

## CHAPTER 8

### THE JUDGES ERA

**KEY VERSE:** "In those days, there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." (21:25)

ERA	Summary Statement
Creation	Adam is created by God, but he _____ and _____ God's original _____ for man.
Patriarchs	Abraham is _____ by God to "father" a _____ to _____ God to the world.
Exodus	Moses _____ the Hebrew people from _____ in Egypt and gives them the _____
Conquest	Joshua leads the _____ of the _____.
Judges	Samson and others were chosen as _____ to _____ the people for _____ rebellious years.

### FOUR MAJOR SUBJECTS IN THE JUDGES ERA

#### 1. Judges

- Othniel (Judges 3:7-11)
- Ehud (Judges 3: 12-30)
- Shamgar (3:31)
- Deborah (Judges 4-5)
- Gideon (Judges 6-8)
- Abimelech (Judges 7-9)
- Tola (Judges 10:1-2)
- Jair (10:3-5)
- Jephthah (Judges 11-12)

- Samson (Judges 13-16)
  - Samuel (1 Samuel 1-12. He is the final judge before the Kingdom period)
2. **Rebellion** – Israel failed to conquer the peoples and obey God’s Law. Therefore, they decayed quickly as a new nation (Judges 1-3, 10:6-18, 17-21)
  3. **Cycles** - see rebellion chapters above. The cycle of repetition usually takes place after the death of a judge. “And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD... (Judges 13:1)
  4. **Ruth** – Ruth takes place in the period of judges, but the love story stands in stark contrast to the book of Judges. Within the chaos, the Moabite woman clung to Naomi, her mother in law, after the death of her Naomi’s son, Ruth’s husband. She more importantly clung to Naomi’s God, the God of Israel (Ruth 1:16). The man Boaz, who is a kinsman redeemer in Naomi’s family, kindly cares for Ruth and eventually agrees to marry her. The result is a son is born named Obed. Obed would be the grandfather of King David. Therefore, the book of Ruth gives hope to the reader, who should be feeling rather hopeless after the chaos of the book of Judges. God is on the move! A son is born – and the righteous king David is coming to bring healing to the nation.



**CHAPTER NINE**  
**THE KINGDOM ERA**  
**(1 Samuel – 2 Chronicles)**

**KEY VERSE:** “And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”  
 (2 Samuel 7:16)

<b>ERA</b>	<b>Summary Statement</b>
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Patriarchs	Abraham is _____ by God to “father” a _____ to _____ God to the world.
Exodus	Moses _____ the Hebrew people from _____ in Egypt and gives them the _____
Conquest	Joshua leads the _____ of the _____.
Judges	Samson and others were chosen as _____ to _____ the people for _____ rebellious years.
Kingdom	David, the greatest king in the new _____, is followed by a succession of mostly _____ kings, and God eventually _____ Israel for her sin, sending her into exile.

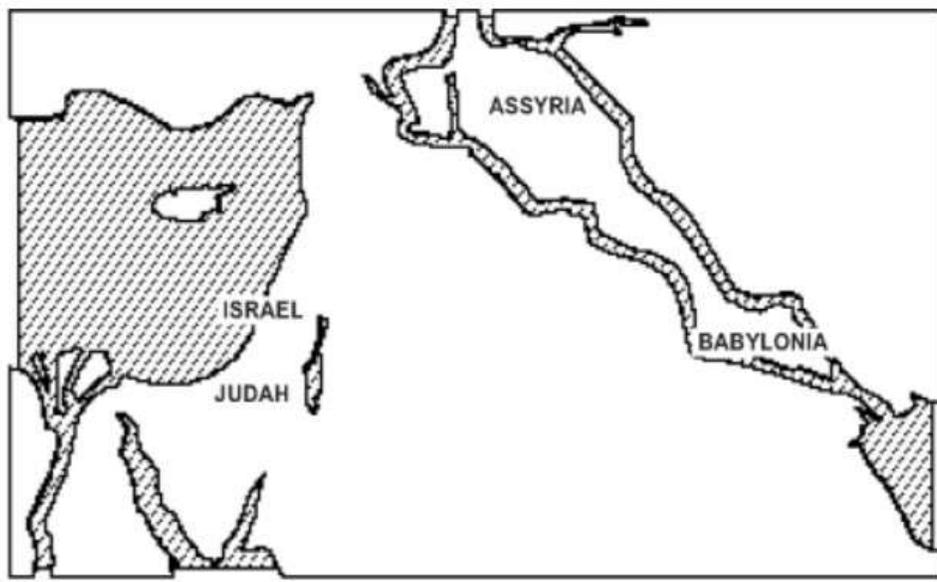
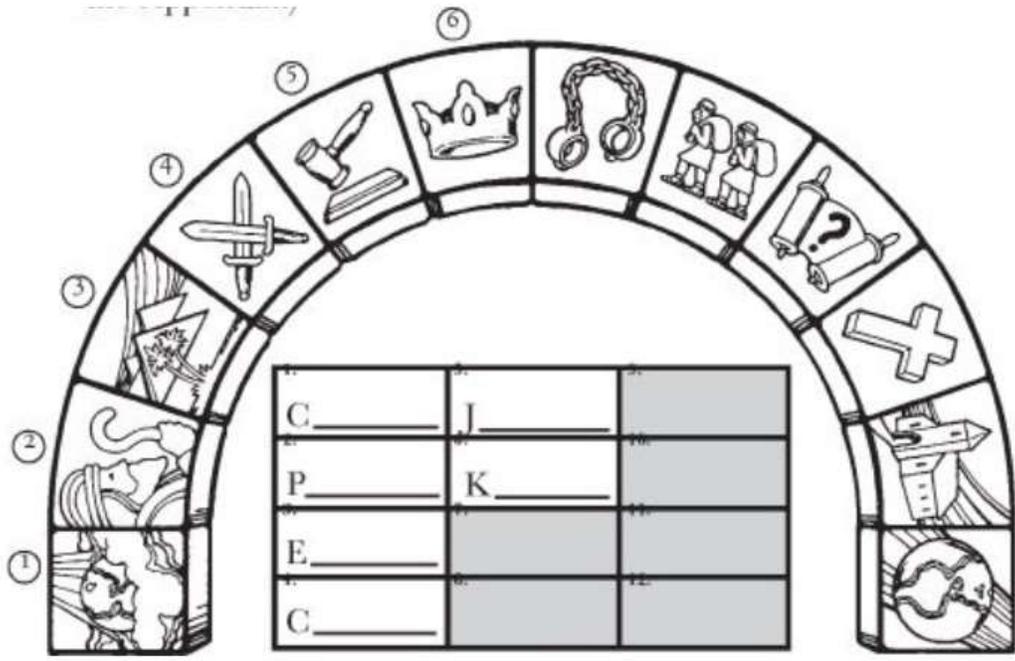
**EXPANSION:** There are four main periods in the Kingdom Era:

1. **United Kingdom (1-2 Samuel)** – In this period, the Kingdom was born beneath Saul, and eventually was transferred to David, who led the Kingdom into peace and into a prosperous united beginning. KEY VERSE FOR DATING: 1 Kings 6:1 – “In the four hundred and eightieth year after the people of Israel came out of the land of Egypt...”)
2. **Division of the Kingdom (civil war):** King David’s son, Solomon, takes the throne and leads Israel into its high period of flourishing, peace and massive prosperity (1 Kings 1-11). As Solomon fell away from God due to his hundreds of wives and concubines and their love for false gods, his son Rehoboam took the throne and civil war immediately followed (mid 1000’s B.C., 1 Kings 12). Solomon was a builder and put a massive weight on labor for building that the people desired to be free from, and Rehoboam decided to press down rather than release it, causing civil war). What followed was a split Kingdom (as well as the stories of the prophets Elijah and Elisha in the middle)
3. **Northern Kingdom (Israel): The Unrighteous Kings (2 Kings)** – The northern Kingdom was mostly unrighteous. They only survived a three hundred years or so before they were exiled in 782 B.C. by the Assyrian Empire.
4. **Southern Kingdom (Judah): The Inconsistent Kings (2 Kings)** – The southern kingdom of Judah had more righteous kings, but still were inconsistent as many unrighteous kings also ruled there. The kingdom lasted a little longer than Israel before they were also exiled from the land in 586 B.C. by the Babylonian Empire after they destroyed Jerusalem and destroyed the Temple.

***Israel is exiled from the land for 70 years.***

### **What about 1-2 Chronicles?**

These two long books tell the same story as 1-2 Samuel and 1-2 Kings, however they do so by focusing primarily on the southern Kingdom of Judea. These books were probably written sometime after the exile as a way to retell the story of Israel once again with a deeper messianic hope, focusing much on King David and his predecessors and focusing little on the northern Kingdom of Israel. After reading these two books, you are left hoping for a new King David to return to save Israel.



## Chapter 10

### *The Exile Era (Ezekiel – Daniel)*

**KEY VERSE: Ezekiel 36:26-27** – “And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to talk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.”

<b>ERA</b>	<b>Summary Statement</b>
Creation	Adam is created by God, but he _____ and _____ God’s original _____ for man.
Patriarchs	Abraham is _____ by God to “father” a _____ to _____ God to the world.
Exodus	Moses _____ the Hebrew people from _____ in Egypt and gives them the _____
Conquest	Joshua leads the _____ of the _____.
Judges	Samson and others were chosen as _____ to _____ the people for _____ rebellious years.
Kingdom	David, the greatest king in the new _____, is followed by a succession of mostly _____ kings, and God eventually _____ Israel for her sin, sending her into exile.
Exile	Daniel gives _____ and encourages _____ among the exiles for the next seventy years.

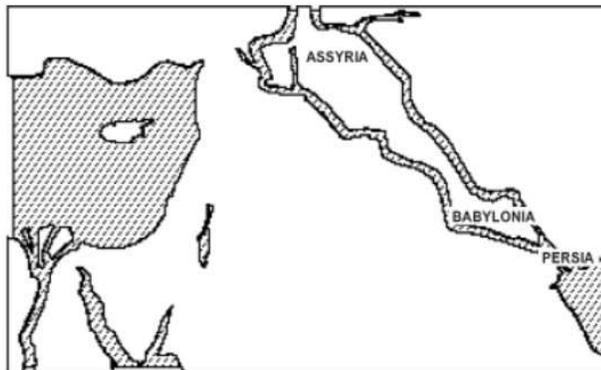
**EXPANSION:** There are four main divisions in the Exilic Era:

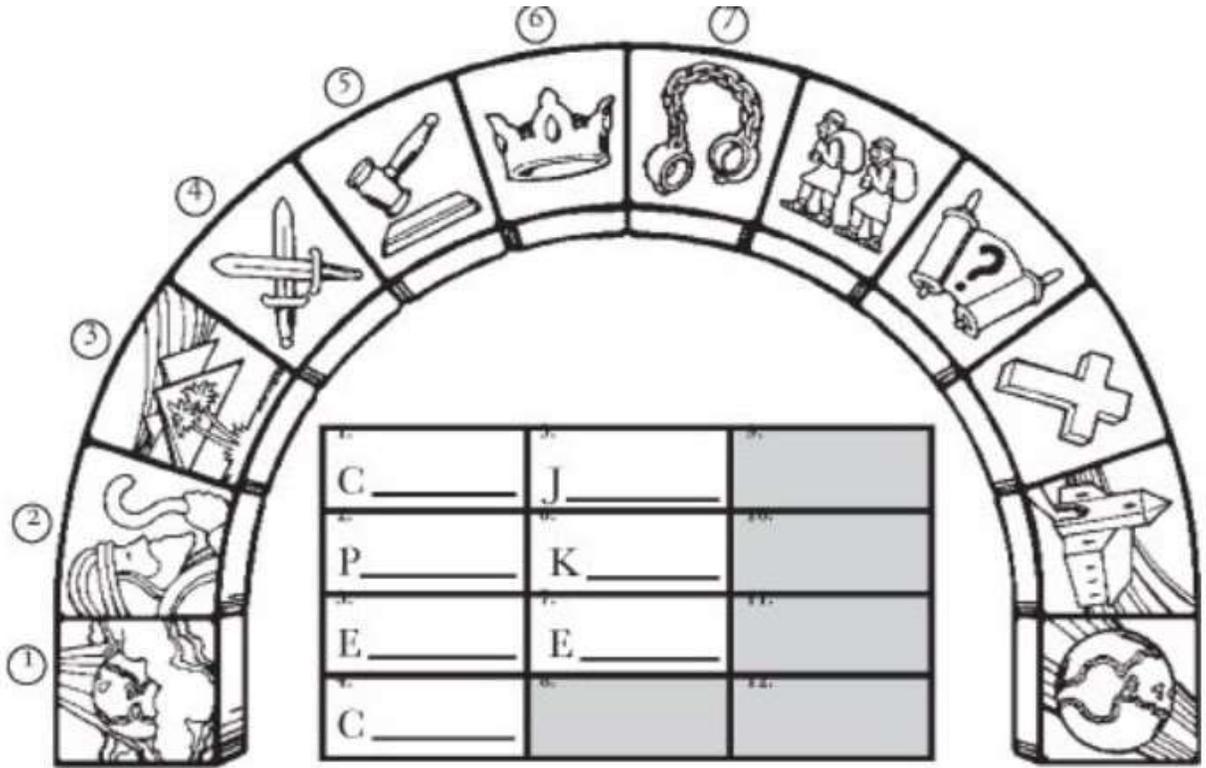
1. **Prophecy** – Through Jeremiah Judea is warned of impending exile, just like the northern Kingdom of Israel more than one hundred years before.
2. **Prophets** – The two primary prophets who wrote during the Exile were Ezekiel and Daniel. Both wrote encouragement to the Israelites, as well as continued prophecy as to their future, as well as God’s future work to come.
3. **Exiles** – As Daniel found himself in leadership within an extremely corrupt country, he encouraged his exiled people in faithfulness.
4. **Power Change:** Now to prevent confusion, let us remember the progression of the Kingdoms that surrounded Israel and held power over her:

*Assyria:* Exiled the northern Kingdom of Israel

*Babylon:* Conquered Assyria, and exiled Judea

*Persians (and the Medes):* Conquered Babylonians, and took control of Israel and the surrounding regions. Daniel saw this power change as an old man, and it was eventually the Persians who released Israel back to the promised land (by their leader Cyrus)





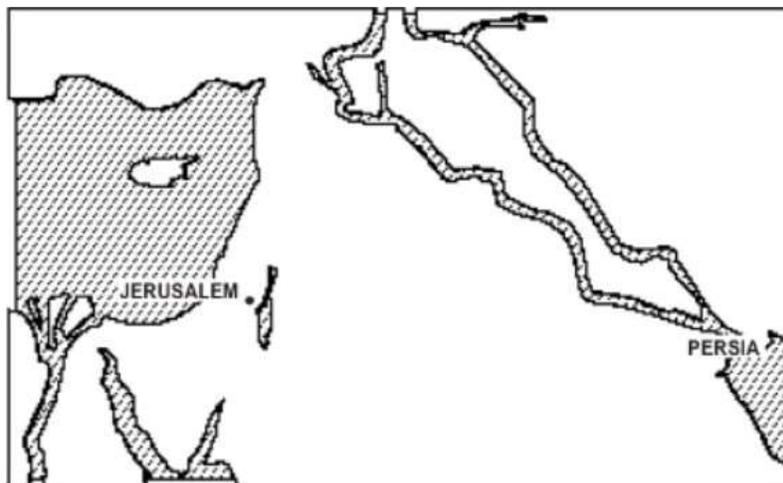
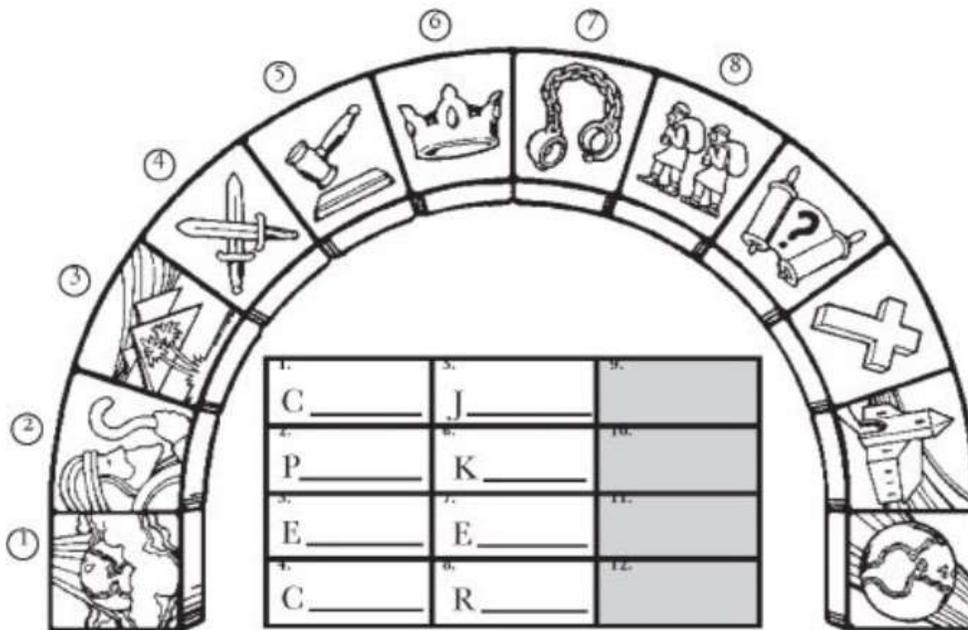
## CHAPTER 11 – The Return Era

### *Ezra – Esther*

ERA	Summary Statement
Creation	Adam is created by God, but he _____ and _____ God’s original _____ for man.
Patriarchs	Abraham is _____ by God to “father” a _____ to _____ God to the world.
Exodus	Moses _____ the Hebrew people from _____ in Egypt and gives them the _____.
Conquest	Joshua leads the _____ of the _____.
Judges	Samson and others were chosen as _____ to _____ the people for _____ rebellious years.
Kingdom	David, the greatest king in the new _____, is followed by a succession of mostly _____ kings, and God eventually _____ Israel for her sin, sending her into exile.
Exile	Daniel gives _____ and encourages _____ among the exiles for the next seventy years.
Return	Ezra _____ the people back from _____ to rebuild _____.

**SUBJECTS:** The four major subjects are:

1. Disrepair – Destruction from war and neglect (Nehemiah 1:1-3)
2. Temple: Rebuilding the temple (Ezra 1-6)
3. Spiritual Rebuilding (Ezra 7-10)
4. Walls: Restoration of Jerusalem complete (The Book of Nehemiah)



## THE INTERTESTAMENTAL ERA

This is an often neglected period of study. Here I want to take a few minutes to walk through this period with you.

### TIMELINE:

#### **Babylonian Period 597 B.C. – 539 B.C.<sup>1</sup>**

- **597**  
Jerusalem taken by Nebuchadnezzar II
- **587**  
Jerusalem destroyed, inhabitants taken into exile in Babylon
- **539**  
Babylon defeated by Persian King Cyrus

#### **Persian-Greek Period (538-323 B.C.)**

- **538**  
Return of exiles from Babylon; rebuilding of Temple begun (completed 516)
- **450s-440s**  
Ezra and Nehemiah in Jerusalem
- **336**  
Alexander the Great, a Macedonian Greek, rises to power. He forces Greek language and culture over all of his conquered territory, which included most of the middle east, north Africa, and some of eastern Europe.
- **332**  
Alexander the Great Conquers Israel/Palestine

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<sup>1</sup> From "The New Testament in its World" – Wright/Bird, Zondervan Academic, 2019, pg. 90. All maps are also taken from same reference book.

- **323**  
Alexander suddenly dies; his empire divided

### **Egyptian (Ptolemaic) Period 320-200 B.C.**

- Israel under Ptolemies; administered by high priests in Jerusalem

### **Syrian (Seleucid) period, 200-142 B.C.**

- **200**  
Antiochus III defeats Egyptians
- **175**  
Antiochus IV Epiphanes enthroned
- **167**  
Antiochus IV desecrates Temple; builds altar to Zeus Olympus
- **166**  
Judas Maccabaeus leads revolt
- **164**  
Judas Maccabaeus cleanses Temple
- **164-142**  
Running battles with Syria
- **160**  
Death of Judas Maccabeus
- **160-152**  
Jonathan, leader of Judaen forces
- **142**  
Semi-Independence from Syria, start of Hasmonean dynasty
- **63**  
The Romans quickly rose to power over the ancient world, defeating the Syrians. The great Roman general Pompey then

marched into Jerusalem and walked directly into the Holy of Holies inside of the Temple. Thus began Roman rule of Israel.

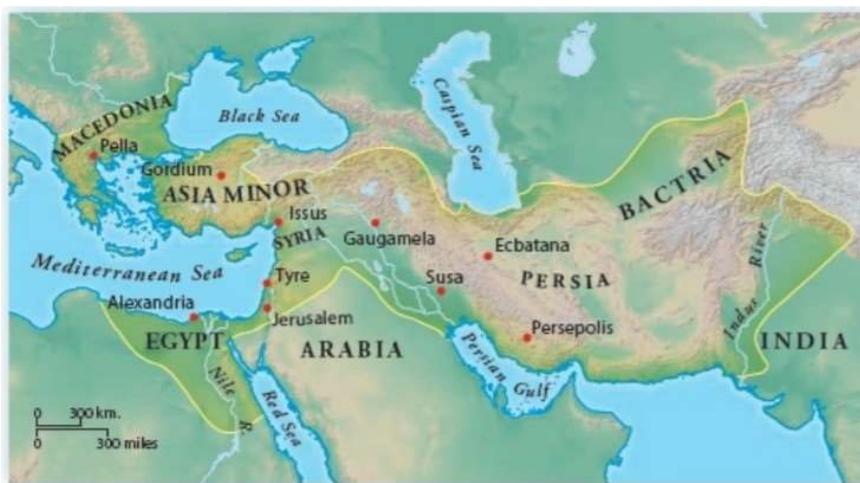
- **37**

The infamous “Herod the Great” is installed as “King of the Jews” beneath the Romans

## THE INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD USING MAPS AND PICTURES



**Alexander the Great**



Alexander the Great's empire



The Ptolemies and Seleucids in the third century BC

## JUDAS MACCABAEUS REDEDICATES THE TEMPLE

Now Maccabeus and his followers, the Lord leading them on, recovered the temple and the city; they tore down the altars that had been built in the public square by the foreigners, and also destroyed the sacred precincts. They purified the sanctuary, and made another altar of sacrifice; then, striking fire out of flint, they offered sacrifices, after a lapse of two years, and they offered incense and lighted lamps and set out the bread of the Presence. When they had done this, they fell prostrate and implored the Lord that they might never again fall into such misfortunes, but that, if they should ever sin, they might be disciplined by him with forbearance and not be handed over to blasphemous and barbarous nations. (2 Macc. 10.1–4 NRSV)





Palestine under Herod the Great

## WHY TAKE THE TIME TO UNDERSTAND THIS PERIOD?

- Alexander the Great forced the ancient world to learn and use Greek/Greek culture
- One language could be spoke from India all of the way to Eastern Europe to northern Africa
- Centuries after his death, the ancient world was “hellenized,” that is, still retained the influence of Greek/Greek culture
- When the Romans took power, they used Latin – but Greek was still the language of the every day people all over the Empire
- When Jesus was born, the Roman Empire was in the middle of a peaceful time. Paul called it “The fullness of time” (Galatians 4:7). The world was ripe for a single message to be able to be preached from one end of the world to the next. Through this little piece of land and through the Jews, then, came forth the Son of God and the Gospel message preached in Greek to the Gentiles (and to its native people, Hebrew), and anyone could receive the message in Greek!