

NEW START BIBLE MINISTRIES

CHRONOLOGY

A STUDY

OF

BIBLICAL CHRONOLOGY

by

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JANUARY 2001

HOW CAN I BE SAVED?

Salvation is available for all members of the human race.

Salvation is the most important undertaking in all of God's universe. The salvation of sinners is never on the basis of God's merely passing over or closing His eyes to sin. God saves sinners on a completely righteous basis consistent with the divine holiness of His character. This is called grace. It relies on God so man cannot work for salvation it neither can he deserve it. We need to realise that the creation of this vast unmeasured universe was far less an undertaking than the working out of God's plan to save sinners.

However the acceptance of God's salvation by the sinner is the most simple thing in all of life. One need not be rich, nor wise nor educated. Age is no barrier nor the colour of one's skin. The reception of the enormous benefits of God's redemption is based upon the simplest of terms so that there is no one in all this wide universe who need be turned away.

How do I become a Christian?

There is but one simple step divided into three parts.

First of all I have to recognise that I am a sinner (Romans 3:23; 6:23; Ezekiel 18:4; John 5:24).

Realising that if I want a relationship with Almighty God who is perfect, and recognising that I am not perfect, I need to look to the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Saviour (I Corinthians 15:3; 1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:6; John 3:16).

Thirdly, by the exercise of my own free will I personally receive the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour , believing that He died personally for me and that He is what He claims to be in an individual, personal and living way (John 1:12; 3:36; Acts 16:31; 4:12).

The results of Salvation

The results of this are unbelievably wonderful.

My sins are taken away (John 1:29)

I possess eternal life now (I John 5:11,12),

I become a new creature in Christ [2 Corinthians 5:17),

The Holy Spirit takes up His residence in my life (I Corinthians 6:19)

And I will never perish (John 10:28-30).

This truthfully is life's greatest transaction. This is the goal of all people; this is the ultimate of our existence. We invite and exhort any reader who has not become a Christian by trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ to follow these simple instructions and be born again eternally into God's family (Matthew 11:28; John 1:12; Acts 4:12; 16:31).

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CHRONOLOGY - THE FRAMEWORK

INTRODUCTION

Chronology means to determine the proper sequence according to the order of occurrence. In this volume this has been done together with the dating of the various events. The source of the framework is in the Bible. The time period covered is from eternity past to the start of the Church Age. How good is our data?.

THE AUTHOR OF SCRIPTURE

As Christians we are extremely fortunate to have an absolutely accurate set of data from which the dates of various historical events can be deduced.

It is clearly stated that the real author of Scripture is the Holy Spirit. This is shown in 2 Peter 1:21 which states "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost"

As the Holy Spirit is God and totally accurate the dates given in the Bible are absolutely accurate.

THE BIBLICAL YEAR

That the biblical year was 360 days and the year used in the Bible was of 30 days is shown both historically and prophetically.

[a] Historic - Noah's Flood

The flood commenced on the 17th day of the 2nd month - Genesis 7:11

The ark landed on Ararat on the 17th day of the 7th month

Genesis 8:4

Length of the flood was 5 months which is stated as 150 days

Genesis 7:24

The length of a month is therefore seen as 30 days

[b] Prophetic - Tribulation period

The time of Gentile domination of Jerusalem 42 months

Revelation 11:2

The time of the prophecy of the witnesses 1260 days - Revelation 11:3

The length of a month is again seen as 30 days

The length of a biblical year is shown as 360 days

CONVERSION FACTOR

As the biblical year had 360 days to convert them to sidereal years of 365.25 days a factor of 0.9856 needs to be applied.

THE JEWISH CALENDAR

The Jewish calendar was based on the lunar month which is 29 days, 12 hours 44 minutes and 2.8 seconds long.

A twelve month year based on a lunar month lasted 354 days or 11.25 days short of the sidereal year. This period was called an epact.

This meant that an 8 year cycle known as an octaeteris was needed to convert the Jewish year from lunar to sidereal.

The Jewish months were as follows:-

Nisan or Abib	Mar / Apr
Zif or Iyar	Apr / May
Sivan	May / Jun
Tammuz	Jun / Jul
Ab	Jul / Aug
Elul	Aug / Sep
Tisri or Ethanim	Sep / Oct
Bul or Marchesvan	Oct / Nov
Chisleu	Nov / Dec
Tebeth	Dec / Jan
Sebat	Jan / Feb
Adar	Feb / Mar

Ve-Adar - the intercalary month

Ref - Lindo's "Jewish Calendar"

The epacts were rationalised in the following manner :-

1st year epact	11.25 days
2nd year epact	22.50 days
3rd year epact	33.75 days

In the 3rd year an extra 30 day month was taken leaving a balance of 3.75 days

4th year epact	15.00 days
5th year epact	26.25 days
6th year epact	37.50 days

In the 6th year a second extra month was taken leaving a balance of 7.50 days

7th year epact	18.75 days
8th year epact	30.00 days

Ref - Browne's "Orde Sacra"

In the 8th year a third extra month was taken leaving no balance. This was the octaeteris. This is why the date of the Passover and Easter changes year by year.

THE FRAMEWORK

589 BC THE STARTING POINT

The starting date chosen for this study is that of the commencement of the period of "Desolations" for the Jews on the 25th December [10th Tebeth] 589 BC in the ninth year of Zedekiah, the last king of Judah. - 2 Kings 25:1-2, Ezekiel 24:1-2. This was the day when the siege of Jerusalem commenced terminating the Jewish agricultural economy on which Judah depended.

The Desolations were allowed by God so that the land would enjoy it's Sabbath - Leviticus 26:34-35.

Jeremiah stated that the Sabbath or Desolations would last seventy years -Jeremiah 25:9-12. Did this occur?. - Yes.

This period which was prophesied to last exactly seventy prophetic years or 25,200 days ended on the 23rd Chislu 520 BC , the day before the Lord said he would bless them. This was exactly 25,200 days after the 11th Tebeth 589 BC, the first day of the terminal siege of Jerusalem by the Babylonians. - Haggai 2:10-19. The starting date of the siege of Jerusalem in 589 BC has therefore a double biblical reference point.

973 BC THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

Ezekiel the prophet was told to do a strange thing as a sign to the Jews. He was to lie on his left side for the sins of Israel for 390 days representing 390 years and then on his right side for 40 days representing the 40 years of the sins of Judah. This was also related to the siege of Jerusalem - Ezekiel 4:1-8.

It is clear that the sins of Israel or the northern kingdom relate to the rebellion of the ten tribes against Rehoboam when the kingdom was divided after the death of Solomon. Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam who had rebelled against him but he fled to Egypt - 1 Kings 11:40.

Solomon died after reigning for forty years, the same length as his father David and Israel's first king, Saul - 1 Kings 11:42

After the death of Solomon, Rehoboam went to Shechem to be made King and Jeroboam was called back from Egypt to talk to Rehoboam about reducing taxation and oppression of the people. Failing to receive a satisfactory answer the tribes other than Judah and Benjamin revolted and set up the kingdom of Israel under Jeroboam - 1 Kings 12:16-19.

Jeroboam feared that if the ten tribes went up to Jerusalem to worship they would be reconciled to Rehoboam and would kill him. Jeroboam therefore made two golden calves setting them up at Bethel and Dan for the ten tribes to worship. When the kingdom of Israel went to worship at Dan and Bethel it became a sin for them. - 1 Kings 12:30.

The start of the sin of Israel therefore dates from the rebellion under Jeroboam against the Davidic line soon after Solomon's death and the setting up of alternative pagan worship sites in Dan and Bethel. The 390 years started from this division thus we can accurately date the dividing of the kingdom.

Ref - Matthew Henry - page 1038

390 biblical years are 384.4 sidereal years.

Therefore the date of the division of the kingdom is:-

Starting date	589 BC
add Israel's sin	384 years
Division of Kingdom	973 BC

1091 THE UNIFIED KINGDOM

Solomon reigned 40 years	1 Kings 11:42
David reigned 40 years	1 Kings 2:10
Saul reigned 40 years	Acts 13:21
Total 120 years or 118 sidereal years	
Date of unified kingdom 973 + 118 = 1091 BC	

1574 THE DATE OF THE EXODUS

Many people when dating the Exodus have adopted one of two interpretations.

[1] The first group assume that the Pharaoh of the Exodus is Ramses II who died in the 13th century BC and ignore biblical chronology altogether, relying on secular history.

[2] The other group assume that 1 Kings 6:1 which states "*And it came to pass in the 480th year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the 4th year of Solomon's reign over Israel in the month of Zif he began to build the house of the Lord*" can be taken without adjustment.

In the first case a date in the 1200's BC. results whilst in the second the date of the Exodus is usually calculated as about 1450 BC.

There is however an apparent anomaly between 1 Kings 6:1 and the passage in Acts 13:18-21 where Paul equally inspired under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit gave the following period:-

The children of Israel were according to Paul

40 years in the Wilderness

450 years under the Judges

40 years under Saul

40 years under David

3 years under Solomon

This gives an elapsed time of 573 years from the Exodus to the foundation of Solomon's Temple

The passage in 1 Kings 6:1 in contrast gives this period as a period of 480 years creating an "apparent anomaly" of 93 years

The resolution of this apparent anomaly is given in the book of Judges where it is stated that the children of Israel were slaves to the following nations for the 93 "missing" years.

Mesopotamia	8 years	Judges 3: 8
Moab	18 years	Judges 3:14
Canaan	20 years	Judges 4: 2
Midian	7 years	Judges 6: 1
Philistines	40 years	Judges 13: 1
Total	93 years	

A sixth period of oppression by the Amorites in Judges 10:7 involved only those on the east side of Jordan and as such was only a partial enslavement. Ref - Sir Robert Anderson - "The Coming Prince"

The period under Saul, David and Solomon is covered above in the unified kingdom and is therefore not relevant to this section.

The time of the Exodus is therefore 490 biblical years or 483 sidereal years before the crowning of Saul.

Date of the Exodus is $1091 + 483 = 1574$ BC

Entry into Canaan would have occurred in 1535 BC

It is of interest that the time of the Kings from the accession of Saul to the beginning of the period of Servitude to Babylon was 490 biblical years is equal to the 490 years given by God to the period between the Exodus and the start of the kingdom under Saul.

EXODUS TO ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

In Galatians 3:17 Paul states that the time between the giving of the Abrahamic covenant and the Mosaic law was 430 years or 424 sidereal years

Date of the Abrahamic covenant is $1574 + 424 = 1998$ BC.

ABRAHAMIC COVENANT TO THE FLOOD

Before examining the next section two items need to be evaluated:-

[a] The age of Abraham when he entered Canaan

[b] The reliability of the Genesis chronologies

1. AGE OF ABRAHAM

In Genesis 11:26 it says "*And Terah lived seventy years and begat Abram, Nahor and Haran.*" The word order here could indicate that Abram [Abraham] was the eldest son of Terah and was born when Terah was 70 years old.

In Genesis 11:32 we are told "*And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years, and Terah died in Haran.*" Terah did not enter Canaan as it was Abram that God had called out of Ur of the Chaldees but he died in Haran "the dried up place" at the age of 205.

Further in Genesis 12:4 "*and Abram was 75 years old when he departed out of Haran.*" It can therefore be simply deduced that Terah was 130 years old at the birth of Abram.

Finally in Acts 7:4 "*Then came he [Abram] out of the land of the Chaldeans, and dwelt in Charan [Haran] and from thence, when his father [Terah] was dead he removed him into the land wherein ye now dwell*". This clarifies that Abram having waited for his father to die outside the promised land then entered Canaan.

2. BIBLICAL GENEALOGIES

Three types of genealogy exist in the bible

[a] The Matthew type where A begat B and B begat C

[b] The Luke type where C is said to be the son of B

[c] The Genesis type where A was so many years old when he had a named B who was so many years old when he had a named C.

While in the Matthew genealogy it is clear that without losing its veracity some of the Kings of Judah in the royal line were omitted and that of Luke could be also affected in this way, though I believe it is complete, that of Genesis with ages and named sons should be continuous if one believes in the Bible as an accurate divinely inspired record.

The demonstrably most accurate of the genealogies therefore occurs in the oldest book of the Bible, the book of beginnings.

Two chronologies of this type occur in Genesis, those of chapters 5 and 11.

ABRAHAM TO THE FLOOD

Further examination of Genesis 11:10-24 shows that the period from the Flood to the Abrahamic covenant was 427 years or 421 sidereal years as follows:-

Father	Son	Age of Father	Reference
Shem	Arphaxad	2	Genesis 11:10
Arphaxad	Salah	35	Genesis 11:12
Salah	Eber	30	Genesis 11:14
Eber	Peleg	34	Genesis 11:16
Peleg	Reu	30	Genesis 11:18
Reu	Serug	32	Genesis 11:20
Serug	Nahor	30	Genesis 11:22
Nahor	Terah	29	Genesis 11:24
Terah	Abram	130	Genesis 11:32
Abram at the giving of the covenant		75	Genesis 12:4
TOTAL		427	

The date of the flood is therefore $1998 + 421 = 2419$ BC.

THE FLOOD TO ADAM

Examination of Genesis 5:3 to 5:28 and Genesis 7:6 show a time lapse of 1656 lunar years or 1632 sidereal years.

Father	Son	Age of Father	Reference
Shem	Arphaxad	2	Genesis 11:10
Adam	Seth	130	Genesis 5:3
Seth	Enos	105	Genesis 5:6
Enos	Cainan	90	Genesis 5:9
Cainan	Mahalial	70	Genesis 5:12
Mahalial	Jared	65	Genesis 5:15
Jared	Enoch	162	Genesis 5:18
Enoch	Methusaleh	65	Genesis 5:21
Methusaleh	Lamech	187	Genesis 5:25
Lamech	Noah	162	Genesis 5:28
Noah's age at the flood		600	Genesis 7:6
TOTAL		1656 lunar years	

The calculated date of creation or Adam is $2419 + 1632 = 4051$ BC. whilst the birth of Seth who was provided by the Lord after the murder of Abel by Cain was 3923 BC.

CONCLUSION

Whilst it is not possible to date the fall of man to the year the above indicates that it occurred between 4051 and 3923 BC. Taking Usher's date of 4004 BC as Schofield did in his Bible or a

figure of 4000 BC as a base figure would therefore seem to be quite appropriate bearing in mind that between the two calculated dates are the fall of Adam and Eve followed by the births and maturing of Cain and Abel prior to their fatal encounter.

It should be noted that in this chronology the dates calculated conform generally with Archbishop Ussher, Schofield, Sir Robert Anderson, Clinton and others chronologers of note and has been found to conform easily with Biblical statements in Judges and Kings without significant co ruler or regencies which are required by the other forms of chronology, the Ramses II and the 1 Kings 6:1 groups.

In summary the following sidereal dates are important in Biblical chronology and will therefore be the dates used for the purposes of this book :-

Creation of Adam	4051 BC
Birth of Seth	3923 BC
The Flood	2419 BC
Birth of Abram	2072 BC
Abram enters Canaan	1998 BC
Birth of Moses	1654 BC
Exodus from Egypt	1574 BC
Saul becomes king	1091 BC
Foundation of 1st Temple	1010 BC
Division of the Kingdom	973 BC
Babylonian Captivity	586 BC
Foundation of 2nd Temple	520 BC
Birth of Jesus Christ	6 BC
Resurrection of Jesus Christ	32 AD

MILLENNIA

In biblical numerology 6 is the number allocated to man whilst 7 is God's perfect number.

In the year 2001 which in fact represents about 2006 years since the birth of Christ many trends indicate the imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ to reign on the earth. This also is indicated by numerous world trends which have been examined in Volume 4 - Prophecy.

The seventh millennia is the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ. This reign lasts for 1000 years or a millennium - Revelation 20: 1-6

History is His Story and we now embark on that journey from Eternity past to the fulfilment of the plan by the Lord Jesus Christ almost two thousand years ago.

SECTION 1 - ETERNITY PAST - PRIOR TO 4051 BC

IN THE BEGINNING GOD

God is eternal and there are three co-equal and co-eternal members of the Godhead, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They have always existed and always will. They are all God and have exactly the same essence. It was the three members of the God head who prepared a plan in eternity past which the Lord Jesus Christ executed at His first advent. - Ephesians 1:3-6

The concept of the plan was grace - Ephesians 2:8,9, 2 Peter 3:18

The beneficiary of the plan is the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ - Hebrews 6:4, 1 Peter 2: 9-10

The plan of God is revealed only in the Bible - 2 Timothy 3:16,17

The plan is in three stages:- Salvation, The Christian walk, Heaven.

CREATION

Original creation is given in Genesis 1:1 which states "*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth*" This is one of the most attacked verses in the Bible because of its implications. We have 8 factors to consider that contradict human philosophy:-

- [1] The character of God which opposes atheism
- [2] An eternal Creator which opposes polytheism
- [3] Creation of matter which opposes evolution
- [4] A supreme God which opposes the worship of many gods.
- [5] Freewill of God which opposes fatalism
- [6] Requirement of supernatural revelation which opposes naturalism.
- [7] Appeals to faith which opposes rationalism and empiricism
- [8] The utter helplessness of man which opposes legalism

Almost all false doctrine that exists is refuted by this verse.

THE HEBREW WORDS FOR CREATION

BARA - to create something out of nothing

- God created the universe out of nothing - Genesis 1:1
- God created the souls of animals out of nothing - Genesis 1:21
- God created the soul and spirit of man out of nothing - Genesis 1:27

ASAH - to create something out of existing material

- God created the firmament out of existing material - Genesis 1:7
- God created the sun and moon in a similar way - Genesis 1:16
- God created man's body out of existing material - Genesis 1:26

YATSAR -to mould an exterior

- God moulded the body of man - Genesis 2:7

All three words are used in Isaiah 43:7, a verse dealing with the creation of man. "*I have created "BARA" [soul and spirit] him for my glory, I have formed "YATSAR" [the shape of his body] him, yea I have made "ASAH" [out of the earth] him.*

Creation occurred in an instance of time.- Psalm 33:6 with the first recorded beings created being the angels.

ANGELS

There are two types of angels:-

- [1] Elect or Holy

These angels remained with God when the war raged in heaven after the rebellion of Satan. They appear to comprise two thirds of the angels. 1 Timothy 5:21, Revelation 12:4

[2] Fallen

Those who sided with Satan and are destined to the Lake of Fire. Matthew 25:41

These are further subdivided into two groups :-

[a] operative - demons and

[b] chained - kept in a section of Hades called Tartarus. - 2 Peter 2:4. It is this latter group which will be released from their prison during the Tribulation period. - Revelation 9:1-11

ORDERS OF ANGELS

There are a number of orders in the angelic realm:-

[1] Cherubim - these are the highest order and were originally the defenders of Divine Holiness. Satan was the covering cherub before he fell, a servant to Jesus Christ himself. Gabriel and Michael are also cherubs. - Daniel 8:16, 10:13

[2] Seraphim - are burning ones and have perpetual fire - Isaiah 6:2, Genesis 3:24

[3] Principalities and Powers - Ninety percent of the time this term is used in Scripture it is used for angels - Romans 8:38-39. Sometimes it is used for all angels but it is usually used for fallen angels. They control certain segments of the human race, they can control the voice and the mind. - Mark 5:1-20

[4] Ministering Angels

[a] Guardian Angels - Hebrews 1:14

[b] Angels of the Waters - Revelation 16:5

[c] Angels of the Abyss - Revelation 9:1

[d] Angels of Fire - Revelation 14:18

[e] Angels of Judgment - Revelation 8:2

[f] Watcher Angels - Daniel 4:13

[5] Twenty Four Elders - those who lead in worship. - Revelation 4:4

It appears clear from Scripture that Satan fell prior to the temptation of Adam and Eve. It is considered that the separation into two groups in a final way had occurred prior to the creation of Adam for whom the earth was restored over a period of six literal twenty four hour days.

After creation the world became devastated by Divine Judgment in a cataclysmic way. The judgment is connected with the fall of the angels and their subsequent destruction.

This is indicated by the fact that:-

[a] The earth was created perfect by God - Isaiah 45:18

[b] The ruin of the earth was as a result of the fall of Satan and the resultant angelic conflict - Isaiah 14:17

[c] The earth was then in ruin - Genesis 1:2

[d] The Holy Spirit restored the earth for man - Genesis 1:2

THE SEVEN DAYS

The earth was restored over a period of six days:-

[1] DAY 1

Day and night separated, light is taken out of darkness. The light created is fundamental light. - "OR" - Genesis 1:3-5. In the Scriptures light is considered good - 1 John 1:5, darkness is considered evil - John 3:19.

[2] DAY 2

Covering the earth is a large amount of water of unknown depth. God divided the waters below from a canopy of water above the atmosphere - Genesis 1:6-8

[3] DAY 3

God now divides the waters covering the earth to form seas and dry land - Genesis 1:9-13

He also creates vegetation in three forms whose seed is inside itself - [a] grass, [b] herbs yielding seeds - vegetables, [c] trees and shrubs. This shows that there is no transmutation of species, progression and regression can occur but no transmutation.

[4] DAY 4

God formed the sun and the moon to divide the night from the day. The light containers "*NEORIM*" are divided into two categories, light producers such as the sun and stars and reflectors such as the moon and planets. - Genesis 1:14-19.

Five fold reasons for this division - [a] Separation of day from night, [b] signs, [c] seasons, [d] days and years, [e] lights in the atmosphere.

[5] DAY 5

The creation of aquatic and aerial life - Genesis 1:20-23

[6] DAY 6

The creation of animal life and homo sapiens. It should be noted that woman was formed having the ability to provide the Saviour. - Genesis 1:24-31

[7] DAY 7

God had now completed his work and on the seventh day He rested. - Genesis 2:1-3

SECTION 2 - THE BEGINNING - 4051 - 2072 B.C.

The Bible clearly states that the first human being in history was Adam who was created out of the dust of the earth. - Genesis 2:7

[BC]

4051 ADAM AND EVE

ADAM was created and placed in the Garden of Eden - Genesis 1:27, 2:15

EVE was formed from Adam to provide a companion to Adam Genesis 2:21-22

Adam and Eve in the garden were responsible for :-

[1] Replenishing the earth, subduing the earth and to have dominion over the lower creation- Genesis 1:28,

[2] To till the garden - Genesis 2:15,

[3] To eat the herbs and vegetables and the fruit of all but one of the trees of the garden - Genesis 2:16,

[4] Not to eat of the fruit of the knowledge of the tree of good or evil on the penalty of death - Genesis 2:17,

[5] To name the animals - Genesis 2:20.

THE TEMPTATION

Eve was tempted by Satan through the serpent and ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and thus sins destroying the perfect fellowship between God and man. - Genesis 3:1-5

Adam is tempted and deliberately sins losing fellowship with God - Genesis 3:6

The serpent is cursed so that it will crawl on its belly rather than be the most glamorous of animals which had been the case until this time - Genesis 3:14

THE FIRST GOSPEL MESSAGE

The first gospel message of the promised Saviour was that of the seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent. The serpent however would cause great suffering to the Saviour. This was fulfilled at the Cross where Satan was utterly defeated but at a great cost to the Lord Jesus Christ - Genesis 3:15.

GOD'S JUDGMENT ON THE HUMAN RACE

God's judgment against mankind was against both Adam and Eve.

[1] The woman would bear children and be subject to the man who would be head of the family - Genesis 3:16

[2] The man would also have to work for a living even though the earth had been cursed by weeds. Man would eventually die.- Genesis 3:17-19

As a result Adam and Eve realised that they were naked and tried to turn respectable by clothing themselves in fig leaves.

GOD'S WORK NOT RESPECTABILITY

God rejected the clothes of fig leaves which portrayed human works. Instead he provided a coat of skin which indicated the sacrifice of an innocent victim. This portrayed that both Adam and Eve accepted God's provision of salvation and were saved. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins - Hebrews 9:22

Adam and Eve were expelled from Eden and were prevented from returning by cherubim wielding flaming swords - Genesis 3:23.

CAIN AND ABEL

CAIN "acquisition" was the first child born to Eve. He was "of the evil one" - 1 John 3:12 and out of harmony with God - Hebrews 11:4. His offering which was bloodless was rejected by God - Genesis 4:3-7.

He subsequently murdered his brother - Genesis 4:8 using a sacrificial knife. God punished him by sending him to be a wanderer in the land of Nod "wandering" - Genesis 4:9-16 and set a mark on him to prevent him from being killed - Genesis 4:15

ABEL "that which ascends" was the second child born to Eve. In contrast to Cain Abel is a type of spiritual man. His death was an example of the atonement - Hebrews 12:24. He can also be seen as a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ who at his First Advent died childless, an innocent victim. - Genesis 4:2

THE LINE OF CHRIST

3923 SETH "compensation" was born. In contrast to Abel, Seth is seen as a picture of the risen Lord with many children as it is through him that the line of Noah and the Lord Jesus Christ comes. His son Enos was born when he was 105 years old. He died in 3024 BC. - Genesis 4:25

3819 ENOS "mortal" the son of Seth and father of Cainan during whose time men began to call upon the name of the Lord. Enos died in 2927 BC - Genesis 4:26, 5:6

3731 CAINAN "acquired" the son of Enos who was the father of Mahalail and died in 2828 BC - Genesis 5:9

3652 MAHALIAL "God is splendour" who was the father of Jared and died in 2770 BC - Genesis 5:12

3598 JARED "descending" who was the father of Enoch and died in 2650 BC - Genesis 5:15

3438 ENOCH "teacher" was shown to be a person of great devotion. Only Enoch and Noah are said to have "walked with God" in the early chapters of Genesis. - Genesis 5:18,24 He was known for his exceptional faith. - Hebrews 11:5 Jude quotes Enoch about the coming of the Lord with myriads of his saints. - Jude 14 He was the father of Methusaleh and was translated without death about 3078 BC.

The translation of Enoch is a type of those saints who are to be translated before the Tribulation. - 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17. Noah, left on the earth, but preserved through great judgment represent believers who survive the Tribulation and move into a new civilisation, the Millennial reign of Christ.

THE OLD MAN WHO WAS A SIGN

3374 METHUSALEH "when he dies it will come", was the oldest man in the Bible who died the year of the flood. - Genesis 5:21 He demonstrates the fact that God is not willing that any should perish. - 2 Peter 3:9

3190 LAMECH "overthrower", the son of Methusaleh was the father of Noah who with the birth of his son voiced the hope that it would mark the end of the curse of Adam. Lamech died five years before the Flood. Genesis 5:25-29

OUR COMMON ANCESTOR

3010 NOAH "rest" was the tenth generation from Adam and one of only eight to survive the Flood. - Genesis 5:28 By this time it has been calculated that several hundred million people inhabited the earth thus with only eight believers the world had become excessively degenerate. It is of interest that this figure of eight people on the earth is totally compatible with the current world population as shown on the graph below indicating the veracity of the Bible.

We are told of three sons of Noah who were all regenerate as were their wives. [1] HAM "dark skinned", [2] SHEM "renown" and JAPHETH "the extender"

After the flood Noah prophesied the future of the descendants of the three sons. - Genesis 9:24-27
 Their descendants are outlined in Genesis 10 with the Scriptures as well as history attesting to the accuracy of Noah's statement.

The line of Messiah came down through Shem and his son Arphaxed. - Genesis 11:10

Noah was righteous - Genesis 6:9. He had the righteousness that comes from faith - Hebrews 11:7 and close communion with God. He attempted to evangelise in his area but without success outside his immediate family. - 2 Peter 2:5

2538 God gave man 120 years warning of judgment - Genesis 6:3

Noah was given the dimensions of the Ark which he adhered to meticulously showing one of the greatest examples of obedience to God's will irrespective of human wisdom or ridicule. - Genesis 6:14

THE UNIVERSAL FLOOD

2419 The year of the flood. By his actions Noah preserved the animal kingdom and ensured the continuity of true humanity .

The sequence of the flood was as follows:-

Month	Day	Event	
2	10	Entry into the Ark	Genesis 7:7
2	17	The rain began	Genesis 7:11
3	26	The rain stopped	Genesis 7:12
7	17	The Ark rested on Ararat [see 1530 BC]	Genesis 8:4
10	1	The tops of the mountains became visible	Genesis 8:5
11	10	The raven sent out	Genesis 8:7
11	11	The dove sent and returns	Genesis 8:8
11	19	The dove sent It returns with olive leaf	Genesis 8:10
11	27	The dove sent and does not return	Genesis 8:12
12	17	The water fully receded	Genesis 8:3
2418	1	1 The covering of the Ark removed	Genesis 8:13
	2	27 The eight leave the Ark	Genesis 8:14

The total time elapsed in the Ark was 377 days.

Traditions of the Ark are found in many areas including the Middle East, Wales, China and Central America .

As his first act after leaving the ark Noah built an altar and offers a sacrifice to God using one of each of the clean animals to portray that his survival and very life was based on the grace of God. Genesis 8:20

God promised to curse the earth no more and that while the earth remained so would the seasons. He gave Noah a rainbow as the sign of the Covenant- Genesis 8:21

2417 ARPHAXED was born two years after the Flood. He was the first to be born after the flood. His name has been connected with the city of Arrapachitis, the modern Kirkuk. - Genesis 11:10

2382 SALAH the son of Arphaxed and father of Eber born. He died in 1945 BC. - Genesis 11:12

2363 Approximate date of the birth of Ham's notable grandson, NIMROD the builder of the tower of Babel. - Genesis 10: 8

2353 EBER "a shoot" the son of Salah born. He had two sons Peleg and Joktan. He died in 1896 BC. - Genesis 11:14

THE TOWER OF BABEL

2323 The tower of Babel constructed assuming Nimrod 40 years old. The world had one language. With the destruction of the tower a diversity of languages occurred and mankind was spread over the face of the earth. In Africa, Arabia, Central America, India traditions tell of the diversity of language being related to a high tower.- Genesis 11: 1, Genesis 11: 5

FROM BABEL TO ABRAM

2319 PELEG "division" the son of Eber born. It was during his time that the earth was divided. This occurred with the scattering of the nations at the fall of the Tower of Babel. - Genesis 11:16, 1 Chronicles1:19

2290 REU "friendship" the son of Peleg born. He became the father of Serug at the age of 30 and died in 2054 BC.- Genesis 11:18

2258 SERUG "firmness" the son of Reu born. He died in 2031 BC - Genesis 11:20

2229 NAHOR "snorer" the son of Serug and grandfather of Abram born. His son Terah was born when he was 29. - Genesis 11:22

2200 TERAH the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran born. His name is usually connected with the moon god. He emigrated from Ur in the Chaldees and settled in Haran where he died in 1998 BC. - Genesis 11:24 He is called an idolater.- Joshua 24: 2

2072 Birth of ABRAM the son of Terah. - Genesis 11:26

SECTION 3 - THE PATRIARCHS - 2072 - 1717 B.C.

The commencement of the age of the patriarchs was the foundation of a new race, the Hebrews - "those who cross the river". The first Hebrew was Abram who was called from Ur of the Chaldees. This chapter therefore commences at his birth.

[BC]

2072 Birth of ABRAM "exalted father" who became ABRAHAM "father of many nations" called by God to leave his home at Ur. He takes his father Terah with him and remain in Haran "dried up place" until Terah died. - Genesis 12:1

ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

c 2000 The Abrahamic covenant given with a seven fold promise - Genesis 12: 1-2

[a] *"And I will make of thee a great nation"* - The Israelites have been a great nation.

[b] *"I will bless thee"* - He was blessed with success, family and he will receive the land.

[c] *"And make thy name great"* - Abraham is known and revered in Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

[d] *"And thou shalt be a blessing"* - Abraham is shown as a great example.

[e] *"And I will bless them that bless thee"* - There are many examples of pro Semitics being blessed because of their attitudes to the Jews.

[f] *"And curse them that curseth thee"* - There are also many examples of anti Semitics being cursed as well as judgment on those who persecute Christians.

[g] *"In thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed"* - This is through the provision of the Lord Jesus Christ who was a descendant of Abraham.

ENTRY INTO THE PROMISED LAND

1998 Abram and his nephew Lot enter Canaan. They discuss the partition of the area because of their prosperity and the increase in their cattle numbers. Lot chooses the valley near Sodom. Abram therefore takes the mountains.- Genesis 12:4

1995 LOT "dark coloured" is captured by Chedorlaomer in a battle in which the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah are defeated. Abram rescues his nephew and meets the king of Salem, Melchizedek, who as a priest of God brings bread and wine. Abram acknowledges that God provided the victory. - Genesis 14

1988 ISHMAEL "God heareth" son of Hagar by Abraham born. When he was born Abraham was 86 years old and dwelling in the plains of Mamre. He was circumcised at the age of thirteen along with his father and his servants. -Genesis 16:3

A promise was given by God that Ishmael should be the father of twelve Arab princes and become a great nation. He met Isaac at least once after having been sent away, at the time of the burial of Abraham. He died in 1852 BC.

1976 Destruction of Sodom and the escape of Lot together with his wife and two unmarried daughters having received divine warning from three angels. It is clear from Scripture that of the inhabitants of Sodom there were less than ten believers and most probably only three or four.

Lot flees to Zoar and relocates to a cave nearby where his daughters make him drunk and commit incest with him on successive nights founding the Moabite and Ammonite nations. Genesis 19.

Despite his obvious failings Lot is called a righteous man.- 2 Peter 2:7-9

1974 ISAAC "laughter" son of SARAH "princess" born having been conceived in a miraculous manner the child of the chosen line of the Messiah.. - Genesis 21:5

1960 Abraham takes Isaac to Mt Moriah under God's instruction to offer him as a sacrifice. God provides the ram in a thicket as a substitute.

In this we have a preview of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ in the fact that Isaac was willing to follow his father's instruction. He even carried the wood as Christ carried the Cross. This is the same mount on which our Lord was crucified. Genesis 22

1935 Isaac marries REBEKAH "flattering" the daughter of Bethuel, the nephew of Abraham and was the mother of Esau and Jacob.

The incident of Rebekah at the well with its conclusion encompasses all the circumstances of a perfect marriage:-.

[a] The agreement of the parents.

[b] The favour of God .

[c] The domestic habits of the wife.

[d] Her beauty and kindness.

[e] Her love for her husband.

ESAU AND JACOB

1915 JACOB "following after" who became ISRAEL "prince" and ESAU "hairy" born at the well of Lahai-roi. Jacob was favoured by his mother who eventually conspired with him to receive a blessing from his father Isaac.- Genesis 25:26

On his way to Padan-Aram to find a wife from among his mother's family he has a dream at Bethel with a ladder reaching from earth to heaven.- Genesis 28:12 Jacob goes to Haran "the dried up place" from Bethel "the house of God" to work for his uncle Laban. - Genesis 28:5

1901 Abraham dies at the age of 175 and is buried at the site of Sarah's tomb. - Genesis 25:7

THE TWELVE SONS

1833 Jacob marries LEAH "weary". From this union six of the patriarchs are born. Genesis 29:23

In order they are

[1] REUBEN "behold a son" had some good qualities - Genesis 29:32. These however were offset by his incestuous act with his father's concubine Bilhah - Genesis 35:22

It was Reuben who advised his brothers not to kill Joseph and returned to the pit to free him.- Genesis 37:21,29

When the brothers were held in Egypt as suspected spies he accused them of bringing trouble on themselves but he offered his own two sons as a guarantee for the safety of Benjamin. - Genesis 42:22-37

The rights of the firstborn were lost, the rulership to Judah, the priesthood to Levi and the double portion to Joseph.

[2] SIMEON "hearing" - Genesis 29:33 took part with Levi in the massacre of the men of Shechem for offences against the sister Dinah. - Genesis 34

He also played a prominent role in the affair of Joseph being the hostage so that the brothers would return with Benjamin. He was said to have been a violent man and as such they were to be scattered in the Promised land.

[3] LEVI "joined" - Genesis 29:34 was involved with Simeon in the Shechem massacre but was also acting in connivance with his other brothers. - Genesis 34:13,27

His descendants were not given tracts of land but were interspersed as the priestly tribe.

[4] JUDAH "praise" - Genesis 29:35 was the ancestor of Jesus Christ and as such was in the line of the king - priest rather than the priestly line of Levi. His tribe together with that of Benjamin formed the southern kingdom of Judah.

[5] ISSACHAR "bearer" - Genesis 30:18 whose descendants occupied the central part of the plain of Jezreel were the tribe who was chiefly involved in fighting under Deborah the judge who was from this tribe.

[6] ZEBULUN "dwelling" - Genesis 30:20 was conceived in the rivalry between Leah and Rachel. His name reflects Leah's belief that Jacob would now dwell with and honour her. Three sons were born to him before he left Canaan for Egypt where Joseph presented him to the Pharaoh.- Genesis 46:14 Genesis 47:2

Leah also had a servant girl called ZILPAH who was the mother of

[1] GAD "good fortune" - Genesis 30:11 was born to Jacob during his stay in Paddam - aram in the seven years he was working for his second wife Rachel. Gad had seven sons at the time they went into Egypt.

[2] ASHER "happy" - Genesis 30:13 was also born during Jacob's stay with Laban. His tribe inherited an olive growing area within the promised land. The only Asherite of any significance was Anna the prophetess who praised God at the presentation of Jesus at the Temple. - Luke 2:36

1826 Jacob marries RACHEL "a lamb" his first cousin.- Genesis 29:29 She was a woman of great beauty but was capable of unprincipled action.- Genesis 29:17 Rachel met Jacob at the well where he helped her in her task of watering her father's sheep. He immediately loved her.- Genesis 29:11

From this union two of the patriarchs were born

[1] JOSEPH "he will increase" - Genesis 30:23 though one of the youngest sons of Jacob was put by his father in charge of his brothers which caused a great deal of envy. - Genesis 37 As a result they conspired to kill him but instead sold him into slavery in Egypt. He was bought by Potiphar the Egyptian chief of Police who noting Joseph's administrative expertise put him in charge of his household. Potiphar's wife unsuccessfully tried to seduce Joseph who was thrown into prison on trumped up charges.

Here he spent some time as the slave of two Egyptian ministers who had been imprisoned after an attempted coup detat.- Genesis 39

As a result of correctly interpreting their dreams Joseph was eventually released and becomes under Pharaoh the chief ruler of Egypt.- Genesis 40

Due to divine guidance he is able to make provision not only for Egypt but also for his family who travelled south into Egypt due to a severe famine.- Genesis 41

He had two sons EPHRAIM and MANASSAH representing the double portion that he inherited from Reuben.- Genesis 48:5, 49:3,42 He died in Egypt.

[2] BENJAMIN "son of the right hand" - Genesis 35:18 the only son of Jacob born in Canaan, his birth occurring a short distance from Bethlehem. His mother died at his birth naming him son of my sorrow which was later changed by Jacob. As the youngest son he had the affection of his brothers. He had ten sons and grandsons on his migration to Egypt.

Famous descendants of Benjamin include:- Ehud the Judge, Saul the first king and Saul who later became the Apostle Paul.

Rachel had a servant girl called BILHAH who was the mother of:-

[1] DAN "judge" - Genesis 30:5 whose descendants formed the tribe which led the Israelites in idolatry. The tribe is the only one not mentioned in the list of the 144,000 witnesses probably due to this factor. Revelation 7:5-8 Samson was a Danite.

[2] NAPHTALI "wrestler" - Genesis 30:7 who was apparently fleet of foot. When they entered into the Promised Land Naphtali was given territory to the west of the sea of Galilee and the upper Jordan.

Ref:- W. Varner - "Jacob's Dozen"

1819 Jacob and his family return to Canaan.- Genesis 31:17 It is on this journey that Jacob "supplanter" becomes Israel "a prince with God".

1809 Joseph sold into slavery by his brothers.- Genesis 37 His life from the time he is sold until he forgives and rescues his brothers from starvation in a subsequent famine is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. - Acts 7:9, 52

1797 Isaac dies at the age of 180 at Hebron and is buried by his sons Jacob and Esau. Just before his death he confirms that the blessing will come down through Jacob. - Genesis 35:29

1796 Joseph given a high position in Egypt as second only to the Pharaoh. - Genesis 41:39

1786 Jacob and family move down into Egypt because of the severe famine. Because of Joseph's good stewardship under God's direction Egypt becomes the provider of food for the surrounding areas.- Genesis 41:53-57

1770 Jacob dies at the age of 147 and was buried at Machpelah in Canaan having adopted the two sons of Joseph and given them both a special blessing again with the younger taking precedence.- Genesis 49:33

1717 Joseph dies in Egypt and his coffin is left ready to accompany the children of Israel as they leave Egypt under Moses. The bones of Joseph were to be a sign to the Israelites during their slavery to Egypt that God was faithful. - Hebrews 11:22. He was 110 years of age.- Genesis 50:26

SECTION 4 - THE EXODUS - 1654 - 1535 B.C.

For many years the children of Israel lived in the land of Egypt. Their numbers grew over this period to such an extent that the leaders of Egypt became very concerned that their size was a threat to the land of the Pharaoh's. Exodus 1

Eventually a leader was called by God to lead this now enslaved group out from slavery into freedom, the leader was Moses.

[B C]

1654 MOSES "drawn out of the water" - Exodus 2:1-10 was born into the tribe of Levi and because of a pogrom against the Jews is placed on an ark on the river Nile. Here he is found and adopted by the Pharaoh's daughter and brought up in the Egyptian court.

1614 Moses realising he is a Jew kills an Egyptian overseer who is severely treating a Jewish worker. He flees to Midian where he marries Zipporah who bore him two sons. - Exodus 2:11-15

1574 While tending some sheep on the backside of the desert Moses notices a burning bush, a Christophony, Christ in a preincarnate form . On reaching it God advises Moses that Moses is to go and speak to Pharaoh as part of the release of his chosen people. Moses is reluctant but eventually in the company of his brother Aaron he returns to Egypt. - Exodus 3:1- 4:20

THE PLAGUES

The contact with Pharaoh results in a number of miracles being performed mainly demonstrably against the pagan gods of Egypt. Exodus 7:8 -12:30

[1] Water to blood - Osiris, god of the Nile - Exodus 7:20

[2] Frogs - Heqt, frog god of resurrection - Exodus 8:6

[3] Lice - Exodus 8:16 - 17

[4] Flies - Exodus 8:24

[5] Plague on cattle - Apis, bull god of fertility - Exodus 9:6

[6] Boils - Imhotep, god of medicine. - Exodus 9:8 - 10

[7] Hail - Nut, sky goddess - Exodus 9:23 - 25

[8] Locusts - Seth, protector of the crops - Exodus 10:13 -15

[9] Darkness - Horus, the sun god - Exodus 10:21 - 23

[10] Death of eldest - The deity of Pharaoh - Exodus 12:29 - 30

It is of interest that the Caananites worshipped Baal - Zebub the Lord of the Flies who appears as Beelzebub or Satan in the New Testament

THE EXODUS

After the death of the crown prince of Egypt Pharaoh allows the children of Israel to go. It is the first Passover. - Exodus 13:17

Pharaoh however changes his mind and pursues the Jews.- Exodus 14:8

The route to the crossing of the Red Sea was as follows :-

[1] At RAMSES the march begins on the 15th day of the first month. Exodus 12:37

[2] The first halt is at SUCCOTH "Tell-el Maskhutah" and so down to

[3] ETHAM "in the edge of the wilderness" - Exodus 13:20 and then south east to

[4] PI-HAHIROTH. Here Pharaoh overtakes them and they pass through the Red Sea to the spot now called "Ayun Musa" - the fountains of Moses. Exodus 14:1

1573 Moses and some two million men together with women and children crossed the Red Sea on the date of the feast of first fruits, the 17th Nisan.

It is not a coincidence that on this anniversary the following escapes from death took place:

[1] The landing of the Ark on Mt Ararat. - Genesis 8:4

[2] The giving of the unconditional Abrahamic covenant.

[3] The crossing of the Red Sea.

[4] The resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

[5] The eating of the first fruits of Canaan. - Joshua 5:12

IN THE WILDERNESS

Miracles in the Wilderness:

[1] The curing of the waters at Marah. - Exodus 15:23 - 25

[2] Feeding with manna. - Exodus 16:14

[3] Quails - Numbers 11:31

[4] Water from the rock at Rephidim. - Exodus 17:5

[5] God's intervention in the fight against Amalek - Exodus 17:11

[6] Death of Nadab and Abihu. - Leviticus 10:1 - 2

[7] Burning of the congregation at Taberah. - Numbers 11:1

[8] Seven day leprosy of Miriam - Numbers 12:9-15

[9] Death of Korah, Dathan and Abiram. - Numbers 16:31 - 33

[10] Plague - Numbers 17:46 - 49

[11] Budding of Aaron's rod at Kadesh - Numbers 17:8

[12] Water from the rock at Meribah. - Numbers 20:7 - 11

[13] The brazen serpent. - Numbers 21:8

[14] Stoppage of the Jordan River. - Joshua 3:14 - 17

RED SEA TO MT SINAI

The route from the Red Sea to Mt Sinai was as follows

[1] MARAH was the first stopping place in the wilderness of Shur. Here the bitter waters were sweetened. - Exodus 15:23

[2] Then to ELIM where they found 12 wells and 70 palm trees. - Exodus 15:27

[3] They now entered THE WILDERNESS OF SIN at the foot of the mountain range of El-Tih and obtain a miraculous supply of manna and quail. - Exodus 16

[4] Passing DOPHKAH and ALUSH they reach REPHIDIM in the Horeb region where occurs the murmuring of Meribah. Water is given from a rock in Horeb. - Exodus 17:1 - 7

THE COMMANDMENTS

1572 [5] They now enter THE WILDERNESS OF SINAI and camp before "the mount of God" Jebel Musa. - Exodus 18:5 Here the Ten Commandments are given, the worship of the golden calf takes place, the people are numbered, the Tabernacle erected and the 2nd Passover celebrated.

BATTLES IN THE WILDERNESS

Place	Opponent	Victor	Reference
Rephidim	Amalek	Israel	Exodus 17:8
Hormah	Amalek	Amalek	Numbers 14:45
Hormah	Arad	Israel	Numbers 21:1
Jahaz	Amorites	Israel	Numbers 21:21-24
Edrei	Bashan	Israel	Numbers 21:33
Midian	Midian	Israel	Numbers 31:7

MT SINAI TO KADESH-BARNEA 1571 BC

[1] After a stay of nearly a year at Sinai on the 20th day of the 2nd month of the 2nd year. - Exodus 19:1 they move three days journey to

[2] TABERAH "burning" where their complaints bring down fire from heaven. - Numbers 11:3

[3] Then to KIBROTH-HATTA AVAH "the graves of lust" where the people are smitten while the flesh of the quails is still in their mouths . -Numbers 11:34

[4] Next is HAZEROTH where Aaron and Miriam sin and Miriam contracts leprosy. - Numbers 11:35

[5] They now moved to KADESH-BARNEA where twelve spies were sent to Canaan. Ten returned bringing negative reports, Caleb and Joshua alone recommending entry into Canaan. - Numbers 13-14:39 The people complained and are therefore condemned to a full 40 years in the Wilderness. Korah rebels causing an earthquake, fire and plague to be inflicted. - Numbers 16:1 - 36

JESUS CHRIST IN THE WILDERNESS

During the period of the wanderings in the wilderness God remained totally faithful in the provision of food, water and clothing. In addition He provided guidance on a daily basis. The miraculous provision of water was by means of a spiritual rock which followed them. - 1 Corinthians 10:4 of John 4:14. This rock was Christ and occurred in two formats:-

[1] The low rock *TSUR* which Moses struck once with his rod in obedience to God. The low rock is a picture of the death of Christ who became a little lower than the angels.

[2] The tall rock *SELA* which represented Christ in resurrection which Moses struck twice in defiance of God's command This was the reason for Moses not entering the Promised Land.

MANNA

Provision of food was in the form of Manna "what is it?" which was provided six days a week for forty years. This miraculous food had a number of interesting features:-

[a] It was provided every day except Saturday with double rations being provided on Friday. - Exodus 16:22-27

[b] The amount of manna collected matched the capacity of those who gathered it. This shows that all were able to have their needs satisfied by God. - Exodus 16:16-18

[c] The manna spoiled if it was kept overnight on all nights except Friday pointing to the need to follow God's instructions implicitly. - Exodus 16:19-20

[d] Manna left in the sun melted whilst that collected did not melt portraying that only the Word of God that the person knows is going to sustain him in a pressure situation. - Exodus 16:21

[e] It tasted good to some and bad to others. Guidance and the presence of God was shown by the pillar of smoke in the day and the pillar of fire at night. - Exodus 13:21,22

KADESH-BARNEA TO THE JORDAN

[1] After many years of wandering in the WILDERNESS OF PARAN, west of Mt Seir where Israel led a nomadic life - Numbers 20, they return to

[2] KADESH-BARNEA where Moses strikes the rock - Numbers 20:11, Miriam dies and Edom refuses to allow passage through their territory. - Numbers 20:18-21

[3] They travel to MOUNT HOR near Petra where Aaron dies and is buried. - Numbers 20:24

[4] Passing down to THE ARABAH the people murmur. It is here that the brazen serpent is set up to cure the plague of serpents. - Numbers 21:6 - 9

[5] At JAHAZ Israel defeats Sihon king of the Amorites -Numbers 21:23 - 24

[6] This is followed by the defeat of king Og at EDREI which gives Israel possession of all the land on the east side of the Jordan from Arnon to Mt Hermon. - Numbers 21:33

[7] At ABEL-SHITTIM a large force under Balak assisted by Balaam fail in their attempt to defeat the Jews. - Numbers 33:49

[8] On the PLAINS OF MOAB the people are numbered for a third time. Numbers 31:1 - 49

DEATH OF MOSES

[9] Moses having restated the law - Deuteronomy 32 ascends MOUNT NEBO to view the land of Canaan and dies. - Deuteronomy 34:1-7

SECTION 5 - THE PROMISED LAND - 1535 - 1505 B.C.

[BC]

1535 JOSHUA is appointed to succeed Moses. God promises to assist him and he prepares the people to cross the Jordan. - Joshua 1

In his preparation he was told that the book of the law, the first five books of the Bible were to be his guide and that as leader it was his responsibility to be constantly studying and applying biblical principles to his circumstances. - Joshua 1:8

He was also told to be strong and of good courage. - Joshua 1:7,9

JOSHUA AS A TYPE OF CHRIST

He is a type of Christ with Je-hoshua meaning Jehovah - Saviour the "Captain of our Salvation". - Hebrews 2:10-11

[a] He came after Moses as the Spirit came after the law. - Galatians 3:23-25

[b] He leads to victory. - Romans 8:37

[c] He is our advocate when we have suffered defeat. - 1 John 2:1

[d] He allots our portion . - Ephesians 4:8-11

RAHAB receives and conceals the two spies sent from Shittim as a result of which she secures the safety of her family before they return to Joshua. - Joshua 2. The scarlet line of Rahab speaks of safety by faith - Hebrews 11:31

She came to be included in the ancestral line of Christ.- Matthew 1:5

CROSSING THE JORDAN

Under the guidance of the Lord, Joshua leads the children of Israel to the Jordan and the waters miraculously divide. - Joshua 3

Twelve men were appointed to take twelve stones for a memorial out of the Jordan while twelve other stones are set in middle of the river. - Joshua 4

The twelve stones taken out of the Jordan and erected by Joshua at Gilgal or "eternity" representing the new life in Christ, the miraculous change from death under the waters of the Jordan. - 1 Corinthians 15:22

The twelve stones left in the Jordan represent the death of Christ and the judgment on Him. - Psalm 22:1-18

ISRAEL 'S JOURNEY AND THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Israel's journey from Egypt to the Promised Land can be seen as a picture of the life of a believer -

- Egypt is slavery to sin - Acts 7:39, Revelation 11:8
- They were saved by the blood of the Lamb - 1 Corinthians 5:7
- Crossing the Red Sea represents baptism - 1 Corinthians 10:1-2
- Through the desert we have testings and carnality - Hebrews 4:1-3
- God provides for believers even when they rebel - 1 Corinthians 10:3-4
- Crossing the Jordan represents maturity and that while there is still conflict there is success and victory.

THE OPPONENTS

There were seven national groups in Canaan at the time of the entry of Israel: Amorites, Perizzites Caananites, Hittites, Girgashites, Hivites and Jebusites. - Joshua 3:10 In addition there were the Philistines, Geshurites, Phoenicians, Avvim and Gebalites of Joshua 13:2-6.

ANNIVERSARIES

The children of Israel cross the Jordan into the Promised land on the 10th day of the first month. - Joshua 4:19

This is also the anniversary of:-

[a] the taking of the Passover lamb into the home. - Exodus 12:3

[b] the entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. - Matthew 21:9

In all cases an entry into a home is portrayed on this day, the Promised Land that Joshua led the Jews into, the house of the Jews in the case of the lamb, and the city of the King, Jerusalem into which the King of the Jews entered..

THE FALL OF JERICO

The Caananites became fearful of the Israelites because they had heard of their exploits as they approached Canaan. Their fear however did not lead to repentance apart in the case of Rahab and her family.

A parallel situation occurs in the Tribulation where even after tremendous upheavals vast numbers of the world population still fail to believe.

Before they entered into the land they had therefore complied with God's requirements, ensuring that every male was circumcised and the Passover was celebrated at Gilgal. - Joshua 5:1-10

The manna which had sustained the Israelites for forty years ceased as they entered the Promised land and they ate the first fruits of Canaan on the Feast of First Fruits, the day of the Resurrection of our Lord.. The provision had been miraculous and to the very day. - Joshua 5:12

BATTLE OF JERICHO

An angel appeared to Joshua prior to approaching Jericho and introduced himself as the captain of the Lord of Hosts. Joshua 5:13-15

Joshua worshiped him. The siege of Jericho, which represented a constant threat to Gilgal if not taken, now commences.

JERICHO is identified as Tell es-Sultan, situated eight kilometres west of the Jordan and ten kilometres north of the Dead Sea. - Joshua 6

The famous battle of Jericho ensued where Israel, following God's orders, caused the walls of this great city to fall. The orders which Joshua followed were foolishness from a military viewpoint as with every step he and the Israelites took as they walked round the walls exposing their flanks to assault. From a military point of view such a tactic was utterly foolish. - Joshua 6:12-20

Jericho's walls have been shown from archaeology to have fallen outwards, an unique event and very surprising in view of their construction.. These walls were of a type which made direct assault practically impossible. The first portion of the wall was a vertical stone abutment 3 metres high followed by a plastered scarp at 35 degrees reaching to the main walls.

Ref - A. R. Short "Modern Discoveries and the Bible", T.C . Innes " Thrilling Voice from the Past"

No Israelite was permitted to enrich themselves by spoil God having placed a ban on the city.- Joshua 6:17-18

BATTLE OF AI

The Battle of Ai was the only battle lost by Israel in their conquest of the Promised land. Its loss was solely due to sin in the camp. The sin was the taking of spoil from Jericho which God had expressly forbidden as the city had been accursed. - Joshua 7. After investigation Achan was taken and after his confession he and all he has were destroyed in the valley of Achor. - Joshua 7:16-26.

Having removed sin from the camp a second attack on Ai took place with Israel conquering Ai and Bethel destroying all the inhabitants. - Joshua 8:1-29

WORSHIP AT SHECHEM

After his victories at Jericho, Ai and Bethel, Joshua led the people north to Shechem to renew God's covenant. Near Shechem at the foot of Mt Ebal he built an altar and wrote again the law of Moses on the stones of the altar. Half the tribes moved over to Mt Gerazim with half remaining near Mt Ebal and these in turn gave respective responses to the blessings and curses of the Law as read by Joshua. - Joshua 8:30-35

THE GIBEONITES

Returning to Gilgal the Israelites received peaceful homage from the Hivites representing four major cities north west of Jerusalem: Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth and Kirjath-jearum. They brought mouldy bread and wore worn out shoes to indicate that they had come from a great distance. -

Joshua 9 The leaders of Israel accepted what they saw and did not consult Jehovah using Urim and Thummin.- Joshua 9:14

After the agreement had been made and their deceit discovered the Gibeonites, as this group was known, were made servants of Israel being hewers of wood and drawers of water. Thus did Israel secure control in the central portion of the land.

THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY

As the news of the progress of the Israelites spread a confederation formed of kings of the south involving Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon. They attacked Gibeon who then asked Joshua at Gilgal for protection. He made a forced 40 km overnight march and took the confederacy by surprise and they retreated southward. God sent hailstones and killed more of the confederacy troops than the army of Joshua. - Joshua 10:11

In order to make the rout complete Joshua asked God to extend the daylight which he did causing the sun to slow rather than stop in the sky and the moon to stay in the valley of Ajalon. - Joshua 10:12

Since the valley of Ajalon lies 17 degrees north of west from Gibeon this battle is calculated to have occurred in July. This act of slowing the passage of the sun was unique and shows God's power over nature. - Joshua 10:14

Joshua returned to Gilgal and the five kings were found hiding in a cave at Makkedah where they were held until the rout of the confederacy was complete. The kings were then brought out of the cave, beheaded and hung on trees until sundown. - Joshua 10:15-27

After the great victory Joshua subjugated all the cities in the south of Canaan with the exception of Jerusalem which was not conquered until the time of David.

Joshua destroyed the inhabitants of these cities starting with Makkedah and continued south towards Debir before returning to Gibeon and to his camp at Gilgal. - Joshua 10:28-43

THE NORTHERN CONFEDERACY

Hazor was by far the largest city in Palestine at that time and its king Jabin fearing an attack on the northern area of Canaan formed a confederacy with others in the north and assembled in huge numbers of men by the waters of Merom. - Joshua 11:4

Joshua attacked and with an element of surprise routed the northern confederacy who fell back to the west. His triumph was complete and he killed the inhabitants and rulers of the cities. - Joshua 11:12

He then returned to Hazor which he burnt, probably because it was his greatest prize. Joshua took the land from Mt Halak "bald mountain" to the valley of Lebanon under Mt Hermon. - Joshua 11:17

The total number of kings killed during this period was 31.- Joshua 12:24

As most of the fighting had been inland there was one area, that of the coastal plains, which was not taken until the time of David some 500 years later .

DIVISION OF THE LAND

Having conquered Canaan the land was divided among the tribes with two and a half tribes taking up land on the far side of Jordan. Certain cities were given to the tribe of Levi whilst others were nominated as cities of refuge. It was important that the land was divided among the tribes with a certain urgency while the memories of the campaign were still fresh.

Joshua therefore proceeded with it while still at Gilgal the portions being by lot which meant that God decided which tribe was allocated to the respective tribes and it was not left to man.

EAST OF THE JORDAN

Gad, Reuben and half the tribe of Manassah had already received their allocation on the east side of the Jordan under the supervision of Moses Numbers 32:1-42

Reuben's portion was bordered on the south by the Moabites and on the east by the Ammonites, the border with Gad running east from the northern tip of the Dead Sea. The boundary between Gad and Manassah followed the Jabbock river.

CALEB, the other spy and senior citizen with Joshua requested being granted the Hebron area where the giant Anakim lived. Whilst they had been reduced greatly during the southern campaign some of them still remained and Caleb wanted to eliminate them completely. - Joshua 14:6-15

He reminded Joshua that Moses had promised him that area. - Deuteronomy 1:36 Caleb was successful and drove the Anakim from the land allotted to him. - Joshua 15:13-19

JUDAH, EPHRAIM AND MANASSAH

The tribe of Judah was the first to receive its allotment including the area that Caleb received. Their territory was large including Bethlehem the birthplace of our Lord. - Joshua 15:1-12

Next came Ephraim, Joshua's tribe. Ephraim led the ten tribe confederacy under Jeroboam after the death of Solomon. It was given an area to the north of Judah with an allotment for Benjamin between them. - Joshua 16:1-10

Manasseh was the third group allocated land. Their area was to the north of Ephraim the other half tribe who were both sons of Joseph and represented the double portion which Joseph had inherited from Reuben. - Joshua 17:1-11

ALLOTING INTERRUPTED

1529 Before land was allocated to the other seven tribes the people moved from Gilgal where they had been for some six years to Shiloh where they erected the Tabernacle. This time span is based on the fact that Caleb was now 85 years old and had been 40 at Kadesh-barnea. - Joshua 14:7,10

Both Ephraim and Manasseh complained about their allocation and this dampened the interest of the remaining tribes to pursue their areas but having set up in Shiloh Joshua recommenced his allocation of lots. - Joshua 18:2-9

THE REST OF THE LAND DIVIDED

At Shiloh Benjamin was the first tribe to receive its allocation, a small area between Judah and Ephraim but with the important city of Jerusalem and Jericho. - Joshua 18:10-28

Simeon was next. They were not allocated an area of land but 17 cities within the lot of Judah. This was to conform with Jacob's prophecy in Genesis 49:7. - Joshua 19:1-9

Zebulun's lot was small but consisted of good land of the Esdraelon valley. The Caananites were quite strong in the area. - Joshua 19:10-16

There followed Issachar with a very similar area to Zebulun. - Joshua 19:17-23

Asher received the fifth allotment an area which lay along the coast of the Mediterranean from Manasseh to the northern boundary of the land. - Joshua 19:24-31

The sixth lot was to Naphtali the last of the northern tribes. Joshua 19:32-39

Dan was the last tribe to receive an inheritance, a small area to the west of Ephraim. As Dan was one of the larger tribes numerically, many Danites migrated without divine sanction mostly northwards where they renamed the city of Laish as Dan. - Joshua. 19:40-48, Judges 18:27-29

CITIES OF REFUGE

The Lord spoke to Joshua and instructed him to set aside a number of cities as cities of refuge where those who had committed manslaughter might flee. - Joshua 20:1-9

They were:-

West of the Jordan - Kedesh "holy" in Naphtali, now called Kedes, west of lake Merom, Shechem "shoulder or power" which was the first royal city of the northern kingdom and called Neapolis in Roman times in Ephraim, and Kirjath-arba in Judah afterwards called Hebron.

East of the Jordan - Bezer "strong" in the hills of Reuben, Ramoth "heights" a Levitical city of Gilead in Gad and Golan "circle" in Manasseh.

Ref R Young "Concordance of the Bible"

THE LEVITES

Unlike Simeon which had cities only within Judah the tribe of Levi because of their priestly function were assigned cities in all of the allotments. In all they were allocated 48 cities. - Joshua 21:41

WAR AVERTED

As the three tribes with land to the east of Jordan returned to their lands after complying with the divine instruction to remain with the other tribes until the conquest of the land and the allocation of lots had been finalised they set an altar at the point where they crossed the Jordan river. Numbers 32:16-32

The tribes thought that it had been erected as an alternative place of worship to Shiloh and feared Divine discipline. Phineas, the son of the High Priest was sent to investigate the matter and found that it had been built as a memorial to remind future generations that the tribes to the east of the Jordan were as much a part of Israel as those to the west of the river. - Joshua 22:1-34

1505 - THE DEATH OF JOSHUA

Joshua assembled the tribes at Shechem where he related the history of Israel. The covenant was related again prior to Joshua's death at the age of 110. - Joshua 24

The bones of Joseph which had been brought out of Egypt were buried in Shechem in a lot bought by Jacob.- Joshua 24:32

SECTION 6 - THE JUDGES - 1529 - 1091 BC

INTRODUCTION

After the division of the land the nation was ruled by Joshua and after his death the elders of Israel. The nation as a whole however declined but a few years after the division of the land they were in slavery to the Mesopotamians.

The period covered by this section which takes the Israelites from the division of the land to the crowning of Saul is as follows:-

- Joshua and the Elders - Judges 2:7

- Mesopotamian oppression [8 YEARS] - Judges 3:8
- Othniel deliverance and rest - Judges 3:11
- Moab oppression [18 YEARS] - Judges 3:14
- Ehud deliverance and rest - Judges 3:30
- Caananite oppression [20 YEARS] - Judges 4:3
- Deborah and Barak - Judges 5:31
- Midian oppression [7 YEARS] - Judges 6:1
- Gideon deliverance and rest - Judges 8:28
- Abimelech's rule - Judges 9:22
- Tola - Judges 10:2
- Jair - Judges 10:3
- Amorites oppression - Judges 10:8
- Jephthah - Judges 12:7
- Ibzan - Judges 12:9
- Elon - Judges 12:11
- Abdon - Judges 12:14
- Philistines oppression [40 YEARS] - Judges 13:1
- Samson - Judges 15:20
- Samuel

In the chronology that follows the total period is seen as 444 biblical years which complies with Paul's statement in Acts 13:20 where he says this period was "about 450 years".

This allows for the statement of Paul in Acts 13 regarding the length of time between the Exodus and the building of Solomon's temple to be correlated literally with the statements in the book of Judges without adjustment or overlapping of events.

This is further confirmed by the statement in Judges 11:26 which states that at the time of Jephthah the Israelites had been in the land about 300 years.

By the above criteria it is demonstrated that at the time of Jephthah, the eighth judge Israel had been in the land 295 years.

BOOK OF JUDGES

The time of the judges records the history of Israel from the viewpoint of the general failure and sinfulness of Israel over a period of some 450 years.

Verses that typify their problem are Judges 17:6 and 21:25 which state " *Every man did that which was right in his own eyes*"

Their failures were as follows :-

- [a] the failure to remove the Caananites from the land. - Judges 1
- [b] the consequent acceptance of Caananites religion. - Judges 2
- [c] successive periods of oppression and being delivered by Judges. Judges 3-16
- [d] the manner of their misbehaviour. - Judges 17-21

FAILURE TO OCCUPY THE LAND

Whilst the power of the Canaanites had been broken by Joshua the individual tribes were supposed to occupy and thus eliminate the remaining Canaanites. Not one tribe succeeded in occupying all their allotted territory.

Judah with Simeon did well but, due to the Canaanites having iron chariots, their conquest was not complete.- Judges 1:19

Benjamin failed to drive out the Jebusites from Jerusalem. - Judges 1:21

Ephraim failed to take Gezer to the west. - Judges 1:29

The rest of the tribes also did not succeed being mainly restricted to the hills and mountains with the Canaanites controlling many of the valleys.

This was directly against God's original command.- Deuteronomy 7:1-4 It is important to note however that God had commanded this as the iniquity of the Amorites was now full. This is not a clause which can justify "ethnic cleansing".

As a result of these failures several oppressions from foreign nations were required during the period of the Judges.

THEY ADOPT THE CAANANITE RELIGION

As a result of not fully dealing with the Canaanite many Israelites adopted the Canaanite religious practice in direct contravention of the decalogue.

The main deity of Canaan was Baal who controlled the rain and storms. In order to guarantee of good crops the Canaanites worshiped him in ways included immorality, decadence, ritual prostitution and human sacrifice.

Israel became enamoured with the worship of Baal. This was an abomination for the Lord.

After the death of Joshua and the demise of the elders that followed him Israel rapidly became decadent and within some 30 years of crossing the Jordan were disciplined by slavery to the Mesopotamians for 8 years.

THE TIMES OF THE JUDGES

[BC]

1529 The Lord set up judges over Israel to guide and deliver them. Yet they did not follow the Judges and were soon in subjection. - Judges 2:16

The Lord left nations in the region to test Israel.- Judges 3:1 Before long they were intermarrying with the Canaanites and they started serving their gods such as Baalim.- Judges 3:6

1506 The Jews become slaves of Chushan-rishathaim king of MESOPOTAMIA for 8 years. - Judges 3: 8-11 Mesopotamia was the only oppressor of the Israelites to come from a remote area. They came from between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

Two stories that relate to this time are recounted later in the book of Judges:-

[a] The Danite movement. - Judges 17-18

[b] The Gilbeah outrage and the war with Benjamin. - Judges 19-21

1498 OTHNIEL, Caleb's younger brother commences as judge over Israel. Judges 3:9 He was given the Spirit of the Lord and rescued the Israelites from the Mesopotamians. - Judges 3:11 Othniel had distinguished himself in seizing Debir when his uncle had promised his daughter Achash as wife to the person who accomplished it. He judged for 40 years during which the land was at peace.

1459 Israel again rejected God and they became subject to the MOABITES. - Judges 3:12-14 The Moabites lived immediately across the Dead Sea from Judah. They crossed the Jordan and occupied Jericho. The king of Moab was Eglon, a fat man, who, using Jericho as his capital, subjugated the Israelites for 18 years.

1442 EHUD, a Benjamite becomes the judge over Israel. - Judges 3:15

Ehud was probably one of the 600 men of the tribe who was left after the civil war. He was left-handed and secreting a dagger in his clothing when he went to see Eglon carrying a present for the king. After presenting the gift from the Israelites Ehud stabbed Eglon while his servants were out of the room the knife being enclosed by the fat which had engulfed it.

He quietly left the room, locked the door and moved away without discovery quickly assembling the Israelites at the fords of the Jordan where there retreating Moabites were expected to cross. On discovering that their king was dead the Moabites retreated as expected and the Israelites killed 10,000 of them. The Lord had thus delivered Israel and they dwelt in the land in peace for 80 years.

SHAMGAR becomes a hero of Israel. He was famous for his feat of killing 600 Philistines single-handed with an ox goad. Judges 3:31

Although he is not stated as a judge he is said to have delivered Israel.

1363 Israel again rebelled against the Lord and the Lord sent the CANAANITES under Jabin to oppress them for 20 years. - Judges 4:1-3

This third oppression was therefore from within the land. Jabin was king of Hazor with Sisera his general. The city of Hazor which had been destroyed by Joshua had once again become powerful. Sisera was able to muster 900 chariots of iron and making his base at Harosheth about 20 kilometres north west of Megiddo from where he was able to dominate the Israelites for 20 years.

1343 DEBORAH is appointed as judge. She had her headquarters under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel. - Judges 4:4-9 She is unique not only in the fact that she is the only female judge but also that she was acting as a judge even before her victorious battle.

She did not wish to lead the Israelites into battle and requested Barak of Kedesh in Naphtali to do so. Barak insisted that Deborah accompany him to which she agreed. Barak then proceeded to raise an army of some 10,000 men from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun.

At the battle of Kishon a great victory was won with the Lord providing a cloudburst that flooded the watercourse of Kishon. - Judges 5:21

This provision mired the chariots of Sisera and the Israelites pursued them back to Haroseth. Sisera who escaped the battlefield by fleeing north in an apparent attempt to reach Hazor became fatigued and finding refuge in a tent was killed by Jael the Kenite by her piercing his temples with a nail while he was sleeping. The Kenites were faithful to Israel over a long period of time Jeremiah 35:6-19.

Due to the decisive victory over the Canaanites a period of 40 years of peace followed. Also as a result of this victory the song of Deborah and Barak was composed. - Judges 5

1327 RUTH was a Moabitist who came into the promised land with her mother in law Naomi and was redeemed by Boaz and thus entered the line of Christ. - Matthew 1:5

Three non Israelite women are mentioned in Jesus' ancestry indicating that He had to be the Saviour not only of the Jews but of the whole human race - Tamar, Rahab, Ruth.

The Book of Ruth can be divided as follows:-

[a] Ruth deciding - Chapter 1

[b] Ruth serving - Chapter 2

[c] Ruth resting - Chapter 3

[d] Ruth rewarded - Chapter 4

1304 Israel again sinned against the Lord so the MIDIANITES oppressed Israel for 7 years and greatly impoverished them. - Judges 6:1-10

The Midianites were aided by the Amalakites and "children of the east". They crossed the Jordan and invaded the grain growing areas in Israel especially the Esdraelon valley and the Mediterranean coast as far south as Gaza. - Judges 6:4

For six years the invaders took unhindered both stock and grain with the Israelites becoming so despondent that some lived in the caves. As a result of the cries of the Israelites God sent an unnamed prophet to them without discernible results. His appearance however indicates that prophets were active during the time of the judges.

GIDEON

1297 GIDEON of the tribe of Manasseh was approached by the angel from God whilst secretly threshing wheat because he was afraid of the Midianites. - Judges 6:11

Gideon was reluctant claiming to be the least member of the poorest tribe. - Judges 6:15

He lived in Ophrah where the people had so embraced Baal worship that they had erected an altar to Baal and an Asheroth symbol. He presented an offering which was miraculously consumed by fire. - Judges 6:19

Gideon further obeyed the Lord by destroying an altar to Baal which was such an unpopular act that the townspeople sought to kill him. - Judges 6:25-32

This act however also later inspired the people to follow him Gideon observed that the enemy numbered about 135,000 and with his own army numbering only 32,000 he felt that he could not successfully attack the Midianites.

Gideon therefore further tested the Lord with the fleece before he eventually led an army of only 300 against the enemy in a surprise attack and defeated them taking a number of towns. - Judges 6:33-40

The enemy were encamped in the Esdraelon valley, at a point between Mt Moreh to the north and Mt Gilboa to the south with Gideon grouped near the well of Harod at the foot of Gilboa. He armed his men with trumpets and pitchers in which was concealed lamps. At his order the pitchers were broken revealing the lights which together with a blast on a trumpet caused the Midianites to panic in the darkness and to flee towards the Jordan. The victory of the Israelites was complete.

He was asked to set up an hereditary monarchy but refused believing that Israel should remain a theocracy. - Judges 8:22

As a result of Gideon's action the land was at peace for 40 years. - Judges 8:28

1258 As soon as Gideon was dead Israel quickly reverted to idolatry and made Baal-berith their god. - Judges 8:33

ABIMELECH was made king at Shechem and even though he was the son of Gideon by a concubine he killed all the descendants of Gideon with the exception of Jotham who gave them the parable of the trees predicting the fall of the house of Abimelech. - Judges 9:1-21

The Shechemites enjoyed having a king for a period but soon tired of Abimelech's arbitrary ways and after three years started to follow a rebel leader Gaal. As a result civil war raged in Israel with Abimelech crushing Gaal at Shechem and killing his followers. - Judges 9:22-57

Abimelech however met his fate at Thebez when a woman dropped a millstone on his head whilst he was attacking a high tower. Mortally wounded his armour bearer killed him. With the death of Abimelech the prophecy of Jotham was fulfilled and the civil war ceased.

1255 TOLA of the tribe of Issachar became judge in Shamir, and presided over Israel for 23 years. Judges 10:1

1233 JAIR succeeded Tola and became judge over Israel for 22 years. He had thirty sons who rode on asses and had control of thirty cities in Gilead. This suggests that his family was unusually rich. On his death he was buried at Camon. - Judges 10:3 Riding on asses in ancient Israel indicated rulership - Matthew 21:5

1212 Israel again departed from the Lord and He allowed those on the other side of Jordan to be subject to the AMMONITES for 18 years. - Judges 10:7

1195 JEPHTAH was the son of Gilead and a concubine. Driven out of the family by the other children he went to Tob where he became a leader of a band of marauders. - Judges 11:1-3 The

elders of Israel not finding anyone offering to lead against the Ammonites appealed to Jephthah who solemnly accepted the position. He tried to secure help from Ephraim, but in vain, and also to reason with the king of Ammon, and after making a rash promise regarding sacrificing the first thing he saw on his return, he completely routed the enemy, taking 20 cities.

On his return the first person he saw was his only daughter. Having vowed, Jephthah kept his word.
- Judges 11:34

Several reasons point to the fact that his only daughter was not killed but spent the rest of her life serving the Lord at the Tabernacle. They are:-

[a] To have killed his daughter would have been against the Mosaic Law and Israelite custom.

[b] Jephthah held a respect for God which would have prevented him going against the law and practice.

[c] If his daughter were to be sacrificed it would have been at the Tabernacle where no priest would have officiated.

[d] The fact that he gave his daughter two months to bewail her virginity indicates that she was to serve the Lord with perpetual celibacy.- Judges 11:37-38

[e] The notice that his daughter "knew no man" was given as a result of Jephthah having carried out his vow. - Judges 11:39

[f] Such an office for devoted women did exist. - Exodus 38:8, 1 Samuel 2:2

[g] Jephthah's vow can be translated "It shall be Jehovah's or a burnt offering" taking notice of whether the object was human or an animal. - Judges 11:31

The Ephraimites complained that they had not been asked to assist and as a result went up against Jephthah. Jephthah defeated the Ephraimites and judged Israel for six years. - Judges 12:1-7

1189 IBZAN of Bethlehem became the judge of Israel. He had thirty sons and daughters and judged for seven years. - Judges 12:8

1182 ELON of Zebulun judged Israel for ten years. - Judges 12:11

1173 ABDON from Ephraim judged Israel for eight years. He had forty sons and thirty nephews all of whom rode on asses, a sign of nepotism - Judges 12:13

1165 Israel again rebelled against God and they became subject to the PHILISTINES for 40 years which was the longest of the periods of oppression. - Judges 13:1

The Philistines had a warlike tradition and were one section of the rampaging "Sea Peoples". Their origin was from the Aegean area and specifically from Crete.

The Cretan origin is supported by the term Cherethites. In 1 Samuel 30:14 he refers to part of the Philistine coast as the Negeb of the Cherethites.

1126 SAMSON from the tribe of Dan became the penultimate judge of Israel. Judges 13-16 The Spirit of the Lord was upon him. - Judges 13:25

Samson desired to have a wife from the Philistines. On his way to Timnath he killed a lion and on his return found honey in the carcass. He was a thorn in the side of the Philistines who sought to find the source of his strength. Eventually Delilah enticed Samson and found that his hair was his strength and betrayed him to the enemy. - Judges 16:4

Samson was a Nazarite - Numbers 6:1-2, a man dedicated to God .

His long hair was only an outward symbol of that. He showed disregard for his office and its symbols. He also used his special gifts to gratify his own lust for revenge or self promotion.

Moral weakness robs the strong man of both spiritual stature and physical prowess since his strength is God given for specific purpose.

Samson's eyes were put out and he ground grain in the prison. - Judges 16:21 The guards let his hair grow and he used his great strength one last time pulling down the pillars of the temple of Dagon so that in death he killed more of the enemy than during the whole of his life. - Judges 16:22

1107 SAMUEL becomes the last of the judges. He was the son of Elkanah of Ramah and Hannah, one of his two wives. 1 Samuel 1-3 When Samuel was weaned he was brought to the Tabernacle and devoted to service there.

Conditions at the Tabernacle were not good with Eli the high priest being old and his sons who were in charge of the ceremonies perverting worship of God. Eli was held responsible for the problems and was reprimanded by Samuel conveying grave punishment for Eli's house. Punishment came through the battle of Aphek where the Israelites tried to end the Philistine oppression by direct conflict. In this battle Israel was defeated losing some 4000 men.- 1 Samuel 4

Wrongly thinking that the presence of the ark would bring victory the sons of Eli, Hophni and Phineas brought the ark against the will of God from Shiloh to the camp. This time 30,000 fell including the sons of Eli and the Ark was captured. On hearing this Eli fell from his seat backwards and died of a broken neck.

The Philistines destroyed Shiloh and moved into more Israelite territory causing great concern and distress among the people. Even by the time of the death of Eli Samuel had gained recognition as a prophet. He therefore was the person to take up the leadership of Israel at this low point in their history. - 1 Samuel 3:20

Samuel had been well prepared for his task both by his mother and Eli and in some 20 years under his leadership Israel was able to get to a point where they were able to throw off the yoke of the Philistines. He also pioneered training schools for young prophets which assisted in the spiritual recovery of the nation. - 1 Samuel 10:5-12

The Ark did not stay in the hands of the Philistines for very long after the battle of Aphek but was within seven months back under Israelite control. - 1 Samuel 5,6 This occurred through a series of events:-

[a] The image of Dagon which had been positioned beside the Ark had fallen twice on the floor.

[b] Painful tumours had been afflicted on the people

[c] The land had been overrun by mice.

[d] The plan of the Philistine priests to thwart its return was overridden by God who made the heifers drawing the cart on which the Ark was being carried to go straight to Beth-shemesh "house of the sun" the first town under Israelite control.

Back at Beth-shemesh the Ark was desecrated when curious people looked into it and were killed by God. - 1 Samuel 6:19-20

Eventually the men of Kirjath-jearim collected the Ark and kept it for about seventy years until the time of David when it was brought to Jerusalem.

A decisive victory over the Philistines was achieved at the battle of Mizpah. 1 Samuel 7:5-14 The Israelites had gone to Mizpah because of a spiritual revival in the nation. The Philistines assumed that they were preparing for war and decided to make a pre-emptive strike.

Samuel prayed to God who sent a violent thunderstorm which demoralised the Philistines allowing the Israelites to inflict a major defeat on the enemy thus ending the period of oppression .

Following the Mizpah victory Samuel installed his sons Joel and Abiah as judges but in a similar way to Eli his sons perverted the justice in the land. As a result the people requested that they be given a king to rule over them. 1 Samuel 8:4-6

Samuel was disappointed and took it as an affront against him but God said that it was an affront against God himself. God however told Samuel to comply with the people's request even though a theocracy was both superior and God's desire for his people.

SECTION 7 - THE UNIFIED KINGDOM - 1091 - 973 B.C.

When Saul came to power his major task was to unify the twelve tribes into a nation. Samuel had rescued the Israelites from total disaster, restored their morale and helped them spiritually.

SAUL THE KING

1091 SAUL, a Benjaminite, a man of good reputation and of imposing stature was chosen and was anointed king by Samuel in private after a ceremony at Ramah.- 1 Samuel 9:27, 10:15-16

The land allotted to Benjamin was between the two major tribes of Judah and Ephraim and as such reduced the level of jealousy between the tribes an important factor in improving unification.

Prior to his being anointed Saul was humble asking Samuel about the location of his lost asses only after persuasion from a servant. Saul was most surprised.

Samuel told him of incidents which were to occur to him on the way home. They were:-

[a] He would meet two men who would tell him of the location of the asses and of the concern of his father.

[b] He would then meet three men having goats, bread and wine and that they would give him two loaves of bread.

[c] He would meet a company of prophets with musical instruments as they worshipped God. He should join them at which time he would receive the Holy Spirit.

These events took place in the manner which Samuel had predicted and Saul became "turned into another man". - 1 Samuel 10:6

With the king now chosen Samuel identified him to the people at Mizpah. He called representatives from the various tribes together and inquired before them of God as to who the king would be probably using Urim and Thummin.

Saul was selected and found hidden among the travelling wagons but when his stately bearing was seen he was acclaimed by those assembled.

An opportunity for Saul to prove himself soon occurred when the Ammonites under their king Nahash attacked the city of Jabesh-gilead. When this was told to Saul he slaughtered two oxen and sent pieces to all the tribes telling them that if they did not join the battle their oxen would be similarly treated. The tribes responded and a great victory won which further confirmed his position as leader.

THE CROWNING OF SAUL

Saul was therefore crowned at Gilgal with Samuel leading the proceedings. This was a transition and at the coronation Samuel exhorted the people in his speech as he stood down to obey God's law as a means of national blessing. - 1 Samuel 12:1-25

To reinforce this he called upon God to send a thunderstorm in the dry season at the time of harvest. God did so and the people cried out in fear. Samuel finished his speech with the assurance that he would pray for them.

Saul's rulership was simple and economic with his capital of Gibeah, his home town, on the northern outskirts of present day Jerusalem.

As far as biblical records are concerned only one official is named in his court, Abner, captain of the army. - 1 Samuel 14:50

The effect of the kingdom on the people was little with old tribal borders still being observed. A king however gave the Israelites and overall commander in chief to rally behind in times of danger.

SAUL'S DISOBEDIENCE

1089 The Philistines attacked Israel at the battle of Michmash to regain a foothold in Israel but were not successful. - 1 Samuel 13:5

Although not a member of the tribe of Levi, the priestly tribe, Saul, because Samuel had not arrived at Gilgal offered a burnt sacrifice to the Lord. - 1 Samuel 13:8-10

Because of this act of disobedience Samuel tells Saul that his kingdom would not continue. - 1 Samuel 13:14

JONATHAN AND THE BATTLE OF GEBA

Israel attacked the Philistines at the battle of Geba and successfully chased them from Israelite territory. During this action Jonathan accompanied by his armour bearer achieved a minor but brilliant victory crossing from Geba to Michmash on the north descending and climbing steep ridges en route and attacked routing the entire Philistine garrison. - 1 Samuel 14:1-14

Saul took advantage of this victory to drive the Philistines as far west as Aijalon but almost defeated his own cause when he forbade his troops eating for a whole day under the pain of death. As a result he almost had to kill his son Jonathan who had not heard the order and eaten. The only effect of the order was to deprive the troops of energy. - 1 Samuel 14:24-46

Israel fought against Moab, Ammon, Edom and Zobah, at various places to protect their borders. - 1 Samuel 14:47

AGAG AND THE AMELEKITES

1075 Israel successfully attacks Agag and the Amalekites in south west Palestine to destroy them and their livestock as commanded by God through Samuel in retaliation to hit and run raids by Amalek during the wilderness wanderings many years before. - 1 Samuel 15:1-9, Exodus 17:8-14

Saul defeated the Amalekites slaying most of the people and their animals but left the king Agag and some of the finest sheep and oxen alive. When Samuel inquired as to why Saul had spared the animals he said it was for sacrifice but Samuel said that God desired obedience rather than sacrifice and killed Agag at Gilgal with a sword. Saul therefore had not obeyed the word of the Lord but had listened to his people and was therefore rejected by God.

THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

As a result the Holy Spirit was taken away from Saul. This is a form of discipline, a type of punishment that is not available today as the Holy Spirit is with us forever. - 1 Samuel 16:14

With the rejection of Saul there was a need to find another king. God instructed Samuel to go to Bethlehem and anoint a son of Jesse. As a result David was anointed and the Holy Spirit was given to him. - 1 Samuel 16:13

David became Saul's armour bearer. - 1 Samuel 16:21

Saul was emotionally unstable especially after the withdrawal of the Holy Spirit. He became depressed and sought for a court musician to soothe him during his attacks. David was appointed to the position and was initially a favourite with the king but when David became very popular Saul became jealous and tried to kill David.

David had many talents, a trusted shepherd, musician, poet as shown in the Psalms, an expert in the sling, courageous, a military genius and statesman and above all a great man of God.

DAVID AND GOLIATH

David's prominence in the military field came with the killing of Goliath at the contest between them which occurred between Shohoh and Azekah about 25 kilometres south west of Jerusalem.

Goliath, the giant who stood almost three metres tall was eliminated by a single stone from the sling of David who proceeded to behead the stunned giant.

It is of interest that David picked up five smooth stones, one for each of the giants in the army of the Philistines. He also rejected the offer of Saul's armour showing that he was relying wholly on the provision of God.

After the conflict David was made commander in chief of the army although he was still a young man. From this time Saul's son Jonathan and David formed a lifelong friendship.

SAUL TRIES TO REMOVE DAVID

Saul tried to eliminate David in a number of ways:-

[a] Twice throwing spears at him. - 1 Samuel 18:8-11

[b] In return for the hand of his daughter hand in marriage Saul demanded 100 Philistine foreskins hoping that David would be killed. He gave Saul 200 and married the king's daughter, Michal. - 1 Samuel 18:20-27

[c] Saul then ordered his servants to kill David but the orders were countermanded by Jonathan. - 1 Samuel 19:1-7

[d] Saul again tried unsuccessfully to kill him with a spear and again asked his servants to kill him but Michal assisted David to escape by letting him down from a window. - 1 Samuel 19:8-17

[e] David fled to Samuel at Ramah with three companies of Saul's troops in pursuit to capture him for execution. They did not apprehend him so Saul set off himself but finding David in the company of Samuel praising the Lord and so did not capture him but fell into despair. - 1 Samuel 19:18-24

DAVID THE FUGITIVE

After these attempts on his life David commenced the life of a fugitive having been told by Jonathan of Saul's unremitting hatred for David - 1 Samuel 20:1-42

It was during this time that Saul killed 85 defenceless priests at Nob after the high priest Abimelech had assisted David with provisions and a sword - 1 Samuel 22:6-19

With David no longer in charge of the army the Philistines began to thrust into Israelite territory as illustrated by the attack in Kellah well within the area controlled by Judah and another incursion which is not geographically defined. - 1 Samuel 23:1-5, 27-28

David had two options as a fugitive, to leave the country or to surround himself with an armed bodyguard. Both had their drawbacks. In the first case he might be recognised and killed. In the second he could not muster a strong enough bodyguard to fight Saul's forces.

After provisioning at Nob he went to the Philistine city of Gath to try the foreign alternative but this quickly failed as he was recognised and he had to flee, feigning madness. David then tried the second alternative residing in a cave near Adullan halfway between Gath and Bethlehem where he gathered a protective force of men.

With this group he went to Moab but was soon turned back on the advice of Gad a prophet and returned to Judah. Here he heard from Abiathar the new High Priest and the son of Abimelech about the massacre at Nob.

He was pleased however that Abiathar brought with him the Urim and Thummin as he used these items to ask God regarding his involvement with the defence of Keilah. The Lord told him to go and defend the town and further warned David that they would betray him to Saul so he moved south. - 1 Samuel 23:1-13

David went to Ziklag, a city allocated to Simeon, which had been taken by the Philistines. Here he played a precarious double role of pretending to be a good mercenary of the Philistines while attacking the enemies of the Israelites, the Amalekites and their allies.

After 16 months of this brinkmanship he was rejected by part of the Philistine group when they encamped at Aphek en route for the battle of Mt Gilboa and therefore did not participate.

THE WITCH OF ENDOR

Saul was concerned about the outcome of the battle and sought unsuccessfully for advice from God. - 1 Samuel 28:6

Longing for counsel from the now dead Samuel he broke the Mosaic ordinances and consulted with the witch of Endor. - Leviticus 20:27

Samuel appeared from Paradise and told Saul of the defeat of the morrow much to the terror of the medium. -1 Samuel 28:7-25

THE DEATH OF SAUL

The predictions were fulfilled with three of Saul's sons including Jonathan killed in the battle of Mt Gilboa and Saul seriously wounded. Not wishing to be captured he committed suicide by falling on his sword.

The Philistines hung their bodies on the walls of the city of Bethshan "the house of safety" for public viewing but they were removed at night by the men of Jabesh-gilead who buried them.- 1 Samuel 31:1-13

The bones of Saul and Jonathan were later removed from Jabesh-gilead to Benjamin, Saul's homeland by David. - 2 Samuel 21:12-14

DAVID THE KING

1052 DAVID commenced reigning as king of Judah for seven years with his capital at Hebron while Ishbosheth, Saul's only surviving son reigned over the majority of Israel from Mahanaim to the east of the Jordan. - 2 Samuel 2:3-10

David's reign was one of unification and development of the kingdom leaving a united kingdom to his son Solomon.

A struggle developed between David and Ishbosheth breaking out first with a minor skirmish between Abner from Israel and Joab, the commander of David's forces. The skirmish occurred at Gibeon ten kilometres north east of Jerusalem with Joab triumphant. - 2 Samuel 2-4

At the end of the battle Abner killed Joab's younger brother. Eventually Abner changed sides but was murdered by Joab in revenge.

David meanwhile was attempting to gain the favour of the other tribes and therefore tried to distance himself from the slaying of Abner. With Abner gone two of the officers of the army of Israel killed Ishbosheth and brought his head to David but instead of being rewarded they were executed immediately. - 2 Samuel 4:1-12

1045 David was now made king over all of Israel at the spontaneous request of all the tribes and David was anointed for the third time in his life. - 2 Samuel 5:1-5

THE DEFEAT OF THE PHILISTINES

David's first problem was the Philistines who were still dominating the northern tribes. The Philistines attacked realising that as king of all Israel David could no longer be considered a vassal king. - 2 Samuel 5:17-25

The Philistines in the first battle attacked in the valley of Rephaim in order to reinforce their garrison at Bethlehem thus dividing the country and making it impossible for David to unite the people.

David organised his forces at the cave of Adullam and defeated the enemy at Baal-perazim so completely that the Philistines fled leaving their idols behind. After the battle these images were burnt by David. - 2 Samuel 23:13-17

The Philistines regrouped and tried to attack in a similar way but God instructed David to this time attack the enemy from the rear at a time He would signify by a sound in some nearby balsam trees.

This time David drove the Philistines to Gezer which ended their domination in the land. - 2 Samuel 21:15-22

JERUSALEM AS CAPITAL

Hebron was too far south to act as a capital whilst Shechem was too far north for Judah and Gibeah, Saul's old capital had been destroyed by the Philistines.

David's choice therefore fell on Jerusalem which was still held by the Jebusites. It had the advantage of position as well as a good water supply from the Spring of Gihon. It could also be easily defended.

David captured it apparently without great problems and decided to make it the religious capital as well so he brought the Ark from Kirath-jearim where it had been for seventy years. David however did not transport the Ark as prescribed, using an open cart instead. As a result one of the attendants was struck dead. It took a further three months for it to enter into Jerusalem. - 2 Samuel 6:12-23

David wished to build a Temple but God refused through Nathan the prophet. - 2 Samuel 7:1-17

God told David that he would be a man of war and it would be his son a man of peace who would build it. David accepted this and proceeded to collect a large amount of material to help his son Solomon to eventually construct the first temple which was commenced some four years after David's death. - 2 Samuel 7:18-29

David was also told that a descendant of his, Jesus Christ would rule forever. This is known as the Davidic Covenant. - 2 Samuel 7:16

In contrast with Saul's treatment of the priesthood David now established Abithar and Zadok together with assisting Levites to minister in Jerusalem. - 2 Samuel 8:17

David was able to unite the tribes using a variety of methods:-

[a] He made agreements with people regarding regulations and organisations.

[b] He showed respect for the ark and the priesthood.

[c] He had the ability to work with people and persuade them of his way of thinking.

[d] He was a leader who inspired confidence in others in his ability to guide and rule the country.

[e] Until this time much of the land controlled by the Israelites was the hill country with the Caananites controlling the fertile valleys. David however gained control of the valleys thus adding to the security of the nation and thereby forming a stabilised nation of Israel for the first time in their history.

THE DAVIDIC CONQUEST

David's army rose from the core of 600 to a standing army of 24,000 whose personnel were changed every month creating a trained army of 250,000 men. - 2 Samuel 15:18, 1 Chronicles 27:1-15

He also employed foreign mercenaries who appeared to comprise his personal bodyguard.- 2 Samuel 8:18

David's foreign conquests were:-

[a] Moab. - 2 Samuel 8:2

[b] Edom. - 2 Samuel 8:13-14

These conquests gave him control of the south and east and access to the Gulf of Aquaba an important water trade route.

[c] Damascus, Zobah and Hamath which was an area to the north which gave tribute to David who placed a governor in Damascus. -2 Samuel 8:3-12

[d] Ammon and Zobah. - 2 Samuel 10

It was during this campaign especially in the siege of Rabbah, capital of Ammon, that David committed adultery with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite. - 2 Samuel 11:1-27

With these conquests David's Empire reached it's zenith with most of the area promised to Abraham either in his kingdom, as a vassal state or at least acknowledging his sovereignty. An area it did not contain however was the land of the Sidonians with whom he made a treaty. - 2 Samuel 5:11

Other major events in his reign were:-

[a] His kindness to Mephibosheth. - 2 Samuel 9:1-13

[b] His justice to the Gibeonites. - 2 Samuel 21:1-11

[c] His sin in census taking. - 2 Samuel 24:1-25

ABSALOAM

Because of David's sin there were critical problems in his family towards the end of his reign. One of his sons, Absaloam, revolted against him. - 2 Samuel 15-19

Absaloam was third born to David, his mother being Maacah, a princess of Gesher.

David's eldest son, Ammon was killed by him. - 2 Samuel 13:1-29

The second son Chileab, whose mother was Abigail had apparently died as a child as he is not mentioned again in the Scriptures.

1026 After his murder of Ammon, Absaloam fled to Geshur and stayed there for three years until summonsed back by David. - 2 Samuel 14:25-33

1021 It was however a further two years before David forgave his son and would meet him. Absaloam spent 4 years creating favour with the people, moving through the country by chariot with fifty attendants. - 2 Samuel 15:1-6

1017 Absaloam now went to Hebron where he was anointed king. He then marched against David in Jerusalem causing David, who was surprised by the move, to flee with his bodyguard and a number of servants. - 2 Samuel 15:7-17

When the two high priests Zadok and Abithar tried to follow with the Ark David sent them back together with Heshai his official counsellor to ensure that he received accurate intelligence from Jerusalem. - 2 Samuel 15:18-37

Information from that source enabled him to group his forces at Mahanaim, the former capital of Saul's son and successor Ishbosheth. - 2 Samuel 17:24-29

David won a decisive victory in the battle of "the woods of Ephraim" near Mahanaim, with Absalom, who had become entangled by his hair in a tree, being killed by Joab. His death caused the revolt to collapse and David returned to Jerusalem. - 2 Samuel 18-19:29

Following this another revolt developed under Sheba who called for the northern tribes to secede. This however was resolved without a major battle with Sheba being assassinated in Abel of Bethmaacah. - 2 Samuel 20

SOLOMON CROWNED

1014 SOLOMON was crowned king while David was still alive to eliminate any further attempts at accession by coup d'etat.

This was after a revolt led by Adonijah, the fourth son of David had been put down. - 1 Kings 1:5-9

Solomon was anointed at the spring of Gihon. The shout of acclamation was so loud that it was heard at En-rogel where Adonijah's party had assembled.

As a result Adonijah submitted to Solomon and the revolt was resolved without conflict.

DAVID PREPARES ISRAEL FOR THE NEW KING

David now prepared the nation for the new king in a number of ways:-

[a] He made a public proclamation of Solomon's new position. - 1 Chronicles 28:1-8

[b] He exhorted Solomon to accept the burden of kingship. - 1 Chronicles 28:9-10

[c] He encouraged Solomon to build the Temple. - 1 Chronicles 28:11-21

[d] He spoke encouragingly to the people. - 1 Chronicles 29:1-22

[e] Finally he died and was buried in Jerusalem. 1 Chronicles 29:26-28

1012 Solomon becomes the sole ruler of Israel. After the death of David Adonijah initiated a challenge to Solomon requesting the hand of Abishag the Shunamite who had ministered to David in his old age. - 1 Kings 1:1-4

Seeing this as a threat as the new king inherits the harem of his predecessor 2 Samuel 3:7-8, 12:8, 16:20-22, Solomon had Adonijah killed. He deposed Abiathar the high priest who had followed Adonijah and had Joab, the army commander who had defected, killed even though Joab had sought refuge "at the horns of the altar". - Exodus 21:13-14

As instructed by David he also killed Shimei, who had cursed David as he fled from Jerusalem. - 1 Kings 2:36-46

SOLOMON ASKS FOR WISDOM

These actions firmly consolidated the Empire under his control. Solomon now sacrificed a thousand burnt offerings at the Tabernacle at Gibeon which pleased the Lord who appeared to him in a dream vision inviting Solomon to make a request. Solomon asked for wisdom to which God added graciously riches and honour which was clearly portrayed in his later life as he was richer than any of his contemporaries. - 1 Kings 3:4-28

THE KINGDOM UNDER SOLOMON

To defend his kingdom Solomon completed Jerusalem's walls and fortified a number of key cities:- Hazor, Megeddo, Gezar, Beth-horon and Baalath. -1 Kings 9:15-19

He also employed the chariot on a major scale assembling 1400 together with 12,000 horsemen. - 1 Kings 10:26

His court was large with many officials. He had eventually 700 wives and 300 concubines. - 1 Kings 11:3

Provisions for a sizeable army and court required heavy taxation which became burdensome to the nation. This was a major cause of the division of the kingdom after his death. He conscripted labourers to work for him without wages which caused resentment. Another source of revenue was gifts and foreign tribute. A good example of this was the visit of the Queen of Sheba. - 1 Kings 10:1-13

Solomon also allied himself with powers in the region:

[a] Egypt. - 1 Kings 3:1

[b] Tyre. - 1 Kings 11:1

[c] Sheba. - 1 Kings 10:1-13

THE FIRST TEMPLE

1009 The foundation of the first Temple laid in the 4th year of his reign. - 1 Kings 6:1

1002 The Temple took seven years to complete and was finished in the eleventh year of his reign. - 1 Kings 6:38

It was located on Mt Moriah which was the mountain on which Abraham prepared to offer Isaac being adjacent to David's city but to the north. -Genesis 22:2, 2 Chronicles 3:1

The Temple was twice the size of the Tabernacle being 30 metres long and 10 metres wide. It was divided into two the Holy Place being twice the size of the Holy of Holies.

The Temple was:-

[a] Built of stone but panelled with cedar overlaid with gold.

[b] The Holy of Holies housed the Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat. - 1 Kings 6:23-28

[c] In the Holy Place:-

[1] The Golden Altar. - 1 Kings 7:48

[2] Ten golden Candlesticks, five on each side. - 1 Kings 7:49

[3] One Table of Shewbread. - 1 Kings 7:48

[d] In front of the Holy Place was a porch 10 metres wide and 3 metres deep with two bronze pillars called Jachin and Boaz. -1 Kings 7:15-21

[e] Storage areas were provided three storeys high.-1 Kings 6:5-10

[f] Around this structure was a court in which was found:-

[1] A brazen altar 10 metres square and 3 metres high. -2 Chronicles 4:1

[2] A brazen laver 5 metres across. - 1 Kings 7:23-26

[3] Ten small lavers - 1 Kings 7:27

All these areas were for the priests alone with the surrounding great court for the people at large. - 2 Chronicles 4:9

The dedication took place amid massive offerings of 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep over a seven day period.

SOLOMON'S PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

God again appeared to Solomon promising him blessing if he followed God's commands as his father David had done. - 1 Kings 9:1-9

Solomon however declined and whilst the Empire was maintained he failed to follow God's instructions experimenting in many areas searching for the source of happiness. - 1 Kings 11:1-8

His search included:-

[a] Education. - Ecclesiastes 1:18

[b] Laughter. - Ecclesiastes 2:1-2

[c] Wine. - Ecclesiastes 2:3

[d] Great buildings. - Ecclesiastes 2:4-6

[e] Luxury. - Ecclesiastes 2:7

[f] Music. - Ecclesiastes 2:8

[g] Wealth and possessions. - Ecclesiastes 2:9-11

[h] Children. - Ecclesiastes 2:18-19

[i] Morality. - Ecclesiastes 7:1-15

He found no satisfaction with these and concluded that true happiness was found only in Obedience to the Word of God. - Ecclesiastes 12:13

He also encouraged people to follow the Lord from an early age indicating clearly in Ecclesiastes 12 the inherent problems of old age.

SOLOMON'S DISCIPLINE

God however punished Solomon for his unfaithfulness

[a] In the revolt of Jereboam who was to become the first of the kings of the breakaway ten tribes. - 1 Kings 11:26-40

[b] The revolt of Hadad of Edom who weakened Solomon's hold on the southern extremity of his kingdom. - 1 Kings 11:14-22

[c] The attacks of Rezon of Damascus who lessened Solomon's control to the north. - 1 Kings 11:23-25

Solomon's rule exemplified the effect of disobedience on the life and prosperity of a kingdom in that while he had great prosperity when he commenced his reign this had been frittered away by the time he died.

CONTRASTS BETWEEN DAVID AND SOLOMON'S REIGNS

There were major contrasts between the reigns of David and Solomon:-

[a] David had a humble beginning and was used to hardship whilst Solomon was brought up in luxury.

[b] David was aggressive and personally led his armies whilst Solomon was peaceful and was content to retain the land which his father had won.

[c] David's court was small and austere whilst Solomon's court was large and lavish.

[d] David was a man of the people whilst Solomon was a man of the court.

[e] David was a man of lower taxation whilst Solomon due to his lifestyle required higher taxation.

[f] David was "a man after God's ways" even though he sinned in many areas whilst Solomon after a good start became decadent and eventually came under the discipline of God.

974 Solomon died after reigning over Israel for forty years. - 1 Kings 11: 42-43

SECTION 8 - THE DIVIDED KINGDOM - 973 - 606 BC

FRAMEWORK

This area represents problems for those involved in chronology. Prior to examining this period by event there is a need for a framework or structure to show how the kings of Samaria and Judah relate mainly in the books of Kings and Chronicles.

As stated in section 1 the extent of this period is taken from the start of Desolations on the 10th Tebeth 589 BC to the start of Israel's sin of 390 biblical years at the division of the Jews after the reign of Solomon. - Ezekiel 4:5

This gives a starting date of the Divided Kingdom of 973 BC in conformity with Ussher. This will be the dating used in this section, a system used by C.I.Schofeild in his reference Bible.

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

After the reign of Solomon the kingdom divided into two, the kingdom of Judah which comprised the tribes of Judah and Benjamin and the kingdom of Israel or Samaria to which the remaining tribes adhered.

Judah continued as a kingdom until the Babylonian captivity which was completed in the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC.

The kingdom of Samaria was eventually destroyed and its inhabitants taken into captivity by the Assyrians in 721 BC.

973 REHOBOAM becomes king of Judah. As a son of Solomon he was the legitimate successor to the kingship of the unified kingdom. He was the son of Solomon and an Ammonite princess Naamah. - 1 Kings 4:21

Rehoboam neglected his father's advisers and therefore sped up the process of division of the tribes which had been restrained by the government of Solomon. Instead of forcing submission by military means Rehoboam was advised by Shemaiah to fortify the cities against the Egyptians. -2 Chronicles 11:1-12.

Resistance was useless against Pharaoh Shishak who after overcoming the fortress marched into Jerusalem Rehoboam had to purchase his release by giving up the treasure accumulated by Solomon including the golden shields. After this setback the rest of his reign was a comparatively peaceful one.

JEROBOAM the son of Nebat chosen by the people becomes king of Israel. He was from the tribe of Ephraim which is sometimes used as an alternative name for the northern kingdom. - 1 Kings 12:20

Jeroboam was obliged to flee to Egypt as a young man for plotting against Solomon even though Solomon had given him an office of honour and profit. He found asylum in Egypt from Pharaoh Shishak successor of the father in law of Solomon who also received Hadad another enemy of Solomon. - 1 Kings 11:26-40

On the death of Solomon, Jeroboam hastened to fulfil the prophecy of Ahijah in forming a kingdom of the 10 tribes. He made haste to change the religion of the people in order to separate them more clearly from Jerusalem and set up calf worship in Bethel and Dan as well as altering the times for celebrating the feasts. While Jeroboam was at Bethel burning incense at the altar in a false ritual his hand became withered and was not restored until a man of God prayed for its restoration at the request of the king. His political policy was unsound and did not perpetuate itself. He warred constantly against Judah.-1 Kings 13:4

955 ABIJAM the son of Rehoboam inherits the throne of Judah, and reigned for only 3 years. - 1 Chronicles 3:10., 1 Kings 15:1

He followed the idolatries of his father. Abijam however was successful, with God's help, in overcoming the numerically stronger army of Jeroboam. - 1 Kings 15:3,4

953 Battle of Mt Zemeraim in which Judah defeated Israel to regain territory. -2 Chronicles 13:13-19

His oration before the battle condemned the apostasy of the northern kingdom and affirmed the divine sanction to the Davidic dynasty and the worship offered at the Temple in Jerusalem. - 2 Chronicles 13:4-12

952 ASA the son of Abijam succeeded to the throne of Judah. He is said to have walked in the steps of his father David and reigned for 41 years. - 1 Kings 15:11

He was one of only eight of the nineteen kings of Judah who were said to be good in God's sight which is markedly better than the kings of Israel where none were so recorded. He began his reign with partial reformation abolishing cult prostitution and courageously deposing the queen mother Maacah whose image of the goddess Asherah he destroyed. - 1 Kings 15:12-13

High places of purely pagan origin he destroyed whilst others were allowed to remain. - 2 Chronicles 14:3; 15:17.

Asa had a great victory over the vast army of Zerah the Ethiopian, however later he sought help from Syria against the military threat of Baasha king of Israel. This was an act of unbelief and received a prophetic censure. - 2 Chronicles 16:7

951 NADAB son of Jeroboam inherits the throne of Israel and laid siege to Gibbethon, a city belonging to Dan which was designated as a Levitical city, and was at this time held by the Philistines. - Joshua 19:40 , 21:23

During this siege Nadab was killed by his successor Baasha. - 1 Kings 15:25-27

947 Battle of Gibbethon where Israel failed to gain back lost territory from the Philistines. - 1 Kings 15:27

BAASHA becomes king of Israel and was the founder of the second brief dynasty of Israel. Following the death of Nadab he exterminated the entire house of Jeroboam fulfilling the prophecy of Ahijah. - 1 Kings 15:29

Active hostility towards Judah continued throughout his 24 year reign. - 1 Kings 15:32

His provocative action of fortifying Ramah, 6 km north of Jerusalem caused Asa to seek Syrian help. Baasha continued the religious policy of Jeroboam which earned him a stern prophetic rebuke. - 1 Kings 16:1-4

938 Battle of Mareshah where Judah repels an Ethiopian army. - 2 Chronicles 14:9

933 Battle of Ramah where Judah defeats Israel who had sought to gain control of a route north.-1 Kings 15:16-21

924 ELAH son of Baasha inherited the throne of Israel in the 26th year of Asa of Judah. - 1 Kings 16:8

Even though his reign was short he demonstrated adherence to his father's religious policy in defiance of the prophecy of Jehu. He however did not inherit Baasha's drive and leadership. Elah was assassinated by Zimri during a drunken orgy in the house of Arza his steward. - 1 Kings 16:9

923 ZIMRI reigns over Israel from Tirzah for only one week before he himself died. In this time however he had killed all of the house of Baasha. His coup d'etat however lacked popular support, the majority of the army following Omri who was proclaimed king. - 1 Kings 16:16

Omri laid siege to Tirzah and when the city fell Zimri burnt down the palace over his own head. - 1 Kings 16:18

OMRI proclaimed as king of Israel by the army reigned for nine years. - 1 Kings 16:16

For 4 years further opposition came from Tibni before he was defeated and killed. Omri chose the hill of Samaria as the new capital of Israel. The beautiful site's strategic position enabled the kingdom of Israel to repulse sieges by both Syria and Assyria. - 1 Kings 16:24

In open battles however he was less successful with Damascus and had to cede certain cities to the Syrians. To strengthen his position he married his son Ahab to Jezebel the daughter of the king of the Zidonians a union that had bitter consequences. - 1 Kings 16:31

During his reign Moab was completely subdued. This is confirmed by inscriptions on the Moabite stone found by Rev.F.Klein, a German missionary in August 1868 AD. Assyrian inscriptions from this time also call Israel "the land of the house of Omri. Omri is said to have done evil in the sight of the Lord however at his death he handed over a peaceful kingdom to his son Ahab.

914 AHAB son of Omri inherits the throne of Israel and ruled for some 20 years. - 1 Kings 16:28 - 29, 22:39

He fortified the cities of Israel and expanded the city of Samaria, adorning his palace with ivory. - 1 Kings 16:34; 21:1

Throughout the reign there were frequent battles with Syria from which Israel emerged as victors. Eventually Syria and Israel combined to resist Assyria. Economic ties with Phoenician ports were maintained through his marriage.

ELIJAH "Jehovah is God" the prophet, appeared in the northern kingdom to challenge apostate Ahab who through his wife Jezebel had formally introduced the worship of pagan gods into Israel. - 1 Kings 17:1

The narratives of Elijah are written in the type of pure Hebrew typical of the 9th century B.C.

His ministry is divided into six sections all of which with the exception of the last relate to the clash between with worship of God and Baal, the protective deity of Tyre where Jezebel had come from.:-

[a] Prediction of drought and his subsequent flight to Cherith. - 1 Kings 17

[b] The contest at Mount Carmel. - 1 Kings 18

[c] The flight to Horeb. - 1 Kings 19

[d] The Naboth incident. - 1 Kings 21

[e] The oracle about Ahaziah. - 2 Kings 1

[f] His translation. - 2 Kings 2

The following miracles occurred during his ministry:-

[a] A severe drought for 3 years in Israel. - 1 Kings 17:1

[b] He is fed by the ravens at brook Cherith. - 1 Kings 17:6

[c] The provision of oil and flour at Zarephath. - 1 Kings 17:14

[d] The raising of the widow's son at Zarephath. - 1 Kings 17:19-23

[e] The burning of the sacrifice at Mt Carmel. - 1 Kings 18:30 - 38

[f] He was fed in the wilderness - 1 Kings 19:5-7

[g] After two meals he walked for forty days and nights 1 Kings 19:8

[h] The burning of the captains and their companies. - 2 Kings 1:20

[i] The dividing of the Jordan. - 2 Kings 2:7

[j] The chariot of fire and whirlwind. - 2 Kings 2:11

Elijah with Moses appeared at the Mount of Transfiguration. - Mark 9:4

He also appears as one of the two witnesses in the Tribulation period prior to the Second Advent of Christ. - Revelation 11:6 cf 1 Kings 17:1

JEZEBEL collected a large number of false prophets and instituted an active anti Jehovah campaign. - 1 Kings 18:4,19

True prophets were killed, the Lord's altars torn down and Elijah fled for his life. One hundred prophets were however hidden by Obadiah, Ahab's godly minister. - 1 Kings 18:3

The false trial of Naboth and his subsequent death caused Elijah to oppose Ahab again with God vindicating his stand at Carmel where the sacrifice was burnt and the prophets of Baal killed. - 1 Kings 21:1

Elijah prophesied the fate of Ahab, his wife and dynasty. - 1 Kings 21:20 -29

Ahab although warned as a consequence entered the final battle in disguise. He was mortally wounded by a random arrow and was buried at Samaria. - 1 Kings 22:30-34

911 JEHOSHAPHAT son of Asa ascended the throne of Judah at the age of 35 and reigned for 25 years. - 1 Kings 15:24

He walked in the ways of his father David seeking God and rejecting Baal. He took away the high places and groves out of Israel. Jehoshaphat sent out teachers of the Scriptures, set up a fair justice system in the various cities and a supreme court to hear appeals. He built castles and storage cities.

The army of Judah was reformed into five sections and due to its power surrounding countries became subject to them. He made an alliance with the idolatrous kingdom of Israel and married his son Jehoram to Ahab's daughter Athaliah.

Jehoshaphet and his army were miraculously saved in the desert at the request of the prophet of God. His close relationship with the prophet indicates the high spiritual level to which he had attained. Jehoshaphat appointed his son Jehoram as his successor.- 2 Chronicles 21:3, 2 Kings 3

893 AHAZIAH son of Ahab succeeds as king of Israel but only reigns for two years. He followed the idolatry of his father worshipping Baal. - 1 Kings 22:51

Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab. Ahaziah fell in his palace and was mortally wounded. - 2 Kings 1:1-2

889 ELISHA "God is salvation" follows his mentor Elijah and eventually accepts his mantle. His ministry covered over 50 years.

His ministry is divided into a number of sections:-

[a] Elisha invested with Elijah's prophetic mantle. - 1 Kings 19:19-21

[b] He takes up the ministry with a double portion of the spirit. -2 Kings 2:1-18

[c] The healing of the injurious waters. - 2 Kings 2:19-22

[d] Judgment of the mockers who wanted him also to go up, [disappear]just like Elijah. Bethel was in golden calf country. This shows the attitude to their parents. - 2 Kings 2:23-25

[e] The campaign against Moab. - 2 Kings 3:1-27

[f] The Shunamite woman where he helped a widow of a prophet. -2 Kings 4: 1-37

[g] Meeting of the prophets at Gilgal. - 2 Kings 4:38-44

[h] The Naaman story. - 2 Kings 5: 1-27

[i] Miracles and discourses with kings

The following miracles occurred during his ministry:-

[a] The dividing of the Jordan - 2 Kings 2:14

[b] Cure of the waters of Jericho. - 2 Kings 2:21

[c] Destruction of the mocking children at Bethel - 2 Kings 2:24

[d] Supply of water to the allied armies in Moab. - 2 Kings 3:16

[e] Increase of the widow's oil.- 2 Kings 4:2

[f] Raising of the Shunammite's son. - 2 Kings 4:32

[g] Healing the deadly pottage. - 2 Kings 4:38

[h] Feeding 100 men with 20 loaves. - 2 Kings 4:42

[i] Cure of Naaman's leprosy. - 2 Kings 5:10

[j] Making an iron axe float. - 2 Kings 6:6

[k] Smiting the Syrian army. - 2 Kings 6:18 cf Genesis 19:11

[l] Resurrection of a dead man by touching Elisha's bones. -2 Kings 13:21

He appears to have been about 80 years old when he died after the accession of Jehoash.

887 OBADIAH the prophet was the first of the writing prophets

The Book of Obadiah can be divided as follows:-

[a] Edom's humiliation. - 1:1-9

[b] The crowning sin of Edom. - 1:10-14

[c] The future visitation of Edom in the Day of the Lord. - 1:15-16

[d] The inclusion of Edom in the future kingdom. - 1:17-21

Battle of Samaria where Israel repels invading Syria. - 1 Kings 20:1

Battle of Aphek where Israel pursues Syria out of the northern kingdom. -1 Kings 20:26

Battle of Qargar where Israel defeats the Assyrians who have invaded Samaria under Shalmaneser III.

Battle of Ramoth-gilead where Syria defeated Judah who were trying to regain control of a captured city. - 1 Kings 22:29, 2 Chronicles 18:28

Battle of En-gedi where Judah defeated a confederacy of Edom, Moab and Ammon who were attempting to conquer Judah - 2 Chronicles 20:1

886 JEHORAM the son of Jehoshaphat commences reigning over Judah. He reigned for eight years and was an evil king. - 2 Kings 3:1

He murdered his six brothers and with the help of his wife Athaliah revived Baal worship in Judah. The latter part of his reign was a series of national calamities with two successful instances of revolt against his rule those of Edom and Libnah.-2 Kings 8:20-22

Jehoram died a gruesome death with a fearful disease of the intestines in accordance with the warning from Elijah. - 2 Chronicles 21:12-15, 18-20

881 Siege of Samaria where Israel repulses the Syrians who were trying to conquer the northern kingdom. - 2 Kings 6:24

878 Another calamity which Jehoram suffered was the battle of Jerusalem where the Philistines and Arabians successfully plundered the city. -2 Chronicles 21:16-17

877 JEHU son of Nimshi becomes king of Israel.

Battle of Ramoth-gilead where the Syrians retrieved the city from Israel.- 2 Kings 8:28

AHAZIAH son of Jehoram reigned for less than a year and was greatly influenced by Athaliah. - 2 Chronicles 22:3.

He joined Jehoram king of Israel at the battle of Ramoth in which Jehoram was injured. Ahaziah went to Jezreel to see Jehoram and was caught up with his overthrow by Jehu who had been ordained by God to eliminate the house of Ahab. Ahaziah was captured in Samaria and killed by Jehu.

Following the death of Ahaziah the widowed ATHALIAH destroyed all her grandchildren, except Jehoash who was taken by his aunt, so that she could usurp the throne. She was the only woman in history to usurp the Davidic throne. She reigned for six years. In the sixth year young Joash was crowned king and Jehoida, the High Priest ordered Athaliah's execution which was promptly carried out by her guards. Scripture characterises her as a wicked woman. - 2 Chronicles 24: 7

870 JOEL the prophet who from his literary style came from a Judean background. His book which is one of the briefest yet one of the most disturbing books of the O.T.

The Book of Joel can be divided as follows:-

[a] The appalling devastations of successive plagues of locusts, literal enough, yet symbolising deeper meanings. - 1:1-12

[b] Renewed fruitfulness of the land on the repentance of Israel. -1:13-2:27

[c] The gift of the Spirit. - 2:28-32

[d] Final judgments on the nations which have wronged Israel and the blessing on the land of Judah. - 3:1-21

JEHOASH or JOASH ascended the throne of Judah at the age of seven .Joash led his people back to worship God except that some of the pagan high places were not removed. He had evil advisers he allowed the revival of the worship of Baal and Ashtaroth. After an invasion by Hazael, king of Syria who carried off a great haul of treasure Joash was murdered in his bed by his servants. - 2 Chronicles 23:1-15, 2 Kings 11:4-16

849 JEHOAHAZ son of Jehu inherits the throne of Israel and reigns for sixteen years. During his reign Israel became further dominated by Hazael and seeking help from God against the Syrian king he was given a deliverer. - 1 Kings 13:5.

The deliverer was the Assyrian king Adad-nirari III who crushed Damascus. As a result of the Assyrian campaign Israel together with Tyre, Sidon, Edom and Philistia were forced to pay tribute to the Assyrians.

833 JEHOASH son of Jehoahaz now inherited the throne of Israel. During his reign Israel made progress towards recovery. He was promised an improvement in the military position by the now ageing Elisha. He was able to recover all the cities that had been taken by Damascus and was strong enough to resist the attack of Amaziah. - 2 Kings 13:25, 14:8-14.

831 During a campaign Hazael king of Syria subjugated a number of cities in Judah. 2 Kings 12:18

AMAZIAH the son of Joash commenced reigning in Judah. He ascended the throne at the age of 25 and reigned 29 years. He was the first king to hire mercenaries to man his army. He conquered Edom and carried home the idols for worship. This act caused his downfall and Amaziah was killed by conspirators at Lachish.

825 Battle of Beth-shemesh where Israel repulsed a revenge foray by Judah. - 2 Chronicles 25:17-24

817 JONAH "dove" the prophet, came from Gath -heper, a town in Zebulun located near Nazareth. He predicted the territorial expansion achieved by Jereboam II at the expense of Syria. - 2 Kings 14:25

His ministry to Assyria probably occurred when the fortunes of that empire were at a low point before the accession of the Assyrian king Tiglath - Pileser II.

After the false start and encounter with the large fish his ministry in Nineveh was very successful with mass conversions which revived the Assyrian Empire until 612 when it was destroyed by the destroyed.

After 23 years Jehoida, the high priest died Jonah remained in Nineveh after this incident and became a famous citizen as indicated by the tomb that they built in the city at his death.

The book of Jonah can be divided as follows:-

[a] Disobedience to God's plan - Chapter 1

[b] Thanksgiving from inside the great fish.- Chapter 2

[c] The journey to Nineveh and the repentance of the Assyrians.- Chapter 3

[d] Jonah's anger and the teaching of the gourd. - Chapter 4

Battle of the Valley of Salt where Judah defeated Edom and gained ascendancy over them. - 2 Kings 14:7

816 JEROBOAM II son of Jehoash commences reigning in Israel and proved to be one of the most capable of the rulers of Israel with the nation being among the most prominent along the Mediterranean coast. He expanded the nation in the north and east to conform with Solomon's boundaries. - 1 Kings 8:65 of 2 Kings 14:25

Three factors contributed to this:-

[a] The decline of Damascus as a result of the Assyrian attack.

[b] The defeat of Judah by his father.

[c] Assyria being under threat from the east prevented them interfering in the west.

802 UZZIAH who had been co-regent with his father Amaziah for a number of years reigned in his own right until 759. He was one of the most energetic and successful kings, rebuilding Elath and making improvements to Jerusalem's defences as well as securing new water supplies.

Uzziah however erred seriously when he offered incense in the Holy Place which resulted in him being afflicted with leprosy so that for the rest of his life was unable to fully function as the king. - 2 Chronicles 26:16

A major earthquake was also recorded in his reign. - Zechariah 14:5

776 AMOS the prophet was a native of Tekoa some 16 km south of Jerusalem. He was both a shepherd and fig farmer with no formal training in the prophetic schools. He ministered during the reign of Uzziah.

Amos gave a series of five visions of judgment:-

[a] Locusts. - 7:1-3

[b] Fire. - 7:4-6

[c] A plumbline. - 7:7-9

[d] Summer fruit. - 8:1-14

[e] A smitten sanctuary. - 9:1-10

The Book of Amos can be divided as follows:-

[a] Judgment on the cities surrounding Judah and Ephraim. - 1:1-2:3

[b] Judgments on Judah and Israel. - 2:4-16

[c] Jehovah's controversy with the whole family of Jacob. - 3:1-9:10

[d] The future glory of the Davidic Kingdom. - 9:11-15

771 HOSEA the prophet commences his ministry which covered a period of some 40 years. He was apparently a citizen of the Northern kingdom with his prophecy addressed to Israel. After years of prosperity reflected in the prophecy of Amos decline set in after the death of Jeroboam II in 775.

Hosea's prophecy of decline and ultimate destruction were generally ignored as indicated in the 4th and 5th chapters with his final warnings coming shortly before the destruction of Samaria. - Hosea 13:1-16

The Book of Hosea can be divided as follows:-

[a] The dishonourable wife. Hosea was ordered to marry a harlot to symbolise the relationship between God and unfaithful Israel. - 1:1-3:5

[b] The sinful people. - 4:1-14:3

[c] Ultimate blessing and glory of Israel. - 14:4 - 9

764 ZACHARIAH the son of Jeroboam II inherits the throne of Israel but only reigned for a year before being assassinated by Shalum. He continued the false worship at Dan and Bethel. - 2 Kings 15:8-12

763 SHALUM son of Jabesh assumes kingship over Israel but only reigns for one month before being assassinated. He was succeeded by Menahem the son of Gadi. - 2 Kings 15:13

During MENAHEM's reign the power of Assyria was again felt with the brilliant ruler Tiglath - Pileser III on the throne who dealt with the Urartu on his northern border before turning towards the west. and extracting tribute from Israel. - 2 Kings 15:19-20.

PEKAH the son of Remaliah during this time of instability had control over the area of Trans Jordan during the reigns of Menahem and his son Pekahiah. Pekah rules Israel in his own right from 740 to 732 BC.

759 JOTHAM the son of Uzziah began to reign as co-regent when his father became a leper and was sole monarch from 751 until 743. - 2 Kings 15:5

Jotham who feared God built the high gate of the Temple, fortified and extended the land of Judah and subdued the Ammonites. - 2 Chronicles 27:3

751 ISAIAH "Jehovah is salvation" the prophet commenced his ministry. He lived in Jerusalem and was called to be a prophet in the year that Uzziah died. - Isaiah 6:1

His last recorded appearance was during the Sennacherib siege of Jerusalem during the reign of Hezekiah although he may have lived into the reign of Mannaseh. He was married and it is believed he may have been martyred.

His book contains many prophecies and is divided as follows:-

[a] Prophecies relating to his own time

[1] Introduction. - 1:1-31

[2] Prophecies from his earliest period. - 2:1-5:30

[3] His inaugural vision. - 6:1-13

[4] The present world empires and the coming kingdom of God 7:1-12:6

[5] Prophecies relating to foreign nations. - 13:1-23:18

[6] The apocalypse of Isaiah. - 24:1-27:13

[7] Zion's sin, Assyria's downfall, Egypt's vain help. - 28:1-33:24

[8] A twofold future. - 34:1-35:10

[b] Historical chapters

[1] Sennacherib's invasion. - 36:1-37:38

[2] Hezekiah's sickness and recovery. - 38:1-22

[3] Mission of Merodach-baladan. - 39:1-8

[c] Prophecies of the Babylonian Captivity

[1] Introduction. - 40:1-31

[2] Prophecies in which Cyrus is conspicuous. - 41:1- 48:22

[3] Restoration of Zion and the suffering Saviour. 49:1-54:17

[4] Exhortation to accept the promises by faith. - 55:1-13

[d] Various prophecies of different types. - 56:1-66:24

748 MICAH "who is like Jehovah" the prophet commenced his ministry which continued to 700 BC. He came from Judah and ministered during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah.

The book of Micah can be divided as follows:-

[a] The coming judgment upon Israel. - 1:1-1:16

[b] Israel to be punished then restored. - 2:1-2:13

[c] Condemnation of the princes and prophets. - 3:1-12

[d] The coming glory and peace to Jerusalem. - 4:1-13

[e] The suffering and restoration of Zion. - 5:1-15

[f] Prophetic and popular religion contrasted. - 6:1-16

[g] Corruption of society and conclusion. - 7:1-20

743 AHAAZ the son of Jotham ascended the throne of Judah on the death of his father. Early in his reign Pekah who was reigning in part of Israel attempted to create an alliance with Judah and Rezin, king of Syria against the Assyrians. - 2 Kings 16: 5

When Ahaz refused Pekah attacked Judah. Rather than trust God as Isaiah advised, Ahaz relied on the Assyrians, starting a century of vassalage by Judah to that empire. It was to Ahaz that Isaiah gave the sign "*Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son*". - Isaiah 7:14

The Philistines and Edomites took advantage of Judah's weakness to make hostile incursions which were seen as Divine judgment on Ahaz for his flagrant apostasy. Ahaz's reign terminated in 727.

742 PEKAHIAH the son of Menahem inherits the kingship of Israel but only reigns until 740 - 2 Kings 15:23

734 Tiglath Pileser III returned to Israel at the request of Ahaz, king of Judah who had been besieged in Jerusalem by Pekah. - 2 Chronicles 28:5-8, 16 Isaiah 7:1

732 HOSHEA killed Pekah and instituted Israel's ninth and last royal family. This is in stark contrast with the nation of Judah whose lineage involving the line of Christ was continuous. Hoshea was left with only the hill country west of the Jordan as the Assyrians had annexed the rest of the country. He rebelled against the Assyrians making a pact with the Egyptians.

Shalmaneser V , the Assyrian king marched on Israel in 724 BC and Hoshea was captured. Samaria, the capital of Israel fell after a two year siege with the survivors going into captivity.- 2 Kings 17:3-6. The Israelites who remained were mixed with immigrants resulting in inter marriage whose descendants became the Samaritans. - 2 Kings 17:24-28.

The Assyrians conquered Damascus executing the king of Damascus, Razin.

728 HEZEKIAH the son of Ahaz commenced ruling as sole monarch having been co-regent since 740. His reign finished in 698. He destroyed the images of idol worship, even the brazen serpent which had been preserved as a relic from the journey in the Wilderness. Having repaired the temple he held a solemn assembly on the Passover. - 2 Chronicles 30:23

During his reign, when he was very ill and under the sin unto death the Lord gave him the sign of the sun returning 10 degrees at Ahaz's sundial. - 2 Kings 20:9

Hezekiah had a lot of problems from Sennacherib who set siege to Jerusalem demanding unconditional surrender. Isaiah encouraged Hezekiah to resist even though all the rest of the fortifications in Judah had been captured. He safeguarded Jerusalem's water supply by the construction of the Siloam tunnel. - 2 Kings 20:20

Humbling himself before God Jerusalem was miraculously saved by the destruction by God of the Assyrian army, when in 701 BC 185,000 Assyrian soldiers were killed by the Lord. - 2 Kings 19:35

While Hezekiah was sometimes doubtlessly too dominated by political advisers, his devotion to God was great.. - 2 Kings 18: 5

721 The complete conquest of the northern kingdom of Israel and it's dispersion by the Assyrian empire.

698 MANASSAH had been co-regent with his father Hezekiah since 707 assumed sole rulership over Judah in this year, reigning until 642, the longest reign of any of the Kings of Judah. - 2 Kings 21:1

His reign was a time of spiritual decline caused by terror of Assyria and a fascination of her cults. This resulted in a combination of worship of Baal, Astarte, astral worship and spiritism. Any who resisted were killed with Isaiah being one of his victims.

Manassah was also involved in a revolt against Assyria and was deported to Babylon where he repented and was eventually released. On his return he removed the cultic items and re established true worship in the Temple - 2 Chronicles 33:10,15-16

650 NAHUM the prophet from Elkosh ministered between the fall of Thebes and that of Nineveh.

The book of Nahum falls into three sections

[a] God's judgment. - 1:1-15

[b] The siege and sack of Nineveh. - 2:1-13

[c] Compares Nineveh with Thebes. - 3:1-19

642 AMON the son of Manasseh became king of Judah on the death of his father but only reigned for two years until he was assassinated in his own house. - 2 Kings 21:19 -23

Amon confirmed the spiritual decline of Judah by his complete acceptance of the gross idolatry of the earlier years of Manasseh's reign.

640 JOSIAH the son of Amon was placed on the throne of Judah at the age of 8 by the people of the land who had killed his father's assassins. He reigned until 609. - 2 Kings 21:24

He was an excellent king who instituted a programme of reform which fell into 4 stages:-

[a] His personal rejection of the corrupt religious practices of the reigns of Manassah and Amon which occurred in the 8th year of his reign 633 BC It is probably of interest that the last great king of Assyria, Ashurbanipal died in this year reducing the pressure on Judah to conform with Assyrian religion.

[b] In 628 the momentum of reform gathered pace and spread to Jerusalem and beyond. In the next year Jeremiah was called as a prophet.

[c] The discovery of the law-book in 621 gave increased impetus to reform.

[d] All the high places were destroyed not only in the kingdom of Judah but also as far as Naphtali in Galilee. In particular he fulfilled the prophecy concerning the high place at Bethel where Jeroboam the first king of Israel had introduced his paganism. - 2 Kings 23:15

The celebration of the Passover which followed these reforms out-rivalled that of his great grandfather Hezekiah a century before, being without parallel since the days of Samuel. - 2 Chronicles 35:18

Unfortunately these reforms did not change the attitude of the people to a major extent as they reverted back to idolatry soon after Josiah's death.

Josiah died at the battle of Megiddo in 609 when he opposed Pharaoh Necho II who was heading north to assist the Assyrians at Haran. Thus died Judah's godliest king. - 2 Kings 23:25

638 ZEPHANIAH "Jehovah has hidden" was a prophet who was born during the reign of Manassah and prophesied during the reign of Josiah.

The Book of Zephaniah can be divided as follows:-

[a] Warning of the "day of Jehovah".-1:1-2:3

[b] Judgment on foreign nations. - 2:4-15

[c] Judgment on Jerusalem and subsequent blessing. - 3:1-20

629 JEREMIAH "Jehovah exalts", the prophet, was born into the priestly family of Hilkiyah in Anathoth a Levite city in Benjamin. He was called to a prophetic ministry in this year and continued until 580 BC. He worked under the last five kings of Judah until the 11th year of Zedekiah. - Jeremiah 1:1-3

The prophet's voice had not been silent in Jerusalem but they mocked him. He had provided a voice for 40 years which was stated in Ezekiel 4:6. - 2 Chronicles 36:15,16

After Josiah the kings were bad and Jeremiah criticised them.

They in return:-

[a] Persecuted him. - Jeremiah 12:6

[b] Plotted against him. - Jeremiah 18:18

[c] Imprisoned him. - Jeremiah 20:2

[d] Declared him worthy of death. - Jeremiah 26:10

[e] Destroyed his written prophecies. - Jeremiah 36:27

Despite this Jeremiah continued to intercede for the nation even though he predicted it's destruction and lamented over the things that were to come. - Jeremiah 14:17

Jeremiah foretold an exile of 70 years and a future restoration. - Jeremiah 32:36-44

The Book of Jeremiah can be divided as follows:-

[a] From the prophet's call to his message to the first captives. - 1:1-29:32

[b] Various prophecies. - 30:1-36:32

[c] From the accession to the captivity of Zedekiah. - 37:1-39:18

[d] Jeremiah's prophecies in the land after the final captivity of Judah. - 40:1-42:22

[e] The prophet in Egypt. - 43:1-44:30

[f] Prophecies. - 45:1-52:34

626 HABAKKUK of whom nothing is known is alone of the prophets in being more concerned that the holiness of Jehovah should be vindicated rather than that Israel escape punishment. The Book of Habakkuk can be divided as follows:-

[a] Perplexity in view of the sins of Israel and the silence of God . - 1:1-4

[b] Jehovah's answer. - 1:5-11

[c] Habakkuk's testimony to Jehovah. - 1:12-2:1

[d] Habakkuk's vision. - 2:2-20

[e] Habakkuk's answer of faith . - 3:1-19

609 JEHOAHAZ was anointed king of Judah on the death of his father Josiah at the battle of Megiddo.

He only reigned for 3 months before being deposed by Pharaoh Necho who took him back to Egypt where he died.

The public mourning for Josiah had scarcely ended before Pharaoh Necho arrived at Jerusalem to extract a great tribute and replaced him with his older brother Jehoiakim. Jehoahaz was taken to Egypt where he died in conformity with Jeremiah's prophecy. - 2 Kings 23:30-35, Jeremiah 22:11-12.

JEHOIAKIM reigned until 598. To pay the Egyptian taxes he imposed heavy land taxes. Jehoiakim was therefore considered an oppressive and covetous ruler. After the Babylonians defeated the Egyptians at the state battle of Carchemish in 606 Judah became a vassal of the Chaldean empire.

Hoping to be delivered he joined with Egypt in a revolt against Nebuchadnezzar who sent an army to besiege Jerusalem. Some 3 month's before the city fell he died at the age of 36 in 598 BC. - 2 Kings 23:34 - 24:7, 2 Chronicles 36:4-8 .

SECTION 9 - THE EXILE - 606-538 BC

INTRODUCTION

The exile in Babylon occurred in a number of ways in varying time frames. They can be classified as :-

[a] The Servitude to Babylon. - 606 - 536 BC

[b] The Captivity to Babylon. - 597 - 536 BC

[c] The Desolations. - 589 - 520 BC

[d] The lack of a Temple 586 - 516 BC

The exile to Babylon occurred in three waves.

[a] The removal of members of the royal house such as Daniel in 606 BC.

[b] The leading citizens including Ezekiel were transported to Babylon in 598 BC. This system had been copied from the Assyrians and minimised the chance of rebellion as it took the rest of the leadership from the country.

[c] The balance of the Jews in 586 BC.

Judah now became a province of the empire and Gedaliah was appointed governor - 2 Kings 25:22.

Jerusalem was destroyed and Mizpah was made the capital of Judah. The poor of the land was left to till the soil. - 2 Kings 25:12

Many cities were destroyed in Judah in 586 and the population severely depleted. Gedaliah was assassinated in Mizpah by Ishmael with the backing of Bactis the King of Ammon. - 2 Kings 25:23-26, Jeremiah 40:14.

Jeremiah had been left in the land and in the days after this assassination received word from God that the Babylonians would retaliate. He specifically told them not to go to Egypt but they did not believe him.. They went in large numbers into Egypt including Jeremiah and gradually scattered among the Egyptian cities. - Jeremiah 42:1 - 43:3.

THE SERVITUDE

606 Because of national sin, Judah was brought under servitude to Babylon for 70 years as from the third year of king Jehoiakim. The Servitude commenced with Nebuchadnezzar as the crown prince. Daniel and members of the royal family were transferred to Babylon at this time. - Daniel 1:1,2

This period ended in 536 when Cyrus the Persian issued an edict which released the Jews to return to Jerusalem. A period of 70 years had elapsed.

605 NEBUCHADNEZZER succeeds to the throne of Neo-Babylonia. He ruled over the Empire until 562 B.C.

DANIEL the prophet commenced his ministry which continued to 530 BC. He was born to Judean nobility. - Daniel 1:3-6

Daniel was taken to Babylon he was given the name Belteshazzar effectively changing his name from "God's Judge" to "Zeus". Likewise his fellow captives Hannaniah, Mihael and Azaraih were renamed Shadrach, Meshech and Abednego all gods of the Babylonian pantheon, a technique to try and sever these young men from their national roots. He and his fellow students were taught the wisdom of the Babylonians and out performed all the other students. - Daniel 1:20

Daniel gained a reputation as an interpreter of other men's dreams and then his own which predicted the future of empires. Renowned for his wisdom he occupied leading government posts under Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar and Darius.

Daniel was quoted by Jesus in regard to the future erection of the "Abomination of Desolations". It is said that Daniel died in Susa. It is known that he lived at least 73 years in captivity and thus died at a full age.

The Book of Daniel can be divided as follows:-

- [a] Daniel and his friends come to prominence in Babylon. - 1:1-21
- [b] Nebuchadnezzar's dream recalled and interpreted . - 2:1-49
- [c] Daniel's friends and the image worship on the plain of Dura and the fiery furnace. - 3:1-30
- [d] A vision of a future illness for the king. - 4:1-37
- [e] The writing on the wall and the fall of Babylon . - 5:1-31
- [f] Daniel in the lion's den . - 6:1-28
- [g] A vision of the four beasts and their meaning . - 7:1-28
- [h] A vision of future kingdoms - 8:1-27
- [i] Prayer followed by a vision of the coming of the Messiah. - 9:1-27
- [j] Introduction to the prophecies of chapters 11 and 12. - 10:1-21
- [k] The kings of the north and south and the sealing of the prophecy. Chapters 11 and 12

CAPTIVITY

598 The Captivity commenced when the Jewish king and Ezekiel were transported to Babylon. - 2 Kings 24:12

As with Servitude this also terminated in 536 BC. - 2 Kings 25:1

JEHOIACHIN, or Coniah was appointed king of Judah on the death of his father Jehoiakim. He ruled for only 3 months. His rule was evil and Nebuchadnezzar repented of the appointment and

carried of the 18 year old king among a number of hostages including Ezekiel into captivity in Babylon when the city fell on 16th March 597.

Coniah was the subject of the prophecy of Jeremiah stating that no descendant of this king would sit on the throne of David. - Jeremiah 22:24 This prophecy is one of the reasons for the necessity of the virgin birth.

He was treated as a royal hostage in captivity and his grandson Zerubbabel became a leader though not king of Judah after the Babylonian captivity ended. Nebuchadnezzar's successor Evil-Merodach released Coniah from captivity in 561 and transferred him to a palace. - 2 Kings 25:27

597 ZEDEKIAH, the last king of Judah was the uncle of Coniah. He was placed on the throne by Nebuchadnezzar and reigned as a vassal until the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC. With the removal of the cream of the Judean kingdom in 597 BC he ruled over the dregs of society who were being prepared for the full weight of God's wrath. - Ezekiel 11:14-15

The spiritual degeneracy of Judea continued to increase under his reign. He believed false prophets who predicted a speedy restoration of their independence rather than the prophesied Desolations.-Jeremiah 28:1-4

Zedekiah obtained a promise of armed support from Egypt. - Ezekiel 17:15

Against the advice of Jeremiah Zedekiah rebelled against Babylon and the great siege of Jerusalem commenced in 589 BC . Zedekiah escaped from Jerusalem but was captured at Jericho where he saw his sons killed before he himself was blinded.

593 EZEKIEL "God strengthens" the prophet who was born in 625 commenced his ministry while in captivity. He was the son of Buzi, of the family of Zadok and therefore like Jeremiah and Zechariah combined the offices of priest and prophet. - Ezekiel 1:3

After his transportation to Babylon he settled in the village of Telabib by the river Chebar. It was not until this, the fifth year of his captivity that he received his call as a prophet. He continued to prophecy for at least 21 years until 570 BC.

Unlike Isaiah and Jeremiah whose lips were cleansed at the commencement of his ministry, Ezekiel was ordered to eat the scroll of words.

He reinforced the spoken word with dramatic symbolic acts such as:-

[a] Drawing a map of besieged Jerusalem on a brick. - Ezekiel 4:1-3

[b] Laying on one side and then the other for many days. Ezekiel 4:4-8

[c] Shaving himself with a sword. - Ezekiel 5:1-17

The Book of Ezekiel can be divided as follows:-

[a] Ezekiel's call and commission.- Chapters 1 - 3

[b] Prophecies against the people of Israel. - Chapters 4 - 24

[c] Prophecies against foreign nations. - Chapters 25 - 32

[d] Prophecies of restoration. - Chapters 33 - 39

[e] His vision of a future Messianic time with its restored land and Temple . Chapters 40 - 48

THE DESOLATIONS

A more severe discipline, that of Desolations was then prophesied, a period of seventy prophetic years or 25,200 days. - Jeremiah 29:10

589 The Desolations commenced with the siege of Jerusalem on the 10th of Tebeth 589 BC or the 13th December 589 BC and terminated with the foundation of the second Temple which was laid on the 24th day of the 9th month 520 BC or the 17th December 520 BC. - Haggai 2:18-19

It is of interest that the decree of Cyrus in 536 was thwarted for 17 years by petty local governors until the full 70 years of Desolations had been served.

DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE

586 The Temple was destroyed with the complete destruction of Jerusalem and the removal of the last Jews from the land. The new Temple was completed on the 3rd day of Adar in 516 being 70 years later. - Ezra 6:15

562 EVIL-MERODACH succeeds his father, Nebuchadnezzar and reigns until 560. He released Jehoiachin from captivity and installed him in the palace. His reign was lawless and wanton. - Jeremiah 52:31-34, 2 Kings 25:27-30

560 NERIGLISSAR murders and succeeds Evil-Merodach reigning until 556. He was an army leader who had married Nebuchadnezzar's daughter and had played a part in releasing Jeremiah from prison in 586 BC. - Jeremiah 39:3,13.

556 LABASHI-MARDUK his son succeeds Neriglissar, but is murdered in the first year of his reign by Nabonidus..

556 NABONIDUS assumes rulership over the Neo-Babylonian empire together with his co-ruler Belshazzar. He was the most competent ruler after Nebuchadnezzar. Of a priestly lineage he was devoted to the Moon God rather than the main god of the Babylonians Marduk.

Because of his alienation to the priests of Marduk the priests sought deliverance. They found it in the form of Cyrus the Persian who defeated the Babylonian army at Opis on the Tigris before taking Babylon without a fight by using the dried up watercourse to access under the walls.

BELSHAZZER remained in Babylon while Nabonidus went on religious activities in Tema in Arabia for ten years.

538 The capture of Babylon by the Medio-Persians under Gobryas ended their reigns in 538, with Belshazzar overcome at a drinking party with a thousand of his nobles where he was warned of impending doom by the "writing on the wall". - Daniel 5

Daniel who had been promoted by Nebuchadnezzar was made the third man in the Neo Chaldean empire the night it was destroyed.

However he was able to become prominent in the Medio-Persian empire which followed. - Daniel 6:2

By that time he would have been over 80 yet he was one of the three presidents who superintended the respective governors of Persia's 120 provinces - Daniel 6:1-2

SECTION 10 - THE RESTORATION - 538-336 BC

INTRODUCTION

In this period of history a number of significant events occurred which include the three separate returns from Babylon.

[a] That led by Sheshbazzar in 534 BC. - Ezra 1:1

[b] The second led by Ezra in 458 BC. - Ezra 7:7

[c] The third led by Nehemiah in 444 BC - Nehemiah 2:1

Another major event was the rebuilding of the Temple which commenced in the reign of Cyrus and completed in the 6th year of Darius in 516 BC. - Ezra 6:15

538 CYRUS becomes the first king of the Persian Empire and reigns until 530. He was the son of Cambyses I, king of Anshan, who on the death of his father in 559 BC unified the Persians before attacking Media and welding the Medes and Persians into an empire.

He proceeded to defeat Croesus, the fabulously rich king of Lydia in 546 BC before commencing an attack on Babylon itself. In 538 he took Babylon slaying the last Babylonian emperor, Belshazzar.

536 Cyrus allows as many Jews as wish to to return to Jerusalem. - Ezra 1-6

The Temple could be rebuilt, partially funded by the Royal Treasury. About 50,000 Jews returned to Palestine under the leadership of Joshua and Zerubabel. In this he was acting according to God's will and in conformity with prophecy in which he had been named by God many years before. - Isaiah 44:28

He returned the temple vessels which had been taken by Nebuchadnezzar. - Ezra 6:4

Work commenced on the Temple with the foundation stone being laid in 536 exactly 70 years from the start of the time of Desolations. Sacrifices were made and the feast of Tabernacles celebrated.

In the autumn of 530 BC Cyrus died in battle and was buried in Parsargarde, the Persian capital.

530 CAMBYSES II succeeded his father Cyrus and reigned until 522. He is known as Ahasuerus, which is a title rather than a name.- Ezra 4:6

The only major area not under the control of the Persians was Egypt. Prior to leaving on an expedition to Egypt he killed his brother Smerdus who was actively involved with the paganism of the Magi of that time, the dualism of Zorastorism. These are called the Parsees which still has a remnant left in Bombay.

In 526 he conquered Egypt, winning a major battle at Pelusium. He was aided by the defection of the Greek mercenary commander of the Egyptian forces. He was crowned king but was poisoned on his way back by agents of the Magi.

526 BUDDHA gives his first message at Benares. He died in 480.

522 PSUEDO SMERDUS succeeded Cambyses. He was actively anti Semitic and stopped the work on the Temple. He was known as Psuedo Smerdus as the Magi set him on the throne masquerading as Smerdus, the murdered brother of Cambyses. He took the title of Artaxerxes but ruled for only eight months before being killed by Cambyses' general, Darius.

521 DARIUS I succeeds Pseudo Smerdus as king and reigned until 486. He was known as Darius the Great. It was during his reign that the Temple was completed and the Jews had great protection. It took him six years to quell all rebellion. In 515 BC he divided the Persian Empire into twenty provinces or satrapies containing 75 million people. This was based on a concept of administration started by Daniel. The Jews were given self rule and allowed to exist as a separate state.

It was during this period that the leadership of Persia, jealous of Daniel tricked Darius into putting Daniel into the lion's den. - Daniel 6:16-24

520 The rebuilding of the Temple recommenced with it being completed in 516, 70 years after it's destruction.

ZECHARIAH was a prophet to the remnant which returned after the Babylonian captivity.

There is much of symbol in the book of Zechariah which can be divided as follows:-

[a] Symbolic visions in the light of Messianic hope. - 1:1-6:15

[b] The mission for Babylon. - 7,8

[c] Messiah in rejection and afterwards in power. - 9-14

HAGGAI was also a prophet to the remnant whose mission was to admonish and encourage the builders of the unfinished temple.

The Book of Haggai can be divided as follows:-

[a] The divine displeasure because of interrupted work. - 1:1-15

[b] The three temples, Solomon's, Restoration and Millennial. - 2:1-9

[c] Unclearness and chastening. - 2:10-19

[d] The final victory. - 2:20-23

516 The Temple was dedicated on the Passover in the month of Nisan 70 years before the edict to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem under Artaxerxes Longimanus in 445.

It is also of note that the time between the dedication of the first and second Temples was also 490 years which was also the period between the Exodus and the creation of the Kingdom under Saul and from that time to the servitude to Babylon.

510 Expulsion of Tarquin the Proud from Rome which is declared a Republic.

499 Start of Ionian War, finishes 494. Sardis burnt by the Athenians.

490 The Greeks defeat the Persians under Darius at the battle of Marathon

486 XERXES succeeded his father Darius I as king and reigned until 465. He took five years to equip an army to attack Greece. It amounted to an army of over two million men with a fleet of over 100 warships. Xerxes was richer than his predecessors fulfilling prophecy. - Daniel 11:2

He hoped to avenge his father's defeat at Marathon. At first he was victorious capturing and burning the Acropolis. However he lost a naval battle at Salamis and was finally defeated on land by the Greeks under Mardonius at the battle of Plataea in 479 BC.

He was pro-Semitic having a Jewish wife, Esther, and after the overthrow of Haman, Mordecai, a Jew was made Prime Minister.

HAMAN, who conspired to eliminate the Jews was an Agagite from the same family as Agag who was killed by Samuel.- 1 Samuel 15:34

MORDECAI who, like Saul, was descended from Benjamin, eliminated Haman.- Esther 2:5

ESTHER was descended from Benjamin and was adopted by her cousin Mordecai on the death of her parents. - Esther 2:5-7

She was chosen out of many women who resided in the royal court to succeed Queen Vashti.

The Book of Esther can be divided as follows:-

[a] The story of Vashti. - 1:1-22

[b] Esther made queen. - 2:1-19

[c] The conspiracy of Haman. - 3:1-15

[d] The courage of Esther brings deliverance. - 4:1-7:10

[e] The vengeance. - 8:1-9:19, this is in contrast with Romans 12:19

[f] The feast of Purim. - 9:20-32

[g] Epilogue. - 10:1-3

465 ARTAXERXES I LONGIMANUS succeeds Xerxes his father as king and reigned until 425. He was the last Persian king of note. His influence in Greece declined as he had to sign a treaty in 449 BC permitting cities in Asia Minor to be free to join in league with Athens.

458 He issued a royal decree allowing as many as wished to return to Jerusalem. - Ezra 7-10

The Jews were allowed to have their own civil magistrates. A group of 1758 returned under Ezra.

EZRA

The Book of Ezra can be divided as follows:-

[a] Cyrus allows the Jews to return from exile under Sheshbazzar. - 1:1-11

[b] The register of those who returned. - 2:1-70

[c] The altar is set up and the foundations to the Temple laid. - 3:1-13

[d] Enemies hinder the work until the reign of Darius. - 4:1-5,24

[e] Further opposition to the rebuilding of the walls during the reign of Xerxes. - 4:6-23

[f] Renewal of the building of the Temple. - 5:1-6:22

[g] Ezra is sent from Persia to enforce the law. - 7:1-28

[h] Ezra's journey and safe arrival. - 8:1-36

[i] The problems of mixed marriages. - 9:1-10:44 cf Malachi 2:14-16

450 The Romans agree that the law should be written down and the common people the Plebians have a say in their making

445 The edict of Artaxerxes Longimanus allowed the city of Jerusalem to be rebuilt. The walls were rebuilt in 52 days under the guidance of NEHEMIAH, despite opposition from Sanballat, Tobiah and Gesham. - Nehemiah 1-13

The walls were dedicated and the Law read. This edict was the commencement signal for the prophecy of Daniel's 70 weeks. - Daniel 9:24-27

This period is divided into three sections

[a] A 49 year period for the rebuilding of Jerusalem

[b] A 434 year period until Jesus Christ rode into Jerusalem which He fulfilled to the very day

[c] A future 7 year period ,the Tribulation, which concludes with Jesus Christ coming back to Jerusalem

433 NEHEMIAH returns to Persia.

The Book of Nehemiah can be divided as follows:-

[a] Nehemiah prays to God about Jerusalem's distress. - 1:1-11

[b] Artaxerxes Longimanus appoints Nehemiah governor of Jerusalem . - 2:1-11

[c] The rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. - 2:12-7:4

[d] The register of the returned exiles. - 7:5-73

[e] The law is read. - 8:1-18

[f] A corporate prayer of repentance. - 9:1-38

[g] The sealing of a covenant promise to obey. - 10:1-39

[h] Register of inhabitants and priests. - 11:1-12:26

[i] Dedication of the walls and arrangements for worship. - 12:27-47.

[j] Abuses and reforms. - 13:1-31

423 DARIUS II "Nothus" commences reigning and was king until 404. He was known as Darius the Persian. - Nehemiah 12:22

404 ARTAXERXES II succeeds Darius II as king and reigns until 359

397 MALACHI "my messenger" the last of the prophets to the restored remnant. Close of the Old Testament Canon with the writing of the book of Malachi.

The Book of Malachi can be divided as follows:-

[a] The Lord's love for Israel. - 1:1-5

[b] A delineation of Israel's sin. - 1:6-2:9

[c] Condemnation of mixed marriages and divorce. - 2:10-17

[d] The coming day of the Lord. - 3:1-6

[e] Repentance and tithing. - 3:7-12

[f] A promise of deliverance for the godly. - 3:13-4:3

[g] Conclusion. - 4:4-6

387 Peace of Antalcidas; Greek cities in Asia Minor surrendered to Artaxerxes II.

371 Battle of Leuctra at which the Thebans defeated the Spartans

361 From this time at least one of the Roman Consuls has to be a Plebian.

359 ARTAXERXES III succeeds Artaxerxes II as king reigns until 338

PHILIP becomes king of Macedon He defeats the Greeks at Chaeronea in 338. He was poisoned at Aegae in 336 and succeeded by his son Alexander the Great.

338 ARSES commences his reign as the king of Persia. He reigned for three years terminating in 335.

SECTION 11 - THE EMPIRES - 336 - 6 BC

This chapter covers the history from Alexander the Great to Jesus Christ

[a] Alexander the Great and his conquests.

[b] The division of his empire and the creation of the King of the North or Syria and the King of the South based on Egypt.

[c] The rise of Jewish nationalism and the influence of the Roman Empire.

335 DARIUS III king of Persia [335-331]. It was during his reign that Alexander the Great completed the conquest of the Persian Empire.

334 ALEXANDER the Great invades Persia. He was born in 356 BC to Philip, King of Macedon. As a young child his tutor was Aristotle.

By the age of 20 Alexander succeeded to the throne on the death of his father. He set out to master Greece which he did in a short time period and set as his next target the defeat of the Persian Empire which was in decline.

One of the major problems however was the various languages prevalent in Greece at that time. To overcome this problem he invented a new language "koine" or common Greek which is the language of the New Testament.

Crossing into Asia he was victorious in some forty battles including Granicus [334], Issus [333], Gangarilla [331] and Hydaspes [326].

He conceived of the idea of a super race and ordered his generals to divorce their Greek wives and marry Persian princesses as he had found that the Persians were well advanced in mathematics and science.

After defeating Porus, King of Punjab he returned to Babylon where he died of a fever after a heavy drinking bout in 323 BC.

323 On the death of Alexander at the early age of 33 his eleven surviving generals vied for prominence in the empire. Only four succeeded, these being known as the four winds of heaven. - Daniel 11:4

In the longer term however only two dynasties were formed being known in the Bible as the kings of the north and south. They were the dynasty of Seluchus based on Damascus and Ptolemy who was based in Egypt .

THE SEVEN GENERALS WHO FAILED

The seven generals who failed were:-

[a] PERDICCAS, who was a Macedonian aristocrat. He became the regent for Alexander's son and initially formed an alliance with Ptolemy.

Perdiccas wanted to preserve the Empire which caused a split in the alliance. He was eventually murdered by Peithon and Seluchus.

[b] LEONATAS was related to the royal house of Macedonia. He was very handsome which made him unstable. He wanted to be the king but was also assassinated.

[c] PEITHON was the chief of Alexander's bodyguard. Able, ambitious and overbearing, he was killed in the battle of Gaza in 313.

[d] EUMENES was Alexander's chief secretary and decided to bide his time and see how events developed.

[e] ANTIPATER was very old being the last great general of Alexander's father Philip.

[f] ANTIGINOUS was one-eyed, brilliant, old and cruel and was the most brilliant of all of Alexander's generals.

[g] DEMETRIUS, the son of Antiginous who teamed up with his father and almost conquered the world only being finally defeated at the battle of Ipsus in 301 BC which ended the wars between the generals.

OTHERS WHO DID NOT SUCCEED IN THE LONGER TERM

Two eventual losers were :-

[a] CASSANDER who took over Macedonia. Here he found Alexander's mother Olympia and had her murdered. In 297 BC he contracted dropsy and died.

[b] LYSIMACHUS who was rewarded by Asia Minor after the battle of Ipsus was eventually killed in battle in 281 BC.

KINGS OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH

This now left the two winners, Ptolemy and Seluchus.

PTOLEMY I SOTER king of the South [323-285] He captured Jerusalem in 320 making Palestine subject to Egypt until 314. He was the only one of the eleven generals who survived Alexander to die a natural death.-Daniel 11:5

312 SELEUCUS I king of the North [312- 281] was even stronger conquering everything from Syria in the West to the Punjab in the East by 302 BC. He was eventually assassinated in a campaign in Macedonia by the brother of Ptolemy II.

301 Battle of Ipsus

285 PTOLEMY II PHILADEPHUS king of the South [285-247] fought for a number of years with Antiochus I over Palestine which formed a buffer zone between North and South. He eventually gave his daughter Bernice to Antiochus II in marriage. Ptolemy was greatly angered by this and invaded the North but died before he could revenge her.

284 Beginning of the Septuagint or LXX translation of the Old Testament, the original Greek Old Testament that the early church used.

281 ANTIOCHUS I king of the North [281-261] fought with Ptolemy II for a number of years.

261 ANTIOCHUS II king of the North [261-246] married Bernice the daughter of Ptolemy II. They had a son but all three were murdered by Laodice a former wife of Antiochus. - Daniel 11:6

247 PTOLEMY III EUERGETES king of the South [247-222] was the brother of Bernice and is known in the Scriptures as the "branch of her roots" who succeeded to the throne on the death of his father. He attacked the north and conquered it entering the northern fortress of Antioch using African elephants. This represented the zenith of the power of the king of the south. - Daniel 11:7

Ptolemy III conquered many peoples. He returned to Egypt with many captives, retrieved 2,400 idols which had been taken from Egypt some 300 years previously by Cambyses. He came back with precious items and great riches. He is reported to have taken 40,000 talents of silver and 4,000 talents of gold back to Egypt. Ptolemy III also outlived the King of the North by five years. - Daniel 11:8

246 SELEUCUS II king of the North [246-226] was the son of Laodice who warred for many years with Ptolemy III and eventually retrieved most of his empire after Ptolemy III had returned to Egypt. The eastern part of the empire however was taken over by the Pathians. - Daniel 11:9

226 SELEUCUS III king of the North [226-223] succeeded to the throne of the King of the North and tried to reclaim it but the King of Pergammum prevented him and on his way back to Antioch he was assassinated in Phrygia. - Daniel 11:10

223 ANTIOCHUS III king of the North [223-187] followed his brother as King, being known as Antiochus the Great. With strong military training and discipline he was able to mould the army of the North into a great force. He eventually attacked the King of the South returning to Antioch in 217 B.C. having secured a balance of power.

Having been defeated at the battle of Raphia Antiochus spent 14 years retraining his army before returning to do battle with the Ptolemies. The training was accomplished in wars on the eastern boundaries of the empire. He became very rich. - Daniel 11:13

Antiochus III now attacked Ptolemy V, a child of seven. He was assisted by the "robbers of thy people" who were Jews who assisted him to take Palestine in 199 BC. He defeated an Egyptian army under Scopos as well as three other armies sent out against him. The Jews thought that this would free them but instead it brought in severe persecution under Antiochus IV. - Daniel 11:14

With the defeat of the four Egyptian armies Antiochus now invaded a defenceless Egypt and met no real resistance. He also subdued Palestine. - Daniel 11:15

As part of the settlement with Ptolemy V, areas of Asia Minor and Thrace controlled by the King of the South were ceded to Antiochus III. This allowed Antiochus access into Greece where he clashed with the expanding Roman Empire. The Romans, under Scipio Asiaticus, the Roman general, defeated him at Thermopolae and Magnesium. - Daniel 11:18

After the battle of Magnesium he returned to Antioch. Reparations required by the Romans were great making the northern kingdom bankrupt. Knowing of rich temples in Bactria Antiochus moved towards the east to replenish his treasury. He met his end when he was assassinated while attacking a temple. - Daniel 11:19

222 PTOLEMY IV PHILAPATOR king of the South [222-203] met Antiochus III at the battle of Raphia in 217 B.C. The South had degenerated to such an extent that the North was dominant. Ptolemy IV however was given a year in which to train his army. He gave up his drinking bouts and changed his lifestyle in order to lead his army. Using the Egyptians in battle for the first time in the history of the Greek kingdoms he won the battle of Raphia and put the King of the North to flight. - Daniel 11:11

Ptolemy IV returned to Egypt having saved his country from invasion. He had a chance to consolidate the nation by incorporating the Egyptians but instead he returned to heavy drinking and the feudal system. This policy caused systematic revolts which cost many lives. - Daniel 11:12

205 PTOLEMY V EPIPHANES king of the South [203-182] was defeated by Antiochus III who decided to infiltrate the court of the King of the South by marrying his sixteen year old daughter Cleopatra to the nine year old Ptolemy. The plan however backfired, as the girl who had been brought up by the women in the family, fell in love with the young king and refused to betray him. Eventually however he was assassinated in a palace plot. - Daniel 11:17

201 Antiochus III decided to replenish the treasury by means of heavy taxation. His reign was terminated by his chief minister Heliodorus who killed him and set himself up as the ruler. - Daniel 11:20

182 PTOLEMY VI PHILOMETER king of the South [182-146] succeeded Ptolemy V as a seven year old and after Antiochus IV defeated Egypt he was deposed in favour of his brother, the crippled Ptolemy VII.

From 168 to 165 BC both of the Ptolemies reign in the southern kingdom. Both of them went to the Roman Senate asking for islands. Ptolemy VII was eventually given Cyprus. They both try to out manoeuvre each other being indicated by the picture of them sitting at a table telling lies to each other. - Daniel 11:27

175 ANTIOCHUS IV EPIPHANES king of the North [175-163] At the time of the assassination of Seluchus IV he was a general in Rome. Having taken over the kingdom of the North he initially demonstrated that he was a competent ruler, projecting himself well in the media of the day with flatteries.

Antiochus attacks Egypt and is about to enter Alexandria when he is stopped by a Roman officer who gave him the order to retire. This he did with great riches, however Memphis, who had been supplying much of the provisions for him, cut off supplies causing many of his troops to starve on their way out of Egypt. - Daniel 11:26

He returned Israel a very frustrated person and stopped the daily sacrifice polluting the Temple with the blood of pigs and priests. - Daniel 11:31

On the 25th of December 167 BC the Greeks placed in the Temple a statue of Zeus Olympius, a statue of Antiochus IV with a beard. This led to the revolt of the Maccabees. - Daniel 11:32

168 MATTATHIAS MACCABEUS commences resistance against the king of the North. He leads the group until 166.

166 JUDAS MACCABEUS through armed struggle wins Jewish freedom from the king of the North. Leader of the Jewish resistance until 160

165 Battles of Beth-boron and Emmaus. The Jews defeat Syria at Beth-Zur. The rededication of the Temple.

163 ANTIOCHUS V EUPATOR king of the North [163-162] Judas' siege of the Syrian garrison in Jerusalem until 162.

162 DEMETRIUS I SOTER king of the North [162-150].

161 JONATHAN MACCABEUS takes over from his brother Judas who was killed at the battle of Eleasa. He himself is murdered in 144 Asmonaeon line of priestly rulers established until 143.

150 ALEXANDER BALAS king of the North [150-145]

146 PTOLEMY VII EUERGETES II king of the South [146-116]

Fall of Carthage and Corinth. Greece becomes a Roman Province.

145 DEMETRIUS II NICATOR king of the North [145-139]

141 SIMON MACCABEUS assumes control of the Jews until 135 and completes the deliverance of Palestine. Jews gain freedom. He is murdered in 135.

139 ANTIOCHUS VII king of the North [139-129]. Judean independence recognised by Roman Senate.

135 JOHN HYRCANUS I the ruler of the Jews [135-104]. In 130 he destroys the temple on Mt Gerizem.

116 PTOLEMY VIII SOTER II king of the South [116-108] and [89-80].

109 First mention of Pharisees and Sadducees.

108 PTOLEMY IX ALEXANDER king of the South [108-89].

104 ARISTOBULUS I the ruler of the Jews [104-103].

103 ALEXANDER JANNAEUS as ruler of the Jews [103-76]

80 PTOLEMY X ALEXANDER II the last of the kings of the South. The Ptolemaic line terminated in 80 BC

76 HYRCANUS II leader of the Jews with Alexandra until 67 and Aristobulus II until 63 when Pompey the Great was called in.

63 POMPEY subjugates Judea. With Crassus and Julius Caesar he forms the first triumvirate in 60. He dies at the battle of Pharsalia in 48.

55 ANTIPATER becomes the ruler of the Jews until 43

54 CRASSUS plunders the Temple in Jerusalem. Later Crassus was captured in battle and because of his love for gold was forced by his captor to swallow molten gold thus ending his life.

47 ANTIPATER of Idumea appointed by Caesar procurator of Judea. His son Herod made governor of Galilee

44 JULIUS CAESAR assassinated on the Ides of March.

40 HEROD THE GREAT ruler of the Jews [40-4 BC]. In 37 he captures Jerusalem. He commences the rebuilding of the Temple completing the outer area in 11 BC. Initially he was a great ruler, capably ruling over a kingdom of Jews, Arabs and Samaritans.

He was a great athlete and very wise but with old age he became paranoid regarding palace plots. In one severe famine he fed the Jews from his own resources and they repaid him with revolting against him. In 4 BC he died in Jericho having killed two of his sons who were also a threat to the Lord Jesus Christ. - Matthew 2:1-20

Invasion of Syria and Palestine by Parthians but they are repulsed.

31 Battle of Actium

27 AUGUSTUS made emperor of the Roman empire. He reigns until 14AD. It was as the result of the census of Augustus that Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem. He also started an emperor cult which Christians resisted and led to their persecution.

18 The rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem commenced with the outer Temple being finished in 11BC

10 Building of Caesarea completed by Herod.

SECTION 12 - THE LORD JESUS CHRIST - 6 BC - 32 AD

5 BC The birth of the Lord Jesus Christ in Bethlehem "house of bread" in Judea probably in the autumn. The date of the birth of our Lord has been placed variously from 1 to 7 BC.

Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem when Cyrenius was Governor of Syria and Herod was king in Jerusalem. - Luke 2:2

Justin Martyr also stated this referring to taxation records which were still in existence in his time to confirm that Joseph and Mary were resident in Nazareth and went to Bethlehem for the census [Apol.i. 34,46]

Until the middle of the 19th century the only historical reference to Cyrenius as the Greeks called him or as he was known by the Romans P.Sulpicius Quirinus was to a period some 10 years after the death of Herod which caused the school of higher criticism to try and discredit the account in Luke.

However the German Dr Zumpt proved that Cyrenius was twice the Governor of the province and that his first period dated from BC 4 when he succeeded Quinctilius Varus.

Josephus tells us that Herod died in the 37th year of his reign. It is known that Herod was made king by the Romans in 40 BC during the consulship of Domitus Calvinus and Asinius Pollio thus his death was either in 4 or 3 BC.

Josephus also states that on the night that Herod ordered the execution of his sons, who he believed were plotting to overthrow him, there was an eclipse of the moon. It is also known that Herod died within days of their execution.

Johnson in his "Eclipses Past and Future" states that there was a lunar eclipse observable at Jerusalem with a maximum effect at 2:34 am on 13th March BC 4 with the next one visible in that city being a full eclipse at 12:15 am on the 9th January BC 1. It is therefore seen that the year of Herod's death was 4 BC.

Josephus also tells that Archelaus remained for 7 days in seclusion after the death of Herod, and that whilst he was well received initially he had to call in the guard prior to his going to Jerusalem on 8th Nisan to celebrate Passover. It is therefore concluded that Herod died in the last two weeks of March 4 BC.

The Greek word for young child which described our Lord at the time of Herod's search for him indicates a child less than 18 months old but not a baby.

It is clear from scriptural evidence that Jesus Christ was born in September / October and it would appear likely that this was either in the year 5 or 6 BC.

The Lord Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem of Judea to the Virgin Mary and the Holy Spirit. - Luke 2:7

Joseph demonstrated to be the legal though not natural father. -

Matthew 1:16-20

4 Visit of the Wise Men from Babylon seeking the child born to be king whose star they had seen in the east. Herod sees this as a threat to his dynasty and asks the Wise Men to report back to him once they have located the Christ child so that he may eliminate the threat, but being divinely guided they escape by another route. - Matthew 2:1-12

Herod kills all the small boys two years old and under in an attempt to eliminate the legitimate King of the Jews but Joseph, Mary and the young Jesus travel to Egypt until Herod is dead. - Matthew 2:13-18

Herod the Great dies in the spring. Just prior to dying due to paranoia he kills some of his sons thereby removing the immediate threat to Jesus from the Herodian line.

ARCHELAUS, ethnarch of Judea, Samaria and Idumea until 6 AD. During his reign of ten years he made many enemies and exercised great cruelty towards both Samaritans and Jews alike putting to death according to Josephus 3000 Jews in the Temple not long after his accession. In 6 AD as a result of complaints to the Emperor from his brothers and subjects he was banished to the far regions of the Roman Empire and his kingdom became a Roman province. - Matthew 2:22

AD

6 COPONIUS Procurator of Judea until 10 AD was appointed after Archelaus had been deposed as ruler of Judea and the province had been annexed by Rome. The procurator who lived in Caesarea on the coast placed a small garrison in the tower of Antonia to the north west of the Temple.

He came up from Caesarea to Jerusalem at the great festivals leaving the government during his absence to the High Priest and ecclesiastical authorities. With the Roman governors came taxation which was seen by the Jews as the most degrading mark of their subjugation to a foreign power. The Jews rebelled in the north but they were repressed. Jerusalem however was totally under the control of the Roman legions.

8 Jesus Christ in the Temple at twelve years of age.

10 Ambivius Procurator of Judea until 13

13 Annius Rufus Procurator of Judea until 15

14 TIBERIUS emperor from August 19 AD 14 until 37. Jesus had his public ministry and died during his reign. - Luke 3:1

15 Alferius Gratus Procurator until 26

18 Caiaphas becomes high priest.

26 PONTIUS PILATE Procurator until 36. The new procurator brought with him his wife to Caesarea. He introduced the Roman standards into the city, hung up brazen shields as trophies in the Temple and used the corban or sacred monies for the construction of an aqueduct. This caused an insurrection which was put down with great violence which further alienated the Jews.

He was extremely cruel to the Galileans whose blood was mingled with their sacrifices which created feelings of horror and dread. Jesus Christ was brought before him and despite his wife's advice he condemned the Lord and sentenced Him to death. As a result of the revolt of the Samaritans in 36 AD Pilate was recalled to Rome where he eventually committed suicide.

28 Commencement of JOHN THE BAPTIST's ministry.

Commencement of the LORD JESUS CHRIST's ministry by his baptism by John in the Jordan.-
Mark 1:9-11

That this is the year of the commencement of our Lord's ministry it is noted that from history that:-

[a] This was the 15th year of Tiberius Caesar as from 15th August.

[b] Pontius Pilate was procurator of Judea

[c] Herod was tetrach of Galillee

[d] Philip was the ruler of Iturnea

[e] Annas and Caiphas were High Priests

Jesus Christ was about 30 years of age when he started his ministry. The Greek word for this allows a lot of latitude but only in one direction, over thirty years of age.

It has been previously shown that Jesus Christ was born in September or October 5 BC and assuming that he commenced in the northern autumn of 28 AD he would have commenced his ministry at 31 years of age allowing for the one year drop from 1 BC to 1 AD.

The Lord Jesus Christ's ministry encompassed three Passover's with his death being on the Passover of 32 AD This date is also confirmed as the termination point of Daniel's 69th week of years to the very day. Immediately afterwards he is tempted by Satan in the wilderness for forty days.

He is tempted in three unique ways:-

[a] Turning stones into bread. - Matthew 4:3-4

[b] Tempting God by throwing himself off the Temple pinnacle. - Matthew 4:5-7

[c] To receive the kingdoms of the world rather than go to the cross.- Matthew 4:8-10

29 Jesus performs his first miracle of turning the water into wine at the wedding in Cana, Galilee. -
John 2:1-11

Jesus Christ's first Passover [April 7], the money changers driven from the Temple. - John 2:13-25

He converses with Nicodemus advising this Jewish leader that he must be born again. - John 3,
John 2;13-21

Jesus preaches in Judea. John attests further to the person of Jesus Christ who now proceeds to
Galilee. - John 3:22-36

At Sychar the Lord meets the woman of Samaria as a result of which much interest is shown in him
by the townsfolk. He also informs her of the need to worship God in spirit and in truth and that there
will be no special place to worship God in the future. - John 4:5-42

Cure of the Nobleman's son at Cana. - John 4:43-54

Imprisonment of John the Baptist in the fortress of Machaerus by Herod Antipas. - Mark 6:17-20

Commencement of Christ's ministry in Galilee. - Matthew 4:12-17

At Capernaum SIMON, ANDREW, JAMES and JOHN are called to be disciples. - Mark 1:16-20

The Lord proceeds to heal:-

[a] A demoniac in the Synagogue. - Mark 1:21-28

[b] Peter's mother in law. - Mark 1:29-31

[c] Many others on the same evening. - Mark 1:32-34

[d] A leper on his way. - Mark 1:35-45

[e] A paralytic. - Matthew 9:1-8

MATTHEW the tax collector is called to be a disciple. - Matthew 9:9-13

30 Jesus Christ's second Passover with the healing of the impotent man at the pool of Bethsaida. - John 5:1-47

Plot against Jesus near Nazareth; a great following by people. - Luke 6:17-19

Sermon on the mount. - Matthew 5-7:29

31 The Lord's third Passover. - John 6:4

- Healing of the Centurion's servant at Capernaum. - Matthew 8:5-13
- Raising of the widow's son at Nain. - Luke 7:11-17
- Woes against the Pharisees. - Luke 11:37-54
- Discourse on trusting God and against worldliness. - Luke 12: 1-59
- Parables of the kingdom of Heaven. - Matthew 13: 1-53
- Raising of Jairus' daughter. - Matthew 9:18-26
- Feeding the 5,000. - Mark 6:30-44
- Christ foretells His death and resurrection. - Luke 9:22-27
- The transfiguration. - Luke 9:28-36
- Jesus at the house of Mary and Martha. - Luke 10:38-42
- The raising of Lazarus. - John 11:1-46

32 Supper at Bethany Mary anoints Jesus. - Mark 14: 3- 9

- Triumphal entry into Jerusalem. - Mark 11:1-11
- Cursing the barren fig tree. - Mark 11:12-14, 20-22 The fig tree is a symbol of Israel - Luke 3:8-9 and this is therefore a prophecy.
- Preparation of the Passover. - Luke 22:7-13
- The last Passover. - Matthew 26:20
- The Lord's supper. - Luke 22:19-20
- The agony in the garden. - Matthew 26:36-46
- The arrest of Christ and the disciples flee. - Matthew 26:47-56
- Peter's denial. - Luke 22:56-62
- Final condemnation before the Sanhedrin. - Matthew 27:1
- Pilate delivers Jesus to be scourged. - John 19:1-3
- Judas' remorse and suicide. - Matthew 27:3-10
- The crucifixion. - Matthew 27:35-38
- The death of Jesus. - Matthew 27:50
- Incidents following his death. - Matthew 27:51-56
- Taking down from the cross and burial. - Matthew 27:57-61
- The watch at the tomb. - Matthew 27:62-66
- Visit of the women. - Matthew 28: 1-10
- Report of the watch. - Matthew 28:11-15
- Christ appears to the eleven. - Luke 24:36-49
- Christ appears again to them. - John 20:25-29
- Appearance to the seven. - John 21:15-19

- The great commission. - Matthew 28:18-20
- The ascension and session of Christ. - Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1:9
- At the Feast of Pentecost the giving of the Holy Spirit introduced a change in Dispensation with the birth of the Church.
- As with all the work of God the Church commenced on the Feast of Pentecost and 3,000 were saved, at the giving of the law which is on this anniversary 3,000 were killed.