

Into to the Old Testament & Salvation History

Outline of Old Testament History

- 1) **The Beginning** (creation up to 1836 BC)
 - a. The Creation- God creates the world to be in harmony with itself. He establishes the Sabbath day as a sign of his covenant with all of creation (Genesis 1).
 - b. The Fall- Adam and Eve, our first parents commit a sin of disobedience (Genesis 3). This disrupts the original harmony of the world and consequences like sickness, death, and concupiscence enter the world. Despite all of this God promises to send a savior (Gen 3:15 the protoevangelium)
 - c. The Patriarchs- God chooses certain patriarchs(fathers): Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and establishes covenants with them, and begins Jesus' family tree
 - d. The Family/Nation of Israel- God chooses Jacob to be renamed Israel (Genesis 35:10). He and his 12 sons eventually become the 12 tribes of Israel
 - e. Joseph (one of Jacob's sons) is sold into slavery by his brothers (Genesis 37), is later discovered to have a gift of interpreting the Pharaohs' dream, is elevated to the role of Chief Steward of Egypt, and brings the rest of his family to Egypt to save them from a famine/drought.
- 2) **Exodus and Journey to the Promised Land** (1571-1406 BC)
 - a. After 400 years of living in Egypt, the Israelites are seen as a potential threat and the new pharaoh enslaves them. Moses is sent to rescue them, and fulfill God's promises to their forefathers -Abraham, Isaac, Jacob. (Exodus)
 - b. God establishes the Passover meal as a sign of the covenant and commissions the building of the Ark of the Covenant (containing manna, Aaron's staff, and the 10 Commandments) (Exodus)
 - c. The Exodus→ Escape from Egypt – As Moses leads the Israelites away from Egypt, God establishes a covenant with them and they become His *Chosen People*. As part of following this covenant the Israelites promise to live by the 10 Commandments- these were the original laws. Under this covenant all firstborn sons and fathers were called to be priests.
 - d. The Golden Calf→ Even after promising to live by the commandments, Israel builds the Golden Calf- and commits great sin. The result is they are given more laws (Leviticus) and now only men from the tribe of Levi can be priests (Levites)
 - e. Wandering in the desert→ A few months after leaving Egypt the Israelites approach the Promised Land but do not enter because of their fear for its inhabitants (even though they had seen God defeat the Egyptians). They grumble and complain and so are sentenced to wander in the desert for 40 years.
 - f. Idolatry at Beth Peor- 40 years later, again on the outskirts of the Promised Land, Israel again commits Idolatry and great sin. They are given a second law and constitution (Deuteronomy) and a second but lesser covenant with God. Moses Dies on the border of Promised Land

- 3) **Conquest of Canaan and the time of Judges (1406-1120 BC)**
 - a. Israel begins to conquer Canaan (Promised Land) → Joshua is Moses successor as Israelites begin conquest. They are commanded to take the Ark with them wherever they go.
 - b. God warns the Israelites that they should follow the commandments and remain separated from the Canaanites as to remain spiritually safe. When they do not follow God they become spiritually and militarily weak and suffer the consequences.
 - c. After Joshua, God calls the Judges to lead the Israelites, Samuel is the last of the judges.
- 4) **Davidic (United) Kingdom- (1030-930 BC)** Israel was one united kingdom composed of the 12 family tribes of Israel under King David & Solomon
 - a. Saul (tribe of Benjamin) is named the first king of Israel, but because of his sins, he loses kingship for himself and his sons.
 - b. David (tribe of Judah, son of Jesse) is selected as the new king to replace Saul. He is not of noble birth, but a shepherd from Bethlehem. He leads Israel in extending the boundaries of Israel and establishes Jerusalem as its capital. God makes a special covenant with David and his line (at Mt. Zion) He is seen as the greatest king of Israel. He commits adultery with Bathsheba and kills her husband. Their son Solomon becomes king.
 - c. Solomon was the final king of the united kingdom; he was known for his wisdom. He extended the boundaries of Israel. Built the temple which was the permanent resting place of the Ark. Tried to make the kingdom international by having many wives. The many wives brought in their foreign gods and this led to Solomon and Israel's spiritual and thus political downfall.
- 5) **The Divided Kingdom (930-588 BC)**
 - a. Because of sin, the kingdom divides into 2 kingdoms under Solomon's sons.
 - i. Northern Kingdom of Israel (10 tribes), Capital: Samaria, First King: Jeroboam
 1. Prophets: Elijah, Elisha, Hosea, Amos
 - ii. Southern Kingdom of Judah (2 tribes), Capital: Jerusalem (descendants of this kingdom later become known as the *Jews*) First King: Rehoboam
 1. Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Joel, Micah, Habbakuk-Malachi
- 6) **Assyrian Conquest/ Exile- (722 BC)** Assyrian Conqueror: Shalmanesar. The Northern Kingdom of Israel is conquered by the Assyrians. God sends prophets to warn that judgment for their sin is coming.
 - a. Israel refuses to listen to the prophets (Elijah, Elisha, Hosea, Amos) and they refuse to repent for their idolatry. Additionally, they make an unholy pact with the Egyptians to fight off the Assyrians instead of seeking God's assistance.
 1. Prophets: Jonah is sent to the Assyrians (capital is Ninevah) to convert them
 - b. The Assyrians deport the inhabitants of the northern kingdom and scatter them among their other conquered peoples. This is known as the Assyrian Exile. The Israelites take on the false religions of these other nations and intermarry with these peoples, their descendants become known as the Samaritans. Israel as the northern kingdom never reappears again.

- 7) **Babylonian Conquest/ Exile** (586-536 BC) Babylonian Conqueror: Nebuchadnezzar.
 - a. The Southern Kingdom of Judah makes the same mistakes as the Northern Kingdom and falls to the Babylonians.
 - i. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon leads the conquest and destroys Jerusalem and the Temple (586 BC) The Ark of the Covenant is hidden by the prophet Jeremiah, never to be found.
 1. Prophets: Daniel and Ezekiel preach to the Jews in exile
 - b. The Babylonians deport the Jews from their homeland and force them to take on Babylonian culture and religion.
- 8) **Persian Rule/ Return from Exile** (537-442 BC) Persian Conqueror: Cyrus
 - a. King Cyrus of Persia conquers Babylon. He allows the Jews in exile to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the city and the Temple. Jews think of him as a Messiah
 - i. Prophets: Isaiah
- 9) **Greek Conquest/ The Maccabean Revolt** (336-133 BC) Greek Conqueror: Alexander the Great
 - a. Phillip of Macedon organizes independent Greek city states into the Greek (Macedonian) Empire
 - b. Alexander the Great (Phillip's son) conquers Persia and foreign lands as far east as India. This starts the Hellenization of the Empire: enforcing Greek language, culture, religion
 - c. Alexander has no son and passes his kingdom to his 5 generals
 - d. This division of power consolidates into 2 Greek ruling entities: the Selucids & Ptolemies
 - e. **Maccabean Revolt:**
 - i. Antiochus IV a Seleucid king, forces the Jews to abandon their faith and adopt Greek religion and persecutes the Jews who refuse. He invades Jerusalem and desecrates the Temple
 - ii. The Maccabeus family leads a revolt (167-164 BC) to reclaim the Holy Land and rededicate the Temple in Jerusalem (their victory and rededication of the Temple is celebrated as Hanukkah).
- 10) **Roman Rule** (70 BC-400AD)- Roman emperors were generally known as the Caesars. The Roman Empire comes into power and controls everything up thru the time of Jesus.
 - a. Herod the Great (Jew) takes control of Jerusalem with backing of Roman Army (37 BC). Herod persuades the Romans that he will pay them off with Jewish money if they help him maintain power.
 - b. As long as Judea was consistent in paying taxes to Rome and the Jews didn't cause a revolt, the Romans didn't care what religion they practiced.
 - c. Herod rebuilt what is known as the Third Temple- this was completely destroyed (except for the western wall) in 70 AD during the Jewish-Roman war.
 - d. Herod's four sons divide up Judea into four provinces (tetrarchies) ruled by his sons. Herod Antipas (one of the sons) will be the ruler of Galilee
 - e. Jewish Roman War- 67-70AD- Jews in Jerusalem revolt against Roman occupation and so the Emperors (Nero, then Vespasian) send thousands of troops to lay siege to the city. Thousands are massacred, starve or resort to barbaric behavior such as cannibalism. The events of this war are retold allegorically in the Book of Revelations. The Romans burn Jerusalem and destroy the Temple (except the western wall) all of this was foretold in Jesus' prophecies.