



Notes

- 1 | & II Chr. written post-exilic period
- 2 To Assyria
- 3 To Edom
- 4 By this time, Babylon also conquered

The Bible is a collection of 66 books (39 OT, 27 NT), written over a 1500 year time span, by 40 human authors (1 Divine Author), in 3 languages (Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic), in various literary styles (historical narrative, poetry, songs, prophecy, parables...) properly interpreted by hermeneutic principles (literal, contextual, historical, grammatical, & synthetic), as God's inspired Word, useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training (2 Tim 3:16), and as pertains to this class, with the OT serving as OUR example (1 Cor 10:11).

A Walk Through the Old Testament (in 8 Easy Steps)

It all begins in **Genesis** (1:1), where God creates time ("In the beginning"), force ("God created"), space ("the heavens"), and matter ("and the earth")....

1. 3 Cycles (Adam – Abraham) of Sin, Judgment, Redemption, Promise (Genesis)

- 1) Eⁿenic: S=disobedience – eating the fruit; J=curse/consequences; R=animal skin coverings; P=Gen 3:15 (1st gospel) promised offspring of woman
- 2) N^oahic: S=man was continually wicked; J=flood; R=ark; P=Gen 9:27 best translated – (God) will dwell in tents of Shem (rainbow is a bonus)
- 3) A^brahamic: S=Tower of Babel, which was rebellion against "fill the earth" ("build a tower LEST WE BE SCATTERED"), striving for a utopia w/o God; J=confused languages; R and P tied together=new nations (Israel), and through the man ABRAHAM, the line to the future Messiah

2. The People Lost Their Purpose, Unity and Separation (Genesis)

Why did they end up in Egypt? On the surface, because of the FAMINE. But ultimately because they lost their...

- 1) Purpose: Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob build altars to God, but the 4th generation after Abraham (sons of Jacob) never build altars or call on God.
 - 2) Unity: Abraham gives up choice land to Lot to keep peace, but the sons of Jacob want to kill their own brother (Joseph).
 - 3) Separation: Abraham insists on a wife for his son from their own people, but the sons of Jacob intermarry – Judah marries a Canaanite (and later sleeps with a "prostitute" who is his daughter-in-law).
- God planted this chosen family in the womb of Egypt to grow a nation! (Gen 50:20)

3. God Makes a Nation with 3 ingredients... a People, a Constitution, and a Land (Exodus through Joshua)

- 1) People: God causes the family of Jacob to grow from 70 members to around 2 million in only 430 years! Moses leads them out of Egypt, across the Red Sea, to Mt. Sinai.
- 2) Constitution: God gives His people their constitution at Mt Sinai – the LAW. (Their government is a theocracy, where God is their king, the ark is the throne, and the tabernacle is the capital.) Just as they're about to move into the Promised Land, disbelief (10 of 12 spies sent to scout come back afraid) causes them to wander in the wilderness 40 years before the new generation can go in and possess their land.
- 3) Land: Under Joshua's leadership, they divide and conquer the Promised Land, starting with Jericho. Now they are a NATION.

4. Problem: Failure During Time of Judges (to fully occupy new land) (Judges, Ruth, part of 1 Samuel)

Judges: As a result of not completely removing the worldly Canaanites, the Israelites fall into a cycle (repeated 7 times) of Sin, Servitude (slavery), Supplication (to God), Salvation (God raises up a Judge/leader to save them), and Silence (drifting away). Real problem: Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Ruth: A bright spot in a terrible time showing God's faithful remnant. And a redeemed pagan Moabite woman becomes Great Grandmother to King David.

Eli & Sons: Things get worse – Eli & corrupt sons die (no priest), the ark is captured (no throne), Shiloh (location of tabernacle) is burned (no capital), the Philistines are in control (no land) and Israel rejects God (no king). They cry out for a king (for the wrong reason) – to be like the other nations.

5. 120 Years of Monarchy (1 Samuel through 1 Kings 11)

Samuel (Last Judge & a Prophet) was transitional – from period of judges to period of kings.

1st King: SAUL. The peoples' choice – physically appealing, but he had no heart for God. He disregards and disobeys God. He has a good son, Jonathan, but Saul basically goes crazy and commits suicide after attempting to murder David. (Reigns 40 years.)

2nd King: DAVID. God's choice – he has a heart for God, retrieves the ark, conquers Jerusalem, wants to build a temple for God (collects the materials), loves God's law... He sins tragically with Bathsheba, but gives us Psalm 51 as model of repentance (and many other Psalms). God blesses and establishes his kingdom forever – through his descendent, Christ. (Reigns 40 years.)

3rd King: Solomon. He starts well, asks for wisdom to rule, builds the temple, and writes most of Proverbs & Song of Solomon early on. Israel has great peace, enlarged boundaries, prosperity, and a witness to other nations. But he has a divided heart and gets 3 strikes (prohibitions for a king from Deut 17) against him: (1) amassing horses – 40,000 stalls (2) amassing wives/concubines – 1000! (3) amassing silver & gold. He repents (writes Ecclesiastes) at end of his life, but God tears the kingdom from him. The nation splits in two when he dies in 931 BC. (Reigns 40 years.)

6. Kingdom Splits and Prophets Speak (1 Kings 12 through 2 Kings)

931 BC: Solomon dies and 10 tribes split north (called Israel) and 2 tribes split south (called Judah).

Israel (North): has 19 bad kings and is captured by Assyria in 722 BC. (They are kind of absorbed & disappear.)

Judah (South): has 20 kings (8 good ones) and is captured in 3 groups by Babylon (who has taken over Assyria following Israel's capture). Group 1 – 605 BC (includes Daniel & friends), Group 2 – 597 BC (includes Ezekiel), and Group 3 – 586 BC (Nebuchadnezzar flattens Jerusalem; includes Jeremiah – who writes Lamentations as a funeral song for Jerusalem).

Prophets: Obadiah (to Edom), Amos & Hosea (to Israel), Jonah & Nahum (to Nineveh/Assyria) – all repent for Jonah, but none for Nahum; and Isaiah, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, Joel, Micah, Zephaniah (and Lamentations) are all to Judah. But as the people don't respond to the prophets' plea to repent, they end up in exile.

7. Captivity/Exile (end of 2 Kings, Ezekiel, Daniel)

Through the prophets Ezekiel & Daniel, God still speaks to His people and lets them know His is in control (of ALL nations), and He uses their time in captivity to:

- 1) cure their idolatry (turned off by the extreme idolatry of Babylonians)
- 2) give them a respect for God's righteous law (by contrasting it to the unjust, capricious laws of their captors)
- 3) give them hope for the coming Messiah through prophecies

Persia takes over Babylon and under King Darius (whom Nehemiah serves), the Israelites return from exile

8. Return from Exile (Preparation for Messiah) (Ezra through Nehemiah)

The Return is in 3 groups: in 538 BC (majority w/ Zerubbabel), in 458 BC (w/Ezra), and in 444 BC (w/ Nehemiah). With the 1st return comes work on the TEMPLE (and trouble/delay – with exhortations from Haggai & Ezra for completion). With the 2nd return and Ezra, the PEOPLE had to get ready (be separated from their foreign wives – mass divorce). With the 3rd return and Nehemiah's leadership, the CITY was made ready (the WALL was rebuilt in 52 days).

Prophets: Haggai says "build the temple"; Zechariah says "repent – Messiah is coming"; Malachi says "worship in truth".

But even after the RETURN and REBUILDING, the people struggle because the Shekinah Glory of God has not returned – and Haggai tells them "the latter glory of this place will be greater than the former" – It has all been preparation for the coming King, the Messiah (Jesus Christ).