

“Biblical History ~ Part I” Old Testament Period

Pre-Abraham & Early Abraham Years

1. At the end of the “Early Bronze Age” (Approx. 2000 B.C.) there was a lot of uproar in the _____ region (Tigris/Euphrates valley).
 - There was a flood of invading nomadic tribes that settled in the areas of greater Mesopotamia.
 - One of the “invading people groups” called the _____ settled in and around this region.
 - 1) The characteristics and location of this people group is very similar to that of Abraham’s family.
 - 2) Some consider Abraham to be a descendant of this group of nomads.
2. It was sometime around 2000 B.C. that God called Abraham to leave his father’s home in Ur (of the Chaldeans) and go to a new land (of promise). (Genesis 12:1-8)
 - He travels from Ur to Haran
 - From Haran to Palestine
 - From Palestine to Egypt
 - From Egypt back to Palestine

The Age of the Patriarchs (Approx 300 years)

1. For our purposes this term; “Age of the Patriarchs” refers to that period of the _____ of _____ and or the _____ of _____.
2. These patriarchs are known as:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
3. They settled in the _____/_____ area
4. Due to a severe famine, Joseph - who as a young man was sold into slavery by his brothers, but became a high Egyptian official, sent for Jacob (Israel) to come to Egypt where the family (Jacob and his family – about 70 or so) eventually settled in Egypt (the area known as Goshen).
 - Jacob and his family (now called Israelites) enjoyed years of special position and protection while in Egypt during what is called the “Hyksos Regime”
 - 1) The Hyksos were believed to be an ethnically mixed group of Southwest Asiatic or Semitic people who appeared in the eastern Nile Delta during the “Second Intermediate Period”
 - 2) The Hyksos ruled Lower and Middle Egypt for over 100 years forming what is referred to as the 15th and 16th Dynasties of Egypt. (ca. 1674 – 1548 B.C.E.)
 - A new Egyptian regime will eventually take over, enslave the Israelites and force them to work on the Royal Building Projects.

The Time of the “Exodus”

1. The Exodus is considered the **most important** event in Israel’s history
 - It is _____ who will lead the Israelites out of Egypt
 - The Exodus *most likely* took place in _____ B.C. (*) under the reign of Rameses II who was Pharaoh of Egypt during this time.
 - Others date the Exodus in 1446 B.C. during the reign of Amenhotep II (1450-1424 B.C.)
2. After the Exodus, the Israelites wander in the wilderness of _____ for _____ years (one generation) and during this time they will receive the Covenant of the _____.

The Conquest of Canaan & The Period of the Judges

1. After Moses dies a young man named _____ will lead the Israelites back into Canaan (The Promised land).
 - One possible date of the beginning of the conquest is 1406
 - Another possible date of the beginning of the conquest is **1250 B.C.**
 - The conquest began with an attack against Jericho and it took approximately ____ years to finish the occupation of Canaan.

2. The Period of the Judges (* **1240-1050 B.C.**) was known for the following:

- A _____ governmental structure
- The Judges were not _____ rulers
 - 1) They were often charismatic people whom the people tended to rally around.
 - 2) The Spirit would often empower them to perform miraculous accomplishments that were of a Divine appointment or determination.
- The people (Israelites) were known for doing what was _____ in their own _____. Sin and disobedience became a normal way of life.
- Israel at this point was still not a unified nation and more of a loose _____ of all of the tribes.
- There was no major military threat during this period with the exception of the new kids on the block – the _____.
(They became stronger as time went on and were known for using iron weapons instead of bronze like the Israelites used)
- Some of the more noted Judges were:
 - 1) Deborah
 - 2) Barak
 - 3) Gideon
 - 4) Samson

The Period of the Kings (*1050-586 B.C)

1. The people of Israel began to cry for a _____ which was a major shift from a _____ (God ruled) to a _____ (man ruled).
2. There were also external “military” threats by **two major groups** that led to the need for organization both militarily and politically. (*Note – none of this would have been necessary had they remained obedient to the Lord and follow Him wholeheartedly*):
 - The _____ from the South and the West
 - The _____ from the North (Kingdom of Aram)
3. The first king of a united Israel was _____ (*1050 B.C.)
4. The next king to take the throne was _____ due to the spiritual failures of Saul.
 - David began his official reign (*1010 B.C.) although he had been anointed as king by Samuel earlier.
 - During the first 40 or so years of David’s reign – the nation of Israel enjoyed her “_____ age” in which they were noted as the mightiest nation on earth (at the time) and no real significant military threats.
5. The throne was then passed to _____ upon David’s death (*Although there was a brief attempted coup by Solomon’s brother Adonijah*)
 - During this time the _____ was built
 - Israel became an extremely _____ nation

- These riches came with a steep price
 - 1) Solomon was influenced by foreign women and embraced their “gods” and the results of his disobedience had enormous consequences.
 - 2) All of the infrastructure and improvements required taxation and forced service (slavery) which God warned them would happen with the institution of a human king! (I Samuel 8:10-22)
 - 3) Upon Solomon’s death the need to raise taxes to pay for all the services was a major issue that drove the United Kingdom to divide.
6. The United Kingdom divides into two kingdoms (931 B.C.):
- **The Northern Kingdom (Israel)**
 - 1) Consisted of all the tribes except for Judah and Benjamin
 - 2) Their first king was _____ (a former leader/overseer for Solomon) who led a revolt - once power transferred to Solomon’s son upon Solomon’s death.
 - 3) The initial capital of the Northern Kingdom was _____ and later moved to _____ under king Omri.
 - 4) The Northern Kingdom lasted approx. 200 years (930-720 B.C.). All of the kings were wicked and pursued some form of idolatry.
 - 5) They eventually were conquered by the _____ in 722 B.C. as prophesied by Hosea and Amos

- The Southern Kingdom (Judah)
 - 1) Consisted of the two tribes (Judah and Benjamin). The kingdom eventually just became known as Judah.
 - 2) Their first king was _____ (Solomon's son). He wasn't all that popular because he didn't listen to the council of elders and instead imposed heavy taxation on the people.....this is what brought about the rebellion from Jeroboam and a major cause of the division in the kingdom.
 - 3) The capital was located in _____
 - 4) They fell to the _____ in 586 when Jerusalem was completely sacked by Nebuchadnezzar.
 - 5) Their kings (some were good) fared a little better than the Northern tribes (see attached supplement)
 - 6) The prophets who spoke predominately to the Southern Kingdom were; Isaiah, Jeremiah, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Micah

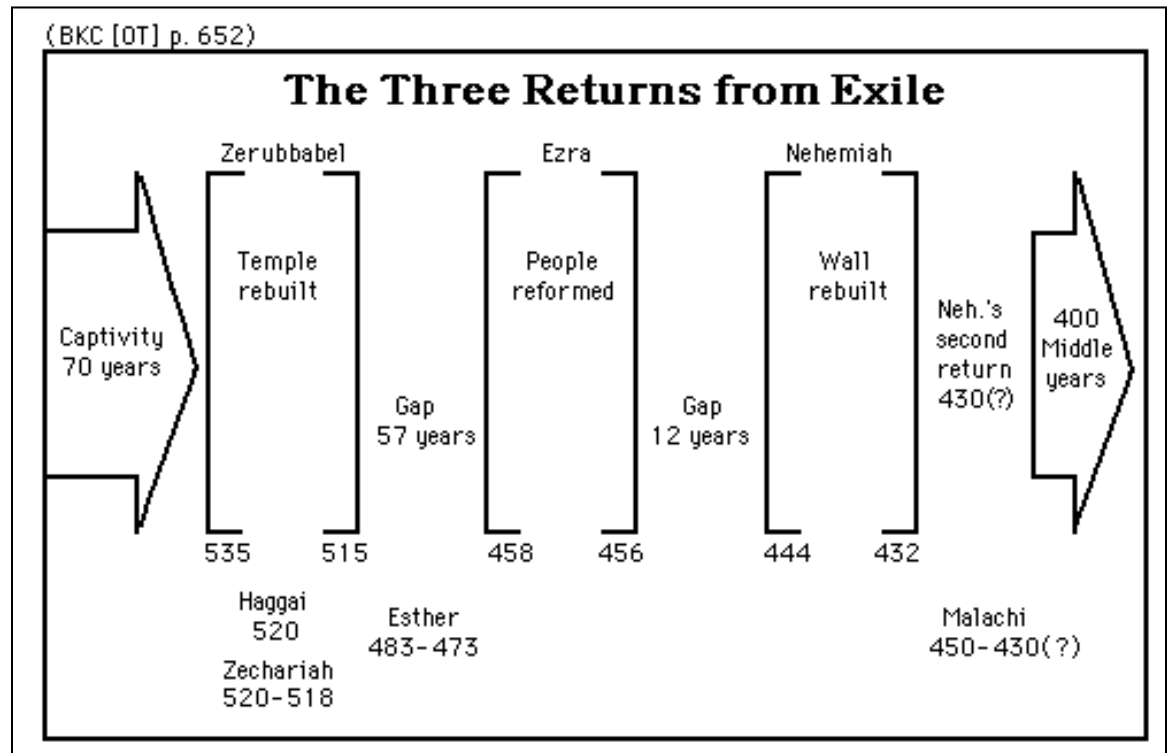
Babylonian Captivity (Exile)

1. This is defined as the period when Judah fell to the Babylonians and subsequently taken into captivity (The Exile) as prophesied by the prophet Jeremiah. (Jeremiah 25:9-11)
2. It lasted a total of 70 years
3. *During this period the _____, the _____, and the _____ became more important than the Temple (since there was no temple)*
4. The **prophets of the exile** were _____ and _____

Persian Rule

1. The Persian Empire conquered the Babylonians in 539 B.C. and acquired all the lands and assets of Judah.
2. It will be during this time that the term “**Jew**” will begin to be used and most conclude that it was the shortened version of “**Judah**”.
3. It will be under the reign of Cyrus the Great that the Jews will be permitted to return to Jerusalem.
 - This was prophesied by Isaiah about 150 years before the return occurred and Persia wasn’t even a major superpower when Isaiah writes about the event. (Isaiah 44:28-45:1)
 - Some Jews will not return to Jerusalem and many years later will eventually find themselves facing annihilation at the hands of an evil man named Haman.
 - 1) You can read about this in the Book of Esther – where Esther and Mordecai exposed the evil plot of Haman and the Jews are spared.
 - 2) The Jews celebrate this deliverance still today at their Feast of Purim. At their celebration they read the story of Esther and eat special foods commemorating the event.
4. The three prophets who ministered after the exile (sometimes called post exilic) were:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

5. There were a total of three returns to Jerusalem after the exile. (See charts below)



(BKC [OT] p. 654)

Chronology of the Postexilic Period

Persian Kings	Dates of Their Reigns	Biblical Events	Scripture References	Dates
Cyrus	559-530 B.C.	Edict of Cyrus for the return <i>First return of 49,897 exiles, under Zerubbabel (to build the temple)</i>	Ezra 1:1-4 Ezra 2	538 B.C.
		The altar and the temple foundation built	Ezra 3:1-4:5	536
Cambyses	530-522			
Smerdis	522			
Darius I	521-486	Haggai prophesied Zechariah prophesied The temple completed	Book of Haggai Book of Zechariah Ezra 5-6	520 520-518 515
Xerxes (Ahasuerus)	485-465	Accusation against Judah	Ezra 4:6	486
		Esther became queen	Esther 2:17	479
Artaxerxes I (Artashasta)	464-424	Artaxerxes stopped the rebuilding of Jerusalem <i>Second return of 4,000-5,000 exiles, under Ezra (to beautify the temple and reform the people)</i>	Ezra 4:7-23 Ezra 7-10	ca. 464-458 458
		<i>Third return of exiles, under Nehemiah (to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem)</i>	Book of Nehemiah	444
		Nehemiah's second return	Nehemiah 13:6	ca. 430
		Malachi prophesied	Book of Malachi	450-430 (?)

6. The temple was rebuilt in _____ B.C. under the leadership of _____ - it will not be anywhere near as glorious as the temple that Solomon built.
7. The Old Testament closes at _____ B.C.

Greek Rule

1. The Greek Empire under _____ will conquer the Persians and go on to dominate most of the known world.
2. The Greeks will establish a program called _____ of the world.
 - It was a term used to describe a cultural change in which something non-Greek becomes Greek (Hellenic).
 - The term “Hellenic” took hold sometime after Phillip of Macedon (father of Alexander the Great) defeated the Hellenic league (Greeks) and united them under one powerful ruler.
3. When Alexander the Great took over after his fathers’ death – he continued with conquering the world and spreading Greek culture.
 - For the first time all people’s began to speak a _____ language (Koine) which eventually helped foster the spread of the _____ in Christ’s time.
 - Alexander built several “Alexander” cities which became centers of Greek _____, _____, and _____.
 - All of these things had a profound impact on the Jewish region which we will discuss in our next lesson!