

a historical timeline of

# The Pentateuch and the Prophets

It is incredibly important that we fix in our minds when God gave His laws to His people, and when they agreed to follow them. This happened when they came out of Egypt. The people subsequently disobeyed God's laws and God sent prophets to them reminding them of what they promised and of the judgments God promised would follow for disobedience. The timeline following shows how God patiently delayed judgment and sent prophets to remind people again and again and to warn them of the consequences of their actions. PLEASE NOTE: the dates listed are approximate, as various resources date them with slight differences. However the order events took place is agreed upon by conservative scholars.



This is incredibly important to understand that the Law, the covenant that Israel promised to obey, was not a later afterthought, a cultural icon, or a series of suggestions. It was the FOUNDATION for what the people agreed to following their acceptance of God's salvation and their obedience or disobedience of it is what drives the history of the nation following it and serves as a challenge to us.

## IN THE BEGINNING

God created humanity to walk with Him forever. Sin brought death, but a Savior was promised who would conquer death, Genesis. 1-3.

## No exact date - FLOOD, Tower of Babel

### 2166-1876 BC - Call of Abraham

God calls Abraham, blessed to be a blessing; then the lives of Isaac and Jacob. Jacob and his 12 sons move to Egypt. 400 years of slavery follow.

### 1446 BC - Exodus from Egypt

God miraculously calls Moses, rescues Israel from slavery, and promises them a land. Early in their journey, they camp at Mt. Sinai where God makes a covenant (agreement) with them for them to be His people and obey Him, with blessings for obedience and discipline if they do not obey. The terms of the covenant are clearly spelled out in the first 5 books of the Bible, the Pentateuch, which Moses writes during their 40 years of wandering. They KNOW how they are supposed to worship and live and agreed to it.

### 1406-930 BC - Israel United

First under the Judges, then Saul, David, and Solomon, Israel is united as one people. They are in the Promised Land but they did not drive out the heathen nations God commanded them to and they have constant problems and temptations to serve other gods because of them.

### 930 BC - Israel divides into two nations

Because of Solomon's idolatry, God splits the nation with the Southern part Judah, remaining under David's line of kings, and the Northern part, Israel having a variety of leaders.

### 930-722 BC - Duration of the Northern Kingdom of Israel

The Northern Kingdom, Israel has evil kings throughout its history. God sends prophets to remind them of their agreement with God to worship and follow Him alone. Early on God sends Elijah and Elisha; later Amos and Hosea. Israel does not repent.

### 722 BC - Assyria conquers Israel

The people are removed from the land and scattered throughout the Assyrian Empire. Israel is resettled with people from other conquered nations who bring their pagan gods with them and attempt to integrate their worship with that of Jehovah.

### 930 - 586 BC - Duration of the Southern Kingdom of Judah

During this time Judah had a combination of good and bad kings. The people continuously needed to be reminded to serve God and to do that prophets were sent to them that included Isaiah, Micah, Zephaniah, and Habakkuk.

### 586 BC - Babylon conquers Judah

The Temple and Jerusalem are destroyed and the people taken captive to Babylon.

### 606 - 538 AD - Time in Babylon

God did not leave His people during their captivity. Daniel and Ezekiel prophesy during this time, with Ezekiel primarily the prophet to the people. Daniel was a witness to kings and a prophet for all ages.

### 538 BC - Return to the land

As prophesied by Isaiah, Cyrus issues a decree for the people to return to their land. The prophets Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi encourage people once again to put God and His worship first in their lives.



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