

Unlocking the Mystery: Introduction to Bible Study Old Testament

Groupings

The Torah
History
Wisdom literature
Prophets

Timeline

See back of this page.
Daniel 2:20-21

Themes

Jesus is coming!

Fulfilled Prophecy

His pre-existence
Born of a woman
Of the seed of Abraham
All nations blessed by Abraham's seed
10
Lamb provided by God
Declared to be the Son of God
His messenger would come before Him
Rejected by His own
A stone of stumbling to Israel
Triumphal entry into Jerusalem
Heal blind/ deaf/ lame/ dumb
Resurrected from the dead
Priest after the order of Melchizedek
Ascended to right hand of God

Hebrew Scripture

Micah 5:2
Genesis 3:15
Genesis 12:3
Genesis 22:8
Psalm 2:7
Isaiah 53:3
Isaiah 8:14-15
Zechariah 9:9
Isaiah 35:5-6; Isaiah 29:18
Psalm 16:10-11; 49:15
Psalm 110:4
Psalm 68:18

New Testament

John 1:1, 14
Matthew 1:18
Matthew 1:1-16
Genesis 12:3
Matthew 8:5,
John 1:29
Matthew 3:17
Malachi 4:5-6
Luke 1:17
1 Peter 2:8
Matthew 21:42
Matthew 21:5
Matthew 11:5
Mark 16:6
Hebrews 5:8-10
Luke 24:51ⁱ

For more prophecies, see 100Prophecies.org or AboutBibleProphecy.com.

Preservation of a remnant

Genesis 45:7, 2 Kings 19:30-31

Law and Gospel

Gen 22:14, Ex 17:15, Judges 6:24, Exodus 15:26, Ruth 4:14, 2 Samuel 22:2, Psalm 18:2, Leviticus 22:32, Isaiah 43:11, Hebrews 13:8

Historical Background of the Old Testament:

Date	Bible Event	Contemporary Scene
Undated past	Universe created	Possibly accounts for evidence of geologic eras.
6,000 BC or earlier [†]	Man created	First farming and cattle raising; beginnings of urban life.
5000-2500 BC [†]	Noahic Flood	
5000-2500 BC [†]	Noahic descendants (Shem, Ham, Japheth) develop first nations.	Earliest culture in Mesopotamia. Beginning of Chalcolithic (stone-copper) Age, first pottery. Badarian and Amratian cultures (Egypt).
4800-2400 [†]	Tower of Babel. Earliest languages.	First large buildings in Babylonia. Earliest occupational levels at Tepe Gawra, Nineveh, Tel ed-Judeideh, etc.
3000-2200	Noahic descendants develop in civilizing arts but lapse into polytheism. Knowledge of the one true God lost (Gen 11)	Rise of perverted tradition of creation and Flood, preserved in Sumerian and Babylonian literature. Union of Upper & Lower Egypt; pyramids built; first Semitic dynasty in Babylonia founded by Sargon 1 st (c 2360-2180).
c. 2161	Abram born in Ur.	Third Dynasty of Ur arises to power (2070-1960)
c. 2086	Abraham enters Canaan.	
c. 1871 BC	Israel enters Egypt.	Strong Middle Kingdom (Dynasty XII) in Egypt.
c. 1520	Moses born.	Dynasty XVIII (1570-1310). Kamose, Thutmose I & II, Queen Hatshepsut.
c. 1441	Exodus from Egypt.	Amenhotep II, Thutmose IV.
c. 1400-1361	Conquest of Canaan; Joshua and elders rule.	Invasion of Habiru (Hebrews?). Advance of Hittites. Greek world. Downfall of Crete.
c. 1200	Deborah's judgeship.	Raamses III (1198-1167) repulses invasion of Philistines and other "sea peoples" (who later invade Palestine).
c.1085	Samson's exploits.	Decline of Hittite, Assyrian and Egyptian imperial power, making possible David's & Solomon's conquests.
c.1010	David king of Judah.	
c. 931	Division of the kingdom; Rehoboam in the south (Judah) and Jeroboam 1 st in the north (Israel)	Rise of Damascus. Pharaoh Shishak's invasion (925).
c. 750-722	Isaiah the prophet.	Assyrians advance; siege of Samaria (falls in 722 to Sargon).
c. 716-642	Micah the prophet.	Sennacherib invades Judah (701).
c. 640-560	Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel prophesy.	Jerusalem besieged. Nebuchadnezzar's third invasion results in the fall of Jerusalem (586 BC). Many in Judah carried into exile.
c. 539	Fall of Babylon.	
c. 538	Edict of Cyrus (of Persia).	
c. 537-515	Remnant (50,000?) return to begin rebuilding the Temple (Zerubbabel finishes). Haggai & Zechariah.	Darius 1 st (522-486).
c. 481	Esther is Queen.	Greeks defeat Persians in major battles at Marathon & Salamis. Xerxes 1 st (Ahasuerus) on throne (486-465).
c. 458	Ezra's return; Law revived.	Artaxerxes 1 st (465-424).
c. 445	Nehemiah returns and rebuilds the walls of Jerusalem. Malachi gives final prophecy.	The "Golden Age" of Greek culture - Pericles (460-429); Herodotus "Father of History," (c. 485-425); Socrates (d. 399), Plato (d. 348), and Aristotle (d. 322) influence philosophy. ¹

[†] Range of dates reflects opinions of various scholars.

¹ Merrill F. Unger, *Unger's Bible Handbook* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1975), pp. 8-17.

JESUS IN EVERY OLD TESTAMENT BOOK

In Genesis, he is the Seed of the Woman.
In Exodus, He is the Passover Lamb.
In Leviticus, He is our High Priest.
In Numbers, He is our Guide by Day and by Night.
In Deuteronomy, He is the Prophet like unto Moses.
In Joshua, He is the Captain of our Salvation.
In Judges, He is our Champion and Rescuer.
In Ruth, He is our Kinsman-Redeemer.
In 1st and 2nd Samuel, He is our Trusted Prophet.
In Kings and Chronicles, He is our True King.
In Ezra and Nehemiah, He is the Rebuilder of Broken Walls.
In Esther, He is our Advocate before the Throne.
In Job, He is our Ever-Living Redeemer.
In Psalms, He is our Shepherd.
In Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, He is our Wisdom.
In Song of Solomon, He is the Loving Bridegroom.
In Isaiah, He is the Prince of Peace.
In Jeremiah, He is the Righteous Branch.
In Lamentations, He is the Unfailing Compassion.
In Ezekiel, He is the Glory of God.
In Daniel, He is the Fourth Man in the Fire.
In Hosea, He is our Faithful Husband.
In Joel, He is the Baptizer with the Spirit.
In Amos, He is our Burden-Bearer.
In Obadiah, He is the One Mighty to Save.
In Jonah, He is the Seeker of the Lost.
In Micah, He is the Beautiful Messenger.
In Nahum, He is the Avenger of God's elect.
In Habakkuk, He is One Crying for Revival.
In Zephaniah, He is the Savior.
In Haggai, He is the Restorer.
In Zechariah, He is the Fountain.
In Malachi, He is the Sun of Righteousness, risen with healing in His wings!

-- Henrietta Mears, *What the Bible is All About*
(Glendale, CA: Regal Books / Gospel Light Publications, 1973) p. 153, 339.

ⁱ Daniel Sims, The Hope of Israel Baptist Mission (<http://www.jesus-is-lord.com/messiah.htm>)