

# **Ten Major Periods of Hebrew and Early Christian History**

**TWP Seminar April 12, 2018**

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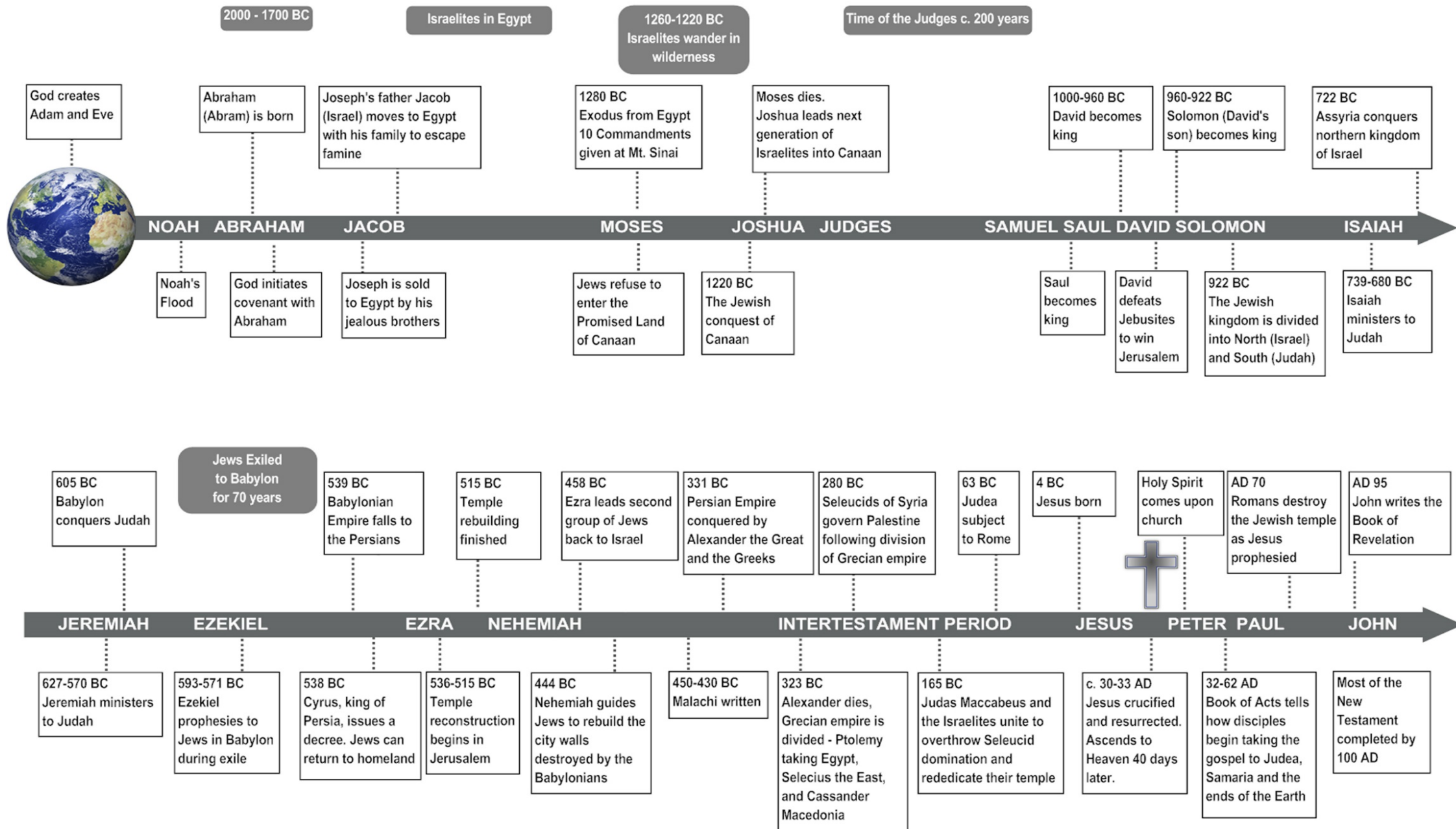
# **Importance of Frequent, Systematic Bible Study for Christians**

- **Revealing God's Word for Each Of Our Lives**
- **Strengthening Our Faith**
- **Understanding The Hebrew and Early Christian Roots of our Faith**
- **Discovering Ways We Can Serve God and Minister to People**
- **Understanding the Purpose, Structure and Role of the Church**
- **Sharing Our Faith w/Other Christians in Group Bible Study**

# **Preparing for Effective Bible Study**

- **Bible Literacy: Organization, OT & NT Books, Themes and Timeline**
- **Main Theme of the Bible**
  - **God's Dealing with His People and His Provision for Salvation**
- **Crucial Event of the Old Testament**
  - **The Exodus from Egypt**
- **Crucial Event of the New Testament**
  - **Jesus Christ: His Coming; His Message; His Death & Resurrection**
- **Origin and Construction of the Bible**
  - **Written over period of 1300 years**
  - **Canonization in 367A.D.**
- **Guidelines for Interpretation of the Scriptures**

# A TIMELINE OF BIBLICAL HISTORY



# **Colleagues in Developing the Bible Resource Guide: the Basis for this Seminar**

- **Don Cannata: Former Minister of Education, FBC Waco**
  - ❖ Identified need and initiated Bible Teacher Training Program (BTTP) @ FBC Waco
  - ❖ Developed original draft of Bible Resource Guide (BRG)
  - ❖ Reviewed and commented on revisions to BRG
- **Bill Pitts: Professor of Religion, Baylor University & member of FBC Waco**
  - ❖ Designed and taught Bible Teacher Training Program @ FBC Waco
  - ❖ Bible Resource Guide & seminar is based on Bill's design & content of BTTP
  - ❖ Reviewed and contributed to final version of BRG
- **Dan Hull: A member of TWP & former member of FBC Waco**
  - ❖ Organized and led Bible Teacher Training Program (BTTP) for 4 years
  - ❖ Edited, formatted, revised and printed Bible Resource Guide
  - ❖ Organized this seminar @ TWP

# Background Information on the Bible

- **Development of the Bible books**
  - **Oral:** Hebrew stories and myths (folklore), compiled by Jewish leaders
  - **Written:** by prophets, disciples, Paul and others.
  - **Genre:** history, law, sermons and songs
  - **Manuscripts:** i.e., Dead Sea Scrolls
- **Canonization of the Bible**
  - **Jamia (Council of Jabeth 90 C. E.) :** OT Canon
  - **Athanasius 367 C.E.** (superseded Nicean and Chalcedonian Councils)
- **Source/Authority of the Bible Writings**
  - **Revelation**
  - **Inspiration**
  - **Transmission of early texts**
    - ✓ **Materials** (Papyrus, Vellum)
    - ✓ **Format** (Scroll, codex)
    - ✓ **Copyists**

# Background Information on the Bible (cont'd)

- **Arrangement**

- **Old Testament: Origin – Law, Prophets, Writings**
- **New Testament: Life of Christ (gospels), Evolution of Church (Acts), Paul, Revelation**

- **Translations**

- **Ancient, Medieval, Reformation**
- **Modern: Language (manuscripts), Archaeology, History (sources, editors, audiences)**

- **Interpretation of Scripture: Criteria**

- **Authority, Age and Variety of Messages/Topics**
- **Development of Interpretation**
  - ✓ **Ancient**
  - ✓ **Medieval: Literal, Allegorical, Anagogical, Tropological**
  - ✓ **Chapter (Langton), Verses (Etienne)**
  - ✓ **Modern Interpretation**

# **Ten Major Periods of Hebrew and Early Christian History**

- 1. Creation, Adam and Eve, Flood and Tower of Babel**
- 2. Abraham and the Patriarchs**
- 3. Moses And the Exodus**
- 4. Promised Land: Conquest of Canaan and the Judges**
- 5. The United Kingdom**
- 6. Rival Kingdoms to the Fall of Judah**
- 7. Period of Captivity to Restoration**
- 8. Between the Testaments**
- 9. The Life and Ministry of Jesus**
- 10. The Apostle Paul And the Spread of the Gospel**



# **1. Creation, Adam and Eve, Flood and Tower of Babel**

- **The major events in Genesis**
- **Genesis is the book of beginnings**
- **The Creation**
  - **Theology, Science and History**
  - **Interpretations: Recent Creation, Gap Theory, Day/Age, Poetic**
  - **Genesis Accounts and Comparisons**
    - ✓ **Yawist: God and Humanity (Adam, Eve, Eden)**
    - ✓ **Priestly: God & the World (World, Remote/Powerful God, 6-days)**
    - ✓ **Comparisons: Name; What; Means; Time Frame; God (human/remote)**
    - ✓ **Ideas: Theology, Creation (ex nihilo), Human position of honor (image of God)**

# **1. Creation, Adam and Eve, Flood and Tower of Babel**

## **(cont'd)**

- **The Fall**

- **First Sin: Source, Role of serpent; Nature of sin; Choice to sin**
- **Consequences: Guilt, Curses (serpent, woman, man)**
- **Significance: sets the problem**

- **The Flood**

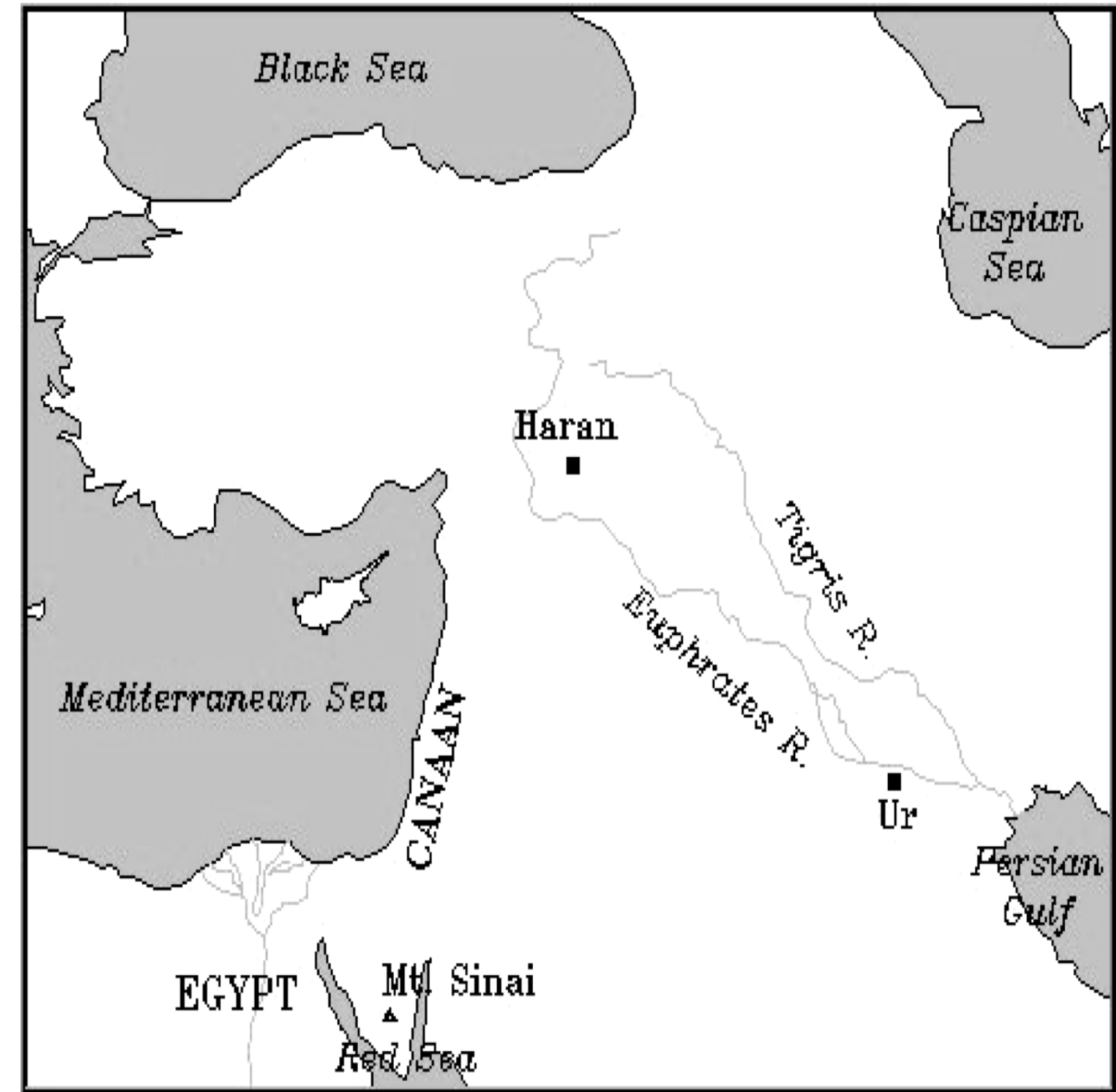
- **Gilgamesh Epic**
- **Noah**
- **Curse on Canaan**

- **The Tower of Babel**

- **Languages**
- **Conflict**

## 2. Abraham and the Patriarchs

- Abraham's Journey of faith.
- The patriarchal fathers in Genesis.
- From family to nation.
  - Abraham: Covenant (Isaac – Ishmael)
  - Jacob (Esau – Joseph)
- The Egypt factor in Hebrew history.

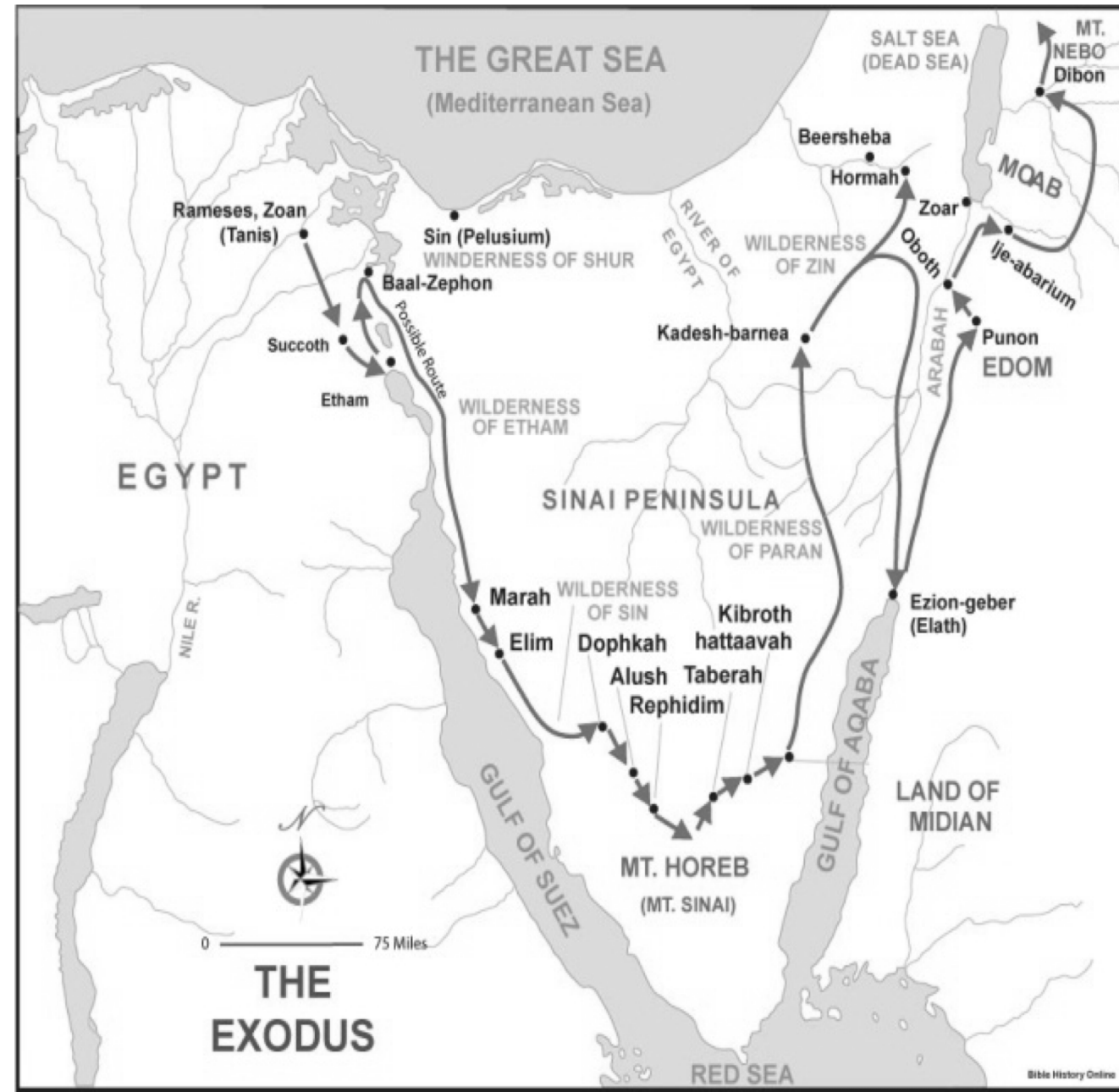


# 3. Moses and the Exodus

- After Joseph's family moved to Egypt, the Hebrews were reduced to "state slaves", making stone cities.
- **Moses; Highlights of his life.**
  - Raised by Pharaoh's Daughter
  - Burning Bush
  - God's Name: "Yahweh"
  - Moses Returned to Egypt @~80 years old
- **Exodus c.1290-1220 B.C.**
  - Plagues: Release of Hebrews
  - Reed Sea
  - Passover
  - The Ark: "God's Presence"

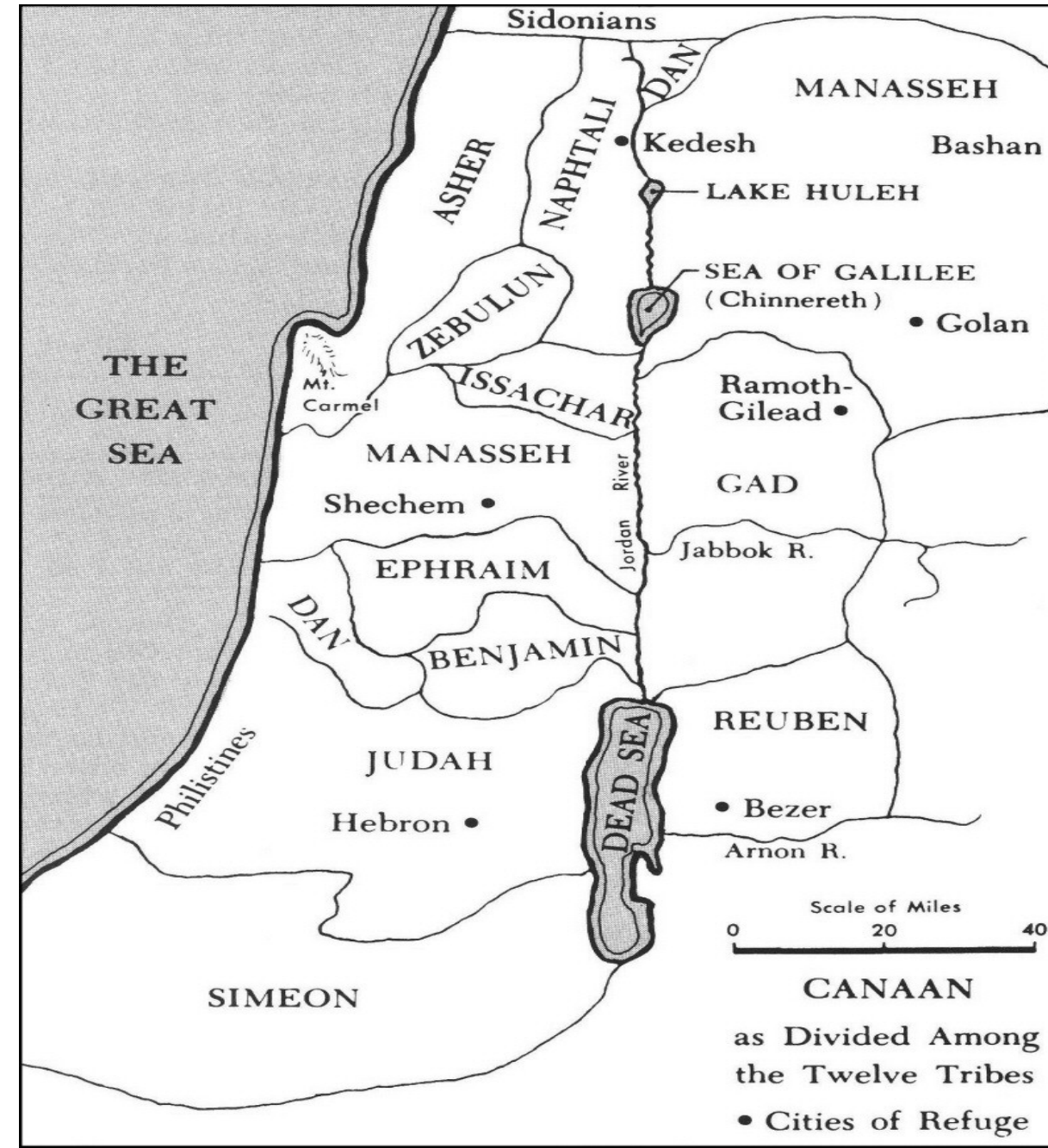
### 3. Moses and the Exodus (cont'd)

- **Wilderness Routes: Sinai**
  - ½ Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers
- **Covenant of the Law**
- **Toward Canaan**
  - Reconnaissance
  - Edom & Moab
  - Conquest & Transportation
- **After Moses exits, Joshua becomes the leader of the Hebrews.**



# 4. Promised Land: Conquest of Canaan and the Judges

- **Conquest c.1250 B.C.**
  - Joshua: Single campaign
  - Judges: Gradual
  - Campaign: Central, South & North
- **Amphictony: Confederation**
  - Religion and Politics
  - 12 Tribes
  - Worship Centers
  - Covenant Renewed
  - Canaanite Religion: Deities, Fertility
- **Judges (deliverers) 1220-1020 B.C.**
  - Examples: Deborah & Samson
  - Sin/Judgement
  - Repentance/Deliverance
- **Philistines**



# **5. The United Kingdom    1020 – 922 B.C.**

- **Saul**

- **Crisis: Philistines**
- **Choice of Saul as Conqueror/Ruler**
- **Tragedies**
  - ✓ **Saul & Samuel**
  - ✓ **Saul & David**

- **David**

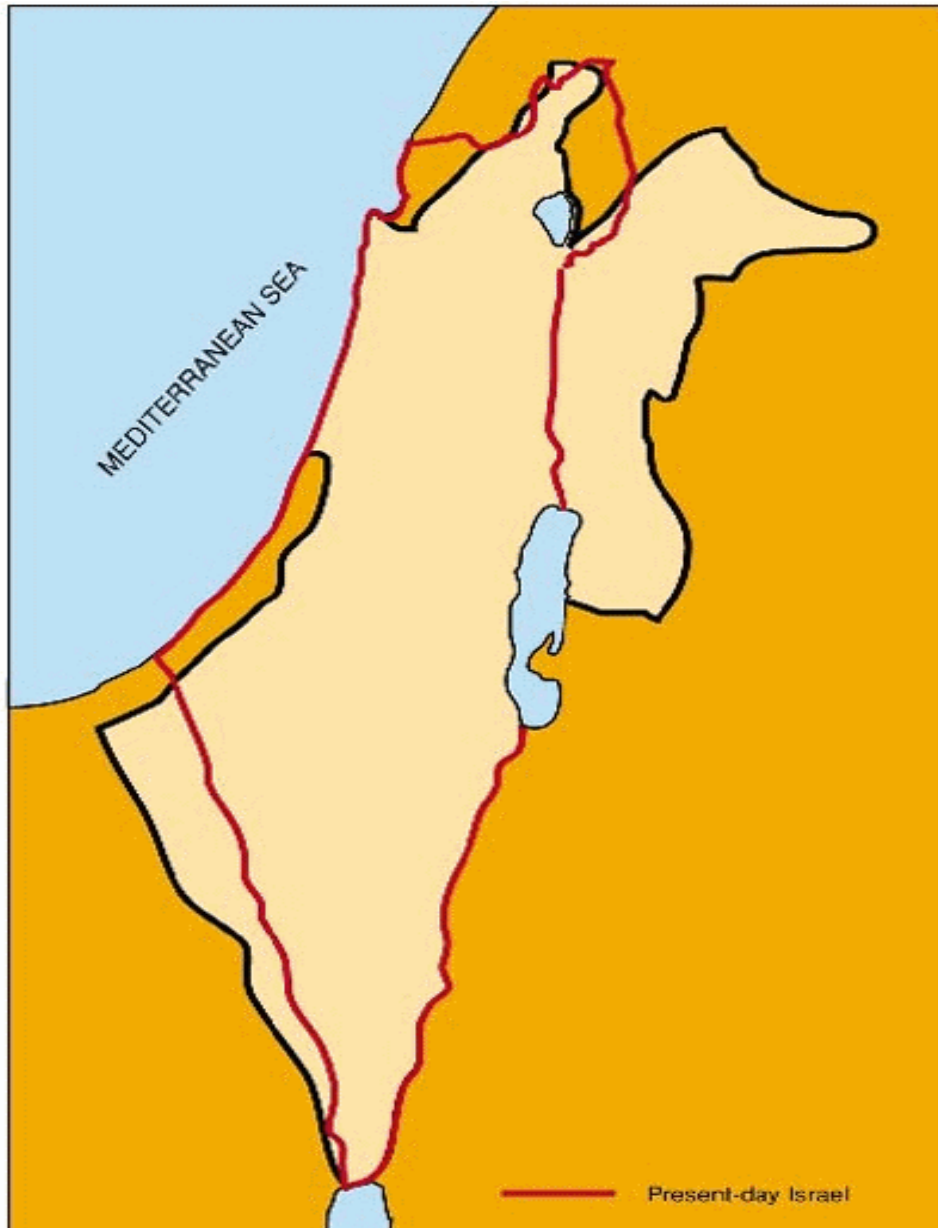
- **Saul's Jealousy—Outlaw Days**
- **Issues as King: Jerusalem, Military, Political, Bathsheba, Religion**
- **Contributions to the Book of Psalms**

- **Solomon**

- **Building Program**
- **Commerce**
- **Foreign Relations**
- **Wisdom Tradition**
- **Government Policies**

# Maps of United & Divided Kingdoms

Empire of David & Solomon



Divided Kingdom





# 6. Rival Kingdoms to the Fall of Judah

- **Divided Kingdom: Rehoboam's Policy & Jeroboam's Resistance**
- **Early Prophecy**
  - **Definition & Type of Message**
  - **Varieties: Divination, Ecstatic & Preaching**
  - **True & False**
    - ✓ Life/Words
    - ✓ Justice
    - ✓ Professionals
  - **Examples**
    - ✓ Micaiah
    - ✓ Elijah:
      - Baalism & Jezebel
      - Naboth's Vineyard
      - Mt. Carmel

# 6. Rival Kingdoms to the Fall of Judah (cont'd)

- **Kings of North & South**

- Israel 922-722

- Judah 922-587

- **Prophetic Books: Four 8<sup>th</sup> Century Prophets**

- Amos: Vision & Reasons for Doom (social injustice & empty worship)

- Hosea (Summary Hosea 6:6)

- ✓ Imagery: Husband & /Wife

- ✓ Covenant: Broken/Renewed

- Isaiah: Call & Messages

- ✓ Judgement (day of Yahweh)

- ✓ Faith in God; Coming King (Messiah)

- Micah

- ✓ Judgement

- ✓ Demand for Righteousness: *Do justice; Love mercy; Walk humbly before God*

# 6. Rival Kingdoms to the Fall of Judah (cont'd)

- **Prophetic Books: Jeremiah's Prophecy of Judah's Decline**
  - **Call**
  - **Confessions**
  - **Fall of Jerusalem**
  - **Thought**
    - ✓ **Broken Covenant**
    - ✓ **The New Covenant**

# 7. Period of Captivity to Restoration: Babylonian Exile

- **Babylonian Policy**
- **Jews in Exile: Legal Status & Language**
- **New Religious Developments**
  - **End of Holy City, Temple, Dynasty**
  - **New Forms: Synagogue, Study, Prayer**
- **Prophets in Exile**
  - **Ezekiel**
    - ✓ **Mobile Throne**
    - ✓ **Destruction of Jerusalem**
      - Model of City**
      - Cooked Food**
      - Hole in House**
    - ✓ **Glory (presence) of the Lord**

# 7. Period of Captivity to Restoration: Babylonian Exile (cont'd)

- Prophets in Exile (cont'd)

- Isaiah:

- ✓ One, two or three books

- Themes/Messages

- Political Background: Jerusalem

- ✓ One God

- ✓ Redeemer: a new *exodus*

- ✓ The Servant: Who? What?

- Restoration

- End of Exile: Persia; Edict of Cyrus; Diaspora

- Early Returns:

- Rebuild Temple/Restore worship

- Rebuild walls

- Ezra-Book of Law of Moses

- Population

## **7. Period of Captivity to Restoration: Babylonian Exile (cont'd)**

### **Psalms**

- **Significance**
- **Composition: 5 Parts**
- **Themes**
  - **Hymns of Praise**
  - **Communal Laments**
  - **Royal Psalms**
  - **Individual Laments**
  - **Individual Thanksgiving**
- **Use in Worship**

# 8. Between the Testaments

- **Politics**

- Alexander the Great
- Hellenistic Culture
- Ptolemies
- Seleucids
- Maccabean Revolt: Independence

- **Religious Literature: Ruth, Jonah, Esther**

- **Wisdom Literature**

- Proverbs: *The Good Life*
- Ecclesiastes: Vanity; Meaninglessness
- Job: Suffering; Comfort
- Song of Solomon: Lover & Beloved

# 9. The Life and Ministry of Jesus

- **N.T. contains unique, self-revelation of God.**
  1. *In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself. Paul*
  2. *The Word became flesh & dwelt among us. John*
  3. *God has spoken to us by a Son. Hebrews*
- **Motivation & Date for Writing N.T.**
  - 5000 manuscripts
- **Canonical & Non-Canonical Literature**
  - **Books included; later excluded**
    - 1 Clement, Didache, Shepherd of Hermes
  - **Books not included; later included**
    - Jude, II Peter, II-III John, Hebrews, Revelation
- **Background**
  - **Roman Religion:** emperor worship; mystery religion
  - **Jewish:** Politics/State (Herod)
  - **Jesus & early Christians were all Jews (90% Amharatz)**
  - **Religious parties:** Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, Zealots





# 9. The Life and Ministry of Jesus (cont'd)

- **The Gospels**

- **Mark—Action**

- (Over 230 verses in Mark were shared by Matthew & Luke)

- **Matthew—New Moses, new law, Jesus the Messiah (audience?)**

- **Luke—Outsiders, women—audience**

- **Gospel of John—Divinity of Jesus**

- ✓ Unique: no record of baptism, no temptation

- ✓ Not parables, but “I am” discourses

- ✓ No Last Supper

- **Key Events in Life & Ministry of Jesus**

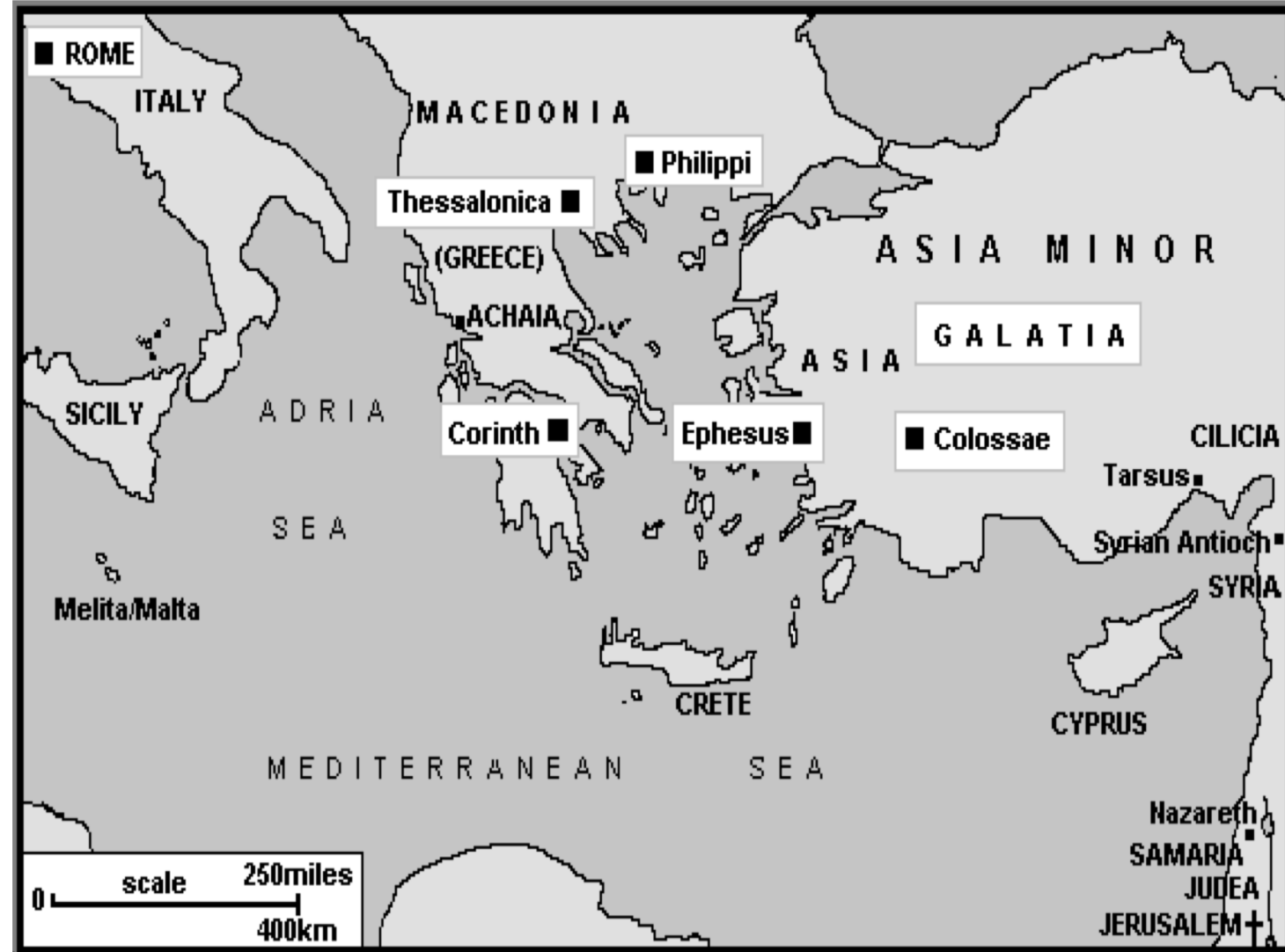
- **Early: Birth; In the temple; Into Egypt to escape Herod; Baptism; Temptation**

- **Ministry: First disciples; First miracle; In Galilee; Trouble in Jerusalem**

- **Crucifixion & Resurrection: Arrival in Bethany; Last Week; The forty days after resurrection**

# 10. The Apostle Paul and the Spread of the Gospel

- Book of Acts: 30-64 A.D.
  - Two parts: Peter & Paul
  - Unhindered Gospel
  - Exposition:
    - 32 countries,
    - 54 cities,
    - 9 Mediterranean islands
  - Numerical Growth
  - Speeches in Acts



# 10. The Apostle Paul and the Spread of the Gospel (cont'd)

- **Acts 1-12**

- **Pentacost**

- **Deacons**

- **Stephen**

- **Peter**

- **Acts 13-28**

- **Paul**

- ✓ **Conversion**

- ✓ **Journeys/Missions**

- ✓ **Letters, Theology, Organization, Worship**

- **General Epistles**

- **Revelation: Mysterious, Cosmic, Symbolic, Hope in crisis, Conflict—good vs evil**

# **Guidelines for Interpreting the Scriptures**

- **When, where, what and by whom was the scripture written?**
- **Why and to whom was the scripture written?**
  - **Explain God's purpose in human history?**
  - **Describe God's love & mercy for humankind?**
  - **Encourage and guide leadership in the Christian church?**
  - **Show groups of Christians (churches) purposes, right/wrong actions & mission?**
- **What is the particular book of the Bible about?**
  - **Emergence/development of Hebrew & Christian groups?**
  - **Theological understanding of God & applications of His teachings?**
  - **Life, purpose and teachings of Christ?**
  - **Instruction & encouragement to the Christian Church?**
- **References, quarterlies, and Bible commentaries**
  - **See suggestions in Bible Reference Guide**