

## THE HISTORICAL BOOKS

The books from Joshua through Esther in the Old Testament are known as the historical books. They cover about 1,000 years in the history of God's chosen people, the nation of Israel.

Major events covered by these books include:

- The settlement of the people in the Promised Land after their deliverance from Egypt and their years of wandering in the wilderness;
- The transition from rule by judges to rule by kings;
- David's anointing as king of the united kingdom;
- The division of the nation into northern and southern factions;
- The destruction of the northern kingdom;
- The captivity and return of the southern kingdom.

**Joshua:** capture and settlement of the Promised Land.

**Judges:** the nation of Israel is rescued by a series of judges or military leaders. Three of the best known deliverers were Deborah, Gideon, and Samson.

**1-2 Samuel:** early history of Israel, including the reigns of Saul and David.

**1-2 Kings:** a political history of Israel focusing on the reigns of selected kings from the time of Solomon to the captivity of the Jewish people by the Babylonians.

**1-2 Chronicles:** a religious history of Israel, covering the same period as 2 Samuel and 1-2 Kings.

**Ezra:** return of the Jewish people from captivity in Babylon to Jerusalem.

**Nehemiah:** rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem after the Jewish exiles returned from Babylon.

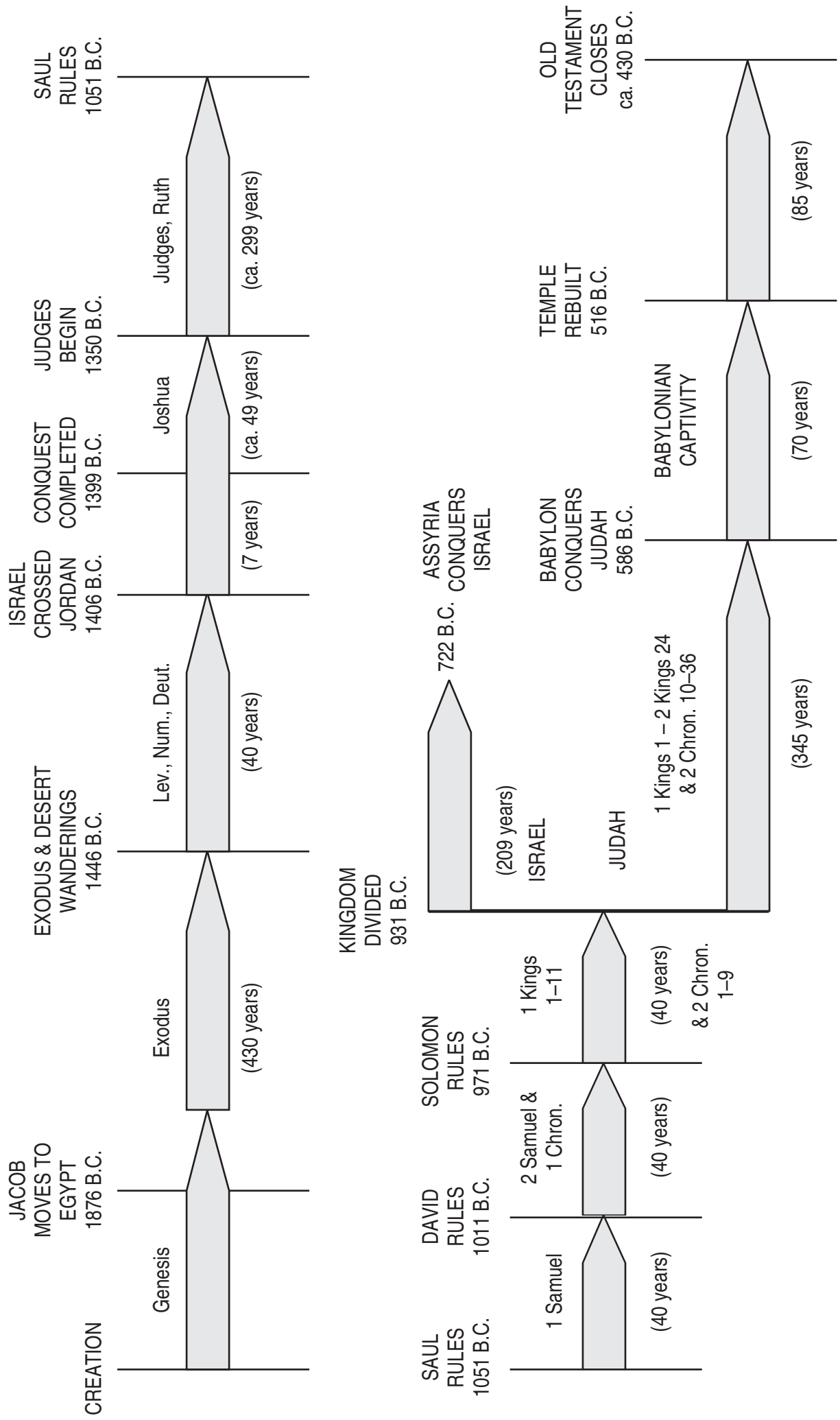
**Esther:** God's care for His people under gentile rule.

When the events in the books of history occurred.

Adam	Abraham	Moses	David	Ezra	Jesus	Revelation
4000+ B.C.	2000 B.C.	1500 B.C.	1000 B.C.	500 B.C.	4 B.C.	100 A.D.



# OLD TESTAMENT OVERVIEW



Creation	Fall	Flood	Babel
Abraham	Isaac	Jacob	Joseph
Slavery	Moses	Plagues	Exodus
Red Sea	Sinai/Law	Tabernacle	Desert
Joshua	Conquest	Division of land	Judges

Samuel: last of the judges, first of the prophets: anoints Saul first king.

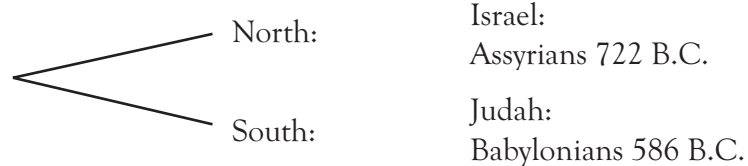
1 Samuel      Reign of Saul

2 Samuel      Reign of David

1 Kings        Reign of Solomon

2 Kings

Split in kingdom



After 70 years of captivity in Babylon: Ezra/Nehemiah rebuild the temple and walls of Jerusalem.

### Old Testament closes.

Time moves chronologically in only 11 Old Testament books:

Genesis; Exodus; Numbers; Joshua; Judges; 1, 2 Samuel; 1, 2 Kings; Ezra; Nehemiah.

Genesis:	Creation through death of Joseph.	Job occurs somewhere during this time.
Exodus:	Moses, Law.	Leviticus takes place during this time.
Numbers:	Desert.	Deuteronomy takes place during this time.
Joshua:	Conquest/division of land of Canaan; death of Joshua.	
Judges:	Sin/slavery/deliverance: 7 cycles.	Ruth takes place here.
1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings, Ezra, Nehemiah	Entire prophetic period.	All prophets.

1 Samuel	Samuel: last of the judges, first of of the prophets. Saul	
2 Samuel	David	Psalms
1 Kings	Solomon's reign/death	Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon
	Split of kingdom	
2 Kings	Chronology through Assyrian and Babylonian captivities (therefore, written after the Babylonian captivity, to give hope to the people who had returned from exile)	1 & 2 Chronicles = same period of time as 1 & 2 Kings; Chronicles from priestly point of view; Kings from political point of view.
Ezra Nehemiah	After restoration of southern kingdom	Esther, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

#### Prophets

Samuel and all others except Precaptivity	Ezekiel, Daniel	Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
	Captivity	Post Captivity

TORAH		Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
NABIM	Former	(pre-exilic) Included Joshua, Samuel, Nathan, Gad, parts of Kings and Chronicles, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, the 12
	Latter	(post-exilic)
KETHUBIM	Poetic books	David, Solomon, Job, Psalms, Proverbs
	Megilloth	(5 rolls) read at feasts: Song of Solomon (Passover); Ruth (Pentecost); Ecclesiastes (Tabernacles); Esther (Purim); Lamentations (fall of Jerusalem anniversary)
	Historical	Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah, Chronicles

Chronicles appears last in the Hebrew Bible. This is why Jesus used the expression, "from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah" (Luke 11:51) to sum up all martyrs from the Old Testament. Abel was the first, Zechariah was the last martyr appearing in the order of the Hebrew Bible.