

The Chronological Order of the Old Testament

The Old Testament took about 1,500 years to write whereas the New Testament took about 50 years to write. In this section of the lesson, we will be going through the books of the Old Testament and capture some of the major events that occurred at that time.

Check out this [video](#) for a nice summary 😊

-NOTE: any information in this video is testable material

First, in the Old Testament, there are 46 books:

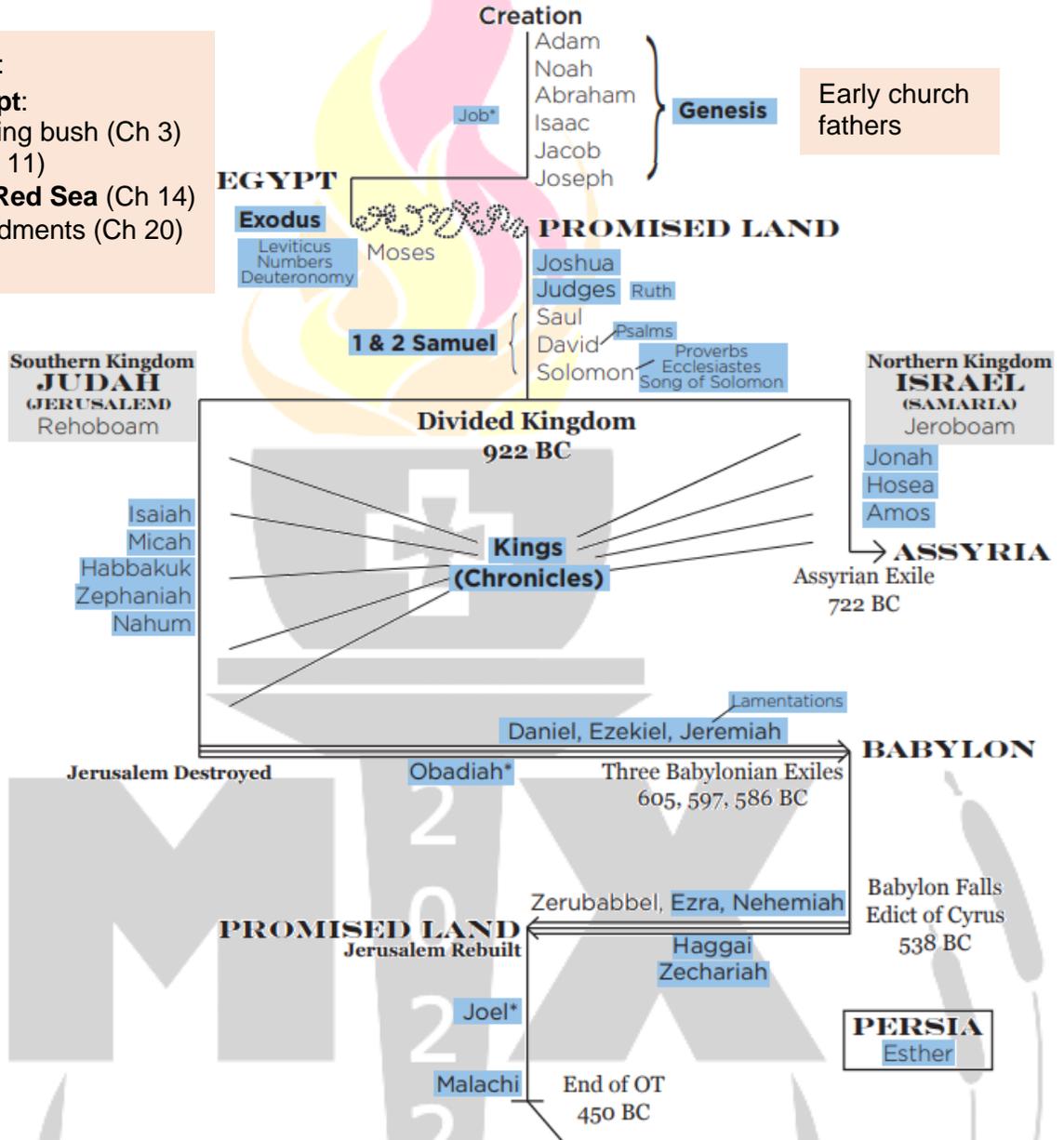
Books - Torah	1. Genesis 2. Exodus 3. Leviticus	4. Numbers 5. Deuteronomy
Historical Books	1. Joshua 2. Judges 3. Ruth 4. Samuel 1, 2 5. Kings 1, 2 6. Chronicles 1, 2	7. Ezra 8. Nehemiah 9. Tobit* 10. Judith* 11. Esther 12. Maccabees 1,2*
Poetic Books	1. Job 2. Psalm 3. Proverbs 4. Ecclesiastes	5. Song of Solomon 6. Wisdom* 7. Sirach*
Major Prophets	1. Isaiah 2. Jeremiah 3. Lamentations	4. Baruch* 5. Ezekiel 6. Daniel
Minor Prophets	1. Hosea 2. Joel 3. Amos 4. Obadiah 5. Jonah 6. Micah	7. Nahum 8. Habakkuk 9. Zephaniah 10. Haggai 11. Zachariah 12. Malachi

*Deuterocanonical books which were covered previously

Old Testament Timeline

Exodus has 3 parts:

- Israelites in **Egypt**:
Moses and the burning bush (Ch 3)
Ten Plagues (Ch 7 - 11)
- Crossing of the **Red Sea** (Ch 14)
- The 10 commandments (Ch 20)



— Bible verses in this font are to be memorized.
— Bible verses in this font are to be understood only.

In the next portion of this lesson, we will be discussing some of the key/interesting characters in the Old Testament and the major events associated with them:

Adam

- The first human being created out of the dust of the ground.
- His wife was Eve. They had three kids Cain, Abel, Seth.
- God informed Adam and Eve that they can eat from any tree that is in the Garden of Eden, But not the tree of the knowledge of good and Evil. However, they disobeyed God and did eat of the tree, so **corruption** started to take place on Earth

“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (Genesis 2:16-17)

Noah

- 10th descendant from Seth
- We hear nothing about him till he is 500 years old when it is said he has three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japeth.
- Noah and the ark:
 - As a result of the world’s corruption, God decided to flood the earth.
 - As a righteous man, Noah was tasked with building the ark that would save him and his family from the flood.
 - Noah was about 600 years old when the flood came.
- Noah’s first act after the flood was to build an altar and offer a sacrifice to God.
- God made a covenant with Noah that He will not flood the earth again and gave him the rainbow as a sign of this covenant.

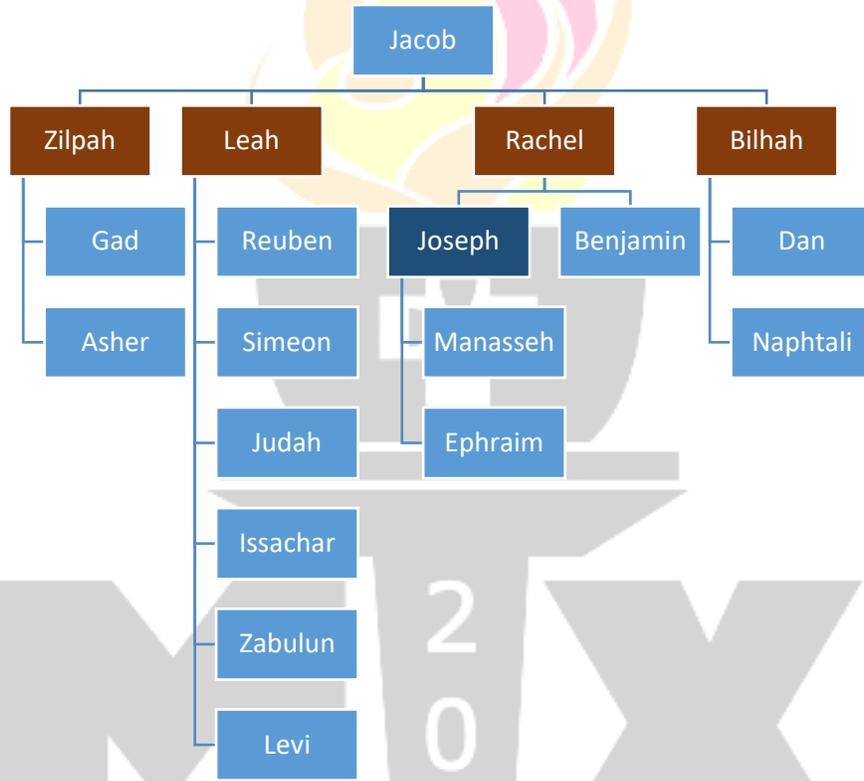
Abraham (~10 generations after Noah)

- The man whose life of faith and covenant with God established the **nation of Israel**, his descendants, as the people of God.
- God changed his name from “Abram”. His wife was Sarah. He had two sons, Isaac (Sarah) and Ishmael (Hagar). Isaac married Rebekah and they had Jacob and Easu.
- God promised Abraham that he will bless him and his descendants.

”I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Genesis 12:2-3)

Jacob (also known as “Israel”)

- Jacob was the son of Isaac, grandson of Abraham, and father of **twelve sons**, who became the 12 tribes of Israel and a daughter named Dinah.
 - Sons of Levi (the Levites) became the priests
 - There is no tribe called “Joseph” as his two sons form two tribes – Manasseh and Ephraim
 - **Joseph** is the reason the Israelites migrated to Egypt to escape the famine



- Jacob dreamt of a ladder that was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. The Lord stood above it and informed Jacob that he will be with him and he will not leave him behind

“Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.” Genesis 28:15

Moses

- Used by God to deliver the Israelites from Egyptian slavery
- He crossed the red sea with Israelites and received the 10 commandments of God
- One of the **symbols of the cross** in the Old Testament was in this Moses' story against the Amalekites

“And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands became heavy; so, they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.” (Exodus 17:11-12)

- Moses' disciple and successor **Joshua** is the one lead the Israelites back to the promise land (Canaan)

Deborah

- After the Israelites were in the promise land, God appointed **judges** for his people

Othniel

Ehud

Shamgar

Deborah

Gideon

Tola

Jair

Jephthah

Ibzan

Elon

Abdon

Samson

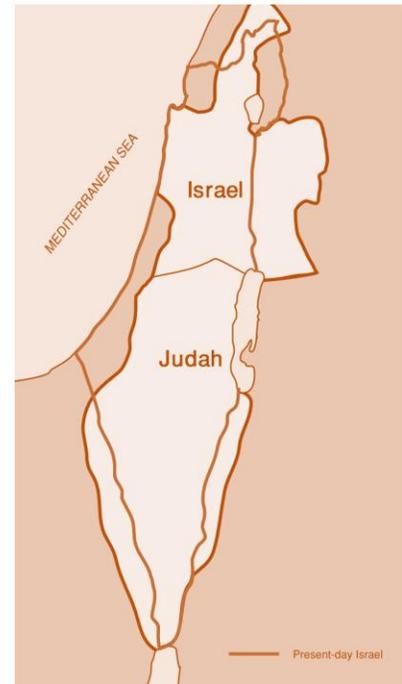
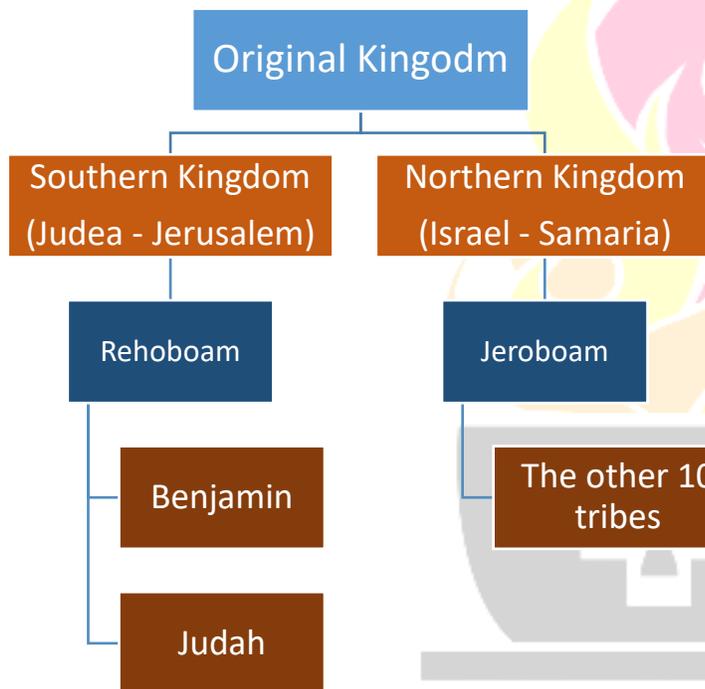
- Deborah was the only woman who served as a “Judge” of Israel.
- Deborah led the Israelites to a military victory over Sisera of Damascus

At this point, the people of Israel plead to God to appoint them a “**king**” so they become like all the other nations, so **Saul** becomes the first king of Israel

David

- His father's name is Jesse; David was the youngest son of a family of 10.
- Defeated Goliath, the Philistine giant.
- His fame after defeating Goliath made Saul jealous.
- Second appointed king after Saul
- One of his first acts as king was to secure Jerusalem, which he seized from the Jebusites.
- David wrote a big portion of the book of Psalms

- His son **Solomon** built the temple but after his death the kingdom split in two and the era of “**prophets**” began



Ahithophel

- He was one of David’s advisors, but he later betrayed David, aiding Absalom (David’s son) in his rebellion to overthrow David’s kingdom.
- He was well known for his advice, so much that:

“Now the advice of Ahithophel, which he gave in those days, was as if one had inquired at the oracle of God. So was all the advice of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.” 2 Samuel 16:23

- Ahithophel’s advice was to pursue David immediately with an army of twelve thousand men and “attack him while he is weary and weak”. Hushai, however, counselled Absalom to delay the attack, form a larger force, and annihilate David and his men.
- Absalom chose to follow the advice of Hushai and reject Ahithophel’s counsel. God dispersed the counsel of Ahithophel. When Absalom rejected his advice, Ahithophel’s pride was injured, and he killed himself.
- Note: During the liturgy, in one of the sections, the priest says:
The enemies of Your Holy Church, O Lord, as at all times, now also humiliate. Strip their vanity, show them their weakness speedily.
Bring to naught their envy, their intrigues, their madness, their wickedness, and their slander, which they commit against us. O Lord, bring them all to no avail. Disperse their counsel, O God, **who dispersed the counsel of Ahithophel.**

In 722 BC, Assyria conquered the northern kingdom of Israel so only Judah was left. The southern kingdom survived the Assyrians but lost to the Babylonians and the **exile took place** and the Jews stayed in Babylon for 50 years.

Hananiah Azariah and Mishael

- Daniel's three friends who were thrown into the fiery furnace for refusing to worship the golden image of Nebuchadnezzar.
- They also had other names in Babylon associated to them

To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: He gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego." (Daniel 1:7)

- Inside of the fiery furnace, when the king came, he saw that there were four people inside and they were singing. Their prayer is mentioned in the "continuation of Daniel" in the Deuterocanonical books

After the fall of the Babylonian Kingdom, the Jews **return to Jerusalem** in 3 groups under the leadership of Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah.

Esther

- Some of the Jews didn't return to Jerusalem since the story of Esther takes place in Persia after the return from Exile.
- Her Jewish name is Hadassah.
- Esther was a beautiful Jewish whom the Persian king Ahasuerus married and made his queen.
- Esther later saved the Jews from certain destruction by exposing the plots of Haman against her uncle, Mordecai.