

Unpacking the Book

Lesson 2: The History of the Bible

I. Introduction

A. Word about time designation

1. BC: Before Christ
2. AD: "Anno Domini" or year of the Lord
3. BCE: Before the Common Era
4. CE: Common Era

B. Notes:

1. BCE and CE have been adopted by publishers who wish to remain "neutral" or sensitive to non-Christians
2. The Anno Domini designation is arguably not accurate. Christ was likely born in 4-6 BC

II. Time Lines

A. Biblical Events

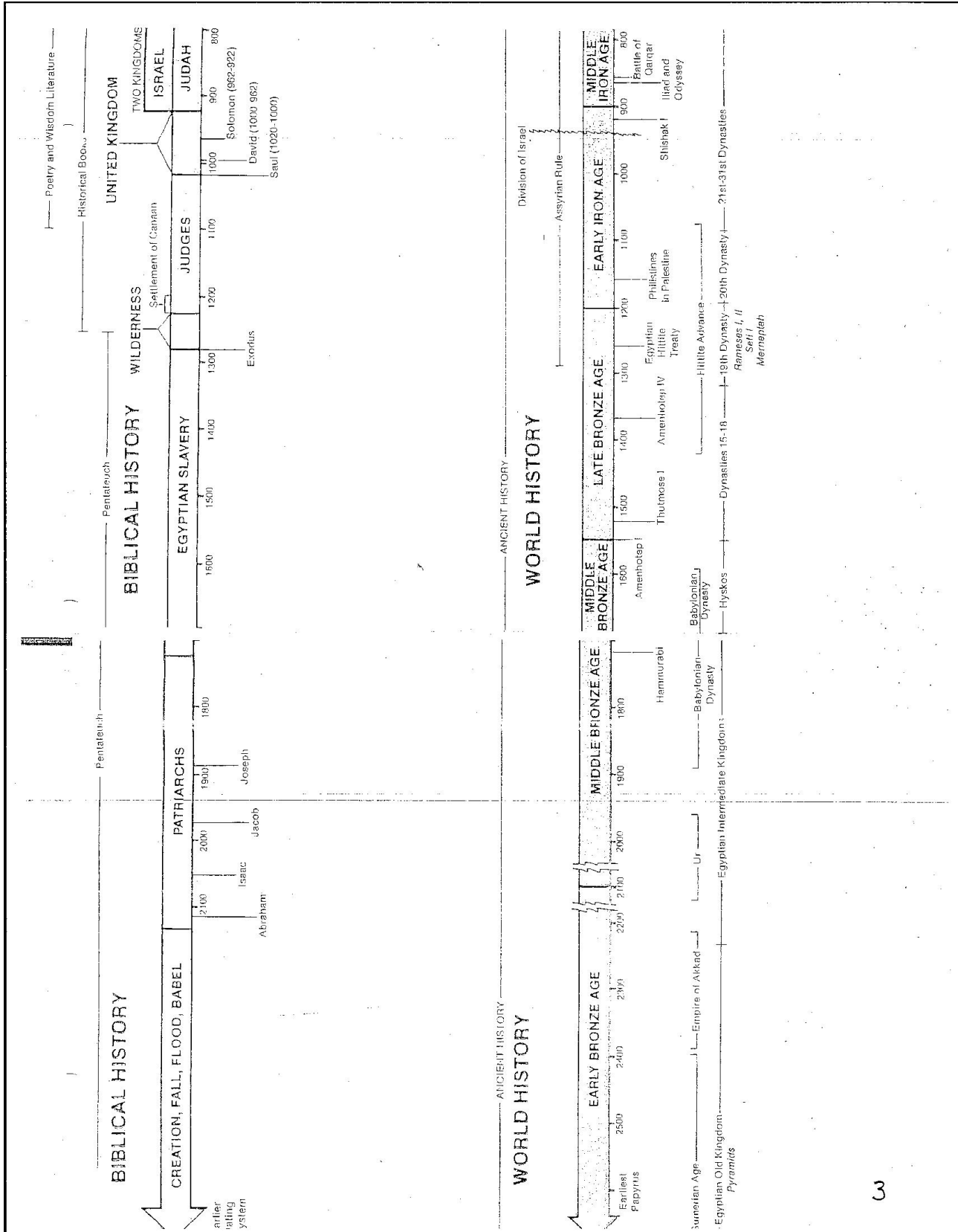
Book of the Bible	Approx. Date	Key Person/Event
Genesis	???	Creation, flood
	2150	Abraham
	2050	Isaac
	2000	Jacob
	1914	Joseph
Exodus	1525	Moses
	1445	Exodus from Egypt
Numbers	1444-1405	Wandering in desert
Joshua	1405-1398	Conquest of Canaan
	1390	Death of Joshua
	1410-1050	Period of the Judges
Judges	1200	Gideon
	1075	Samson
1 Sam.	1100	Samuel born
	1050-930	Israel's first three Kings – United Kingdom
	1043	Saul made king
	1011	Death of Saul
2 Sam./1 Chronicles	1011	David made king
	971	David dies
1 Kings/2 Chronicles	970	Solomon made king
	960	Solomon's temple built
	931-928	Israel – 10 tribes of the north, Samaria is the capital

		Judah – 2 tribes of the south (Judah and Benjamin) Jerusalem is the Capital.
2 Kings	840	Elijah
	928-722	Period of Kings of Israel
	721	Fall of Northern tribes (Assyria)
	928-587	Period of Kings of Judah
	586	Fall of Southern tribes (Babylon)
	840-400	Period of minor prophets
Esther		Exile for 70 years
Ezra	538	Temple rebuilding begins
	516	Temple dedicated
Nehemiah	444	Nehemiah works on the walls
	432	Old Testament ends
	400 years	400 years of Intertestamental silence
Matthew, Mark, Luke and John	5 BC	Birth of Christ (timed against death of Herod in 4 B.C.)
	29 AD	Jesus' public ministry
	33 AD	Jesus is crucified and resurrected
	35 AD	Paul is converted
Epistles	50 AD	New Testament Letters begin (starting with Galatians)
	67 AD	Paul is executed
	70 AD	Titus (Roman) destroys Herod's temple
Revelation	95 AD	John writes Revelation on Island of Patmos

(From Land of the Bible, p. 7-9)

B. Biblical Time line (see attached)

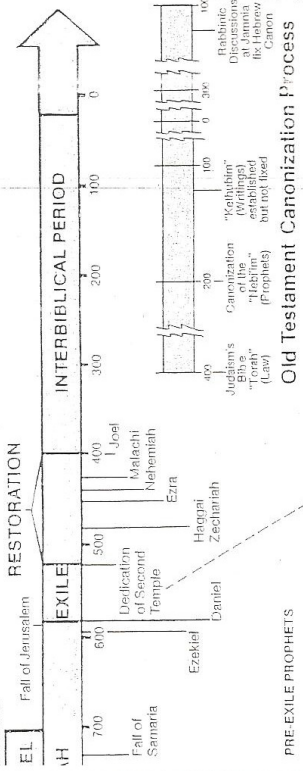
(Holman Book of Biblical Charts, Maps and Reconstructions, p. 32-35)



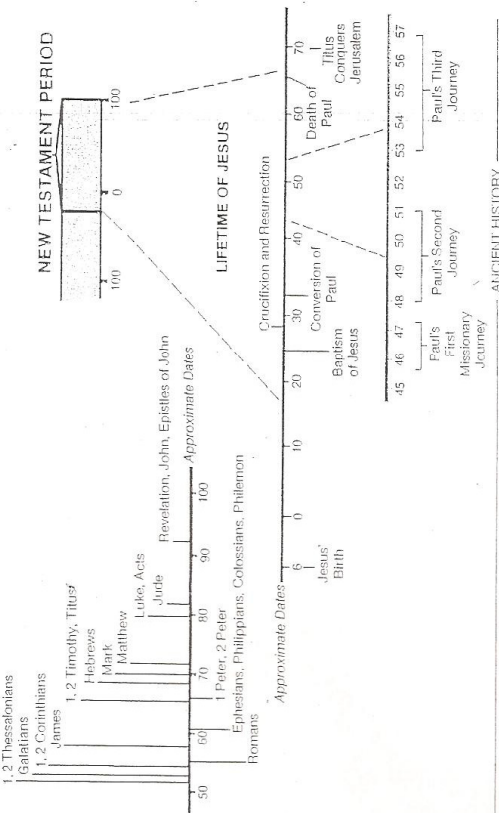
The Prophets
Poetry and Wisdom Literature
Historical Books

BIBLICAL HISTORY

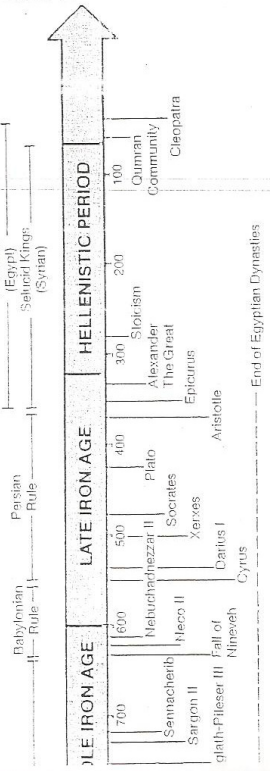
REGIOMS



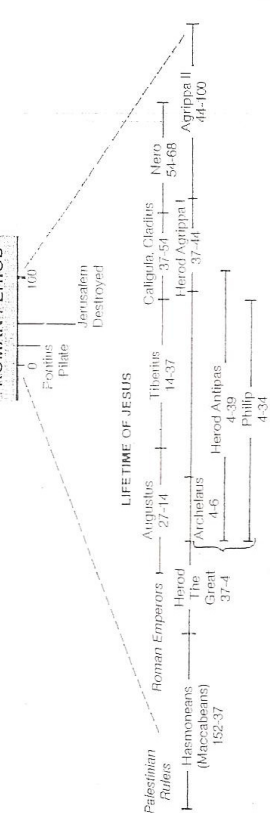
BIBLICAL HISTORY



WORLD HISTORY



WORLD HISTORY



C. Foreign Empires that ruled in Israel

Period	Empire	Major Events
587 BCE	Babylonian	Destruction of the first Temple.
538-333 BCE	Persian	Return of the exiled Jews from Babylon and construction of the second Temple (520-515 BCE).
333-63 BCE	Hellenistic	Conquest of the region by the army of Alexander the Great (333 BCE). The Greeks generally allowed the Jews to run their state. But, during the rule of the king Antiochus IV, the Temple was desecrated. This brought about the revolt of the Maccabees, who established an independent rule. The related events are celebrated during the Hanukah holiday .
63 BCE-313 CE	Roman	The Roman army led by Titus conquered Jerusalem and destroyed the Second Temple at 70 CE. Jewish people were then exiled and dispersed to the Diaspora. In 132, Bar Kokhba organized a revolt against Roman rule, but was killed in a battle in Bethar in Judean Hills. Subsequently the Romans decimated the Jewish community, renamed Jerusalem as Aelia Capitolina and Judea as Palaestina to obliterate Jewish identification with the Land of Israel (the word Palestine, and the Arabic word Filastin originate from this Latin name).
313-636	Byzantine	
636-1099	Arab	Dome of the Rock was built by Caliph Abd el-Malik on the grounds of the destroyed Jewish Temple.
1099-1291	Crusaders	The crusaders came from Europe to capture the Holy Land following an appeal by Pope Urban II, and massacred the non-Christian population. Later Jewish community in Jerusalem expanded by immigration of Jews from Europe.
1291-1516	Mamluk	
1516-1918	Ottoman	During the reign of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent (1520-1566) the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem were rebuilt. Population of the Jewish community in Jerusalem increased.
1917-1948	British	Great Britain recognized the rights of the Jewish people to establish a " national home in Palestine ". Yet they greatly curtailed entry of Jewish refugees into Israel even after World War II. They split Palestine mandate into an Arab state which has become the modern day Jordan, and Israel.

(www.science.co.il/Israel-history.asp)

D. Some key biblical dates to memorize

1. Abraham – approximately 2000 BC
2. David – approximately 1000 BC
3. Jesus – approximately -0-

III. The Old Testament Bookshelf

The Old Testament Bookshelf

The word "testament" means "will" or "covenant." The term "Old Testament," therefore, refers first to God's covenant or promise-law to bless mankind through the Jewish nation. It has also come to refer to the *writings about* the Old Covenant, although, strictly speaking, these ancient books are the Old Covenant *Scriptures*.

Purpose/Theme:

The Scriptures of the Old Testament record the story of God's chosen people, Israel, and their relationship to His covenant to bless all nations through them.

The Books of Law

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy

The Books of History

- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth
- First Samuel
- Second Samuel
- First Kings
- Second Kings
- First Chronicles
- Second Chronicles
- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- Esther

The Books of Poetry

- Job
- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Songs

The Books of Major Prophets

- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Lamentations
- Ezekiel
- Daniel

The Books of Minor Prophets

- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

B. An Old Testament Biblical Overview

