

An Overview of the

BIBLE



With a Focus on

Chronology, Setting and Purpose

Erhard H Hermann

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"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"

And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'

"This is the great and foremost commandment.

"The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

"On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."(Matt. 22:36-40)

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. (1 Jn. 5:2-3)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

"He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (Jn. 3:16-18)

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. (2 Pet. 3:9)

The Ten Commandments

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before Me".

"You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments".

"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain".

"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. "Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. "For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy".

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you".

"You shall not murder".

"You shall not commit adultery".

"You shall not steal".

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor".

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor." (Exod. 20:2-17)

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Preface

Since the Bible covers a lot of time, geography, history and is not arranged in total chronological order, it is at times confusing and difficult to place events, people and teachings. It is my hope that this book will help to illuminate and clarify the Bible. I would highly recommend having a [Thompson Chain-Reference Bible](#) and also the electronic Bible software by [e-sword](#). I would also recommend either the NASB (1995 version), Legacy Standard Bible or ESV translations, as they are more accurate. There are many resources available for digging deeper into all these subjects if more information is desired. One of the most disturbing observations that I have made though, is that many of the so called “Biblical commentaries, Biblical Encyclopaedias, Biblical Dictionaries and other “Biblical” reference books do not hold fast to the truths of the Bible. When using these resources, while they do have a lot of good information, you will need to discern the truth, especially in regard to the timelines and interpretations of the acts of God and miracles. Many also seem to leave God out in terms of authoring the books. Frequently, you see things such as Paul’s theology or John’s theology. Scripture is very clear that the Holy Spirit is the author that moved the human writers to write what He wanted, so the theology is God’s theology, not the human author’s theology. The writings and theology are frequently presented as something that strictly came out of the experience and culture of the writer and leaving God out as the author. They will also write with an assumption that the Israelite “Religion” evolved over time and was based on the religions of the nations around them. Paul in his letter to Timothy (2 Ti 3:16) and Peter in his second letter (2Pe 1:20) both attest to God inspiring the writers. Many will mix in other Ancient Near Eastern thoughts and texts and/or the current evolutionary theory. The mixing in of the evolutionary theory with the truth is called “Theistic Evolution”, and is much the same as trying to mix pagan religions with the truth of the Bible. Israel did just that with disastrous effects and much the same can be expected if we try and mix atheistic religion with the truth. There is an appendix discussing the evolutionary theory and, why from a scientific, rational and logical perspective, it really would take an incredible amount of faith to believe it, so the approach taken here is that the Bible is not only theologically true, but also historically true.

Just think how our world would be so much better if everyone would first of all, acknowledge and worship the true creator God, by loving Him and by all people by following His laws. We can think of the Bible as the owner’s manual and instruction book written by the Creator for His creation.

Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so. (Acts 17:11)

Setting

The lands and people described in the Bible are located in the Middle East, the so called “cradle of civilization”. The tower of Babel incident where the languages of the people are confused and the people are dispersed happened in the area of modern Iraq, likely close to the city of Ur at Eridu. The descendants of Noah after the flood dispersed primarily in the following ways. The descendants of Japheth primarily went North and West, the descendants of Ham primarily went Southwest and into Egypt. Shem’s descendants stayed more central. A map showing this is provided after the table of nations.

The first five books of the Bible are written by Moses during the Exodus from Egypt. The Israelites have been in Egypt with its plurality of gods, divination, magic and creation stories that were not true. They are now entering a land with other gods and immoral practices for which God was driving them out. Since the Israelites did not obey the command of God and drive out all the nations and destroy them, the nations proved to be a snare to them. As God had predicted and warned, they followed the ways of the people of the land and worshipped other gods, which led to their own demise.

"Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete." (Gen. 15:16)

"There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.

"For whoever does these things is detestable to the LORD; and because of these detestable things the LORD your God will drive them out before you. "You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. "For those nations, which you shall dispossess, listen to those who practice witchcraft and to diviners, but as for you, the LORD your God has not allowed you to do so. (Deut. 18:10-14)

There is an important lesson just in this statement, which is also quite applicable today. If a society is rebellious against God and his commands, it will ultimately be destroyed. It is quite obvious in this statement that God is very patient, but there is a limit to the iniquity of people and nations before He acts.

This map is set in the time of the Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) about 2000 BC



Purpose

When we study the Scriptures, we need to approach the subject with Jesus' words guiding us.

Jesus summed up the "Law and the Prophets" by declaring

'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' This is the great and foremost commandment. "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."(Matt. 22:36-40)

Therefore, our focus should be on studying the instructions to help us understand how to love God and others and to encourage us to put these truths into practice. It is important to learn what God means by love and not use our own definition or meaning. We should avoid focussing on other doctrines which may be divisive or possibly irrelevant and distractionary.

If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. (1 Tim. 6:3-5)

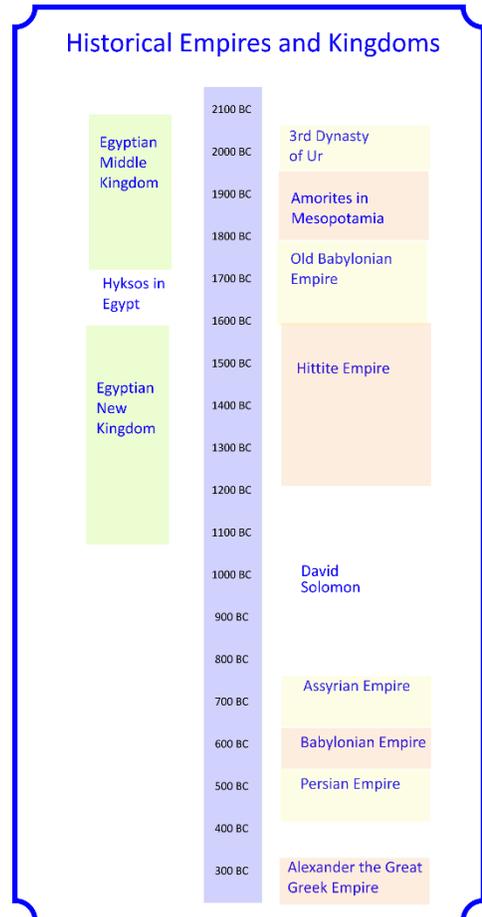
But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. (Tit. 3:9)

Kingdoms

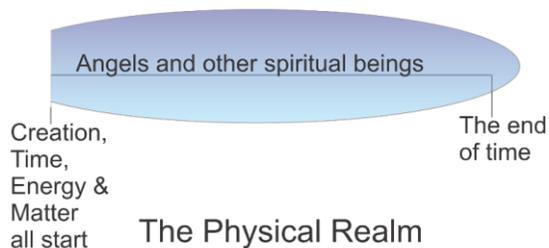
The main kingdoms were Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece and then Rome. The land of Palestine was between Egypt and the other kingdoms and often experienced war as the larger powers were striving for power and control over the area. The Philistines on the coast, the Edomites, Midianites, Ammonites and Moabites to the East the Amalekites to the South and the Arameans to the North also presented problems for the Israelites at various times. Abraham lived in Ur of the Chaldeans (modern day Iraq) and was called by God to go to the land of Canaan where he was promised a son and the land. The Edomites and Midianites were descendants of Abraham, The Moabites and Ammonites were the descendants of Lot, who was Abraham's nephew. Abraham was the grandfather of Jacob whose name was changed to Israel. The Philistines were part of the Sea people that were descendants from Mizraim (Egypt), the son of Ham.

World views

In order to correctly understand our world, we must have an accurate understanding of reality. Far too frequently, we tend to look at everything from our limited perspective. While diagrams can never totally capture the total picture, the following diagram seeks to illustrate reality.



G O D



Notes:

God is eternal
 The angels were created and will exist for all eternity.
 This physical realm was created and will end, but man's spirit will continue for all eternity.

Based on this diagram, an accurate world view is best seen from God’s perspective, not ours. If we look at it from our limited perspective and experience, we are bound to come up with wrong conclusions. One important thing to emphasize here is that what we consider to be miraculous or supernatural is very ordinary to God. For example, when Jesus healed people, it was miraculous to the people, but not at all miraculous from God’s perspective. The parting of the sea when the Israelites came out of Egypt is another good example. Since God has created the physical realm that we live in, all truth, laws and regulations are totally determined by Him. We typically live and behave as though we have a smorgasbord before us and could choose what is right or wrong and that we can determine what is right or wrong. Right and wrong is wholly and totally determined by God alone since He is the Creator, regardless of whether or not we think it is right or wrong.

The description of the following world views presents the beliefs of the people during Bible times.

Egypt

Egypt’s basic world view was as follows. (note that there variations of this)

- It starts with the primordial waters
- Creation happened through a god who self-created himself (Atum). heka (magic) was also present.
- He created other gods through whom more gods came to be. The gods all represent natural functions such as the sun, sky, earth and others. The Egyptians have a myriad of gods which are all involved in everything having to do with life, death and nature.
- Atum turned himself into the sun god Re. He is also called Atum-Re
- Re, being the sun god, every day then goes through the underworld and returns to go through the sky again. He is accompanied by other gods to help him against the evil in the underworld.
- There is the concept that death represents going to the underworld. i.e., there is a continuation of the person, they do not just cease to exist. At death the heart would be judged to determine the eternal fate of the person.
- There is more than one creation story.
- Magic is present and important (there is a god of magic), there are books with spells (book of the dead).



Mesopotamia & Sumerian

- Again, there are different accounts, but this is the general idea.
- Starts with three gods in what could again be called the primordial waters.
- Two of the gods (Apsu and Tiamat) create a number of other gods through sexual procreation.
- A battle follows in which Marduk kills Tiamat and then splits her body in half like a “shellfish” to make the sky.
- The constellations are made by Marduk by assigning gods as explained in the Mesopotamian creation myth. *“He (Marduk) constructed stations for the great gods, fixing their astral likenesses as constellations”*

- Marduk then makes man (partly from a god who had contrived the uprising of Tiamat) so that they can serve the gods “that they might be at ease”.
- Magic is also a part of the story as Tiamat casts spells and Marduk also holds a spell in his lips.
- Another Sumerian story has a cosmic marriage - An (Heaven) fertilizes Ki (Earth)
 - *Cuneiform texts from the important Amorite city-state of Mari document the existence of a complex guild of prophets who were expert in a variety of skills, including divination. These documents date mainly from about 1700 BC, (Eugene H. Merrill, Kingdom of Priests, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008), 107.)*
- Consider also Daniel, who was named chief of the magicians.
 - Then the king gave orders to call in the magicians, the conjurers, the sorcerers and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams (Dan. 2:2)*
- The afterlife is seen as a dark place of no return where clay is their food.
- There seem to be different fates for people in the afterlife – some better, some worse.
- There is a myriad of gods as well. An interesting note to this is found in Genesis when Jacob leaves Laban to return to the land of Canaan and Rachel had taken the household gods that belonged to Laban. (Gen 31)

Canaan

- The creator god is named EL
- Asherah is his consort (possibly the “queen of heaven” mentioned in Jeremiah).
- The queen of heaven could also be Astarte (Ashtoreth).
- There does not seem to be a real creation story that has been found.
- Baal plays one of the most important roles.
- Fertility is a major theme.
- Sexual immorality is very prevalent.
- Again, there are many gods and conflicts among the gods.
- There is a belief in the afterlife to the land of Mot (god of the dead).
- Some stars and planets were also gods.
- Magic and divination were a major part of the religions. Note the command against this.

Likely, the best way to summarize the worldviews of the people in the ANE (Ancient Near East) would be.

- Polytheism – they all believed in a multitude of gods and a hierarchy of the gods.
- The gods typically had functions related to the natural environment and its functioning. For example
 - Sun god
 - Air god
 - Rain god
 - Fertility god
 - War god
 - Underworld god

- The gods tended to be in conflict with one another and could be killed and come to life again.
- The gods had personalities similar to humans. In fact, many tend to have very evil personalities.
- The hierarchy would go from the most powerful god right down to household gods.
- Each people group had their main god – for instance, Baal was the major god of the Canaanites and Chemosh was the main Moabite god.
- The stars and constellations were gods.
- There are creation and flood stories.
- There is an afterlife.
- The kings or rulers tended to portray themselves as gods or sons of the gods.
- Magic, divination, witchcraft, consulting the dead and the like were a normal part of the lives of these people.

The involvement of the gods in the lives of people was just a given. It was important for people to appease the gods in order that their lives would be successful. Crops depended on the gods; the outcome of wars was also a contest between the gods of the nations. For example, we read

Now the servants of the king of Aram said to him, "Their gods are gods of the mountains, therefore they were stronger than we; but rather let us fight against them in the plain, and surely we will be stronger than they. (1Ki 20:23)

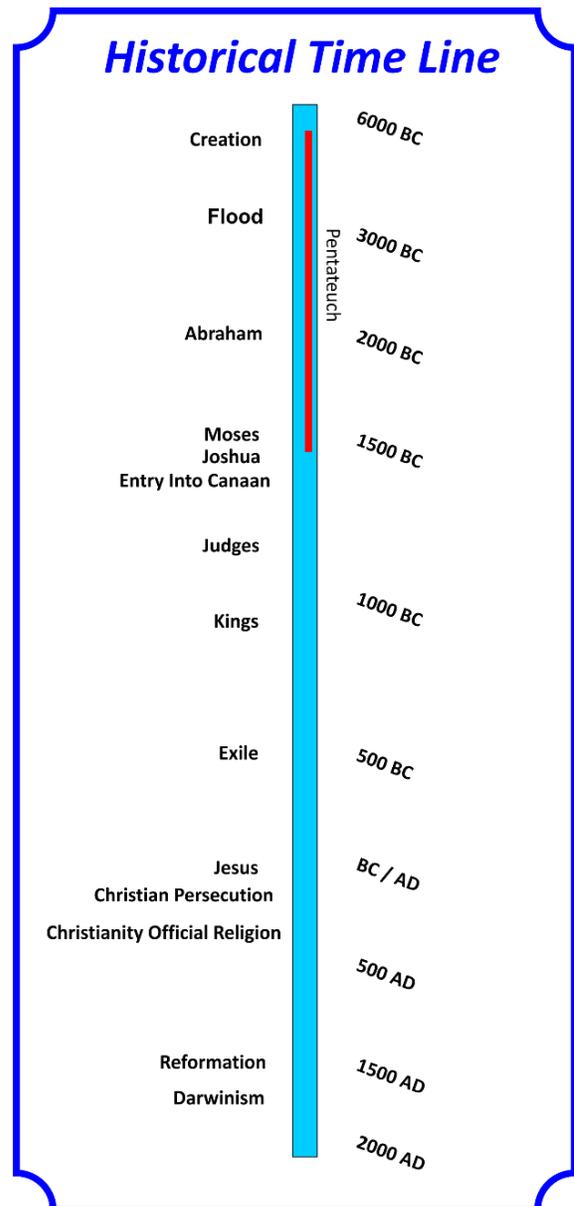
Magic and divination were used for various purposes.

One of the most important things to take away from this, is that logically, there is just one actual true history of the universe, creation and mankind. Virtually all societies have a flood story, so therefore, it is obvious that there was a global flood and the various accounts of it and the views of the physical and spiritual world are distorted versions of the one true account. Appendix A provides some information and rationale for determining that the Bible presents the true account of reality. More information can be obtained from the website <https://www.biblestudyhelps.ca>

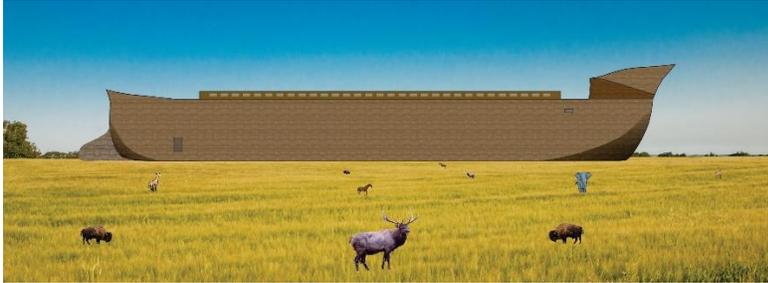
Chronological Overview with Maps and Charts

It is really helpful to have a bird's eye view of the timelines so as to be able to place people and events. While we cannot absolutely date everything, the following timelines and information provide the best approximations of the dates in history. Dating of ancient times involves things like pottery, building methods, written records, carbon dating (which is not accurate once you get past about 1400 BC.) and trying to find synchronisms between cultures and peoples from their records. There are some dates that have been established with relative certainty. These would include the fall of Jerusalem (under King Zedekiah) to Nebuchadnezzar in 586/7 BC, the exodus in 1446 BC (1 Kings 6:1 – the 4th year of Solomon's reign was in the 480th year after the Exodus from Egypt) and the birth of Abraham about 2166 BC. Although the dating and chronology of history is important, we should not get too caught up in trying to get the exact year of various events since many scholars differ in some of these respects, but the general timeline does show the progression of history and how things fit together.

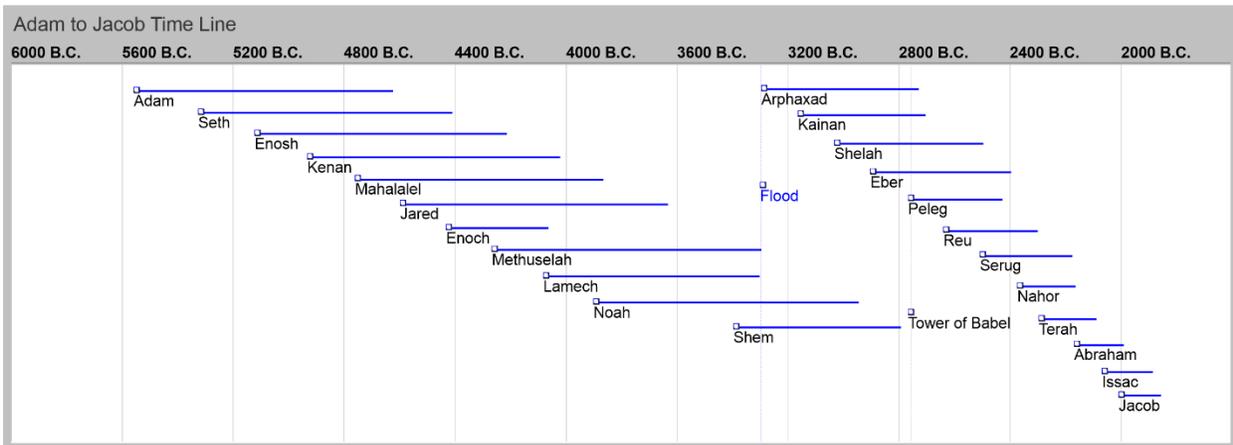
Another aspect to consider is that archeologists and scientists will tend to interpret the data based on their world view and what they want to be true. You can have several different people look at the same data and come up with wildly different interpretations and conclusions. A good example for this is the dating of the Exodus. There are people who want to date the Exodus in the 1250 BC range, and then profess, for example that there was no Jericho to conquer. Well, the problem with that is that Jericho was destroyed, as per the Bible, in around 1406 or so and then not rebuilt as per Joshua's curse until the time of Ahab. The archeological record fits quite well with this, so the problem is not with the Bible or the archeological record, but the mindset that the people come with, and not being open to the truth.



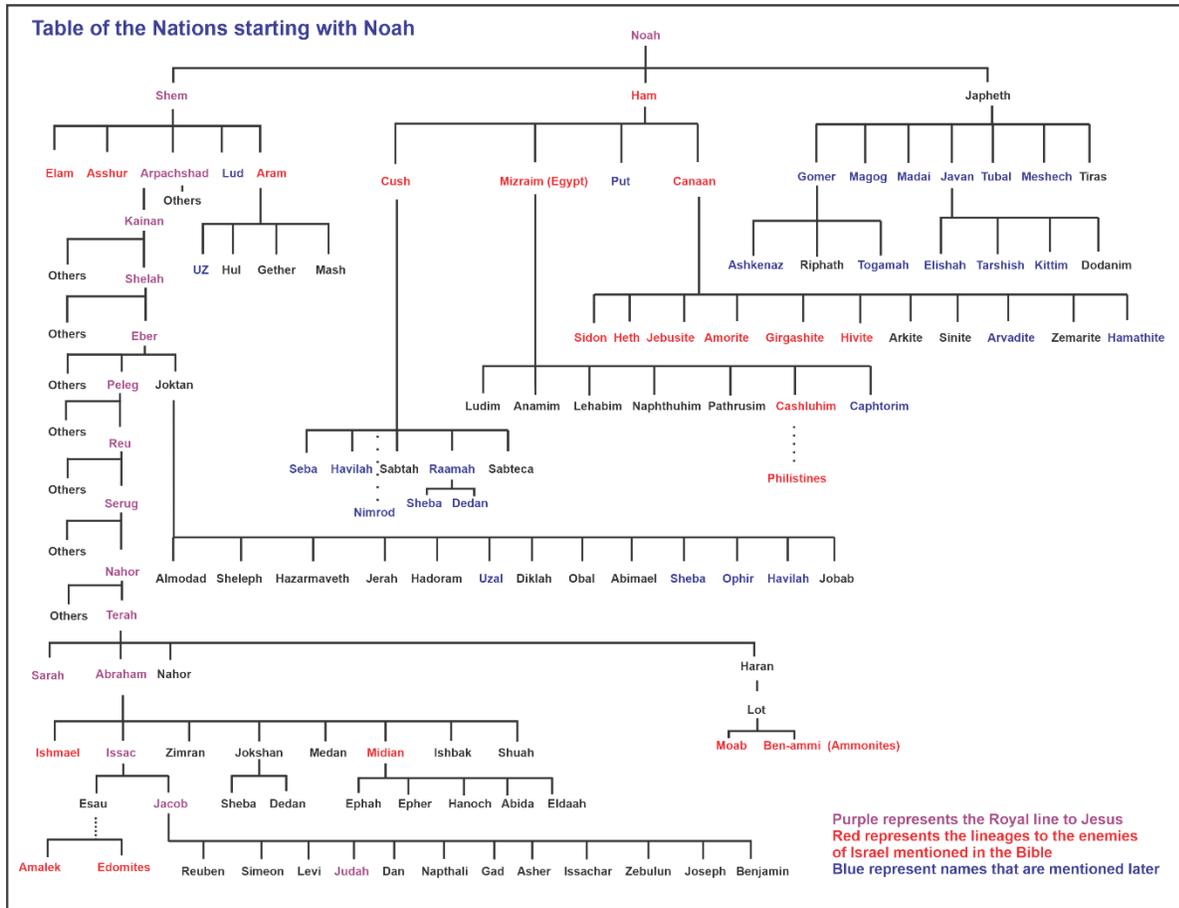
This is a possible rendition of what Noah's Ark may have looked like. It would have been around 500 feet long.



This is a timeline from creation to Jacob



The "Table of the Nations" lists the descendants of Noah, with a focus on those that are a part of the Biblical story of relevant people and nations.



This map shows the dispersion of the descendants of Noah.

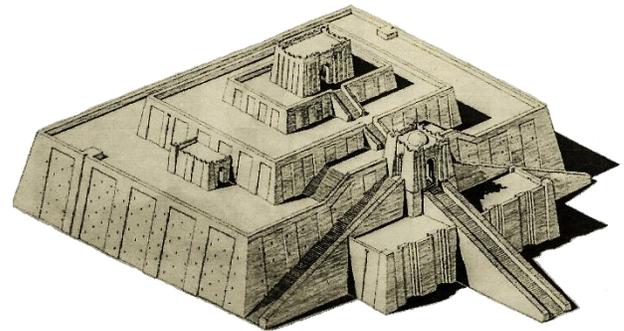
The descendants of Ham primarily settled in the area of Egypt and Canaan.

The main conflicts that the Israelites had were with these descendants of Ham, the descendants of Aram (the Arameans) and the descendants of Asshur (Assyrians). There were also conflicts with the descendants of Lot (Moabites and Ammonites), other descendants of Abraham (Midianites, Amalekites and Edomites).



People were very capable prior to the flood and afterwards as well. They were able to build structures that required accuracy, ingenuity and technology. Modern scholars are still baffled as to how some of these structures were built and amazed at the accuracy of the work. Consider that Cain, the son of Adam built a city. A while later, we read that Tubal-Cain was a forger of all implements of bronze and iron. Noah built the ark in another demonstration of what these people were able to do.

The “Tower of Babel” was most likely a Ziggurat similar to this one in the city of Ur that was built around the time of Abraham. The top of this one is missing, but the right image shows a proposed reconstruction of the original.



This type of building was continued as God dispersed the nations at Babel, that is why we see similar buildings all over the world.

The Sphinx and the great pyramid at Giza in Egypt were constructed around 2500 BC



We see some other types of these Ziggurats in various other parts of the world.

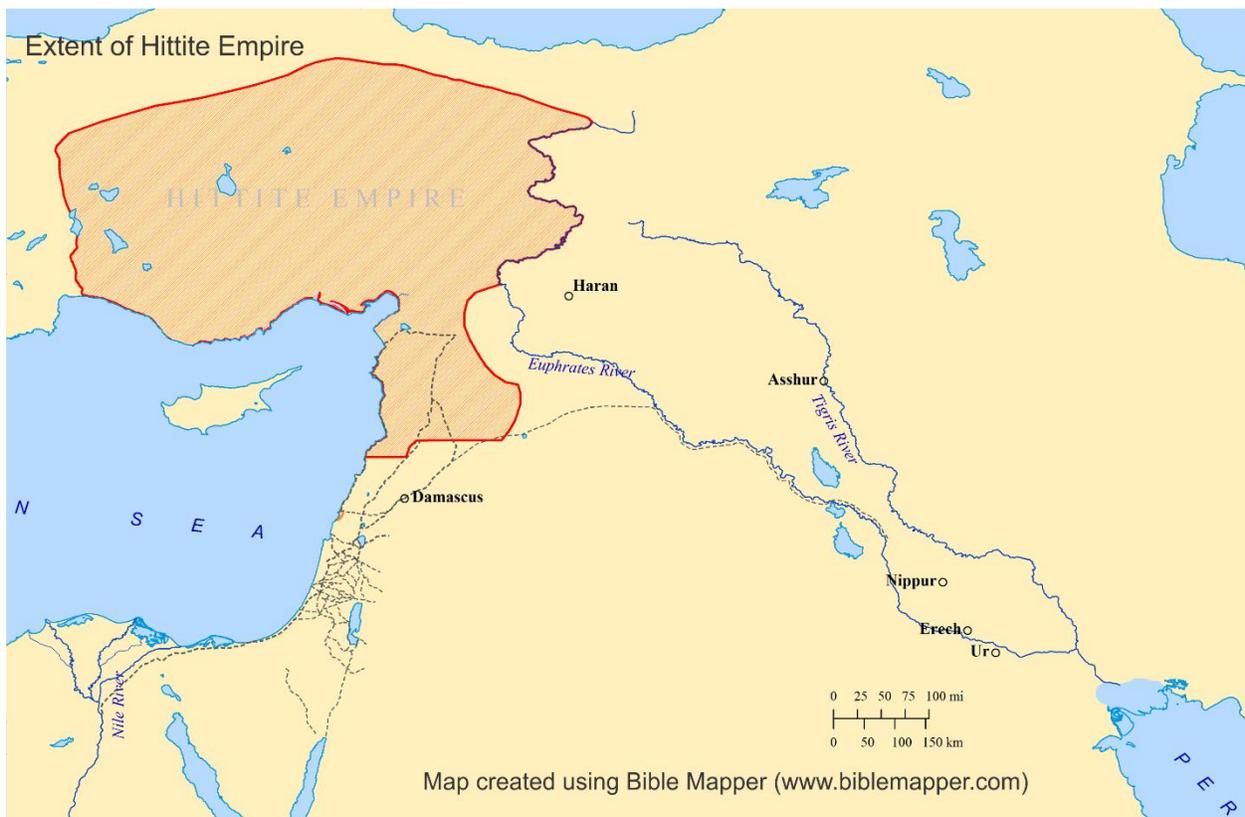




The Book “The Genius of Ancient Man – Evolution’s Nightmare” goes into much more detail on the subject.

These maps show the extent of various kingdoms

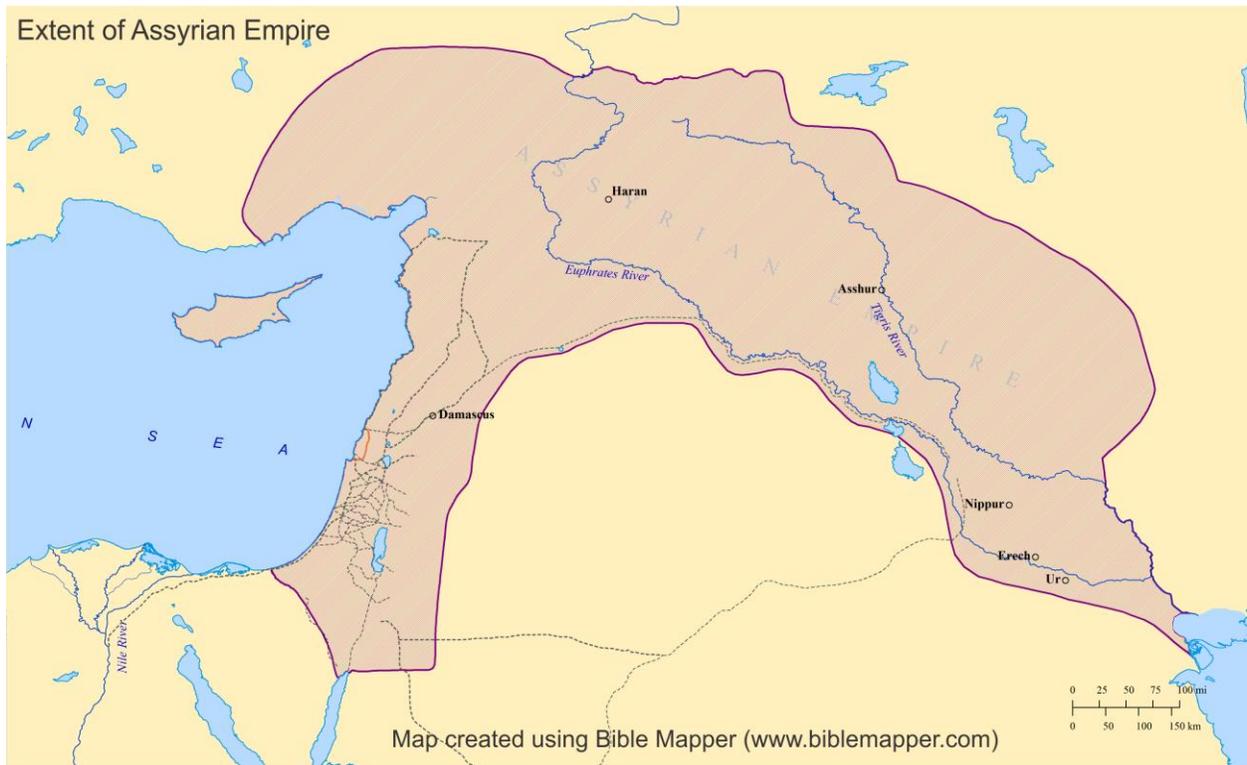
The extent of the Hittite empire likely around the 1500 BC to 1650 BC time frame.



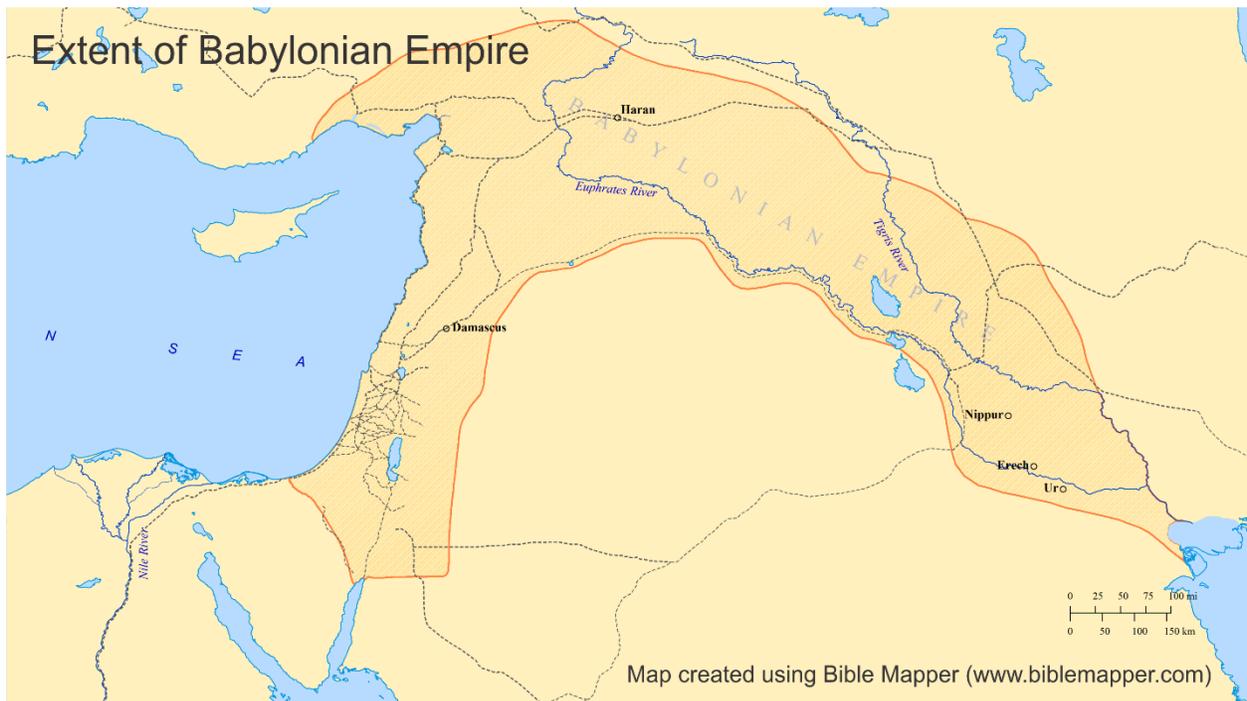
This map shows Israel during the time of King Saul, King David and King Solomon. Solomon reigned until about 931 BC



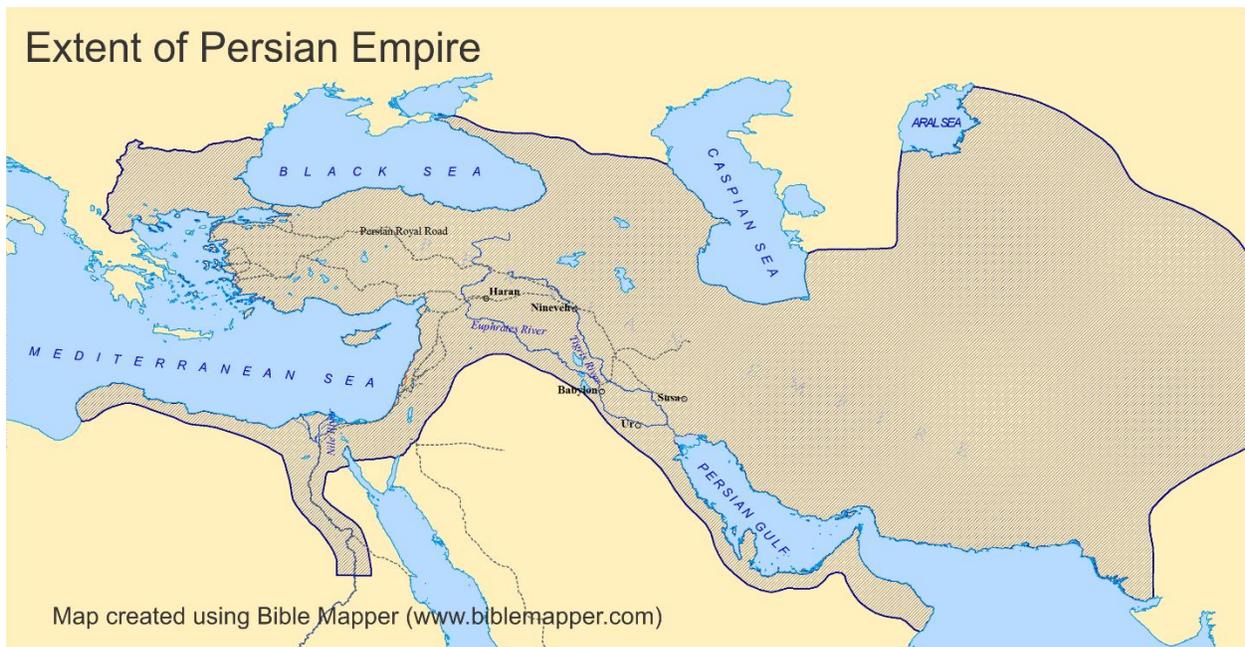
Extent of the Assyrian empire in the 700 BC range



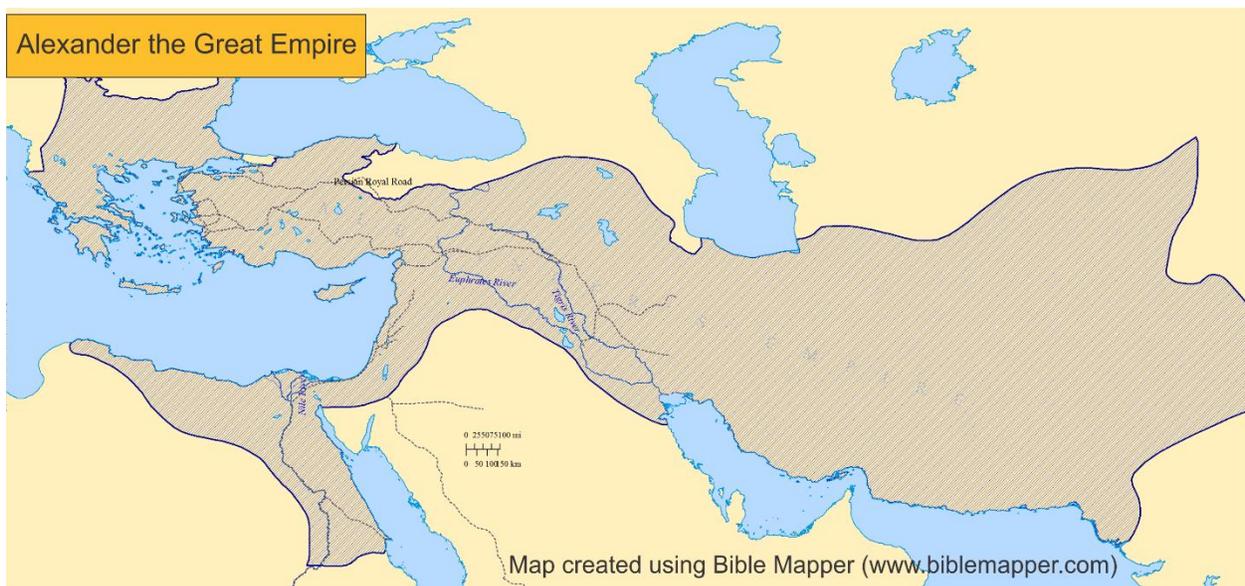
Extent of the Babylonian empire in the 600 BC range



The extent of the Persian empire in the 460 BC range.



The empire of Alexander the great about 323 BC.



Alexanders empire was divided among his generals after his sudden death in Babylon.

Extent of the Roman Empire in New Testament times.



Paul's Third Missionary Journey



The Books of the Bible

Arrangement of the Books

The books of the Bible are not all in chronological order. They are basically arranged in the following order.

- The Old Testament historical books: Genesis to Esther. The first 5 books (Genesis to Deuteronomy) are called “The Law” or the Pentateuch
- The Poetic books: Job to Song of Solomon
- The Prophets: Isaiah to Malachi

- The New Testament historical books: Matthew to Acts
- The books of Paul the apostle: Romans to Philemon
- The other letters: Hebrews to Jude
- The book of Revelation

When reading a book, it is very helpful to determine the approximate date and consider what was going on at the time.

A Brief Summary

The Bible starts with an account of the creation of the universe, the earth and all living things by God.

- God planted a garden called Eden and gave some very basic commands:
 - *Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die." (Gen. 2:15-17)*
 - *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food"; and it was so. (Gen. 1:26-30)*
- Adam and Eve did not obey the command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This resulted in the judgements and curses on people and the land. This is called the “fall of man” and led to the death, pain, suffering and groanings that we see all around us.

- Cain murders his brother Abel and we see the increasing wickedness of people.
- Enoch, the seventh from Adam, walked with God and was taken to be with God without dying.
- Because of the wickedness and evil of all people, God decided to destroy the world with a global flood. Only Noah was found to be righteous on the earth. God commanded Noah to build an ark for his family and the animals. The global flood then destroyed all on the earth and in the sky.

Thus He blotted out every living thing that was upon the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky, and they were blotted out from the earth; and only Noah was left, together with those that were with him in the ark. (Gen. 7:23)

- After the flood,

And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. "The fear of you and the terror of you will be on every beast of the earth and on every bird of the sky; with everything that creeps on the ground, and all the fish of the sea, into your hand they are given. "Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I give all to you, as I gave the green plant. "Only you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. "Surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man's brother I will require the life of man. "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man. "As for you, be fruitful and multiply; Populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it." (Gen. 9:1-7)

- The people did not disperse as God had commanded, rather they wanted to remain together and make a name for themselves, so we have the account of the tower of Babel. God confused their language and they stopped building and were scattered.
- We then move on to Abraham and his family. He is called out of Ur of the Chaldeans and led to Canaan. We come to the record of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their wickedness. Abraham intercedes for the cities to the point that even if ten righteous are found, God would not destroy it. Obviously, ten righteous were not found.
- Abraham is promised a descendant by God. When this is taking a long time, Sarah suggests that she could have her descendant via Hagar, her maid. Ishmael is the result of this union and God said

"He will be a wild donkey of a man, His hand will be against everyone, And everyone's hand will be against him; And he will live to the east of all his brothers. (Gen. 16:12)

- God then tells Abraham that Sarah will bear him a child and that His covenant will be with that child and his descendants. The child that Sarah bore was named Isaac. Isaac then fathered Esau and Jacob. Jacob then became the father of the twelve tribes of Israel. Jacob's name was changed to Israel.

- Joseph, one of the 12 sons, is sold into slavery in Egypt where he ends up being second only to Pharaoh after he interprets the dream of Pharaoh regarding the seven good years to be followed by the seven very bad years.
- During the bad years, Joseph brings his family to Egypt where they lived 430 Years.
- They were subsequently enslaved by a later Pharaoh, at which time God sent Moses to lead the people out of Egypt into the promised land of Canaan. The Israelites frequently disobeyed, grumbled, and did not obey the command to enter the promised land. This led to the original group of men over 20 years old having to die in the wilderness prior to the Israelites entering the Promised Land.
- Moses leads them until the conquest of the East side of the Jordan is completed. Joshua takes over and leads them through the dried-up Jordan and starts the conquest with the destruction of the heavily fortified city of Jericho where God caused the walls to fall down.
- The Israelites serve God throughout the lifetime of Joshua and the elders that outlived him. After this, the tumultuous period of the Judges starts with the Israelites serving other gods and disobeying God. God then allows others to oppress them and, when the Israelites cry out to God, He sends a judge to deliver them. This pattern continues until the time of Samuel the prophet. As Samuel ages, the people want him to appoint a king over them.
- Saul is then appointed as the first king. He however is not obedient, and God chooses David as the next king. David is called a man after God's own heart.
- David's son, Solomon, takes the reigns after David and was given extraordinary wisdom. Under Solomon, the territory of Israel reached its maximum size. His son Rehoboam does not listen to the advice of the elders, but rather follows the advice of his younger companions. The result is the division of the kingdom into the southern kingdom of Judah and the northern kingdom of Israel.
- God keeps sending prophets to the people to urge them to turn back to Himself during the time of the Judges and Kings. Unfortunately, the people do not respond very well and thus they experience God's judgement many times over.
- The northern kingdom rebels against God virtually right away and, as judgement for this, is exiled by Assyria in 722 or 723 BC.
- Judah has a mix of good, bad and half-hearted kings and is exiled by Nebuchadnezzar starting in 605 BC down to 586/7 BC.
- Under Cyrus, the Persian, the exiles are allowed to start to return and close to 50,000 go back to Jerusalem. While idolatry does not seem to be the problem anymore, disobedience to God and His commands certainly persisted.
- It is during the time between the return from the exile and the start of the New Testament, that the Pharisees and Sadducees appear.
- Jesus is born of the virgin Mary
 - *The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. (Lk. 1:35)*
- John describes Jesus in the following way

- *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. (Jn. 1:1-4)*
- Jesus calls 12 disciples to Himself and goes about teaching, performing miracles, healing people and casting out demons.
- The Pharisees and Sadducees conspire to convict Jesus and have Him crucified.
- Jesus is raised from the dead on the third day. He appears to his followers during the next 40 days and then ascends to heaven.
- Jesus, being God Himself, was the only one who was sinless and could therefore pay the penalty for all of our sins, from Adam on forward.
 - *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (Jn. 3:16-18)*
- The Holy Spirit filled the Disciples at Pentecost (50 days after Passover) and the disciples spoke in tongues and proclaimed Jesus to the people. They also start doing miracles by healing people.
- The book of Acts records the growth of the church until shortly before the time of the Apostle Paul's death.
- The letters of the New Testament are written to address questions, problems and doctrinal truths.
- John writes the book of Revelation towards the end of his life. Here we have instructions and prophecies regarding the end times. The main take away from the book is to persevere and be faithful.
 - *"For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. "For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be. (Matt. 24:37-39)*
- While many are always trying to figure out the exact time when Jesus returns, Jesus Himself said
 - *"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. (Matt. 24:36)*
 - *"For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will. (Matt. 24:44)*
- Revelation concludes with
 - *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her*

husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. "He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." (Rev. 21:1-8)

A more detailed look at the events in the Bible

The Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible or the Law)

There is some uncertainty on the exact dates of the very early times from Creation to Abraham. The Genesis timelines are based on the work of Henry B Smith Jr. (He has done a lot of research by looking at the three Scriptural witnesses of the chronologies in Genesis 5 and 11. Check out his research as listed in the bibliography). Regardless of the exact dates, our world is less than 8,000 Years old. Creation should be dated to between about 4000 BC and 5554 BC. He is also working on a book called "From Adam to Abraham" where he will document all the evidence regarding this dating.

A few articles on this time period:

[Study on Genesis 1 -11](#)

[Chronology of the Pentateuch](#)

[Overview of the Short and Long Chronologies in Genesis](#)

There are also a number of links on the website to organizations that have put a lot of information together that affirms the Biblical account of creation. [Biblestudyhelps.ca](#)

Moses wrote the Pentateuch for several reasons. To start with, he needed to present a correct world view of God, creation, mankind, history and sin. It is also quite obvious that God, through Moses, wanted us to know the date of creation and the lineage from Adam right through to Abraham and on to the 12 tribes of Israel. This can really be seen by the obvious chronological dating provided in Genesis 5 and 11 with the dates given for the birth of a son, the remainder of his life and so on. One key aspect of the Bible is that it provides a historical account of events.

Creation

The Bible starts with God creating the universe and all that is in it in six days. On the sixth day, when God created Adam and Eve, He gave them dominion over the earth and all the animals. (Gen 1:28)

Day 1

On day one, God created the heavens and the earth, light and darkness.

Day 2

On day two, God separated the waters below from the waters above.

Day 3

On day three, God caused dry land to appear and created the vegetation.

Day 4

On day four, God created the sun, moon and stars.

Day 5

On day five, God created the marine animals and the flying animals.

Day 6

On day six, God:

- Created the land animals.
- Created Adam and Eve in His image.
- Gave the plants for food to all the animals and mankind.
- Adam was commanded not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The punishment for doing so would be death.
- Adam named the animals.
- God called everything that He had made “very good”.

Day 7

On day seven, God ceased creating, rested and sanctified the seventh day.

Sin enters

Genesis 3 records the account of the disobedience of Adam and Eve. The serpent (whom Satan was using) deceived Eve into eating from the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The deception was that it would make her like God, being wise and knowing good and evil. Eve, being deceived gave some of the fruit to Adam, who was with her. Since Scripture always puts the blame on Adam, it would appear that he knowingly disobeyed and also, being the head, was the one who was responsible. While Adam and Eve did not immediately die, the process started. They were going to physically die, and also face the second death. The second death is explained more fully in the book of Revelation. It is the judgement of eternal separation from God and eternal punishment in the lake of fire.

God pronounced a curse on the serpent, Eve and Adam. The curse on the serpent was that he would crawl on his belly. The woman was to have the pain in childbearing increased. The curse on Adam was a curse on his dominion. The ground would now require much more work to yield food. These curses affected all of creation. Adam and Eve were driven out of the garden of Eden and the way to it was guarded by means of cherubim and the flaming sword.

Cain and Abel

This incident must have happened many years after creation since there are already other children of Adam and Eve. Cain and Abel brought offerings to God. The text differentiates the two offerings. Cain

just brought an offering from the fruit of the ground, whereas Abel brought of the firstlings and the fat portions. Since the Levitical law had not been put into place and since it was just an offering, it would seem that the issue was that Cain did not bring of the first, or best, of the produce. Cain became angry, so God confronted him and gave him an opportunity to do what was right. Cain refused and killed Abel. Adam and Eve had another son after this whose name is Seth.

Lead up to the Flood

We have a very interesting story about a very godly man. It is recorded that Enoch walked with God and was taken by God without dying. As time went on, people became very wicked and were contemplating evil continually. It was also during this time that fallen angels had sexual unions with the women. These relationships produced giants who were mighty men. God gave them a one-hundred-and-twenty-year grace period. Noah, the only one found righteous during this time was commanded to build a big ship (ark) for himself, his family and the animals that God would bring to him. While he was building the ark, Noah was preaching to the people to repent.

The Flood

The dimensions for the ark are given as 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide and 30 cubits high. This works out to about 500 feet long, 83 feet wide and 50 feet high or 152 meters by 25 meters by 15 meters high. When Noah finished building the ark and he, his family and all the animals were on board, God brought about the flood which lasted about one year. Since there was no one else that was righteous, there were no innocent people that perished in the flood. After the flood, God promised that He would not destroy the world again with a flood. The sign of this promise was the rainbow. God also gave animals as food to Noah. At this time, God instituted capital punishment for murder. Noah and his family were told to multiply and fill the earth.

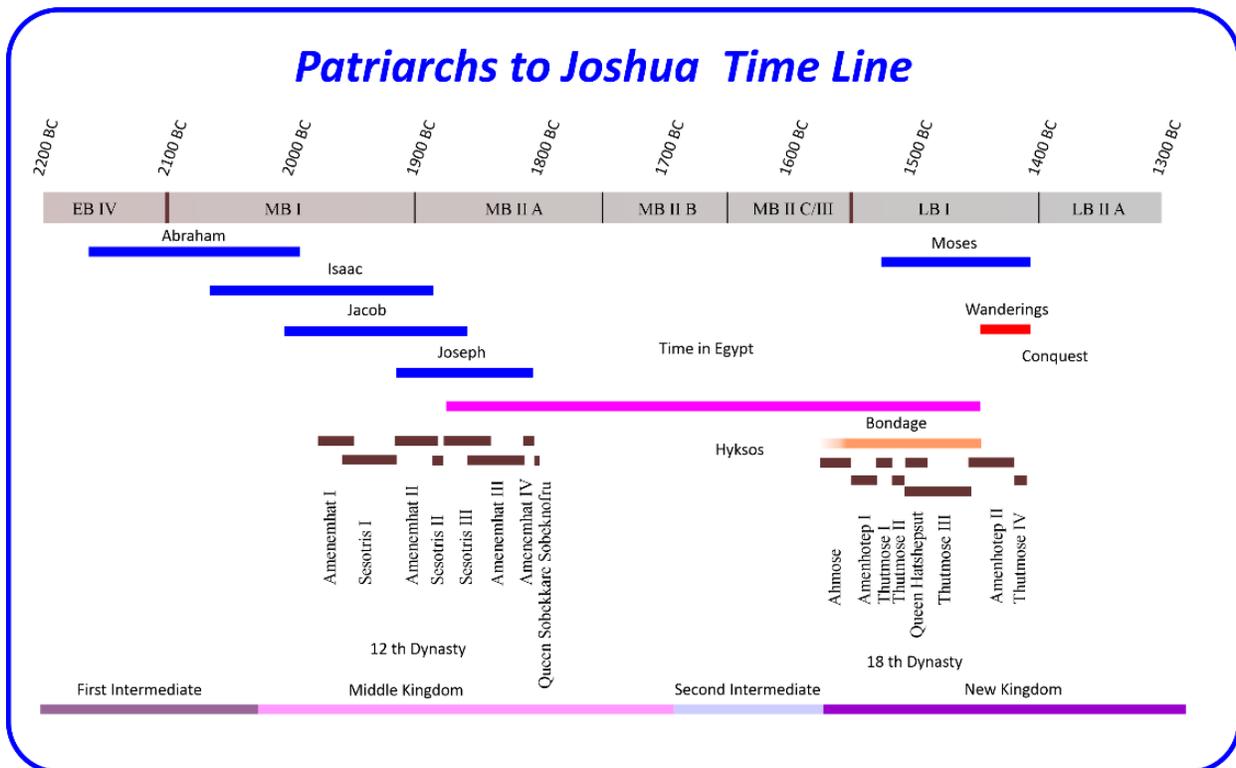
Tower of Babel to Jacob (Israel)

By the time of the account of the tower of Babel, around 500 years after the flood, the people had still not dispersed as they were commanded and were building a tower to actually keep from being scattered and so that they could make themselves a name. God confused their language so that they could not understand each other anymore and thus God scattered them abroad. A few hundred years later, Nimrod, a descendant of Ham, was the first to establish a kingdom in the Mesopotamian area.

After this, the next account is of Abraham and his family as they are called by God to leave Ur of the Chaldeans (in modern day Iraq) and head towards Canaan. They stopped in Haran until the death of Terah, Abraham's father. After the death of his father, Abraham, being 75 years old, left Haran and moved to the land of Canaan. Abraham's nephew, Lot, went with him. As their livestock increased, they separated and Lot moved to Sodom. God promised Abraham that he would have an heir and have very many descendants. God promised Abraham that his descendants would be given the land of Canaan. God also predicted that they would be in Egypt for about 400 years, after which they would return to take possession of the land since the "iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete" (Gen 15:16). When his wife, Sarah, did not conceive, she gave Abraham her Egyptian maid and wanted to have children through her. The result was Ishmael. This was not God's intent though as the promised descendant was to be born to Sarah. When Abraham was 100 years old, Isaac was born to them. God also instituted the covenant of circumcision with Abraham. It is in this Patriarchal time period that the Book of Job is set. Job was a righteous man that followed God wholeheartedly. God allowed Satan to test him. After the testing, God blessed Job even more than before the test.

It was at this time, because of the wickedness of the people in Sodom, Gomorrah and the surrounding area that God sent angels to take Lot out of Sodom and then destroy those towns. Abraham had interceded with God regarding those towns to the point that if ten righteous people were found, they would not be destroyed. They were not found. Lot with his wife and two daughters were escorted out of Sodom by the angels. As they were fleeing, Lot's wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt. The two daughters then made their father drunk and had intercourse with him. This resulted in the birth of Moab and Ben-ammi. They were the fathers of the Moabites and Ammonites.

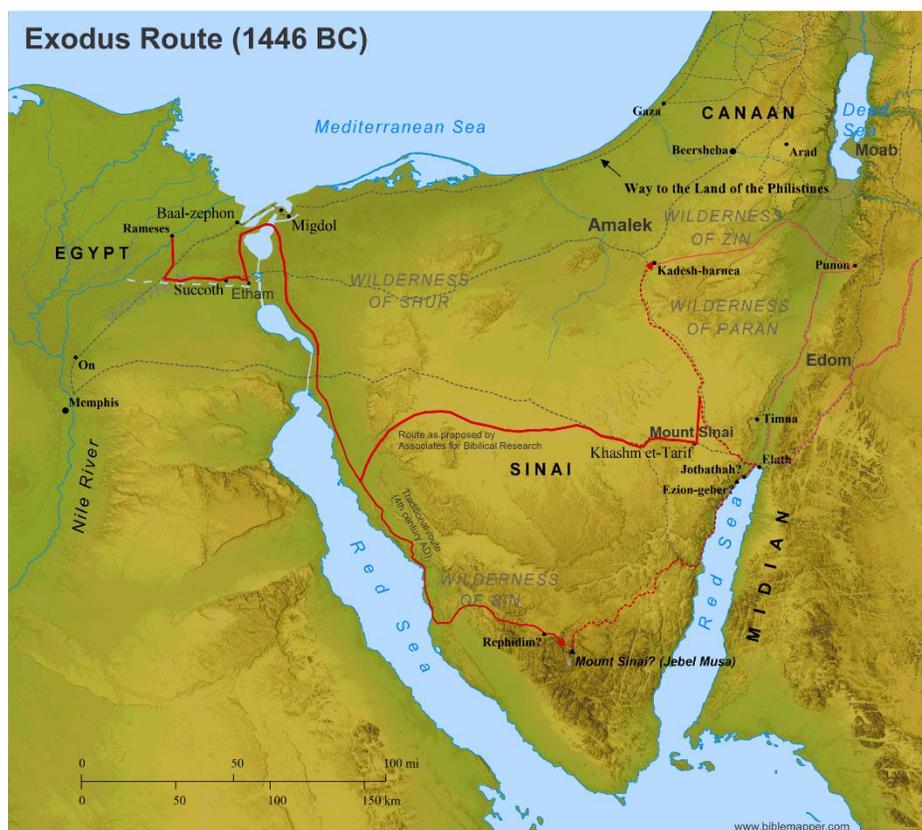
Isaac, through Rebekah his wife, fathered Esau and Jacob. Esau became the father of the Edomites and Amalekites. Jacob, through Leah, Rachel and their maids became the father of twelve sons who then became the heads of the twelve tribes of Israel. Joseph, the firstborn of Rachel was sold into slavery by his brothers and ended up in Egypt. There he served an Egyptian officer and was put into the prison. While in prison he interpreted the dreams of two of Pharaoh's servants. After Pharaoh had a couple of dreams, the cupbearer, who was re-instated, told Pharaoh about Joseph interpreting his dream. Joseph was brought to Pharaoh and interpreted his dreams. Joseph was then elevated to second in command to oversee the seven years of plenty and the seven years of famine. In the second year of the famine, Jacob and his whole family came to Egypt to live there.



Exodus and Wilderness wanderings

The Israelites have been in Egypt for 430 Years with its worldview, false gods, magic and other false teachings. They increased in number and were enslaved. God raised up Moses to lead them out of Egypt. When Moses and Aaron, his brother, ask Pharaoh to let the people go, he refuses. God, through Moses and Aaron strikes Egypt with the ten plagues so that Pharaoh lets the people go. After they leave, Pharaoh changes his mind and pursues the Israelites. God provides a path through the sea for the

Israelites and when the Egyptians follow the Israelites through the sea, they are drowned by the sea as it returned to its place. The miracles regarding the exodus from Egypt validated and affirmed that God was speaking to Moses. The Exodus and sea crossing are foundational to the formation of Israel as a nation. The Israelites go to Mount Sinai where God gives them the ten commandments, other laws and makes a covenant with them. Moses sends the spies into the land of Canaan and when they return, ten of them give a bad report about the land because they are afraid and do not trust God. The Israelites then refuse to obey the command to go and take the land. God then tells them that the adult men will not enter the land and that they will have to wander in the wilderness for forty years. After this, the people changed their minds and said that they would go into the land. Moses told them not to now because they would be rebelling against God. They went anyways and were defeated. During their wilderness wanderings they disobeyed several times and rebelled against God and Moses. There were several judgements that are recorded during this time. At the end of the wanderings, they come to the East side of the Jordan and conquered the land of the Amorites on that side of the Jordan. Moses is not allowed to go into the land because of an incident at Meribah so Joshua takes over to lead the people.



The Conquest

After the death of Moses, Joshua leads the people through the Jordan on dry ground. The first city is Jericho. God gave them instructions on the procedure to take the city. They were to circle it once a day for six days. On the seventh day they were to circle it seven times and blow the trumpets. God caused the walls to fall down and provide a ramp for the Israelites to go into the city to take it. Joshua and the people wage war for several years against the inhabitants of the land. God did not drive out all of the inhabitants of the land at once.

Tribal Allotments for the Israelite Tribes

★ Designated city of refuge



The period of the Judges

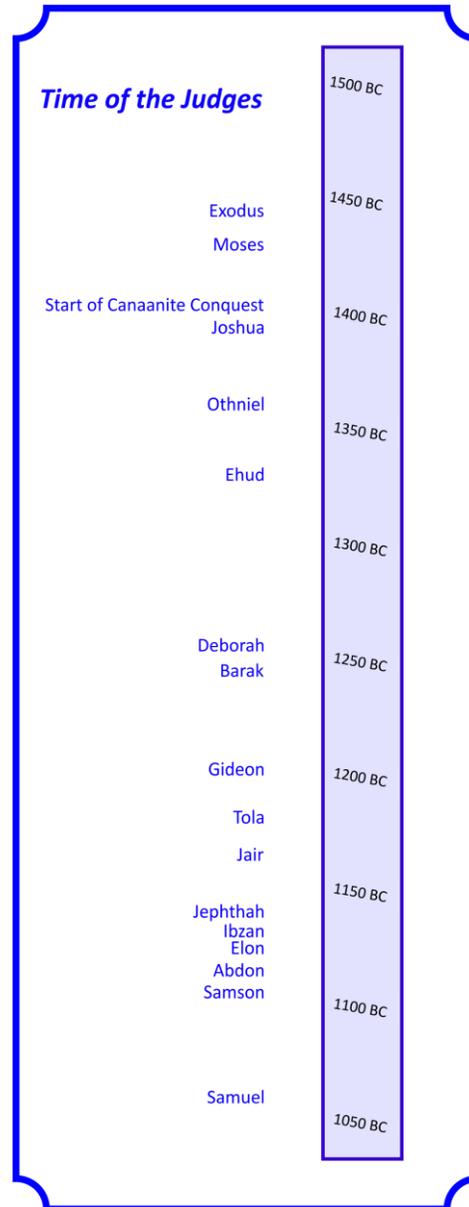
This period stretches from the death of Joshua to the end of Samuel being a judge of Israel. After the death of Joshua and the elders that outlived him, the Israelites deserted God and went after other gods. This started a cycle of God allowing the Israelites to be oppressed by the people around them and when they finally called out to Him, He sent a deliverer. These deliverers were called judges. This period stretches from about 1380 BC to about 1050 BC. It is in this time period that the book of Ruth records the account of David's great grandfather marrying Ruth the Moabites. The judges that are listed have, at times, overlapping reigns as they judged in different areas. It ends with the sad comment that "everyone did what was right in their own eyes" (Jdg 21:25)

The period of the Kings

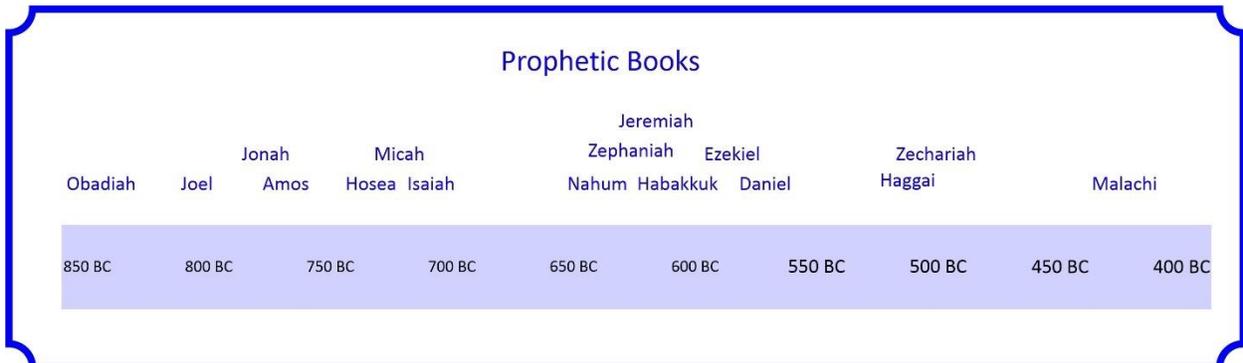
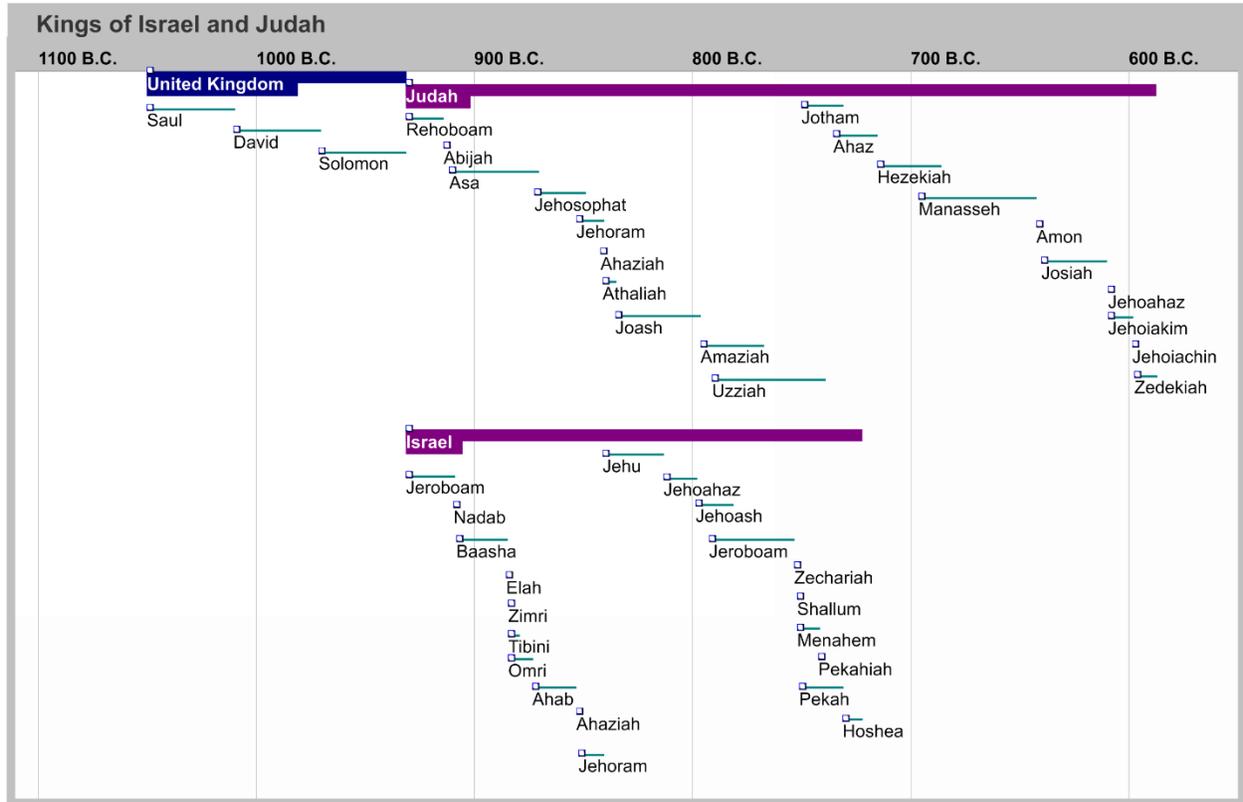
At the end of Samuel's judgeship, the people asked for a king so that they could be like the other nations around them. Saul was anointed as the first king of Israel. He did not obey God and was thus rejected by God. God then chose David, who was called a man after God's own heart to lead his people. David was promised that he would have an enduring kingdom and that the Messiah would come from his descendants. (2 Sa 7:16, Ps 110). David fought many wars and increased the size of the territory that Israel occupied and controlled. His son Solomon then succeeded him. It was during Solomon's reign that Israel achieved its largest control of the land that was promised to Abraham. He reigned from the river of Egypt to the Euphrates river.

Even though God blessed Solomon and gave him great wisdom, Solomon disobeyed by marrying foreign women.

These women then led Solomon astray and he built high places for the gods of their nations. As a result of this, God caused the split of Israel to happen when Solomon's son, Rehoboam came to power. The Northern kingdom (Israel) followed Jeroboam and the Southern kingdom (Judah) followed Rehoboam and his descendants. The Northern kingdom turned away from God right away as Jeroboam made two gold calves as gods for the nation to worship. This eventually led to the Northern kingdom being exiled in 723 BC. The Southern kingdom had a mix of good, half-hearted and bad kings. Judah was exiled in 586 BC to Babylon which was led by Nebuchadnezzar at the time. During the time of the kings, God allowed other nations to come against them at times to punish them and prompt them to return to Him. Even though God sent prophets to them to call them back to Himself, the people did not respond well and just became more wicked over time. There were a few highlights with some of the better kings who tried to turn people back to God. It



is in this time period of about 760 BC or so that we have the account of Jonah and the “whale”. We see that the main focus was not on the big fish but that Jonah did not want to go to the enemies of Israel and have them repent. He wanted God to destroy them. Here again we see the compassion of God for all people and his desire for them to turn to Him rather than be destroyed. The Samaritans appear after the exile of the northern kingdom and seem to be a mix of the people that the Assyrians settled there and some of the remaining Israelites that were not deported.



The writings of the prophets call people back to God. They confront sin and prophecy about future events.

The extent of the Kingdoms of Saul, David and Solomon



Return from the exile

In the reign of Cyrus, the Persian, a contingent of Jews and servants numbering close to 50,000 returned with the order to rebuild the temple. They faced much opposition from the people living in the land at the time. King Darius then issued a decree that the house of God be rebuilt and that the full cost be paid out of the royal treasury. Ezra led another contingent back to Jerusalem during the reign of king Artaxerxes.

Now when these things had been completed, the princes approached me, saying, "The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands, according to their abominations, those of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians and the Amorites. "For they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and for their sons, so that the holy race has intermingled with the peoples of the lands; indeed, the hands of the princes and the rulers have been foremost in this unfaithfulness." When I heard about this matter, I tore my garment and my robe, and pulled some of the hair from my head and my beard, and sat down appalled.

(Ezr. 9:1-3)

It appears that they had not learned their lesson with the exile and again disobeyed the commands of God. Nehemiah went to Jerusalem later in the reign of king Artaxerxes and worked on rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. Under the leadership of Nehemiah and Ezra, the temple regulations were put in place again. Nehemiah, after leaving Jerusalem to go back to the king, returned later and found that the house of God was forsaken and the Levites had not been receiving their portion. He again restored things to their proper order.

The book of Esther is set in this time period and describes how this Jewish lady becomes queen in Persia and Media. An evil plot is conceived by an enemy of the Jews, Haman, and God uses Esther to save His people.

Malachi is the last book written in the Old Testament. After this, there followed a period of about 400 years without any recorded revelation to the Israelites. During this period, the Greeks took over from the Persians. After the death of Alexander, the Great, his empire was divided among his generals. This empire was then taken over by the Romans. It is in this setting of the Roman empire that the New Testament starts with John the Baptist as the fore runner of Jesus.

Jesus

Palestine at the time of Jesus



Jesus is wholly God and wholly man. Jesus was born of the virgin Mary as described

"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. (Lk. 1:31-35)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it (Jn. 1:1-5)

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth (Jn. 1:14)

Jesus came to pay the penalty of our disobedience by dying on the cross for us. He was raised on the third day and ascended to be with God the Father after 40 days, as recorded in the Gospels and Acts.

To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3)

The four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) record the details of His ministry on earth. The first three Gospels are called the synoptic Gospels, since they are quite similar in the content they provide, though they do have different target audiences and as such vary in which events are included and how they describe events. John was written later and seems to address some of the false teachings that have arisen by that time and to fill in some more details.

Jesus travelled from place-to-place preaching, teaching, healing, performing miracles and casting out demons. He also challenged the religious rulers on their hypocrisy and lack of following God from their heart. His main message was to repent from their sins and turn to God and follow His Word.

But He said, "On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it." (Lk. 11:28)

The religious leaders were jealous of Jesus and succeeded in having Him crucified by the Romans. God raised him after three days.

The New Testament Church

The book of Acts describes the formation and expansion of the Christian church. It starts with the apostles in Jerusalem and the initial ministry of the apostles and other believers. By chapter thirteen, the main focus becomes the ministry of the apostle Paul and goes on to describe the Missionary journeys that he goes on.

Problems and false doctrines entered the church right from the start; so, the letters that are written to the various churches and people, generally address questions, false teachings, relational problems and theological truths. When studying the letters, it is good to try and determine what the issues at a particular church were and how it was operating. For different issues, the writers emphasized those particular issues. For this reason, we get the focus of Paul, for example, being on justification by faith and not works. James, on the other hand, is dealing with a different problem and therefore focuses on the outworking of faith through works.

What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; (Jas. 2:14-22)

The apostle John puts a lot of emphasis on the Deity of Jesus, to love one another, to live pure lives and obey His commandments.

Paul's Journey to Rome



The book of Revelation finishes the New Testament. Here we have the letters to the seven churches of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea. Various issues have arisen by this time and are addressed here. There are some commendations and the call to be faithful, persevere, repent, and return to their first love and to be zealous for God.

The Map of the seven Churches of Revelation



We get a glimpse of the throne of God and other spiritual beings that are there, such as the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures. From there we move on to the prophecies of the coming judgments and events. This starts with the seven seals, moves on to the seven trumpets, to the beast and the dragon. The rapture of the believers seems to occur at the latest around the 5th or 6th seal. People still did not repent of all their immorality and finally the last judgments are pronounced and Jesus, with the armies of heaven, comes and defeats the beast and all that are with it. Satan is bound for a thousand years while Christ is reigning on the earth. After the thousand years, Satan is released and deceives the nations and comes against the camp of the saints. The final judgement comes next with all the dead being judged. Anyone whose name was not found in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire where they will be tormented for all eternity. The new heaven and earth with the new Jerusalem are the dwelling place for all believers who will be with God and Jesus for all eternity.

but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. (Jos. 24:15)

Revelation Time Line of Events



Rapture



7 peals of Thunder
(John told not to write down the message)

Rider that is a Conquerer
Take Peace from earth
Famine
Death & war
Martyrs under alter
Earthquake etc. 144,000 sealed



Hail, fire, 1/3 earth, trees burned

Mountain into sea - destruction

1/3 of rivers & springs struck

1/3 of sun, moon & stars struck

Evil spirits released to torment

Satan thrown to earth, two witnesses, beast

Harmful, painful sores

Sea creatures die

Rivers and springs turn to blood

Sun scorches people

Kingdom of the beast plunged into darkness

Euphrates river dried up, demonic forces go forth

Great earthquake, Jerusalem split into three

Return of Jesus

1000 year reign in the abyss

Final war and judgement

New Jerusalem

Eternal life & judgement

A new temple needs to be built prior to some of the following events

1st woe

2nd woe

3rd woe

← Last seven plagues →

Appendix 1 – Origins, Morality and Faith

Here we have a table comparing and contrasting the two main world views with respect to the various issues. This is not a complete or comprehensive treatment by any stretch of the imagination, but deals with some of the main issues. For a detailed treatment of some of these issue, *Faith, Reason, & Earth History* is a good resource. Dr. Werner Gitt also wrote a good book called “In the beginning was information”. They are listed in the Bibliography. The website [Is Genesis History](http://www.biblestudyhelps.ca) has a lot of good information and videos by scientists and other experts on this issue. The website <https://www.biblestudyhelps.ca> has a lot of links and information. The main arguments are summarized here.

One of the main causes for the whole evolutionary theory gaining any traction was, when these ideas were first proposed, the scientific knowledge was extremely limited. To put this in context, just think of Darwin and the publishing of his theory in 1859. The original trading post of Fort Edmonton (Edmonton House) was established in 1794. Fort Macleod in Southern Alberta was established in 1874. Custer’s last stand was in 1876. The understanding of the composition and functioning of all living things was extremely limited in contrast to what modern science has discovered. Once the theory was accepted though, because of the lack of scientific understanding, it continued on because it was such a desirable theory by avoiding accountability to the creator of the universe.

Issue	Creation	Evolution	Faith Issue
Where did all the material and energy come from? There are really just three options for the existence of the universe. It either created itself, it has always been there or God created it. The first is not possible, the second is not possible either, since the universe would have run out of usable energy by now (2 nd law of Thermodynamics). This leaves only one possible explanation which is that God created the universe.	God created it	It starts with the material and energy already being there. In reality, it ignores the need for a creation event of some sort to get to the starting line. Science has determined that space, material, energy and time all had a beginning.	Creation requires faith in an unseen God that has revealed Himself through people and nature. Atheism on the other hand does not even have a way of explaining the existence of matter and energy. Science and the Bible both attest to an absolute beginning when time, space, matter and energy started. Since we exist and we know that there is a definite beginning for this physical realm that we live in, then the logical conclusion must be that the creator is eternal. An atheist has to have faith that everything that exists appeared without a cause from nothing or good, scientific explanation.

<p>Appearance of life</p>	<p>God created it</p>	<p>The right combination of a primordial soup produced the first cell</p>	<p>Creation requires faith in an unseen God that has revealed Himself through people and nature. When we look at everything around us, it has the obvious signature of design.</p> <p>Atheism on the other hand has to have a lot of faith. Scientists have not been able to create life, even though they have tried. What they were able to do is to make some amino acids, but they were an approximate equal amount of right and left-handed ones. All living things have only left-handed ones and when they die, you go back to an approximately equal amount of right and left-handed ones. So, what they did succeed in creating is death.</p> <p>Secondly, the atmosphere required for the process that is stated, could not have oxygen in it. Scientific evidence does not support that this was the case. Even if you could have a living cell, where did the operating system come from? How does it start to reproduce? What did it feed on? Dr. Werner Gitt discusses this in detail with the conclusion that without information, life is not possible and that the evolutionary philosophy cannot account for the appearance of information.</p>
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<p>Male and female required for procreation</p>	<p>God created them male and female</p>	<p>Small changes over time produced males and females</p>	<p>Creation requires faith in an unseen God that has revealed Himself through people and nature.</p> <p>Atheism has to explain how you can have male and female parts forming in living beings while still reproducing as single beings. How do you get all of the required male and female organs and operating system developing one small, random change at a time? Think about this – small changes over time require many generations of the organisms. These organisms have to live, reproduce and be capable of reproducing while independently developing new or different features. Not only that, but by chance, these independent organisms need to develop these compatible organs at the same rate, time and place independently! Think about how many generations would be required to do this one small, random change at a time. The required process would be that one lineage would have to, by random chance, produce only the female organs while the other lineage would have to produce only the male organs. Natural selection would need to have design in mind and know what it is trying to create one little step at a time. Evolution really needs intelligent design to actually function. Small random changes would not produce a complex organism, it would most likely produce random organisms that do not survive. Once they have all the right parts, what entices them to come together to have sex? Consider the proverbial “which came first, the chicken or the egg” question. Well, you have to have a fully developed hen and rooster to get an egg. If you do not have this, there are no small changes over time since there are no offspring to have small changes in. Just look at the enormous complexity of all living organisms and think that all this came about just by random chance. It requires a huge amount of faith to believe this. Besides all this, once you get offspring, they have to be taken care of and raised. Where did the operating system and “instinct” come from? How do you get all of the required co-dependent plants and organisms all just happening by random chance? The whole eco-system has to operate with everything in its place.</p>
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<p>The fossil record has what is called the “Cambrian explosion” when basically all the major animal groups appeared. There is also a lack of “transitional” forms which would be required if evolution were true. Male and female organisms are located in the lowest layers of the fossil record.</p>	<p>God created all living things in a few days as described in Genesis. The catastrophic flood killed and buried these organisms in a very short time.</p>	<p>Small changes over time produced all of the variety of living organisms</p>	<p>Creation has faith that the God that has revealed Himself in Scripture and nature caused all things to be as He created them. The judgement of the flood created a large portion of the fossil record in a short time by burying the organisms as the flood came inland.</p> <p>The Flood was much more catastrophic than what most people imagine and they, therefore, look for flood evidence in a proportion far too small and then say there is no evidence for the global flood.</p> <p>Atheists have to deal with the sudden appearance of the large diversity of the animal kingdom in the Cambrian explosion, (which happens in the first sedimentary rocks) and then the lack of change over time. If the process was small changes over time, there should not be a sudden appearance of basically all the major animal groups. Not only that, but the animals that do appear, are already quite complex and diverse.</p>
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<p>Right and wrong</p>	<p>Right and wrong is established by God, the Creator</p>	<p>Right and wrong is determined by individuals. There is not absolute right or wrong (a self-defeating statement in and of itself. If you say there is no absolute truth, you are making an absolute statement., which means that it is not always right, which in turn means that there can be absolute truth.)</p>	<p>Faith is required to believe that God has revealed right and wrong in His Word, and faith subsequently requires obedience to His Word. This faith is based on the evidence of God in both nature and His revealed Word. An atheist has to deal with the issue of right and wrong in a different way. If there is no absolute right or wrong, everything is just by chance and it is survival of the fittest and strongest (natural selection). Who determines what is right or wrong? Is it a dictator, the government, each individual? What happens when there is a conflict between what different people or groups consider to be right? Will an atheist in a communist country have the same values as one in a Western country? Look at the difference in values between the “Left” and “Right” in our modern society; without an absolute external reference, both can claim to be right and there is no way of determining which is right because there is no external reference. With everything just being random processes, how can you even suggest that there is such a thing as right and wrong? If there is no absolute standard to which we can point and respect, then the strong will oppress the weak. With atheism, there can be no universal “human or animal rights” because that would require an absolute that has been established that is bigger and stronger than all of nature. In fact, if there are no absolutes or truths, why bother teaching or affirming anything at all? This thinking will ultimately lead to anarchy and chaos with the strongest ruling. The weak and powerless will be oppressed. It will, in fact, be the exact opposite of what its proponents imagine it will be.</p>
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<p>Irreducible complexity – there are molecular structures that must be complete in order for them to function. They cannot be developed one step at a time, since without all the parts present, they just cannot function. Michael Behe, a Biochemist, has studied and documented some of these irreducibly complex molecular machines. He specifically talks about bacterial flagellum being irreducible. Creatures are so complex that they really cannot exist without being complete. Consider the eye. How does that develop one step at a time? You also need the whole operating system and communication system with the brain to do something with that information. How does the creature function for the many thousands of years while this is randomly developing?</p>	<p>God created everything at once and completely functional</p>	<p>Somehow, they did form over time and are not irreducibly complex.</p>	<p>God created things as He said, and everything was very good. The atheist is going to have to believe that not only one, but several of these molecular structures could have been formed through random chance and perform the required function over the course of many generations. Again, how do you get organisms living, dying and changing one little step at a time. What would intermediate forms of creatures look like? A reptile that still lives as a reptile but then somehow starts growing lighter in order to be able to fly and have wings while living as a reptile for thousands of years?</p> <div data-bbox="1026 1255 1414 1486" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Video on the complexity of the eye</p>
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The absolute complexity and interdependence of all living things.	God created not only the individual living organisms, but also created a system of interdependence	All the complexity and interdependence just happened by random chance	The evidence in nature shows that God created everything at the same time, and that everything was created to be interdependent, so very little faith is required. The atheist has to have incredible faith to believe that random chance was the cause of all of the interdependent complexity that so obviously needs to be and looks to be designed.
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With the atheistic theory there is no difference in value between a mosquito, a rat, a deer, a plant, an Oak tree, a bird or a human, they are just different arrangements of randomly assembled molecules. Killing someone or something is nothing other than rearranging or repositioning a bunch of molecules or changing the chemical processes. Stealing is nothing more than moving molecules from one location to another. An atheist should have no problems with other philosophies or religions since, according to them, everything is just random chance, so thoughts and belief systems are just different chemical processes going on with no intrinsic value or morality. With creation though, everything has value. Man was made in the image of God, therefore the shedding of blood carries with it the death penalty.

What we find is that the atheist requires all the attributes of God without identifying them as God. Creation is required by some unknown process. Random chance and “natural selection” replace intelligent design. In order for natural selection to work, the creature has to be able to survive and reproduce through all stages of the process. Morality (right and wrong) are somehow universal, which really is inconsistent with random chance. The determination of universal human or animal rights is based on what certain people have come up with. The problem with this is different people have different ideas of right and wrong.

When a person says “we do not need god to explain anything or everything”, a red flag should go up. That is not a scientific or logical statement, it is an ideological statement which really means that I will not accept that there is a god because I do not want there to be a god that establishes right and wrong and that I would be accountable to.

Science is important and valuable in our lives. True science is interested in finding the truth and would consider all possibilities. When you rule out the possibility of god, then the science that results is only a philosophy or ideology, it is no longer true science. There is no way to scientifically rule out the existence of God, therefore it must always be an option in any scientific theory. Science that refuses to accept the possibility of a god can only work on projects that are testable and repeatable. History is not testable or repeatable and is therefore out of the realm of that type of “science”. There is no way to “scientifically” prove that god does not exist, nor can you prove that all processes happened uniformly throughout all of history. You can never “prove” that anomalies do not happen because you never know

if you have all the relevant data or know if there is another power that can intervene in what is considered a natural law or process.

Have you ever heard people claiming that “there are errors in the Bible”, so it is not trustworthy? So, are there errors in science? Has science ever been wrong? We all know that science has been wrong in the past, in fact, when you look at what science is, you would expect error. The whole basis of science is looking at data, coming up with a hypothesis and retesting when the result is not quite what was expected. You can always do a search for scientific theories that have been debunked and come up with a good long list. On many issues, there are scientists that have different opinions on what is true. You will also find that scientists frequently seek to debunk other scientists or previous theories. When we examine the Bible, we find that when properly used, science and archaeology confirm the Biblical accounts.

Here are a couple of good examples of science at work in our daily lives. The weather forecast continually looks at past patterns, events and trends and then formulates a hypothesis for the upcoming weather. Software and firmware in our electronic devices are another good example. The engineers writing the software come up with the program, install it and test it. Once “bugs” are found, the program (theory) is modified, installed and tried again. This is repeated time and time again, especially with our computers.

What it really boils down to is that science is really good for our everyday physical lives with all the technological advances that have been made, imperfect as they may be. The advances in medicine have helped many people. When it comes to a full understanding of the history of the universe and reality, then logic, reason and scientific evidence point to a creation event not a “small changes over time” process. If a scientist were truly open minded and did not consider the ramifications of creation, the obvious conclusion, based on the evidence, is that God created the universe and all that is in it, as described in the Bible.

To sum up, the evolutionary theory does not have a credible explanation for:

- The existence of space, time, matter and the existence of energy
- The creation of the first living organism from non-living matter
- The operating systems for living organisms (Information)
- Reproduction – both single cell division and male and female
- Formation of new parts in organisms
- The heart, lung, respiratory system and digestive system must all be present at once
- Existence of irreducibly complex structures
- The existence of knowledge and rational thinking
- The sudden appearance of a vast variety of complex animals in the Cambrian explosion
- The concept of morality i.e., right and wrong

The basic foundational framework for the “Big Bang, evolutionary theory” does not work, and cannot work; so, when the basic framework for a theory cannot work, another theory must be considered in

which the observations and data do work. Additionally, we cannot evaluate the Bible from the evolutionary perspective because we have just shown that the evolutionary theory cannot be true.

It really comes down to a willingness to accept and submit to the Creator, and to receive eternal life, or to reject Him and suffer the consequences. Which will you do?

Appendix 2 – The limitations of Science

Science is very useful for many things that have to do with our physical realm. The advances in medicine have helped many people. Technology has made our life much easier and efficient. As we discover more and more about our universe and some of the irreducibly complex things that are in it and the interdependence of everything, that it becomes much more evident that the “Big Bang – Evolutionary Theory” is just not viable.

Many people will say that anything that science cannot observe in some way does not exist. If we think about this for a bit, it really is quite an illogical statement. Just because we have no way of observing or testing the spirit world, for example, in a “scientific” type of way, does not mean it does not exist. The ability to “scientifically” test or verify something in no way determines its existence. Science can only be used for the physical realm that involves testable and measurable things. Since science claims that this universe came into being about 13.8 billion years ago, this means that it is not eternal. Based on the laws of Thermodynamics, it is impossible for the universe to be eternal. A paraphrase of the laws of Thermodynamics would be that energy cannot be created or destroyed and that the flow of energy will go from the hotter material to the cooler. Eventually, there will be no usable energy left. We obviously exist, so since the universe is not eternal, there must be a creator that is eternal. At some point there has to be an eternal being. This physical world that we live in cannot look into the spiritual realm that created it in a “scientific” way. There are many accounts in virtually all societies of contact with the spirit world. It makes much more sense to look at it in a broader and inclusive way. The best thing that science could do is to accept that there is a God and study what He has created.

<https://www.biblestudyhelps.ca>

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