves Jacob and family to Egypt at age 39

Lived in Egypt 430 years

The Exodus and Wilderness Wanderings (1446-1406)

Books:

Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

Dates:

- 1526 Moses born (Thutmose I)
- 1486 Moses moves to Midian
- 1483-1450 Thutmose III (Pharaoh of the oppression)
- 1450-1423 Amenhotep II (Pharaoh of the Exodus)
- 1446 The Exodus under Moses
- 1445 The Law given to Moses

The Conquest and Judges (1406-1050)

Books:

Joshua, Judges, Ruth

Dates:

- 1406-1385 Under Joshua and the Elders
- 1385-1377 Under Cushan-Rishathaim of Mesopotamia (Judges 3:8)
- 1377-1055 Under 12 Judges of Israel

Names of the Judges (Military Leaders) & Years:

1. Othniel	40
2. Ehud	80
3. Shamgar	10
4. Deborah	40
5. Gideon	40
6. Tola	23
7. Jair	22
8. Jephthah	6
9. Ibzan	8
10. Elon	10
11. Ahdon	7
12. Samson	20

The United Kingdom (1051-931)

Books:

1 & 2 Samuel, 1 Kings 1-11, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles 1-9

Monarchs:

1051-1011	Saul
1011-971	David
971-931	Solomon

The Divided Kingdom (931-586)

Books:

1 Kings 12-22, 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles 10-36, Ruth

The Northern Kingdom – Israel (931-722)

- Remaining ten tribes
- Samaria becomes capital
- Elijah & Elisha (1 Kings 17-2 Kings 13)
- 722/721 Fall of Samaria and Dispersion of Israel
- Every king of Israel was evil (see Chart 2 on p. 6)

The Southern Kingdom – Judah (931-586)

- Two tribes of Judah and Benjamin
- Jerusalem as capital
- Some of the kings were good (see Chart 2 on p. 6)

The Babylonian Captivity (605-536)

Books:

Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel

Three Stages of Captivity under Nebuchadnezzar:

- 605 Attacks Jerusalem (Daniel and friends taken into captivity)
- 597 Attacks Judah (Ezekiel and 10,000 others taken into captivity)
- 586 Conquers Judah, destroys Jerusalem and temple

The Return & Rebuilding (536-444)

Books:

Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, Zechariah

Persian Kings:

- 539-530 Cyrus (first return under)
- 530-522 Cambyses (rebuilding stopped)
- 522-486 Darius 1 (work on temple renewed)
- 486-464 Xerxes (story of Esther)
- 464-423 Artaxerxes 1 (second & third returns)

Three Returns from Exile:

- 538 Decree of Cyrus allowing people to return and rebuild temple

- 536 First group of 49,697 under Sheshbazzar, Zerubbabel and Jeshua (Ezra 1-6)
 - 536-530 Opposition by Samaritans during Cyrus's reign
 - 530-520 Temple work stopped
 - 520 Haggai & Zechariah prophesy
 - Temple work resumed under Darius 1
 - 516 Temple finished

- 458 Second group of 1,758 under Ezra (Ezra 7-10)

- 444 Third group under Nehemiah (Neh 1-13)
 - Wall rebuilt in 52 days despite opposition from Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem
 - Walls dedicated and the Law is read

CHART 1

Jacob's Wives and Sons			
Leah	Rachel	Bilhah (Rachael's maidservant)	Zilpah (Leah's maidservant)
1. Reuben 2. Simeon 3. Levi 4. Judah 5. Issachar 6. Zebulun	7. Joseph ¹ - Ephraim - Manasseh 8. Benjamin	9. Dan 10. Naphtali	11. Gad 12. Asher

Gen 35:22-26

Now the sons of Jacob were twelve. [23] The sons of Leah: Reuben (Jacob's firstborn), Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun. [24] The sons of Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin. [25] The sons of Bilhah, Rachel's servant: Dan and Naphtali. [26] The sons of Zilpah, Leah's servant: Gad and Asher. These were the sons of Jacob who were born to him in Paddan-aram.

¹ Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, were born to him in Egypt and adopted by his father, Jacob (see Gen 48:5-6). They were given land and named among the 12 Tribes of Israel. Levi, one of Jacob's sons, was given no land. His descendants had national priestly duties - i.e., the Levitical priesthood. Instead, Joshua awarded them 48 towns throughout Israel (Jos 21:1-45).

CHART 2

The Kings of Israel and Judah			
Northern Kings	Reign	Southern Kings	Reign
1. Jeroboam I	931-910	1. Rehoboam	931-913
		2. Abijah	913-911
		3. Asa	911-869
2. Nadab	910-909		
3. Baasha	909-886		
4. Elah	886-885		
5. Zimri	885		
6. Tibni	885-880		
7. Omri	885-874		
8. Ahab	874-853		
9. Ahaziah	853-852	4. Jehoshaphat	873-848
10. Jehoram (Joram)	852-841		
		5. Jehoram (Joram)	853-841
		6. Ahaziah	841
11. Jehu	841-814		
		7. Athaliah	841-835
		8. Joash (Jehoash)	835-796
12. Jehoahaz (Joahaz)	814-798		
13. Jehoash (Joash)	798-782		
		9. Amaziah	796-767
14. Jeroboam II	793-753		
		10. Uzziah (Azariah)	792-740
15. Zechariah	753-752		
16. Shallum	752		
17. Menahem	752-742		
18. Pekah	752-732		
19. Pekahiah	742-740		
		11. Jotham	750-731
		12. Ahaz	735-715
20. Hoshea	732-722		
		13. Hezekiah	715-686
		14. Manasseh	695-642
		15. Amon	642-640
		16. Josiah	640-609
		17. Jehoahaz (Joahaz, Shallum)	609
		18. Jehoiakim (Eliakim)	609-597
		19. Jehoiachin (Coniah, Jeconiah)	597
		20. Zedekiah (Mattaniah)	597-586

CHART 3

The Modern Jewish Arrangement of the Old Testament (24 books)		
The Law (Torah)	The Prophets	The Writings (Hagiographa)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Genesis 2. Exodus 3. Leviticus 4. Numbers 5. Deuteronomy 	<p>Former Prophets</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joshua 2. Judges 3. Samuel 4. Kings <p>Later Prophets</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Isaiah 2. Jeremiah 3. Ezekiel 4. The Twelve 	<p>Poetical Books</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Psalms 2. Proverbs 3. Job <p>Five Rolls</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Song of Songs 2. Ruth 3. Lamentations 4. Esther 5. Ecclesiastes <p>Historical Books</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Daniel 2. Ezra-Nehemiah 3. Chronicles

CHART 4

The Greek (Septuagint) Arrangement of the Old Testament (39 books)²			
Law (Pentateuch)	History	Poetry & Wisdom	Prophets
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Genesis 2. Exodus 3. Leviticus 4. Numbers 5. Deuteronomy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joshua 2. Judges 3. Ruth 4. 1 Samuel 5. 2 Samuel 6. 1 Kings 7. 2 Kings 8. 1 Chronicles 9. 2 Chronicles 10. Ezra 11. Nehemiah 12. Esther 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Job 2. Psalms 3. Proverbs 4. Ecclesiastes 5. Song of Songs 	<p>Major</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Isaiah 2. Jeremiah 3. Lamentations 4. Ezekiel 5. Daniel <p>Minor</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hosea 2. Joel 3. Amos 4. Obadiah 5. Jonah 6. Micah 7. Nahum 8. Habakkuk 9. Zephaniah 10. Haggai 11. Zechariah 12. Malachi

² This is also the arrangement used in modern Protestant Bibles.