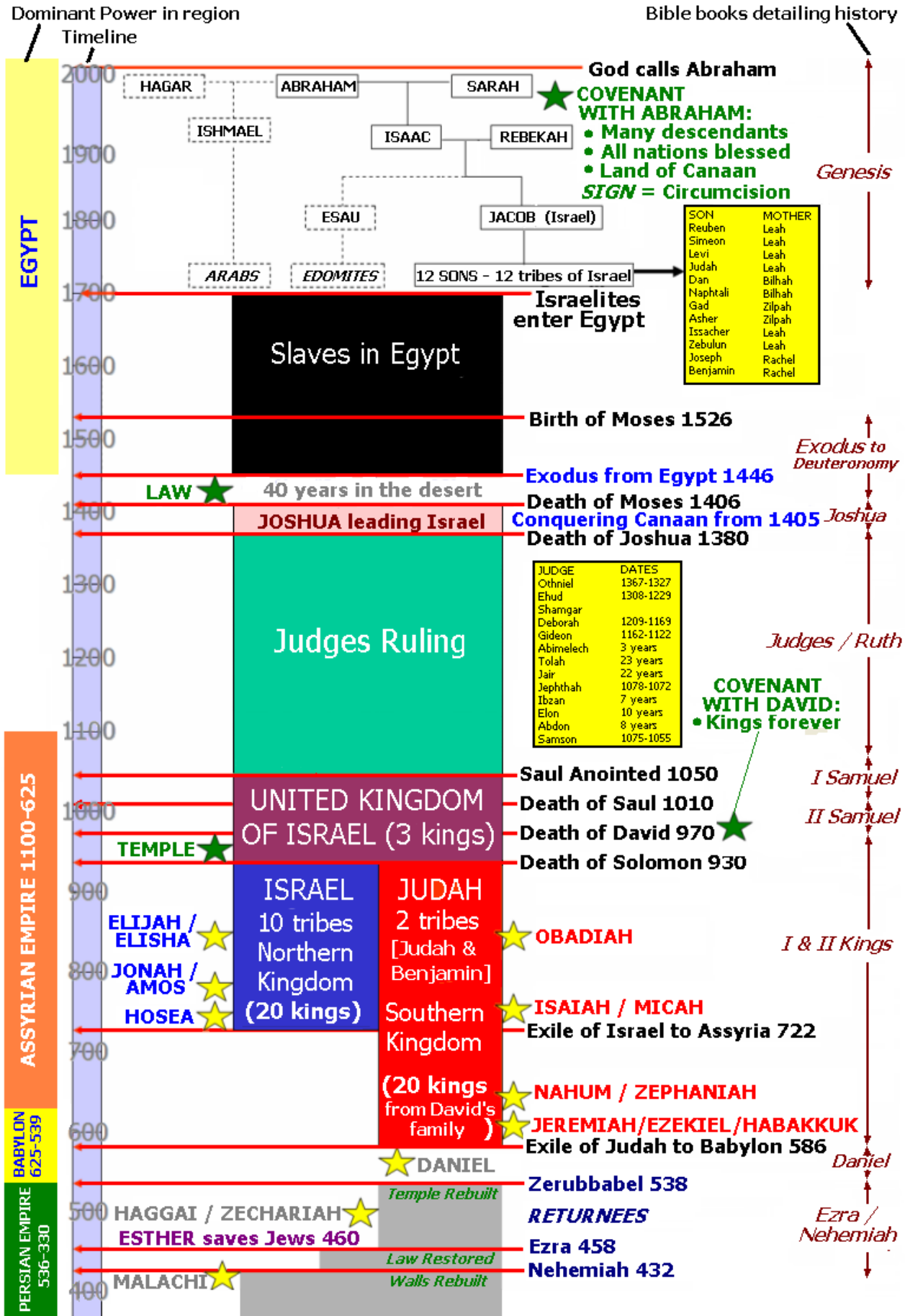


UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIANITY

Module 1: The Old Testament STUDY AIDS

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Old Testament Timeline



Books of the Old Testament

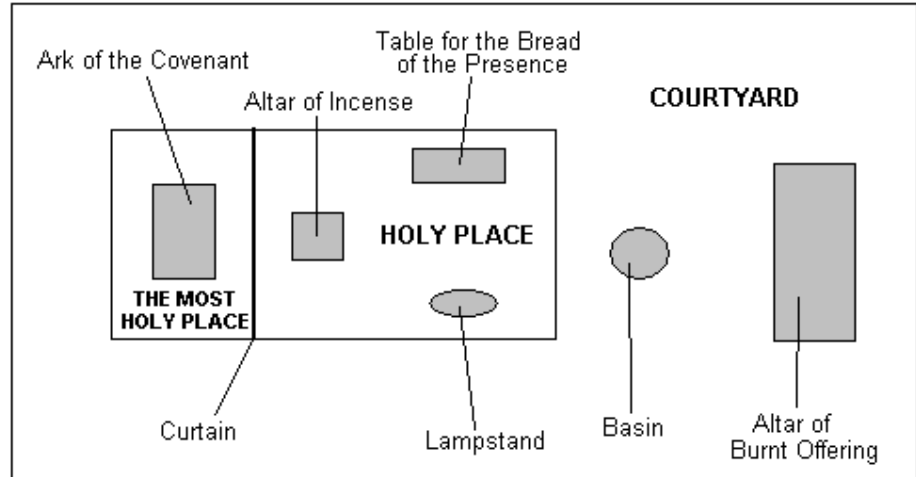
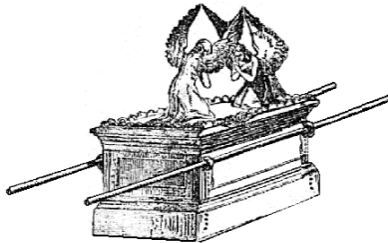
BOOK	AUTHOR	APPROX. DATES*	THEME(S)
<i>Pentateuch</i> – books of the Law			
Genesis	Moses	Creation -1700	Beginnings – Creation to the foundation of the nation of Israel
Exodus	Moses	1526-1406	God delivers Israel from Egypt and gives them His Law
Leviticus	Moses	1446-1406	Rules about sacrifices, festivals, the priesthood and the Tabernacle
Numbers	Moses	1446-1406	The people wandering in the desert
Deuteronomy	Moses	1446-1406	The Law of God
<i>Historical Record</i> – books recording the history of the nation of Israel			
Joshua	Joshua	1406-1380	The conquest of Canaan under the leadership of Joshua
Judges	<i>Unknown</i>	1380-1100	The period when the people of Israel had no King. The leaders (Judges) God used to save His people in various ways
Ruth	<i>Unknown</i>	Time of Judges	Ruth, a Moabite woman, has faith in God and becomes part of God's people and the ancestor of King David
I Samuel	<i>Unknown</i>	c.1080-1010	The life and ministry of Samuel and the reign of Saul
II Samuel	<i>Unknown</i>	1010-970	The reign of David
I Kings	<i>Unknown</i>	970-722	The reigns of the kings of Israel and Judah. Kings was probably written during the time of the kings and is primarily from their perspective, while Chronicles was written after the return from Exile analysing the time of the kings from the perspective of the priests.
II Kings	<i>Unknown</i>		
I Chronicles	<i>Unknown</i>		
II Chronicles	<i>Unknown</i>		
Ezra	Ezra	538-458	The first two groups of Jews return from Exile under Zerubbabel and Ezra
Nehemiah	Nehemiah	432	The third group of Jews return from Exile under Nehemiah
Esther	<i>Unknown</i>	460	Esther becomes Queen of Persia and is able to use her influence to save the Jewish people from destruction
<i>Wisdom / Poetry</i> – books containing philosophy, wise sayings and poems and songs			
Job	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	One man's experience of suffering and his faith in God
Psalms	David, Moses and others	<i>Various</i>	Songs of joy and despair giving praise to God and expressing real relationships with Him. The psalms also include many prophecies about the Messiah.
Proverbs	Solomon and others	<i>Various</i>	Wise sayings about God and life passed on from older wise men to younger, less experienced people
Song of Solomon	Solomon	970-930	A poem designed to teach young Jewish men about romantic love and sexual attraction
Ecclesiastes	Solomon	970-930	One man's quest for meaning in life
<i>Prophecy</i> – God's word delivered to His people through prophets			
Isaiah	Isaiah	740-681	Judgement on the people of Israel for their injustice, the coming Kingdom of God and the Messiah (Suffering Servant and King)
Jeremiah	Jeremiah	627-586	God's judgement on unfaithful Israel through 70 years Exile, and the hope of restoration through a New Covenant
Lamentations	Jeremiah	586	Mourning over the destruction of Jerusalem
Ezekiel	Ezekiel	593-571	God's judgement on unfaithful Israel through the Exile and the hope of God's Spirit in His people under a new shepherd
Daniel	Daniel	605-536	God's preservation of His people during the Exile and the hope for God's future universal Kingdom
Hosea	Hosea	753-715	Redeeming love exemplified through Hosea's marriage to a prostitute
Joel	Joel	835-796	God's judgement on the people, and the coming Day of the Lord when His Spirit will be in His people
Amos	Amos	760-750	Judgement by God and the restoration of Israel under God's King with the inclusion of the Gentile nations
Obadiah	Obadiah	855-840	The doom of Edom
Jonah	Jonah	? 793-753	Jonah the unwilling missionary to Nineveh – God's great salvation
Micah	Micah	742-687	Judgement and the coming King from Bethlehem
Nahum	Nahum	663-654	The doom of Nineveh
Habakkuk	Habakkuk	612-589	God will judge through the Babylonians – Habakkuk's struggle with God's plan that leads to greater faith in Him
Zephaniah	Zephaniah	640-621	Coming judgement but future hope for Jerusalem
Haggai	Haggai	520	Encouragement to rebuild the Temple
Zechariah	Zechariah	520	Comfort and a glorious future for Jerusalem when the Lord comes to reign
Malachi	Malachi	430	Warning against empty sacrifices and about God's coming judgement

* In the case of wisdom and prophecy books, dates are the approximate dates of writing. In the case of other books the dates are approximate dates when events recorded in the book occurred.

The Tabernacle, Festivals and Sacrifices

THE TABERNACLE (Exodus 35)

The Ark of the Covenant



ITEM	DESCRIPTION	SIGNIFICANCE
Ark of the Covenant	Golden box 130x60x60 cm containing the 10 commandments, manna & Aaron's rod	Symbolised God's covenant with the people of Israel based on His provision and their obedience to the Law
Atonement Cover	Cover of the Ark of the Covenant – with 2 golden angels with wings outstretched	Symbolised the presence of God with His people
Curtain	Divided the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place	Symbolised the separation of people from the holy God because of sin
Table of Bread of the Presence	A table in the Holy Place on which 12 loaves of baked bread were set	The bread symbolised God's provision for the needs of the 12 tribes of Israel
Lampstands and Lamps	A golden lampstand with 7 branches containing 7 burning oil lamps	Lit the Holy Place for the Priests – represented God's watch over His people to protect them
Altar of Incense	An altar in front of the curtain in the Holy Place on which incense was burnt	Represents God's acceptance of the prayers of His people
Altar of Burnt Offering	A bronze altar outside the Tabernacle used for the sacrifices	Symbolised how sacrifice restores the relationship of the people with God
Basin	A large washbasin where priests cleansed themselves before performing their duties	Symbolised the need for spiritual cleansing before entering God's presence to serve Him

THE SACRIFICES (Leviticus 1-5)

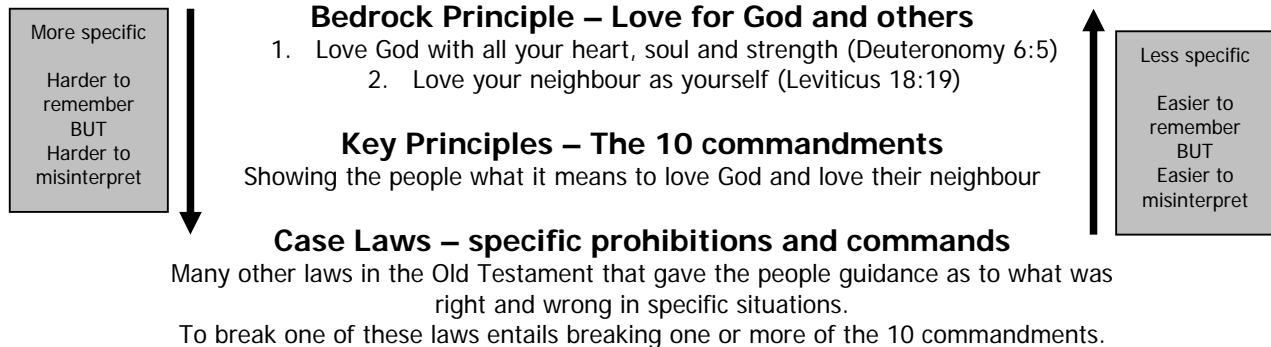
NAME	PURPOSE	SIGNIFICANCE
Burnt Offering (Ch 1)	Payment for sins in general	Showed the person's devotion to God
Grain Offering (Ch 2)	To show honour and respect to God in worship	Acknowledged that everything we own belongs to God
Peace Offering (Ch 3)	To express gratitude to God	Symbolised peace and fellowship with God
Sin Offering (Ch 4)	Payment for unintentional sins (e.g. thoughtlessness or neglecting to do right)	Restored the sinner to fellowship with God – showed how serious sin is
Guilt Offering (Ch 5)	Payment for specific sins against God and others	Provided compensation for injured parties (this was paid in addition to the sacrifice to God)

THE FESTIVALS (Leviticus 23)

NAME	DAYS	CELEBRATED	SIGNIFICANCE
Passover (v5)	1	The deliverance from Egypt	Reminded the people of God's deliverance
Unleavened Bread (v6-8)	7	The Exodus from Egypt	Reminded the people of living a new kind of life
Firstfruits (v9-14)	1	The first crops of the new barley harvest	Reminded the people of God's provision for them
Pentecost (Harvest) (v15-22)	1	End of the barley harvest and beginning of wheat harvest	Showed joy and thanksgiving over the bountiful harvest
Trumpets (v23-25)	1	Civil New Year (beginning of 7 th month)	Expressed joy and thanksgiving to God for the past and coming years
Day of Atonement (v26-32)	1	Removal of sin from the people and the nation	Restored fellowship with God for the nation through sacrifice
Shelters (v33-43)	7	God's protection and guidance in the desert under Moses	Renewed commitment to trust God's guidance and protection

The 10 Commandments

These ten laws are recorded on two occasions in the books of Moses – Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21. They form the core of the Law God gave to His people. The Law can best be understood in terms of three tiers and the relationship between them:



So, then, the 10 commandments are at the heart of the Law and of the Old Covenant. They are a convenient balance between the general underlying principle of love and the highly specific case law situations recorded in passages such as Deuteronomy Chapter 20.

LAWS SHOWING HOW TO LOVE GOD

1. Do not worship any other gods besides me

The first commandment reveals the central claim of the Bible – that there is only one true God, and He alone should be worshipped and obeyed by human beings. Any action that expresses independence from God or fails to honour Him is sinful.

2. Do not make idols of any kind

The second commandment reflects our constant tendency to worship things that are not God. Human beings are spiritual creatures, and we need to worship something. If we do not worship God we worship other things – people, money, possessions, success, power, popularity as well as false gods and movie or music stars can all become idols. To worship an idol is sinful.

3. Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God

The name of God is holy, and is not to be misused. Misuses of His name would include connecting His name with our own plans that are not according to God's will, expecting to receive things because we use His name even if we do not trust in Him and using His name as a swear word.

4. Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy

The seventh day (Saturday) was special to the Jews because this was the day on which God rested after creating the universe in six days. It was to be a day devoted to worshipping God alone and so was to include complete rest from ordinary work. Although Christians do not have one day of the week to keep as a Sabbath in this way (although Sunday is kept in this way by some Christians), the principle of resting and spending one day in seven in devotion to God is still important, since it comes from Creation. To overwork or to forget to make time for God would be sinful.

LAWS SHOWING HOW TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBOUR

5. Honour your father and mother

Family relationships are vital in the Bible – close families are part of God's plan for people. Any action that does not show love for family, especially parents, is sinful.

6. Do not murder

For one individual to deliberately take the life of another human being is sinful.

7. Do not commit adultery

To break the marriage promises by being unfaithful to your husband or wife is sinful. Any sexual relationship before or outside marriage is sinful.

8. Do not steal

To take something that belongs to another person or organisation is sinful.

9. Do not testify falsely against your neighbour

To be dishonest or tell lies is sinful.

10. Do not covet ... anything ... your neighbour owns

To desire something that belongs to another person in a way that leaves you discontent with your own position in life is sinful.

Kings and prophets in Israel and Judah

NORTHERN KINGDOM (Israel – 10 tribes)		SOUTHERN KINGDOM (Judah – 2 tribes)	
PROPHETS	KINGS	KINGS	PROPHETS
Ahijah 934-909	<p>Jeroboam I (930 – 22 years) * Fortified Shechem as capital, set up two idols and led the people into sin I Kings 11:26-14:34; II Chronicles 10:12-13:20</p> <p>Nadab (909 – 2 years) I Kings 15:25-28</p> <p>Baasha (908 – 24 years) * Led the people into idol worship I Kings 15:27-16:7; II Chronicles 16:1-6</p> <p>Elah (886 – 2 years) Continued idol worship I Kings 16:6-14</p> <p>Zimri (885 – 7 days) * I Kings 16:9-20</p> <p>Tibni (885 – rival for kingship) * I Kings 16:21-22</p> <p>Omri (885 – 12 years) * Built capital city of Samaria. Had great military power, but continued to lead the people into idolatry I Kings 16:16-28</p> <p>Ahab (874 – 22 years) Married Jezebel (an extremely wicked non-Jewish woman), worshipped the false god Baal, and suffered three years of famine as judgement from God I Kings 16:28-22:40; II Chronicles 18:1-34</p> <p>Ahaziah (853 – 2 years) Proposed joint trade with Judah I Kings 22:40- II Kings 1:18; II Chronicles 10:35-37</p> <p>Joram (852 – 12 years) Suffered famine and war most of his reign II Kings 3:1-8:25; II Chronicles 22:5-7</p> <p>Jehu (841 – 28 years) * Destroyed the priests and temples of Baal, but did not consistently follow God II Kings 9:1-10:36; II Chronicles 22:7-12</p>	<p>Rehoboam (930-913) Built many cities and strengthened economy (despite paying tribute to Egypt). Followed God for three years, but then set up idols I Kings 11:43-14:31; II Chronicles 9:31-12:16</p> <p>Abijah (913-910) Was wicked, but called on God for help to win a battle against Israel I Kings 14:31-15:8; II Chronicles 13:1-14:1</p> <p>Asa (910-872) Destroyed pagan altars and rebuilt God's altar. Built new cities and gained wealth from defeating enemies. Led the people to worship God and achieved peace. I Kings 15:8-24; II Chronicles 14:1-16:14</p>	
Elijah 875-848		Jehoshaphat (872 – 25 years) Worshipped God and destroyed idols. Established education, appointed judges, collected tribute from Philistines, had strong military I Kings 15:24; 22:41-50; II Chronicles 17:1-21:1	Obadiah 855-840
Micaiah 865-853		Jehoram (853 – 8 years) Married Athaliah, a wicked daughter of Ahab. Killed all his brothers, and made the people worship idols II Kings 8:16-24; II Chronicles 21:1-20	Jehu 853
Elisha 848-797		Ahaziah (841 – 1 year) Friend of King Joram of Israel II Kings 8:24-9:29; II Chronicles 22:1-10	
		Queen Athaliah (841 – 6 years) Stole from the Temple to decorate temple of Baal. Killed all her grandchildren except Joash, who was hidden by his nurse. II Kings 11:1-20; II Chronicles 22:10-23:21	
		Joash (835 – 40 years) Crowned aged seven years by High Priest Johoiada. Promoted peace and prosperity, repaired the Temple and destroyed the altars to Baal. Abandoned God after Jehoiaada died. II Kings 11:2-12:21; II Chronicles 22:11-24:27	Joel 835-796
	Jehoahaz (814 – 17 years) Evil king – led people to worship false gods Asherah II Kings 13:1-9		
	Jehoash (798 – 16 years) Evil, but recognised Elisha's authority as God's prophet II Kings 13:10-14:16; II Chronicles 25:17-24		
Jonah ? 793-753	Jeroboam II (783 – 41 years) Very evil, but powerful, leading to economic prosperity and military peace II Kings 14:16-29	Amaziah (796 – 29 years) Good, but did not completely wipe out idol worship. Organised the army. II Kings 14:1-20; II Chronicles 25:1-28	
Amos 760-750		Azariah [Uzziah] (792 – 52 years) Developed the economy and reorganised the army, but violated God's Law concerning the	

<p>Hosea 753-715</p>	<p>Zechariah (753 – 6 months) Encouraged idol worship II Kings 14:29-15:11</p> <p>Shallum (752 – 1 month) * II Kings 15:10-15</p> <p>Menahem (752 – 10 years) * Oppressed people, including heavy taxation II Kings 15:14-22</p> <p>Pekahiah (742 – 2 years) Continued idol worship II Kings 15:22-26</p> <p>Pekah (740 – 8 years) * Many people taken captive to Assyria II Kings 15:25-31; II Chronicles 28:5-8</p> <p>Hoshea (732 – 9 years) * Suffered heavy taxation by Assyria and was eventually defeated by Assyria in 722, leading to captivity of nation of Israel</p> <p>722 – End of Northern Kingdom Israel conquered by Shalmaneser of Assyria</p>	<p>priesthood, so God struck him with leprosy. II Kings 15:1-17; II Chronicles 26:1-23</p> <p>Jotham (750 – 16 years) Rebuilt parts of the Temple and several cities, but still permitted idol worship. II Kings 15:32-38; II Chronicles 27:1-9</p> <p>Ahaz (735 – 16 years) Sacrificed his own son to false gods, nailed the doors of the Temple shut. II Kings 16:1-20; II Chronicles 28:1-27</p>	<p>Micah 742-687</p> <p>Isaiah 740-681</p>
<p>* indicates a new dynasty in Northern Kingdom.</p> <p>NOTE: Some dates are approximate, and the reigns of some kings overlapped with others, either because of periods of co-regencies (often between father and son) or rebellions.</p>		<p>Hezekiah (715 – 29 years) Devoted follower of God – reopened Temple doors, purified Temple, reinstated priests, destroyed idols, celebrated Passover, constructed large public water-works, was given 15 years extra of life. II Kings 16:20; 18:1-20:21; II Chron 29:1-32:33</p> <p>Manasseh (697 – 55 years) Rebuilt all the shrines to false gods, sacrificed one of his own sons, practiced sorcery, set up an idol in the Temple, murdered many of his own people. Repented during a time of exile in Assyria. II Kings 21:1-18; II Chronicles 33:1-20</p> <p>Amon (642 – 2 years) II Kings 21:18-26; II Chronicles 33:2-25</p> <p>Josiah (640 – 31 years) Loved God with all his heart – repaired the Temple, found a lost scroll of the Law, destroyed idols, reinstated priests, celebrated the Passover. II Kings 21:26-23:30; II Chronicles 33:25-35:27</p> <p>Jehoahaz (609 – 3 months) Taken captive to Egypt, where he died. II Kings 23:30-34; II Chronicles 36:1-4</p> <p>Jehoiakim (609 – 11 years) Burned part of God's Word given to Jeremiah. A puppet king for Egypt and then Babylon. Saw the first Exile (which included Daniel) and the removal of the gold articles from the Temple to Babylon. II Kings 23:34-24:6; II Chronicles 36:5-8</p> <p>Jehoiachin (598 – 3 months) Taken in the second Exile to Babylon. II Kings 24:6-15; 25:27-30; II Chron 36:8-10</p> <p>Zedekiah (597 – 11 years) Saw the Temple burned and Jerusalem destroyed. Was tortured and taken in the third exile to Babylon. II Kings 24:17-25:21; II Chronicles 36:10-21</p> <p>586 – End of Southern Kingdom Judah taken captive to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar</p>	
		<p>Nahum 663-654</p> <p>Zephaniah 640-621</p> <p>Huldah 632</p> <p>Jeremiah 627-586</p> <p>Habakkuk 612-589</p> <p>Daniel 605-536 (in exile)</p> <p>Ezekiel 593-571 (in exile)</p>	

Prophecies about the Messiah fulfilled in Jesus

In the Old Testament there are 300 prophecies about the Suffering Servant and 500 about the Conquering King. All 800 prophecies were made hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus. Every one of the 300 prophecies about the Suffering Servant was fulfilled by Jesus during His life on earth (4BC-30AD). Of the other 500 prophecies, about the Conquering King, most remain to be fulfilled. Jesus promised that He would come again to the earth some time in the future (see John 14:1-4). The New Testament letters are full of promises and challenges about this second coming of Christ, and the last book of the Bible (Revelation) shows how Jesus will defeat the enemies of God, set up His kingdom, judge all people, living and dead, and then reveal the New Universe where those who follow Him will live for eternity (see *Part 23*).

George Heron, a French mathematician, calculated that the odds of one man fulfilling only 40 Old Testament prophecies are 1 in 10 to the power of 157. That is a 1 followed by 157 zeros. Another mathematician, Dr. Peter S. Ruckman, claims that the odds of only 60 Old Testament prophecies being fulfilled by one person are astronomical ... not just one in one trillion, but one out of ten to the 895th power! That is a one over a one followed by 895 zeros. The fulfilment of 300 prophecies in the life of Jesus, most of which were outside His power to fulfil, is some of the strongest evidence for the truth of the Bible.

25 key Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in Jesus

PROPHET / DATE	REFERENCE	PROPHECY (What He would be or do)	FULFILMENT (New Testament references)
Moses c.1440 BC	Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19 Numbers 9:12	He will be a prophet like Moses None of His bones will be broken	Acts 3:22-26 John 19:31-36
David c.1000 BC	Psalms 16:10 Psalm 22:7&8 Psalm 22:14-16 Psalm 11:17 Psalm 22:18 Psalm 41:9 Psalm 69:21 Psalm 110:1	He will be raised from the dead He will be mocked & taunted He will die by crucifixion None of His bones will be broken Lots will be cast for His garments He will be betrayed by a close friend He will be given sour wine to drink He will sit at God's right hand	Acts 2:22-32; Matt 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8 Matt 27:39-43; Luke 23:11, 35 Matt 27:31; Mark 15:20; John 19:15-18 John 19:31-36 Matt 27:35; Mark 15:24; John 19:23&24 Matt 26:14-16, 47-50; Mark 14:17-21 Matt 27:34; John 19:28-30 Mark 16:19; Luke 24:50&51; Acts 2:33-36; Hebrews 10:12&13
Hosea 750-715 BC	11:1	He will be the Son of God, and will spend some time in Egypt	Matt 2:15
Micah 750-686 BC	5:1 5:2	He will be struck on the face by the enemies of Israel He will be born in Bethlehem	Matt 26:67; Luke 22:63-65; John 19:3 Matt 2:1-6; Luke 2:1-20
Isaiah 740-681 BC	7:14 9:1 9:6&7 6:10 & 53:1,3 50:6 53:5&6, 8, 10-12 53:7&8 53:9 53:12	He will be born to a virgin & called Immanuel (meaning "God with us") He will bring honour to Galilee He will be a male child descended from David and will also be the Mighty God He will be rejected by his own people He will be beaten, mocked & spat on, his beard will be plucked He will die as a sacrifice for sins He will be silent as He is tried & condemned He will be buried with the rich He will suffer with transgressors & pray for His enemies	Matt 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38 Matt 21:11 Matt 1:18-2:1; Luke 2:1-7; John 1:1-9 John 1:11&12; 12:37-43; Matt 26:3 Matt 26:67, 27:30; Mark 14:65, 15:19; Luke 22:63&64; John 19:1-3 John 1:29, 11:49-52; Acts 10:43, 13:38&39; I Corinthians 15:3; Ephesians 1:7; I Peter 2:24&25; I John 1:7-9 Matt 27:1&2, 12-14; Luke 23:1-25 Matt 27:57-60 Matt 27:38; Mark 15:27&28; Luke 23:32-34
Zechariah 520-480 BC	9:9 11:12 12:10 13:7	He will enter Jerusalem in triumph riding on a donkey Thirty pieces of silver will be paid for Him People who have pierced Him will look at Him He will be the Shepherd who is struck, and His sheep will be scattered	Matt 21:1-9; John 12:12-16 Matt 26:15 John 19:37; Revelation 1:7 Matt 26:31; Mark 14:27

