

BIBLICAL TIMELINE OF HISTORY

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Biblical Timeline of History

The Beginning – Creation (Genesis)

1. God created everything in 6 days
2. Adam and Eve were created in the image of God
3. Adam and Eve lived in paradise (the Garden of Eden)
4. Adam and Eve sinned by eating the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil
5. Adam and Eve were cast out of the garden; death entered the world

The Middle – God’s Plan to Restore People (Entire Bible)

1. People multiplied and filled the earth (*Genesis*)
2. Noah (*Genesis*)
 - a. People were wicked; the world was destroyed by flood
 - b. Noah and his sons and their wives were saved on the ark
 - c. The Garden of Eden was lost; new continents were formed, etc.
3. Tower of Babel (*Genesis*)
 - a. People congregated in a city rather than spread out
 - b. Decided to build a tower to the heavens
 - c. God confused them by giving different languages to different groups
4. Job (*Job*)
5. Abraham (*Genesis*)
 - a. God chose Abraham and promised that he would be the father of a great nation
 - b. Abraham left his homeland to follow God’s direction
 - c. Abraham’s nephew, Lot, traveled with him; Lot settled in a city named Sodom; God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah because of excessive sin
 - d. Abraham has two sons: Ishmael and Isaac
 - i. Ishmael was illegitimate; he was the father of many (but not all) Arab countries
 - ii. Isaac was the promised son
6. Isaac had two twin sons: Esau and Jacob (*Genesis*)
 - a. Esau was the first born, but sold his rights to Jacob for a bowl of stew
 - b. Jacob believed God and was renamed Israel
7. Jacob had twelve sons (*Genesis*)
 - a. These twelve sons became the 12 tribes of Israel

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- b. Joseph was the favorite son – from which we have the story of Joseph and the coat of many colors – and was sold into slavery in Egypt by his jealous brothers
8. Joseph (*Genesis*)
- a. Became next-in-command to Pharaoh in Egypt
 - b. God told of famine to come, and Joseph prepared for it
 - c. Joseph’s brothers moved to Egypt
 - d. After 400 years, the descendants of Jacob were slaves in Egypt; there were so many of them that Pharaoh was afraid of them
9. Moses (*Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy*)
- a. Moses led the people out of slavery and to the land promised by God
 - b. Moses received the ten commandments and taught the people God’s laws
 - c. The people were afraid to fight the giants in the land promised; they wandered for 40 years in the wilderness until that generation died
 - d. Moses disobeyed God and was forbidden to enter the promised land; he died and Joshua took over leadership of the Israelites
10. Joshua (*Joshua*)
- a. Led people into the land promised by God
 - b. Won many battles, including Jericho where the walls fell down
 - c. Divided the promised land among the twelve tribes
11. Judges (*Judges*)
- a. The people were led by judges who acted as God’s representatives to lead the people
 - b. Samson was one of the famous judges
 - c. Samuel was the last judge
12. Saul – the first king of Israel (*1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles*)
13. David – the second king of Israel (*1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles*)
- a. David and Goliath
 - b. David and Bathsheba
 - c. David wrote many of the Psalms
14. Solomon, David’s son, the third king of Israel (*1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles*)
- a. Wrote many of the Proverbs
 - b. Wrote Song of Solomon and Ecclesiastes
 - c. The nation of Israel enjoyed its largest borders and a period of peace
15. After Solomon’s death, the nation of Israel divided into two parts, each with their own king.
- a. The northern part was still called Israel.
 - b. The southern part (which included Jerusalem) was called Judah.

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16. Period of Kings – some good, many bad. Many of the “major” and “minor” prophets lived during this period. (*1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles*)
17. Jonah (*Jonah*)
 - a. Refused to preach at Ninevah; fled on a boat
 - b. Was thrown overboard during a great storm
 - c. Was rescued by being swallowed by a large fish
 - d. Repented and preached at Ninevah
18. The nation of Israel is defeated and its citizens made slaves
19. The nation of Judah is defeated and its citizens made slaves
20. Daniel (*Daniel*)
 - a. Served the king of Babylon, then Persia
 - b. The Three Hebrews and the Fiery Furnace
 - c. Daniel in the Lion’s Den
21. A small group of Jews return to Jerusalem (*Ezekiel, Nehemiah*)
 - a. They re-established worship in the temple
 - b. The nation of Judah (the southern part of the original country of Israel) was recognized, but it was rarely free to govern itself
 - c. The nation of Israel (the northern part of the original country of Israel) never was re-established
22. John the Baptist (*Matthew, Mark, Luke*)
 - a. Baptized people as a sign of repentance
 - b. Announced that the Kingdom of God is at hand
 - c. Was imprisoned and eventually beheaded; his head was presented to Herod on a platter (this is where our expression “give me his head on a platter” comes from)
23. Jesus (*Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*)
 - a. Was born of a virgin
 - b. Lived a perfect and sinless life
 - c. Was crucified
 - d. Was resurrected
24. The start of the church (*Acts*)
25. Paul
 - a. Originally known as Saul, a Pharisee who searched out and killed Christians
 - b. Became a believer in Jesus while traveling to Damascus
 - c. Started many churches
 - d. Wrote many of the letters that are now part of the New Testament

The End – Judgment and a New Beginning

1. The exact events and chronology are not clearly understood – much prophecy is easiest to understand after its been fulfilled, and these prophecies are no different. That is, it is easier to look backwards at the past to understand previous prophecies than it is to look forward into the future and understand what might happen.
2. Jesus will return to earth and defeat Satan – Satan and his demons will be cast into the lake of fire
3. Those whose names are not written in the Book of Life will also be cast into the lake of fire
4. Those whose names are written in the Book of Life will enjoy the new heaven and new earth forever

The Book of Life

The Bible teaches that there is a book in heaven called the Book of Life. It contains the names of everyone that has been given eternal life. Your name is written in the Book of Life when you first repent of sin and trust Jesus. Christians use many phrases to describe this event:

- being saved, because you are saved from hell and condemnation
- being born again, because you have been given spiritual life (Jesus used “born again” in John 3)
- becoming a Christian

For more information on becoming a Christian, refer to the self study of *The Gospel of Mark, Lesson 4*.