

# Periods of Bible History

## Ray Hutchison, SIM

### Beginnings

Approximate Dates:	Pre -2100 B.C.
Books of the Bible:	Genesis 1-11
Key Events:	Creation, the Fall of Man, the Flood, the Tower of Babel
Key People:	Adam, Eve, the snake (Satan), Cain and Abel, Enoch, Noah,
Key Promises:	God would crush the head of snake through the descendant of the woman (Messiah). God would never again destroy the world by a flood.

### Patriarchs

Approximate Dates:	2100 – 1650 B.C.
Books of the Bible:	Genesis 12-50, Exodus 1:1-7, Job
Key Events:	Call of Abraham, Sodom and Gomorrah, birth of Isaac, formation of the nation of Israel, Joseph goes to Egypt followed by the rest of the family
Key People:	Abraham, Sarah, Lot, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, sons of Israel, Job
Key Promises:	God would give the land to Abraham and his descendants. God would bless the nations through Abraham (through the Messiah). God would send the Jews out of the Promised Land for 400 years but would also bring them back again.

### Exodus

Approximate Dates:	1650 – 1400 B.C.
Books of the Bible:	Exodus 1:8 – 40:38, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
Key Events:	God's judgment on Egypt through Moses, the Jews' Exodus from Egypt ,the giving of the Ten Commandments and the rest of the Jewish religious system, the construction of the tabernacle, the creation of the Aaron priesthood, the wilderness wanderings
Key People:	Moses, Aaron, Pharaoh
Key Promises:	The Jews would be God's holy people. Messiah would be a prophet like Moses.

God would allow the Jews to live in the Promised Land if they trusted and obeyed Him but would scatter them among the nations if they disobeyed and did not trust Him.

### **Conquest / Judges**

- Approximate Dates: 1400 – 1050 B.C.
- Books of the Bible: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel 1-7
- Key Events: The crossing of the Jordan River into the Promised Land, the fall of Jericho, the division of the land among the tribes of Israel, the cycle of the Judges, the story of Ruth
- Key People: Joshua, Caleb, Gideon, Samson, Ruth, Boaz, Eli, Samuel
- Key Promises: Jericho would be rebuilt at the cost of the two sons of its builder.  
God would oppress the Jews for their sin and bring deliverance when they repent.  
God would deliver the Israelites from the Midianites by the hand of Gideon.  
God would use Samson to deliver the Israelites from the Philistines.

### **United Kingdom**

- Approximate Dates: 1050 – 931 B.C.
- Books of the Bible: 1 Samuel 8-31, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings 1-11, I Chronicles, 2 Chronicles 1-9, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon
- Key Events: Saul becomes the first King of Israel, David kills Goliath, David becomes king in place of Saul, David's sin with Bathsheba, Solomon builds the temple
- Key People: Samuel, Saul, David, Solomon
- Key Promises: God would bring the Messiah through King David.  
God would use Solomon to build the temple.  
God delivered many predictions concerning the coming the Messiah in the Psalms.

### **Divided Kingdom**

- Approximate Dates: 931 – 605/586 B.C.
- Books of the Bible: 1 Kings 12-22, 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles 10-36, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah
- Key Events: The division of the nation into the kingdoms of Israel and Judah, the preaching of Jonah and repentance of the City of Nineveh, the destruction of the northern Kingdom of Israel at the hands of the Assyrians, the deportation of the people of the Kingdom of Israel and importation of pagans, the formation of the Samaritans through the intermarriage of the remaining Israelites with the imported pagan peoples
- Key People: All the kings of the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah, Elijah, Elisha, all the pre-exilic prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah)

Key Promises: God would judge the two nations for their sin against God by scattering them among the Gentile nations.  
God would send a messenger to prepare the way for the Messiah.  
God would place His law in the hearts of His people.  
God delivered many predictions concerning the Messiah in the prophets

### **Exile (Babylonian Captivity)**

Approximate Dates: 605/586 – 536/516 B.C.

Books of the Bible: 2 Chronicles 36, Ezekiel, Daniel

Key Events: The fall of Jerusalem and the deportation of the people of Judah, the destruction of Solomon's temple, the deportation of the people of the Kingdom of Judah, the events of the life of Daniel as a young man

Key People: The exilic prophets (Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel), Nebuchadnezzar

Key Promises: God would bring the Jews back to the Promised Land after 70 years.  
God would send the Messiah who would be cut off but ultimately prevail as King.

### **Postexile**

Approximate Dates: 538 – 400 B.C.

Books of the Bible: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Key Events: The events of the life of Daniel as an old man, the return of the Jews to the Promised Land, the rebuilding of the temple, God's preservation of the Jews through Queen Esther, the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem

Key People: Daniel, Cyrus, Zerubbabel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, the postexilic prophets (Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)

Key Promises: The Messiah would come as the Son of Righteousness.  
"Elijah" would come to prepare the way for Messiah.

### **400 Silent years**

Approximate Dates: 400 – 4 B.C.

Books of the Bible: No Biblical books

Key Events: The rise and division of the Greek Empire, the Rise of the Roman Empire, the starting of synagogues, the beginning of the Pharisees and Sadducees

Key People: Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Judas Maccabaeus

Key Promises: Silence

## **Life of Christ**

- Approximate Dates: 4 B.C. – About 32 A.D.
- Books of the Bible: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
- Key Events: The birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
- Key People: Herod, John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, the twelve disciples
- Key Promises: Jesus, the Messiah came to fulfill the law and the prophets, not to abolish them. Jesus, the Messiah would suffer and die for our sin and be raised from the dead. Jesus would send the Holy Spirit to be with His disciples. Jesus, the Messiah will come a second time to set up His permanent Kingdom and to put all things right.

## **Church**

- Approximate Dates: About 32 A.D. – to the present and beyond
- Books of the Bible: Acts through Revelation
- Key Events: The coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth and growth of the Church
- Key People: Peter, James, John, Barnabas, Paul
- Key Promises: Jesus, the Messiah is present with his followers who are making disciples of all nations. The Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached to all nations (people groups) and then the end will come.  
Jesus will return and will judge the nations.  
God will completely destroy Satan.  
Jesus will rule on earth.  
God will destroy the present creation with fire.  
God will create new heavens and a new earth.