

BIBLE ERAS

AT-A-GLANCE

EVENTS SURROUNDING NOAH

Books of the Bible: Genesis 1-11

AT-A-GLANCE



CLAIMS TO FAME:

This period covers the creation story and the beginning of the Bible until a time shortly after the Great Flood. This is the most controversial and highly debated section of the Bible, even though thousands of scientists believe the evidence of science fits a model that would match the Bible.



FAMOUS STORIES:

- Creation (Genesis 1-3)
- Cain & Abel (Genesis 4)
- Enoch taken up to heaven (Genesis 5)
- Noah and the Great Flood (Genesis 6-10)
- Tower of Babel (Genesis 11)

Creation Approximate Years: 4,000-2,000 BC Birth of Jesus 2000's AD

MOST POPULAR SCRIPTURES:

- 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. *Genesis 1:1*
- 2 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. *Genesis 1:27*



In Brief Summary:

EVENTS STARTING WITH DAVID (1000-500 BC)

AT-A-GLANCE

the Era 4 timeline. Fill in the blanks to answer questions about the your NIV Bible!

David, & Solomon were the only three kings to rule this kingdom.

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There were two invasions and exiles that ended Israel's and Judah's in 722 BC. The invading country was

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Kingdom of Judah had the only good kings. Where were they? They are in green.

Many kings were considered bad because they were not in green.

TIMELINE 5: Major and Minor Prophets and the Great Exile (500-0 BC)

YEARS MAJOR AND MINOR PROPHETS

- 800 BC
- Jonah (781 BC) (Nineveh)
 - Amos (765-754 BC)
 - Isaiah (760-673 BC)
 - Hosea (758-725 BC)
 - Micah (738-696 BC)

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INTRODUCTION

Some children feel that David lived at the same time as Jesus. And if he didn't, what difference does it make? A LOT.

Welcome to *Bible Eras At-a-Glance*, an easy way to help children understand the path of Bible history.

All events in the Bible are building blocks. One builds on the next until, around 0 BC/AD, the Messiah arrives as the greatest hero of all! To be able to put Bible events—or at least the biggest ones—in order will tell incredible things about the nature of God, the nature of man, why we needed Christ, and how our world is affected by him today!

The Method Behind our Teaching

When children learn the Bible, the things they are most likely to relate to are the Bible heroes. And God arranged things in a very cool way. The biggest Bible heroes and the events surrounding them happen in 500-year increments. Learning Bible Eras is made simple by naming these six periods after their corresponding hero, such as we have:

1. Noah: 2500 BC
2. Abraham: 2000 BC
3. Moses: 1500 BC
4. David: 1000 BC
5. Great Exile: 500 BC
6. Jesus: 0 BC

Patterns in History & Our Use of Them

Human history via the Bible is so easy that it is intriguing! Human history started with a 2,000-year period, running from Adam to Abraham. It may end with a 2,000-year period, which runs from Christ to us. In the middle are 4 periods of 500 years each. The births of the most well-known characters start each one!

That's it! Biblical human history of 6,000 years at a glance is before you!

Please note that most all dates on our materials are estimates, including Christ's birth year.

However, the dates we have selected are accepted by Christian scholars, with variations on the early dates broadening. For example, one school of thought puts Abraham's birth 200 years later than we do, and differing dates of the Great Flood range several hundred years.

The reasons for the variations have to do with the early Jews using a different calendar than we do, as well as the concept of our overview, including BC and AD, being inconceivable to early chroniclers. Genesis 5 and 11 are genealogies, and it is obvious the chroniclers were trying to give every clue possible for future generations to gauge the passage of time. But estimates are still necessary.

However the 2,000/500/500/500/500/2,000 theory works with most all estimates! And it makes the overview of history quite easy to understand.

The system almost works like clockwork. You can see one period not named after one Bible hero: Period 5 is named after the Major & Minor Prophets—16 total. Many prophesied about the Great Exile that was coming or about the kingdoms' bad behavior that kept building toward it. Hence, the Era 5 timeline reaches back almost 300 years, to 800 BC, to capture the prophesies about the big event.

The system gives you a great chance of presenting history in a way that most kids will "get it." If they can remember their favorite heroes in order: Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, [The Prophets] and Jesus, the Bible will suddenly make a lot of sense!

In the package, you will find all of this:

- A History of the Bible at a Glance Timeline that you could keep on your Sunday school classroom wall at all times to show children when their favorite heroes lived. It comes with its own worksheet.
- A Teacher's Answer Sheet will be provided that contains the answers on all worksheets.
- Plus, the following are included for each of the six eras:
- A text "cheat sheet" that gives the most important information students need to know;
- A color-coded timeline to help kids remember each period better, complete with some interesting information about that character or period. Each era's timeline is color-coded to match the History of the Bible at a Glance Timeline colors. Colors are another way to reinforce.

A worksheet where kids have to fill in the blanks—mostly by studying the timeline, but sometimes completing a Bible lookup. If there is a Bible lookup on the worksheet, use the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise indicated.

Ways to Use this Package

There are so many ways to use Bible Eras At-a-Glance, and here are just some:

If you realize your students think the story happened recently, or around the time of Jesus (or didn't happen at all!), simply work with a cheat sheet and worksheet to get them understand much more about it.

If you want to do a series on understanding Bible history, you will be helping your students more than you realize. One thing that gives Christianity so much credibility is its historicity. Kids are taught to doubt their faith (in schools, almost systematically) and understanding that these events have actual time/placement makes them factual as well as interesting. What a faith-builder! Use the worksheets for reinforcements.

Teach Bible stories in enlightening new ways: Regardless of what you are teaching, these Bible Eras can shed more light on characters and situations.

Use the sheets for series interludes or for help on a slow day. Students can play games with the Bible verses, have lookup relays, or hold general discussions on what situations in their lives will benefit by the subject. The wealth of scriptures will prepare them for the week ahead and for the distant future as well!

What's Most Important

Your students need to understand their Bibles are true and not made up of myths. They need to know Jesus is historically relevant, as was King David 1,000 years earlier and Moses, 500 years before that! To make Bible history incredibly easy to place, let's get started now!



INTRO TO BIBLE ERAS: BIBLE HUMAN HISTORY AT A GLANCE

Approximate Dates: 4000 BC to 2000 AD (today)

Human history via the Bible is so easy that it is intriguing! Human history started with a 2,000-year period, running from Adam to Abraham. It may end with a 2,000-year period, which runs from Christ to us. In the middle are 4 periods of 500 years each. The birth of the most well-known characters start each one!

The Eras are as follows:

- 4000-2000 BC - Events surrounding NOAH and pre-recorded history
- 2000-1500 BC - Events starting with ABRAHAM
- 1500-1000 BC - Events starting with MOSES
- 1000-500 BC - Events starting with DAVID
- 500- 0 BC/AD - Events surrounding the GREAT PROPHETS
- 0-2000 AD - Events starting with JESUS

The Dates are Estimates

These dates and most dates in the Bible are estimates, including Christ's birth year. The actual dates may be 50 years or more off.

Why can't we know the actual dates? The variations have to do with the early Jews using a different calendar than we do. It has 360 days per year. Concepts such as our BC and AD would have been inconceivable to early chroniclers. It is obvious from genealogies, such as Genesis 5 and 11, the chroniclers were trying very hard to give every clue possible about the passing of time to future generations. But estimates are still necessary.

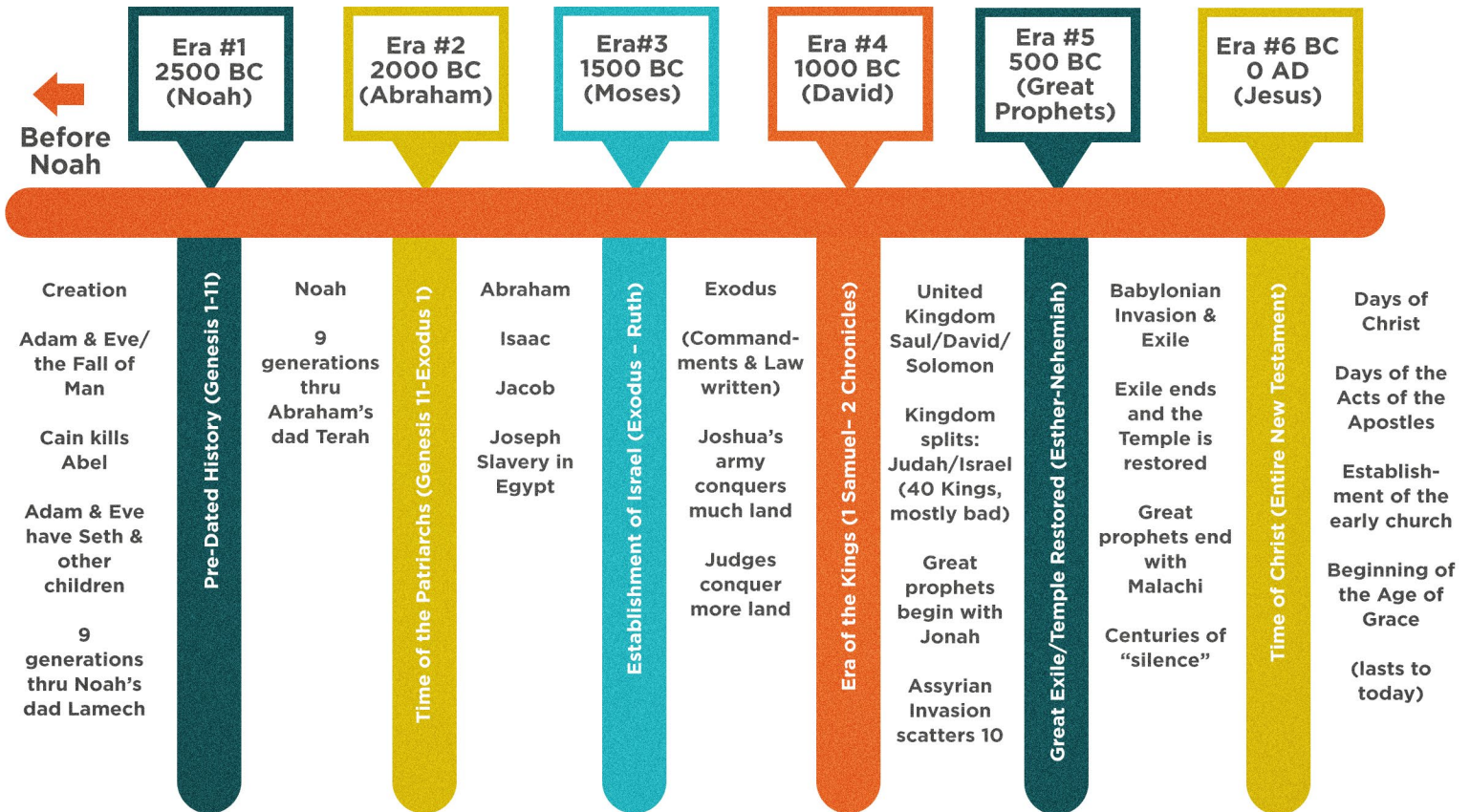
It's 2,000/500/500/500/500/2,000 plus a few names

It's two 2,000-year periods surrounding four 500-year periods that make up human history according to the Bible. It gives an excellent yet easy way to picture human life.

Then, just remember the most well-known heroes in order: Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, the Prophets and Jesus as the names of each era. The Bible will suddenly make a lot of sense!

INTRO TIMELINE:

BIBLE-AT-A-GLANCE
(4000 BC - TODAY)



WORKSHEET (4000 BC - TODAY)

AT-A-GLANCE

From your timeline showing the Bible at a Glance, you can see that five of the six time Eras are named after Bible heroes. Write their names below in the boxes on the left. Write the years of the era in the box, which start right around the time that hero was born:

1. Era #1: Bible Hero's name:

--	--	--	--

Era Starting with this Year:

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BC.

2. Era #2: Bible Hero's name:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Era Starting with this Year:

--	--	--	--

BC.

3. Era #3: Bible Hero's name:

--	--	--	--	--

Era Starting with this Year:

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BC.

4. Era #4: Bible Hero's name:

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Era Starting with this Year:

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BC.

Era #5: GREAT EXILE, beginning in 500 BC

6. Era #6: Bible Hero's name:

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Era Starting with this Year:

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BC/AD

TIMELINE 1:

Pre-Dated History at a Glance (4000-2000 BC)

(ADAM TO NOAH TO ABRAHAM)

	NAME OF DESCENDENT	AGE WHEN NEXT DESCENDENT WAS BORN	
<p>4000 BC</p> <p>Noah is actually right in the middle, between Adam & Abraham.</p> <p>Dates on Noah's Ark & the Flood are estimated. Some say as early as 2900 BC. Others say as late as 2400 BC.</p> <p>Many scholars settle up on 2500 BC.</p>	Adam	130	<p>Bible writers kept really accurate records! The first from Genesis 5 goes from Adam to Noah. Then Genesis 11 continues from Noah's son Shem to Abraham's dad Terah.</p> <p>So what's the big deal about this list?? Some cool things:</p> <p>The famous guys are Adam, Noah and Abraham. This shows Noah was 10 generations from Adam. And Abraham was 10 generations from Noah!</p> <p>Coincidence??</p> <p>Why should we care about the age each was when his son was born?? Think about it: All these years added together can tell us how old human life was at the birth of Abraham!</p> <p>The sum total is 1,946 years.</p> <p>Abraham's exact birth year is not verified. But all estimates are around 2,000 BC. Noah's and Terah's numbers are estimated. Genesis says, in both cases, that their 3 sons were born when they were around the age listed. That total of estimated years is probably around 50.</p> <p>Adding 1946 + 50 + 2,000, we get around 4,000. This is why we say Adam was born around 4000 BC!</p>
	Seth	105	
	Enosh	90	
	Kenan	70	
	Mahalalel	65	
	Jared	162	
	Enoch	65	
	Methuselah	187	
	Lemech	182	
	Noah	500	
	Shem	100	
	Arphaxad	35	
	Shelah	30	
	Eber	34	
	Peleg	30	
	Reu	32	
	Serug	30	
	Nahor	29	
	Terah, father of Abraham	70	

EVENTS SURROUNDING NOAH

Books of the Bible: Genesis 1-11

AT-A-GLANCE



CLAIMS TO FAME:

This period covers the creation story and the beginning of the Bible until a time shortly after the Great Flood. This is the most controversial and highly debated section of the Bible, even though thousands of scientists believe the evidence of science fits a model that would match the Bible.



FAMOUS STORIES:

- Creation (Genesis 1-3)
- Cain & Abel (Genesis 4)
- Enoch taken up to heaven (Genesis 5)
- Noah and the Great Flood (Genesis 6-10)
- Tower of Babel (Genesis 11)

Creation

Approximate Years: 4,000-2,000 BC

Birth of Jesus

2000's AD

MOST POPULAR SCRIPTURES:

- 1 **In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.** *Genesis 1:1*
- 2 **So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.** *Genesis 1:27*



In Brief Summary:

The most astonishing fact about Genesis 1-11 is that more time passed during that period than did in the remainder of the Old Testament! The period begins around 4000 BC with the creation of Adam and ends in 2166 BC with the birth of Abraham. That's nearly 2,000 years. The last book in the Old Testament to take place was actually Nehemiah, ending around 432 BC. Between the birth of Abraham and the end of Nehemiah, that's just over 1,700 years!

Before the Flood, people lived much longer. For example, Adam himself lived to be 930 years old. Recent evidence in quantum physics is causing some scientists to change their thinking about life being very, very old and the atmosphere having remained constant. One example is a theory having to do with Zero Point Energy (also known as ZPE). It shows that atomic processes, as well as the speed of light, are slowing down.

EVENTS SURROUNDING NOAH (4000- 2000 BC)

AT-A-GLANCE

Fill in the squares with the right names from the line of Adam in pre-dated history. Use your NIV Bible!

1. This man lived longer than anyone on planet earth. He lived to be 969 years old! Look up Genesis 5:27 to find his name:

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2. This man was taken off earth alive! He is one of two people who never died because they were so good. The other is Elijah the prophet around 800 BC. Lookup Genesis 5:23 to find out his name:

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3. Many people know the sad story of Adam's & Eve's sons, Cain & Abel. Cain got jealous and killed Abel. Their story is in Genesis 4. But Adam and Eve had another good son! Find out what his name was in Genesis 5:2-4.

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4. Abraham's name did not start out as Abraham! His father named him something else. Find it in Genesis 11:27:

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TIMELINE 2:

Events starting with Abraham (2000-1500 BC)

(ABRAHAM TO MOSES)

YEARS	EVENTS IN GENESIS 11-50 (LEADING TO EXODUS 1-3)
2000 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birth of Abraham (2166 BC) Move to Canaan with Sarah and Lot (2091 BC)
1950	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birth of Isaac (2066 BC) Birth of Jacob (2005 BC) Birth of Joseph (1914 BC)
1900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joseph kidnapped to Egypt (1897 BC) Joseph becomes an Official (1884 BC)
1850	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joseph's brothers & families (12 tribes) join him in Egypt (1877 BC) Joseph dies (1805 BC)
1800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pharaoh dies; people forget about Joseph
1750	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Israel Enslaved in Egypt: Approx 1750-1450 BC
1700	
1650	
1600	
1550	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (The next period will begin here): Exodus 1-3:
1500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birth of Moses (1526 BC)
1450	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moses at the Burning Bush to begin the Exodus (1446 BC)

Did you know the whole book of Genesis, after Genesis 11, is about the same family? That's **39** chapters on four generations!

They are:
Abraham
Isaac
Jacob
Joseph

Why were they so important? They are the family that started Israel!

Jacob's name was changed to Israel.

The 12 Tribes of Israel are named after his sons!

Here are the names of the Tribes of Israel, named after Jacob's sons:

Reuben
Simeon
Levi
Judah
Issachar
Zebulun
Dan
Naphtali
Gad
Asher

Joseph (later Ephraim and Manasseh) Benjamin
Are YOU part of one of these tribes??
DNA may soon tell!

EVENTS STARTING AROUND ABRAHAM

Books of the Bible: Genesis 12-50

AT-A-GLANCE



CLAIMS TO FAME:

During this era, all the events of the Bible shifted west—from around the Euphrates River (in modern-day Iraq) over to Canaan (later to become Israel).



FAMOUS STORIES:

- Abraham moves to Canaan with Sarah (*Genesis 12*)
- The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (*Genesis 19*)
- Isaac is born when Abraham & Sarah are 100 & 90 (*Genesis 21*)
- Isaac meets Rebekah (*Genesis 24*)
- Jacob takes Esau's birthright and steals his blessing (*Genesis 25, 27*)
- Jacob works seven years for Rachel, then seven more years (*Genesis 29*)
- Jacob sees the vision known as Jacob's Ladder (*Genesis 28*)
- Joseph is kidnapped to Egypt as a teenager (*Genesis 37*)
- Joseph forgives his brothers (*Genesis 45-46*)

Creation

Approximate Years: 2000 BC - 1500 BC

Birth of Jesus

2000's AD

MOST POPULAR SCRIPTURES:

- 1 **No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I will make you the father of a multitude of nations.** *Genesis 17:5*
- 2 **You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.** *Genesis 50:20*



In Brief Summary:

After Genesis 11 tells the story of the Tower of Babel, the rest of the chapter, on until the end of Genesis, concerns four generations of the same family. It is called the Era of the Patriarchs because the first three generations gave birth to the nation of Israel.

Genesis 11 thru 50 is so filled with stories that the above list is not complete! Abraham is told by God to move from his home in Ur (near the Euphrates River in Modern Day Iraq) to Canaan (where Israel would be established, and more than a 500-mile journey). He and Sarah detour into Egypt after reaching Canaan but eventually settle there. Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed before the couple has children.

The time of the Patriarchs was not filled with miracles like the times of Moses to come. However, one great miracle was the birth of Isaac, when Abraham and Sarah were 100 and 90, respectively.

Abraham becomes the father of Isaac, who becomes the father of Jacob. It is Jacob who fathered 12 sons, for whom the 12 tribes of Israel were named.

Jacob's son Joseph, second to the youngest, was hated by his older siblings because their father favored him. They conspired to sell him to merchants traveling to Egypt, where he became enslaved. However, Joseph was blessed by God and became something akin to prime minister! He recognized his brothers and took them all in during a famine.

This is how the descendants of the Patriarchs of Israel came to be in Egypt at the start of Exodus.

EVENTS STARTING AROUND ABRAHAM (2000-1500 BC)

AT-A-GLANCE

Study the Era 2 timeline. Fill in the blanks to answer questions about that timeline. Use your NIV Bible!

1. God changed Jacob's name. What was his new name? Look up Genesis 32:28 to help!

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2. What was Abraham's great-grandson's name, according to the timeline?

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3. Joseph split into two tribes. The reason is that his dad had missed him all those years after his brothers had him kidnapped. During those years, Joseph had two sons. Israel wanted each son to have a tribe. Their names were Ephraim and

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4. The birth of Isaac was a miracle! Find his mother's name and her age when she gave birth to him by looking up Genesis 21:3-5. She was 10 years younger than Abraham:

Her name is

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 and she

--	--

 was years old.

5. Joseph died at the end of Genesis. According to the last verse of the book, Genesis 50:26, how old was he?

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TIMELINE 3:

Events Starting with Moses (1500-1000 BC)

(MOSES THRU THE JUDGES)

YEARS	EVENTS IN EXODUS, JOSHUA, JUDGES & RUTH
1500 BC	Moses murders an Egyptian as a young man, flees to Midian.
1450	Burning Bush, 10 Plagues of Egypt , Red Sea Parting which started the Exodus, 10 Commandments given on Mount Sinai.
1400	Exodus ends 1406 BC
1350	Joshua invades Jericho and begins siege of pagan nations. Defeats 31 kingdoms totally. Joshua dies, age 110, around 1351 BC
1300	The first judge is selected in the Era of the Judges: Othniel Ehud Shamgar Deborah Abimelech Gideon Tola Jair Jephthah Ibzan Elon Abdon Samson Eli Samuel
1050	Saul becomes first King of Israel
1000 BC	Birth of King David

The events starting with Moses cover the establishment of Israel as a nation. They begin with the Exodus around 1446. That lasted 40 years.

The Exodus was full of miracles like the parting of the Red Sea.

They move into the period of Joshua's army conquering parts of what would become Israel. There were still miracles but they slowed down. That lasted more than 50 years.

Then Israel had enough land to be considered a nation. They had judges. God was king. That lasted 300 years.

Why did God tell Israel's army to kill or drive out all the pagans they conquered?

Sounds mean! Even the army thought so. And so sometimes they let the pagans stay and hang out.

The pagans worshipped birds & wolves & dogs made out of silver & gold. (The silver & gold God made.) They worshipped the sun & stars & moon & even waves. (God made them, too.) The people of Israel could not resist this stuff. Their God was invisible. (Uh...maybe because he's was SO big and powerful?)

They got caught up in idols time after time. God got so grossed out and offended that he could hardly look, let alone help them much.

EVENTS STARTING AROUND MOSES

Books of the Bible: Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth

AT-A-GLANCE



CLAIMS TO FAME:

This era, starting with Moses, contains one of only three periods in history that abounded in miracles. This period of miracles was the first of the three in the Bible.

It started with the Burning Bush in Exodus 3. It ended shortly after the sun stood still in the sky in Joshua 10. The miracles happened over an approximate 75-year span between approximately 1450 BC and 1375 BC.

The other two periods were the time of Elijah and Elisha, around 900 to 800 BC, or 500 years later, and the last one was during the time of Christ.



FAMOUS STORIES:

- The Birth of Moses (Exodus 1-2)
- The Burning Bush (Exodus 3)
- The 10 Plagues of Egypt (Exodus 7-12)
- Parting of the Red Sea (Exodus 14)
- Ten Commandments (Exodus 20)
- Rahab the harlot helps the Hebrew spies (Joshua 2)
- The walls of Jericho tumble down (Joshua 6)
- The sun stands still in the sky (Joshua 10)
- Deborah leads the battle (Judges 4)
- Samson & Delilah (Judges 16)

Creation

Approximate Years: 1500-1000 BC

Birth of Jesus

2000's AD

MOST POPULAR SCRIPTURES:

- 1 **God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" Exodus 3:14**
- 2 **"But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Joshua 24:15**



In Brief Summary:

The period before this, the Time of the Patriarchs, actually named the 12 tribes of Israel and positioned them to call on God for help while in Egypt. This period, the Establishment of Israel, covers their escape from Egypt, return to Abraham's Canaan, and their taking of that land by a combination of miracles and military might.

The Exodus lasted 40 years. During that time the people lived as nomads in the desert between Egypt in the south and Canaan above. Following the Exodus, Joshua led the army in conquering Israel's land for around 50 years.

The Book of Judges is a continuance of wars, but with judges in place (God was still considered king). This is one of the spots in the Bible where God was telling the people to either annihilate or drive out those whom they conquered. The problem was that God (1) knew these opponents worshipped other gods, (2) would not change their minds about these practices, (3) would eventually infest Israel with idolatry, and (4) would cut themselves off from his guidance and grace. The Israelites refused in many cases, and they ended up living side-by-side with the losers and adopting their practices.

There were 15 judges over 300 years. The most noteworthy ones were Deborah (Chapter 4), Gideon (Chapters 6-8), Jephthah (10:6-12:7), and Samson (Chapters 13-16). Some others got involved in the practice of idolatry.

EVENTS STARING WITH MOSES (1500-1000 BC)

AT-A-GLANCE

Study the Era 3 timeline. Fill in the blanks to answer questions about that timeline. Use your NIV Bible!

1. Moses committed this crime as a young man. See Exodus 2:11-15:

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2. The parting of this body of water started the Exodus:

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3. The walls tumbled down in this city, which was the first that Joshua's Army invaded. See Joshua 6:1.

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4. The answer to this question is three numbers! (1) the number of kingdoms Joshua defeated, (2) his age at death, and (3) the year he died:

		kingdoms;				his age at death, in the year				
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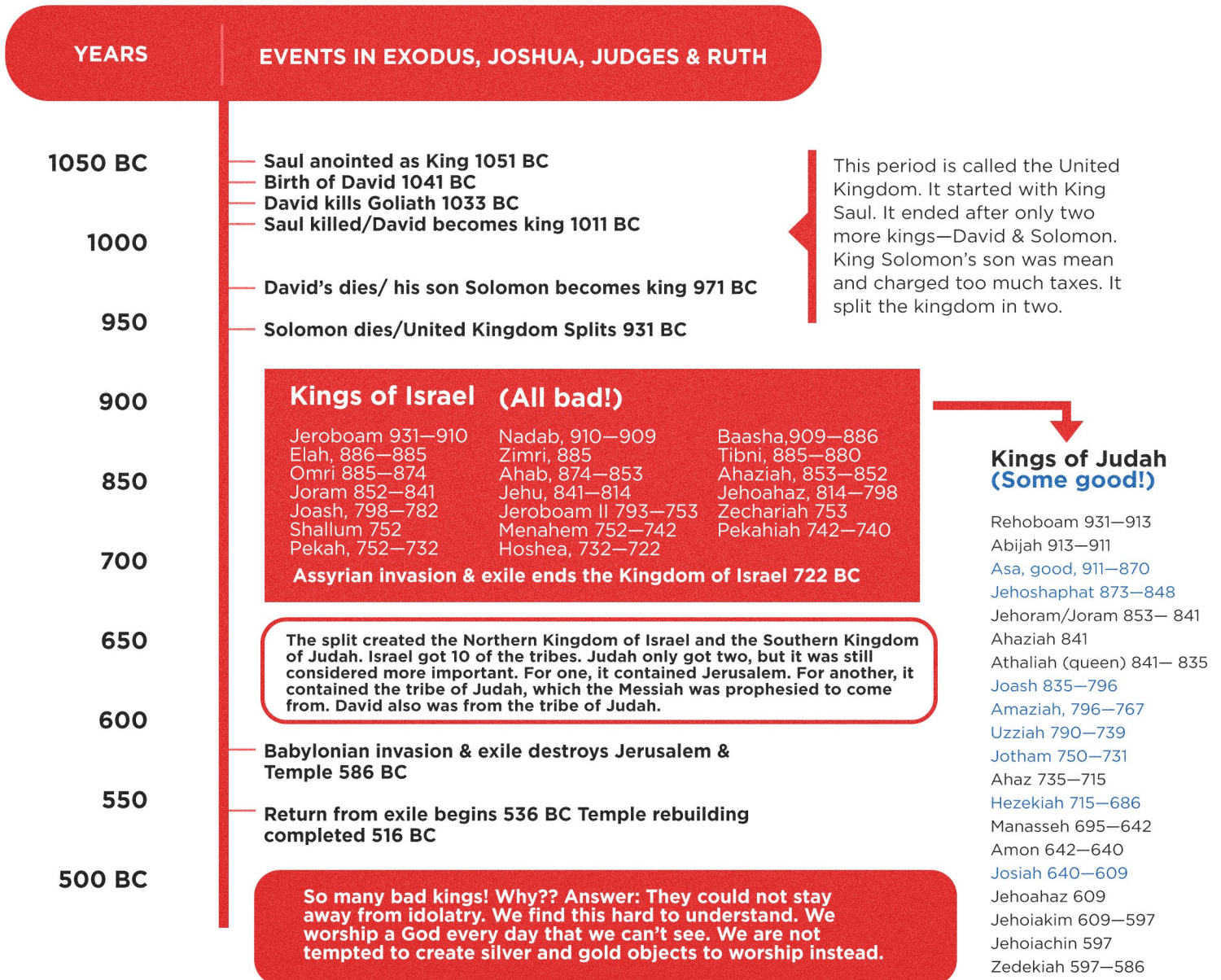
5. What sin did Israel keep committing that kept grossing God out?

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TIMELINE 4:

Events Starting Around David (1000-500 BC)

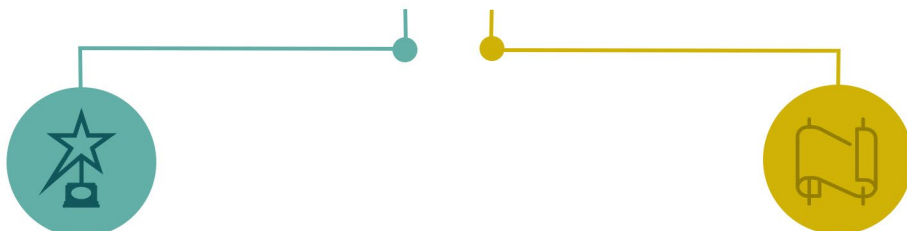
(DAVID THRU THE EXILES)



EVENTS STARTING AROUND DAVID

Books of the Bible: 1 Samuel through 2 Chronicles, all the major and minor prophets (except Haggai)

AT-A-GLANCE



CLAIMS TO FAME:

This era contains the period of Elijah & Elisha the prophets, which was the second period of great miracles in Bible history.

It contains all the stories of King David.

FAMOUS STORIES:

- Jonah Gets Swallowed by a big fish (Jonah 1)
- Samuel is given away as a baby (1 Samuel 1)
- Saul is made the First King of Israel (1 Samuel 9-10)
- David kills Goliath (1 Samuel 17)
- David is made king (2 Samuel 2)
- Solomon asks for wisdom (1 Kings 3)
- Solomon determines the baby's real mother (1 Kings 3)
- Solomon's Temple is completed (1 Kings 6)
- the kingdom splits into Judah and Israel (1 Kings 12)
- Elijah defeats the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18)
- Elijah is taken up to heaven (2 Kings 2)
- Babylon takes Jerusalem (2 Kings 25)

Creation

Approximate Years: 1000 - 500 BC

Birth of Jesus

2000's AD

MOST POPULAR SCRIPTURES:

- 1 David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. *1 Samuel 17:45*
- 2 The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. *1 Kings 3:10-13*



In Brief Summary:

Because this Era sees a lot of changes, it sees a lot of action.

Kings Saul, David, and Solomon were the only three kings to serve a united kingdom. Beginning with Solomon's son Rehoboam, the kingdom splits in two over tax disputes. Ten of the tribes make up the Kingdom of Israel. Judah and Benjamin remain as the only two tribes in Judah. But Judah contains Jerusalem and the temple. Hence it was considered the more important of the two.

All 30 kings of Israel and most kings of Judah were evil, encouraging the people to worship idols and some even sacrificing their own children to idols. Hence, God allowed the Assyrians to invade the Northern Kingdom and the Babylonians to invade the Southern Kingdom. In the Northern invasion beginning around 732 BC, all 10 tribes were exiled abroad and are still "lost." They got absorbed into the population. In the Southern invasion, beginning in 586 BC, all the people were taken to Babylon, but after 70 years, they were allowed to return.

EVENTS STARING WITH DAVID (1000-500 BC)

AT-A-GLANCE

Study the Era 4 timeline. Fill in the blanks to answer questions about that timeline.
Use your NIV Bible!

1. Saul, David, & Solomon were the only three kings to rule this kingdom:

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2. There were two invasions and exiles that ended Israel's and Judah's idolatry. The first was in 722 BC. The invading country was

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3. The Kingdom of Judah had the only good kings.

How many were there? They are in green .

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And how many kings were considered bad from both kingdoms? They are in black

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4. The Babylonian exile destroyed Judah in 586 BC. The Babylonians destroyed this famous building that later was rebuilt:

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5. The Prophet Samuel lived to be very old. He anointed two of the first kings. Look up 1 Samuel 10:1 and 1 Samuel 16:6-13 to find out who they were:

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 and

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TIMELINE 5:

Major and Minor Prophets and the Great Exile (500-0 BC)

YEARS	MAJOR AND MINOR PROPHETS
800 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jonah (781 BC) (Nineveh) ● Amos (765-754 BC) ● ● Isaiah (760-673 BC) ● ● ● Hosea (758-725 BC) ● ● ● Micah (738-698 BC) ● ● ●
700 BC	<p>734-722 BC—Assyria invades Northern Kingdom (Israel). The capital, Samaria, was taken in 722 BC; 10 Tribes were exiled: The people never returned!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nahum (658-615 BC) (Nineveh/Assyria) ● Zephaniah (640-626 BC) ● Jeremiah (650-582 BC) ● ●
600BC	<p>586 BC - Babylon invades Southern Kingdom (Judah); all people exiled to Babylon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obadiah (590 BC) (Edom) ● Daniel (620-540 BC) ● ● Ezekiel (620-570 BC) ● ● Habakkuk (608-598 BC) ●
500BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zechariah (522-509) ● ● ● Haggai (520) ● Malachi (465)? ● ● Joel? (450) ● ● ● ● ? <p>536 BC - People begin returning to Judah as the exile ends; Temple is rebuilt by 516 BC as the Prophet Jeremiah</p>

EVENTS PREDICTED BY PROPHETS:

- 1st invasion & exile warnings
- 2nd invasion & exile warnings
- Time of Christ
- Modern Times/2nd Coming
- Other Subject

The Great Exile happened in the 500s BC. But the great prophets were prophesying about it long before!

That is one reason this timeline reaches back to 800 BC. Also, there was an earlier invasion & exile—see the **gold**-shaded rectangle above.

The prophets include the 4 major and 12 minor prophets who have their own books in the Bible.

The major prophets are in **blue** type.

Those with a **purple** dot prophesied about something very specific.

That is mentioned in parentheses ().

Look at the **blue** dots.

How many talked about Christ?

Look at the **red** dots. How many talked about us today?

EVENTS SURROUNDING THE GREAT PROPHETS

Books of the Bible: 2 Chronicles, Esther, Ezra, Nehemiah, and the minor prophet Haggai

AT-A-GLANCE



CLAIMS TO FAME:

This era covers the Book of Nehemiah, the only Bible book told in first-person point of view.

During this era, King Cyrus, King of Persia, was inspired by God to set the captives free from the Babylonian exile and finance the rebuilding of the temple. Isaiah prophesied about him by name 150 years earlier.

The minor prophet Haggai was chronicled during this period. He is the only great prophet to speak to God's people in the present about the present time. He also gave one of the few prophecies that God's people listened to.



FAMOUS STORIES:

- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3)
- Daniel in the lions' den (Daniel 6)
- Esther saves her people (Esther 1 - 8)
- A foreign king frees Judah and finances the new Temple (Ezra 1, 5-6)
- Nehemiah refuses to give in to shaming and bullying (Nehemiah 4)
- Nehemiah helps the poor (Nehemiah 5)

Creation

Approximate Years: 500 BC to 0 AD or the Time of Christ

Birth of Jesus

2000's AD

MOST POPULAR SCRIPTURES:

- 1 "You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it." *Haggai 1:6*
- 2 "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah.'" *Ezra 1:2*



In Brief Summary:

The big event of this period was Babylon invading the Kingdom of Judah. They destroyed the Temple and took almost all the people away in exile to Babylon. The people returned and rebuilt the temple 70 years later. This happened in the 500s BC.

This era is named after the Great Prophets, meaning all 16 prophets in our Bible who have their own books. There are 12 minor prophets and 4 major prophets, as noted on the timeline.

The prophets actually began prophesying several hundred years before the events happened. Hence, the timeline goes back into the 700s BC.

EVENTS SURROUNDING THE GREAT PROPHETS

Books of the Bible: 2 Chronicles, Esther, Ezra, Nehemiah, and the minor prophet Haggai

AT-A-GLANCE

Continued:



In Brief Summary:

As well, there was another big invasion and exile before the Babylonian invasion. Reaching back 150 years, the Assyrians invaded the Kingdom of Israel and exiled all those people. As there were 10 tribes of Israel in the kingdom who never returned, that created what is known as the “lost tribes of Israel.”

To end the Great Exile in the 500s BC, the king of Persia, King Cyrus, invaded Babylon, killed King Nebuchadnezzar, released the Jews, and financed the rebuilding of their temple.

This is the very temple Jesus would preach in 500 years later.

The Books Ezra, Nehemiah, and those of several prophets were written after the Great Exile. The Book of Nehemiah ends around 432 BC and is the last book written about Old Testament history. Malachi was the last prophet, who prophesied around 465 BC.

EVENTS SURROUNDING THE GREAT PROPHETS (500-0 BC)

AT-A-GLANCE

Study the Era 5 timeline. Fill in the blanks to answer questions about that timeline. Use your NIV Bible!

1. The prophets who foretold the birth of Christ have blue dots. How many were there?

Who was the first with a blue dot?

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2. Who was the first of the major/minor prophets? He didn't speak about either invasion or exile or about Jesus or us. What was his subject? It is in parentheses beside his purple dot.

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3. Some prophets have a red dot, meaning they prophesied about modern times. They include Daniel, Ezekiel, Zephaniah, possibly Joel, and this prophet:

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4. The Prophet Zephaniah frequently used this term, which means the Second Coming, or a day of reckoning from God. Look up Zephaniah 1:7 to find out what it is:

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5. We don't know when this prophet preached, so we don't know which bad time he was predicting. Hence he is the only to get four possible dots:

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TIMELINE 6:

Events Surrounding the Life of Christ (0-100 AD)

YEARS	EVENTS SURROUNDING THE LIFE OF CHRIST
0 BC/AD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birth of Christ (7 BC) Move to Egypt (6 BC) King Herod died, enabling Jesus to return to Israel (4 BC) Jesus makes the pilgrimage, age 12, to Jerusalem (5 AD)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus' ministry begins (23 AD) Jesus crucified, arose, ascended (26 AD)
30 AD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day of Pentecost (26 AD) Events in the Acts of the Apostles (26-60 AD)
40 AD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bible Books Written—Approximate years of completion:
50 AD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> James: AD 44-49 Mark: AD 50-60 1 Thessalonians: AD 51 1 Corinthians: AD 51 Romans: AD 56 Galatians: AD 49-50 Matthew: AD 50-60 2 Thessalonians: AD 51-52 2 Corinthians: AD 55-56
60 AD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luke: AD 60-61 Philemon: AD 60-62 Timothy: AD 62-64 2 Timothy: AD 66-67 Jude: AD 68-70 Ephesians: AD 60-62 Colossians: AD 60-62 Titus: AD 62-64 2 Peter: AD 67-68 Philippians: AD 60-62 Acts: AD 62 1 Peter: AD 64-65 Hebrews: AD 67-69
70 AD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70 AD — Destruction of the Temple for the 2nd time; Jewish people scattered throughout the world.
80 AD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John: AD 80-90
90 AD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 John: AD 90-95 Revelation: AD 94-96 2 John: AD 90-95 3 John: AD 90-95

The Acts of the Apostles ends very suddenly. It ends with Paul's shipwreck in Malta. All the disciples were still alive except James, John's brother. He had been martyred in Jerusalem around 40 AD. All the other disciples eventually were martyred (died for their cause) except John. He lived to be an old man and died of natural causes, shortly after he wrote Revelation.

EVENTS STARTING AROUND THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Books of the Bible: Matthew through Revelation,
all the books in the New Testament

AT-A-GLANCE



CLAIMS TO FAME:

Covers the life of Christ and the acts of the early Apostles



FAMOUS STORIES:

- Birth of Christ (Matthew 1 and Luke 1-2)
- Death & Resurrection of Christ (Matthew 26-28, Mark 14-16, Luke 22-24, John 18-20)
- All the parables & miracles of Jesus (spread throughout the Gospels)
- The Ascension of Christ (Luke 24:50-53 & Acts 1)
- Day of Pentecost (Acts 2)
- Saul's Conversion to become Paul on the Road to Damascus (Acts 9)
- Peter Realizes God loves the Gentiles too (Acts 10)

Creation

Birth of Jesus

2000's AD

Approximate Years: 57 BC to 90 AD

MOST POPULAR SCRIPTURES:

- 1 **For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.** *John 3:16*
- 2 **"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."** *John 14:6*



In Brief Summary:

Each gospel covers the life of Christ but in different ways.

The Gospel of Matthew was written for Jewish people. Hence it is full of references to Old Testament prophecy that are reflected in Christ's life. Matthew was a tax collector who became a disciple.

The Gospel of Mark was written by a close friend of the Apostle Peter and is thought by some to be Peter's memoir of his years with his Savior.

The Gospel of Luke is the only gospel written by a Gentile. Luke was quite educated and accompanied Apostle Paul on part of one missionary journey.

The Gospel of John is written by the Apostle, who also was one of Jesus' closest disciples. It is often thought of as the first book Christians should read because of the intimate ways it establishes Jesus as the Son of God.

The Acts of the Apostles also was written by Luke. It ends before Paul or Peter were martyred, however it is thought that Paul was martyred shortly thereafter.

The gospels and Acts are followed by the 13 epistles written by Apostle Paul: Romans through Philemon. Paul's works are followed by the Book of Hebrews, which some scholars feel that Paul also wrote. These are followed by seven more epistles written by others close to Christ, including Apostles Peter and John, and Jesus' half-brothers James and Jude.

Revelation was written by John the Apostle as his fifth book in the New Testament. It is considered the only apocalyptic book in the New Testament. Apocalyptic means having to do with the end of time or the Second Coming of Christ. Revelation matches up with things in Old Testament apocalyptic books including Daniel, Ezekiel, and Zephaniah.

EVENTS STARING WITH CHRIST (0-100 BC)

AT-A-GLANCE

Study the Era 6 timeline. Fill in the blanks to answer questions about that timeline. Use your NIV Bible's list of New Testament Books.

1. Which was the first book of the New Testament to be written? There were many men by this name back then! This author was not the disciple with this name. This author is Jesus' half-brother, a different man:

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2. Did you know that Jesus' half-brothers did not believe in him until after the Crucifixion?? What is the second-to-last book listed in your Bible? This is also Jesus' half-brother. His name is

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3. We say that Jesus was born around the year 0 BC/AD. However, it is more likely he was born in the year on the timeline, which is

	(put BC or AD in the second boxes).		
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4. Two gospels were written around the same time. They are

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and

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5. Which gospel was written last?

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6. The Acts of the Apostles ends very suddenly when this type of accident happened to Apostle Paul:

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