

The Panorama of the Ten Time Periods of the Old Testament

I. Primeval Period

The first period of the Bible including creation, the fall of man, the flood, and the division of the nations.

II. Patriarchal Period

The Patriarchal Period is named this because of the primary characters of the period, beginning with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel. **Patros** is the Greek word for *father* and **Arche** is the Greek word for *leader* or *head*. During this time period these men were not only the heads of families and tribal leaders but were also the "Priests" who sacrificed for their families.

III. Period of the Exodus

The Period of the Exodus was a new beginning for the Nation of Israel. After four hundred years in a foreign land, the last portion of which was as slaves, they were going to be led by God, through Moses to the "Land of Promise." This critical period witnessed the birth of the Jewish nation, the giving of the law, the worship rituals and much more. God also set aside the tribe of Levi and Aaron, the brother of Moses to be the Chief priest and his posterity to forever change how Israel would approach God until Messiah would come.

IV. Period of the Conquest

Joshua succeeded Moses and led the nation of Israel to cross the Jordan River miraculously. The land had been promised to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but they had to fight for it. They did and after a period of time, Joshua set up the tabernacle in the middle of the country, at Shiloh and divided the land among the tribes.

V. Period of the Judges

The period of the Judges lasted for more than three hundred and fifty years as God would give His people rest and prosperity and they would rebel and forsake Him. God would send an adversary and the people would repent and cry out for deliverance. God would raise up a deliverer, called a "Judge." God would restore his people to rest, and prosperity and the cycle would begin again.

VI. Period of the United Kingdom

The people rejected God's leadership and asked for a King to rule them as the other nations. God warned them of the dangers of a king, but then granted their petitions. Israel was united for a period of one hundred and twenty years under three kings, Saul, David, and Solomon. King Solomon died in 931 B.C. and the United Kingdom immediately splintered in two parts, north and south. Samaria the capital of the Northern Kingdom and Jerusalem the capital of the Southern Kingdom.

VII. Period of the Divided Kingdom

The North and South were adversaries much of this period of Biblical history. The Southern Kingdom was loyal to the tribe of Judah, which was King David's tribe and David made Jerusalem the capital of the nation during his reign. Solomon built the spectacular central worship center, called the Temple. This Southern Kingdom was called, Judah. The Aaronic priesthood remained loyal to Judah. The Northern Kingdom was called Israel.

VIII. Period of the Single Kingdom

The Northern Kingdom of Israel and their capital Samaria was destroyed and scattered across the Assyrian Kingdom. This tragic event took place in 722 B.C. and from that time forward until 586 B.C. The Kingdom of Judah survived with good and bad kings during this period, but in the end the Kingdom of Judah would turn its back on God as well and God allowed a more wicked kingdom than they to destroy them and take them captive for a period of time.

IX. Period of the Babylonian Captivity

God raised up the ancient Kingdom of Babylon and they were a powerful kingdom for a short period of time. King Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Solomon's Temple and took the people from their land to the Mesopotamia Valley and for a period of seventy years, the people of God were without a central place of worship and a land of their own. God restored the people back to their land through a Persian King, Cyrus.

X. Period of Restoration

Three waves of exiles returned, laid the foundation of the temple, stopped to build their homes instead. After years of no progress in building the Second Temple, God sent two prophets, Haggai and Zechariah who preached God's Words to the people who had returned. The people responded and under the leadership of Zerubbabel the Governor and Joshua, the High Priest, the Temple was completed and dedicated in 516 B.C. exactly 70 years after the exile. This is the period of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther and the last prophet of the Old Testament, Malachi. God was silent for 400 years.