

**OLD TESTAMENT EXPERT**

**Old Testament Chronology**

**Lesson # 4**

**Quiz**

- I. **FILL IN THE CHART AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS IN THE FILL-IN-THE-BLANK VERSION OF THE OLD TESTAMENT CHRONOLOGICAL TIME CHART**
  
- II. **SEE IF YOU CAN FILL OUT THE CHART BELOW SUMMARIZING THE CONTENT OF THE CHAPTERS ASSIGNED FOR READING IN THE BOOKS OF LEVITICUS AND NUMBERS**

Leviticus	General content of chapter/s from reading assignment
10	
11	
16 & 17	
23	
Numbers	
13	
14	
16	
22	
23-25	
27	
33	
35	

The purpose of this lesson is to encourage you to finish memorizing the Old Testament Chronology Chart handed out during our previous class. It is also my purpose to give you a little bit more information to help you think through Old Testament chronology. It is best to get to the place where you can think through the major time periods and events recorded in each book rather than memorize books in a certain chronological sequence. Once you learn to think through Old Testament chronology, it is likely you will never forget it because you will not be merely remembering books in a certain sequence, you will be understanding the history behind the sequence of books you have memorized. On the next page you will find an outline of the Old Testament chronology chart and then on the following pages the same outline filled in with information.

### III. THINKING THROUGH THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

- A. **Genesis**
  - 1. Job
  
- B. **Exodus**
  - 1. Leviticus
  
- C. **Numbers**
  - 1. Deuteronomy
  
- D. **Joshua**
  
- E. **Judges**
  - 1. Ruth
  
- F. **I Samuel**
  
- G. **II Samuel**
  - 1. Psalms
  - 2. I Chronicles
  
- H. **I Kings**
  - 1. Proverbs
  - 2. Ecclesiastes
  - 3. Song of Solomon
  
- I. **II Kings**
  - 1. II Chronicles
  - 2. **To Israel**
    - a. Hosea
    - b. Amos
  - 3. **To Judah**
    - a. Habakkuk
    - b. Isaiah
    - c. Jeremiah
    - d. Lamentations
    - e. Joel
    - f. Micah
    - g. Zephaniah
  - 4. **About Assyria**
    - a. Jonah
    - b. Nahum
  - 5. **About Edom**
    - a. Obadiah
  
- J. **Prophets of the Babylonian exile**
  - 1. Daniel
  - 2. Ezekiel
  
- K. **Ezra**
  - 1. Esther
  - 2. Haggai
  - 3. Zechariah
  
- L. **Nehemiah**
  - 1. Malachi

- A. **Genesis** – (4000-1800 BC) records history from the creation of the heavens and earth to the twelve tribes settling in Egypt.
1. **Job** – (2000 BC) a story about a man who was severely tested by God to teach us about worship and trusting God during times of trial. The story of Job happened around the time of Abraham’s story recorded in Genesis.
- B. **Exodus** – (1540-1446 BC) starts off some 300 years after the death of Joseph. The twelve tribes have grown to over a million people. They have become slaves of the Egyptians. God raises up Moses to redeem them from Egypt with ten plagues. The last plague, the death of the first born, also brought with it the institution of the Passover. The Israelites leave Egypt, cross the Red Sea and camp at Mt. Sinai where they receive the law, the instructions to build the tabernacle. By the end of the book of Exodus the tabernacle is completed.
1. **Leviticus** – (1447 BC) was written while the Israelites, redeemed from Egypt and now a nation, were camped at Mt. Sinai for one year and two months. Leviticus was written during the time period recorded in the book of Exodus. Leviticus is the operation manual for the tabernacle, explaining how the sacrificial system and priesthood were to work along with the regulations for observing festival days.
- C. **Numbers** – (1445-1405 BC) has ten chapters of laws and regulations similar to the book of Leviticus. It also records the Israelites first attempt at entering the promised land from the south. When Israel fails to have faith that God would bring them into the promised land, God pronounces judgment on the entire generation, declaring that none over twenty years old would enter the promised land except Joshua and Caleb. For forty years the Israelites wander in the wilderness and God uses this time to both judge those who would not believe and to refine and equip the people of Israel to enter the promised land.
1. **Deuteronomy** – (1405 BC) at the end of the time period recorded in the book of Numbers, right before Israel is ready to enter into the promised land, God gives Moses a second, more user friendly edition of the law. Deuteronomy is a manual for applying the law of God to normal life situations.
- D. **Joshua** – (1405 1381 BC) once the Israelites received the user friendly edition of the law (Deuteronomy) Moses dies and Joshua becomes Israel’s God appointed leader. Joshua records Israel’s conquest of the promised land and the distribution of the promised land to the various tribes.
- E. **Judges** – (1373-1051 BC) follows on the heels of Joshua and records cycles of spiritual apostasy, repentance, deliverance, and restoration. During the time of the judges there is wide spread apostasy. They reject the Lord as their king.

There is no earthly king in Israel and everyone does what is right in his own eyes.

1. **Ruth** – (1370-1041 BC) records a love story which happened during the time of Judges. It teaches us that there is always a righteous remnant. The main purpose of the book is to show how the marriage of Ruth to Boaz became part of the Messianic line which produced David and eventually Jesus Christ.
- F. **I Samuel** – (1051-1011 BC, Saul's reign as king) starts at the end of the time of Judges. In fact Eli the priest is both priest and judge of Israel. After Eli dies, Samuel becomes prophet, priest, and judge of Israel. I Samuel records the transition time when Israel switched from being ruled by judges to being ruled by a kings. Saul was the first king. He turned out to be evil and was rejected by God. In place of Saul, God had Samuel the prophet anoint David, a shepherd boy, a man after his own heart as king. By the end of the book, Samuel and Saul are dead and David is ready to become king.
- G. **II Samuel** – (1011-971 BC David's reign as king) records David's coronation as King of Israel and his reign, describing his successes and failures.
1. **Psalms** – (1410-430 BC) about half the Psalms were songs written by David "the sweet Psalmist of Israel" (II Sam. 23:1). The theme of the Psalms is worship. The Psalms are inspired Hebrew songs which have a wide variety of themes and subjects. Some focus on man and his view of God. Some focus on God and his view of man. Some are sad, others happy, some prophetic, and some Messianic. But all relate to worshipping God in truth by proclaiming the truth of God in song.
  2. **I Chronicles** – (1004-971 BC David's reign) is Ezra's selective history of King David's reign. I Chronicles covers the same time period as II Samuel but Ezra's theme is not to give a general history of David's reign but a specific history focusing on the covenant God made with David and true temple worship. Because of this, I Chronicles leaves out David's sin with Bathsheba and the murder of Uriah. It does include his numbering of the people because the consequences of that sin caused David to purchase the temple mount, which fits into the temple worship and Davidic covenant theme.
- H. **I Kings** – (971-851 BC, Solomon's reign 971-931) begins with the death of David. It then describes the coronation of Solomon, Solomon's reign, and the completion of the first temple. After Solomon's death the kingdom of Israel is split in two between Solomon's son Rehoboam and Jeroboam. The northern nation is called Israel the southern nation is called Judah. Israel immediately adopts a false system of worship under the leadership of Jeroboam from which the ten tribes never depart. Various kings from both the northern and southern tribes of Israel are described. Elijah appears in chapters 19 and following.

1. **Proverbs** – (950-700 BC) is a collection of wisdom sayings written mostly by Solomon. Solomon lived during the time period recorded in I Kings. Proverbs apply the law of Moses to the practical details and circumstances of life. They are written in an easy to remember form.
  2. **Ecclesiastes** – (935 BC) is Solomon’s description of how vain life is without God, but how good life is when God is feared and His commandments are obeyed. Ecclesiastes was written by Solomon later in his life.
  3. **Song of Solomon** – (965 BC) is a love story written by Solomon early in his life. Solomon has just become king and he speaks of a romantic relationship he had with a beautiful Shulamite Maiden that culminated in marriage. This book teaches us about the blessing of relationships and marriage.
- I. **II Kings** – (853-560 BC) records the history of Israel and Judah’s Kings, both good and bad, starting where I Kings leaves off and continuing until the last phase of the Babylonian captivity.
1. **II Chronicles** – (971-538 BC) is Ezra’s selected history of good kings of Judah during the time of I and II Kings starting with Solomon’s reign and ending with Zedekiah’s reign. The last chapter of II Chronicles skips the Babylonian captivity and goes right to the Medo-Persian King, Cyrus, who conquered Babylon and issued the decree that the Jews could return from captivity to the land of Israel to rebuild their city and reestablish Judaism.
  2. **To Israel during the time of I & II Kings**
    - a. **Hosea** – (755-710 BC) God calls Hosea, a Levite, to marry Gomer who becomes an unfaithful wife. Hosea keeps loving her though she is unfaithful to him. He tries many things to try and convince her to be committed to the marriage but she refuses. Finally, after she has used up her youth and beauty on her foreign lovers, Hosea, in an act of great mercy and kindness purchases her from the slave block. The entire relationship pictures God’s faithful love to Israel while Israel played the harlot with other gods. Though God tried many things to persuade Israel to repent, she would not listen. As a consequence God would have the Assyrians take Israel captive. But then after a time, when Israel had learned her lesson, God would take her back. This book was written during the time of the kings.
    - b. **Amos** – (760-753 BC) Amos leaves Judah to preach to the northern tribes of Israel, accuses them of great wickedness and promises judgment if they do not repent. This book was written during the time of the kings.

### 3. To Judah during the time of I & II Kings

- a. **Habakkuk** – (607 BC) describes the problems Habakkuk, the prophet, has with the prosperity of the wicked and the oppression of the righteous. God convinces Habakkuk that the wicked will not prevail, the righteous must live by faith, and God is sovereign. Habakkuk then praises God. This book was written at the end of the time of the kings.
- b. **Isaiah** – (740-680 BC) first warns Judah of impending judgment, then gives a brief historical summary of King Hezekiah's reign, and then lets the people of Israel know that salvation and comfort are coming from the Lord. This book was written during the time of the kings.
- c. **Jeremiah** – (627-580 BC) warns Judah of impending judgment and captivity if they do not repent. They reject Jeremiah's warnings and they are taken captive to Babylon. This book was written at the end of the time of the kings.
- d. **Lamentations** – (586 BC, the last phase of the three part deportation of the Israelites to Babylon) Jeremiah's sadness over Jerusalem's destruction by Babylon and their being taken captive cause Jeremiah to weep and lament. This book was written shortly after the time of the kings.
- e. **Joel** – (835 BC) first describes the day of the Lord and God's judgment on Judah and then discusses the day of the Lord and God's restoration of Judah. This book was written during the time of the kings.
- f. **Micah** – (735-710 BC) warns the kingdoms of Israel and Judah that judgment is coming if they do not repent, but offers hope for a future restoration. This book was written during the time of the kings.
- g. **Zephaniah** – (630 BC) like Joel, Zephaniah promises the terrible judgment of the day of the Lord but also gives a promise that Israel will be restored. This book was written during the time of the kings.

### 4. About Assyria during the time of I & II Kings

- a. **Jonah** – (760 BC) is about the repentance of Israel's enemy, Nineveh, through the preaching of a reluctant prophet named Jonah. The book teaches God's mercy and compassion to undeserving sinners like the Ninevites. This book was written during the times of the kings.

- b. **Nahum** – (660 BC) like the book of Jonah, the book of Nahum is about God’s judgment on Nineveh about a generation or so after Jonah preached and they turned back to their wicked ways.

5. **About Edom**

- a. **Obadiah** – (586 BC) Edom was condemned because they watched and actually participated in the plundering of Judah and Jerusalem by the Babylonians.

J. **Prophets of the Babylonian exile**

- 1. **Daniel** – (605-536 BC) story of a boy who was taken captive to Babylon, grew up in the king’s court, became a respected wise man, and prophesied about the history of the world from the time of the Babylonian kingdom to the establishment of Christ’s future kingdom on earth.
- 2. **Ezekiel** – (592-570 BC) prophesied to common people during Babylonian captivity, called Israel to repentance, pronounced Judgment on the Gentile nations, offered hope to those who turned from their sin and gave a future promise of Israel’s restoration.

K. **Ezra** – (chapters 1-6, 538-516 BC, then a 60 year gap, then chapters 7-10, 458-457 BC) in the first half of the book Ezra was used by God to motivate the people to rebuild the temple and then in the second half of the book Ezra is used by God to rebuild the spiritual lives of the people who recently returned from the Babylonian captivity.

- 1. **Esther** – (483-473 BC, story occurred in the sixty year gap between Ezra chs. 6-7) records a story of how a young Jewish maiden, Esther, was chosen to be queen of Persia, and how she and her uncle Mordecai were used by God to help foil a plot by the King’s advisor, Haman, to have all the Jews in Persia slaughtered.
- 2. **Haggai** – (520 BC) prophet sent to rebuke those who returned from the Babylonian captivity
- 3. **Zechariah** – (520-470 BC) prophet sent to encourage those who returned from the Babylonian captivity

L. **Nehemiah** – (444-425 BC) the first half of the book describes the struggles the people of Israel had rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem after returning from the Babylonian Captivity. The second half of the book describes a great revival that happened during the time of Ezra and the spiritual renewal of the people.

- 1. **Malachi** – (432-425 BC) reminds the people of Israel about God’s love for them, then promises judgment for those who do not repent, but also promises hope in the certain coming of the Messiah.

#### IV. **HOMEWORK**

- A. **Memorize the Old Testament chronological time chart completely. Read through this lesson as you memorize the chart. Try to get to the place where you can think through the time periods covered by the backbone books.**
- B. **Read the following chapters of Deuteronomy and Joshua and summarize the content of each chapter with one or two sentences.**
1. Deuteronomy chapters 1-6, 10, 28, 31
    - a. Ch. 1
    - b. Ch. 2
    - c. Ch. 3
    - d. Ch. 4
    - e. Ch. 5
    - f. Ch. 6
    - g. Ch. 10
    - h. Ch. 28
    - i. Ch. 31
  
  2. Joshua chapters 1, 6-8, 22, 23
    - a. Ch. 1
    - b. Ch. 6
    - c. Ch. 7
    - d. Ch. 8
    - e. Ch. 22
    - f. Ch. 23