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Disciplemaking 1 Abiding in His Word

THE OLD TESTAMENT

"For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."
Romans 15:4

Old Testament history starts in Genesis with the beginning of man and the beginning of Israel. The beginning of man is described in four historic events ... creation, the fall, the flood, and the confusion of language at the Tower of Babel. The beginning of Israel is seen in four heroic men ... Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel), and Joseph. Joseph's older brothers sold him into slavery in Egypt where he rose to second in command. He was reunited with his family when famine drove them to Egypt. The 12 tribes of Israel (the descendants of Jacob's 12 sons) prospered greatly in Egypt ... but were enslaved for 430 years after Joseph's death. God called Moses to deliver the Israelites out of bondage. He led them across the Red Sea ... and then on to Mt. Sinai (where God gave the Law).

The Israelites were numbered. They traveled north to Kadesh-Barnea and sent 12 spies into Canaan. The people believed the ten faithless spies and didn't enter the land. God condemned all those 20 years old and older (except the two good spies, Joshua and Caleb) to wander and die in the wilderness. Forty years later, on the east side of the Jordan on the plains of Moab, they were numbered again. Moses gave his final messages ... viewed the land from Mt. Nebo ... and died. Joshua led the Israelites into Canaan to conquer, divide, and settle the land. In the time of the Judges, the Israelites went through 17 cycles of failure. They sinned ... God judged them through outside oppression ... they repented ... God sent a judge to deliver them from their oppressors ... peace and forgetfulness followed ... and they repeated the cycle of sin.

Then the Israelites wanted a king because everyone else had one. They rejected God's rule (theocracy) and chose man's rule (monarchy). The united Kingdom was ruled by three kings ... Saul, then David, then Solomon. Because of Solomon's sins, the kingdom was divided into a Northern and a Southern Kingdom. The Northern Kingdom, Israel (ten tribes) was led by 19 bad kings before being taken captive into Assyria and dispersed. The Southern Kingdom, Judah (the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi), was led by a queen and 19 kings (some good and some bad). They were taken into a 70-year captivity in Babylonia through three deportations. The Israelites returned to Jerusalem after Babylonia fell to Persia. Zerubbabel led the first wave back and rebuilt the temple. Ezra led the second wave back and brought spiritual revival. Nehemiah brought the third wave back and rebuilt the walls. Four hundred years of Biblical silence separates Old Testament history and the birth of Jesus.

#1. THE BEGINNING OF MAN – FOUR HISTORIC EVENTS

(Genesis 1 - 11)

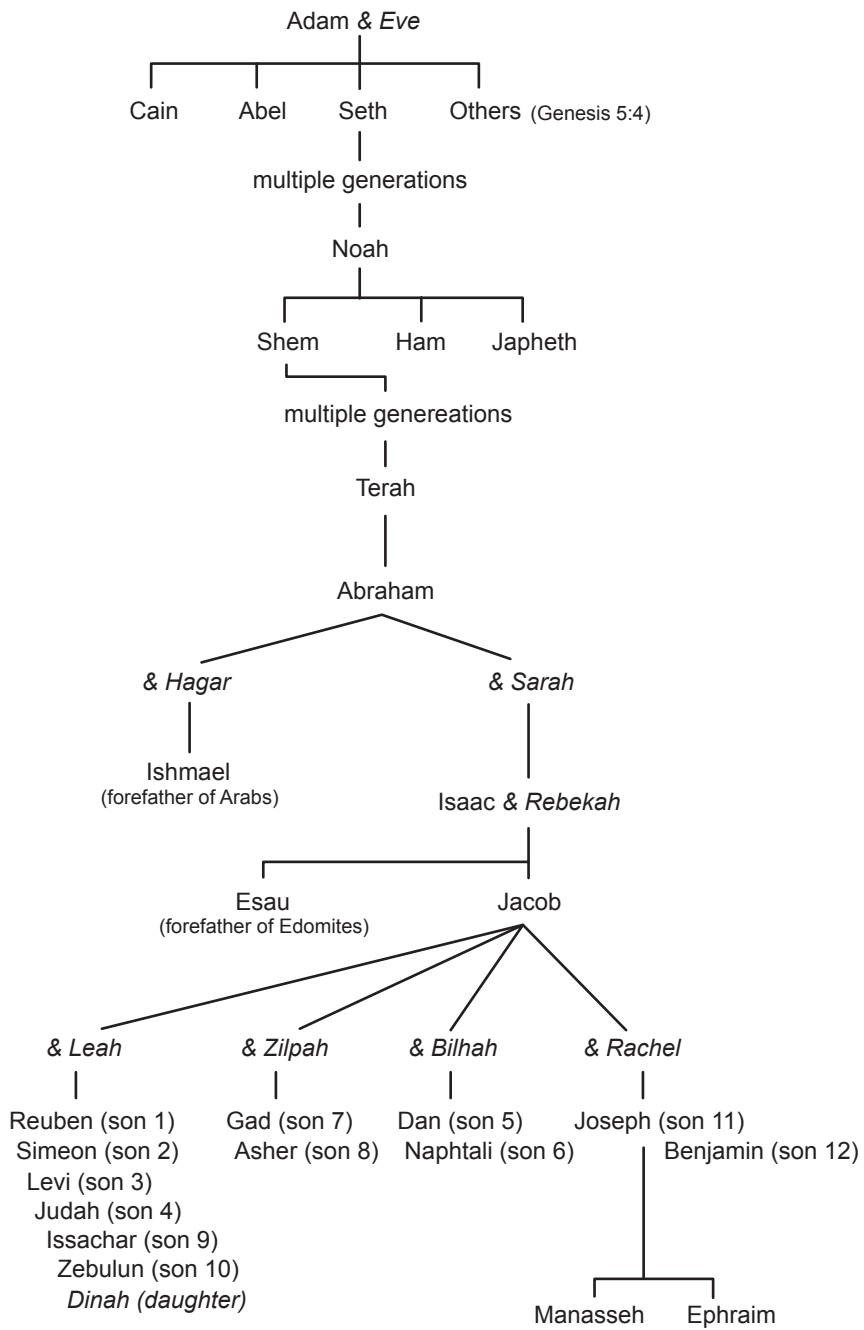
CREATION ... GENESIS 1 - 2. Chapter 1 gives an overview of the creation of the heavens, earth, and man. God said, *"Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness."* 1:26. Chapter 2 details the creation of man on the sixth day. God created a man of dust from the ground and placed him in the Garden of Eden. Then God created a woman from the rib that He had taken from the man to be his partner. *"God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good."* 1:31.

FALL ... GENESIS 3 - 5. Chapter 3 begins with the serpent's tempting Eve to doubt the truth of God's Word and to disobey His command. She ate the forbidden fruit and then offered it to her husband, who also ate of it. This broke their open fellowship with God. The result was God's curse on the serpent, woman, man, and the earth, 3:14-19. Then God drove them out of the Garden of Eden. Chapter 4 details the birth of Cain and Abel, Cain's murder of Abel, and the birth of Seth to continue the godly line. Chapter 5 gives the family tree from Adam to Noah and the birth of his three sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

FLOOD ... GENESIS 6 - 9. In the days of Noah, man was very wicked, and God judged the world by a flood. At His instruction, Noah had built an ark to save himself, his wife, their three sons and their three wives, and a representative sample of animals. Chapters 7 and 8 outline the yearlong flood. God promised never again to destroy man by a flood and placed a rainbow in the sky as a sign of His covenant with Noah. The sin of Ham and Noah's curse of Ham's son Canaan completes Chapter 9.

CONFUSION OF LANGUAGE ... GENESIS 10 - 11. The generations that followed Noah all spoke the same language. At Babel man decided to build a city and a tower to prevent them from being scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth. This was in direct disobedience of God's command to *"be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth."* 9:1. They rebelliously said, *"Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."* 11:3. God judged them by confusing their language ... scattering them over the face of the whole earth. The family line can be traced from Noah's sons to Abram (Abraham).

THE FAMILY TREE



Aaron & Moses (of the tribe of Levi)
 King David (of the tribe of Judah)
 Jesus (of the tribe of Judah)

King Saul (of the tribe of Benjamin)
 Paul (of the tribe of Benjamin)

#2. THE BEGINNING OF ISRAEL – FOUR HEROIC MEN

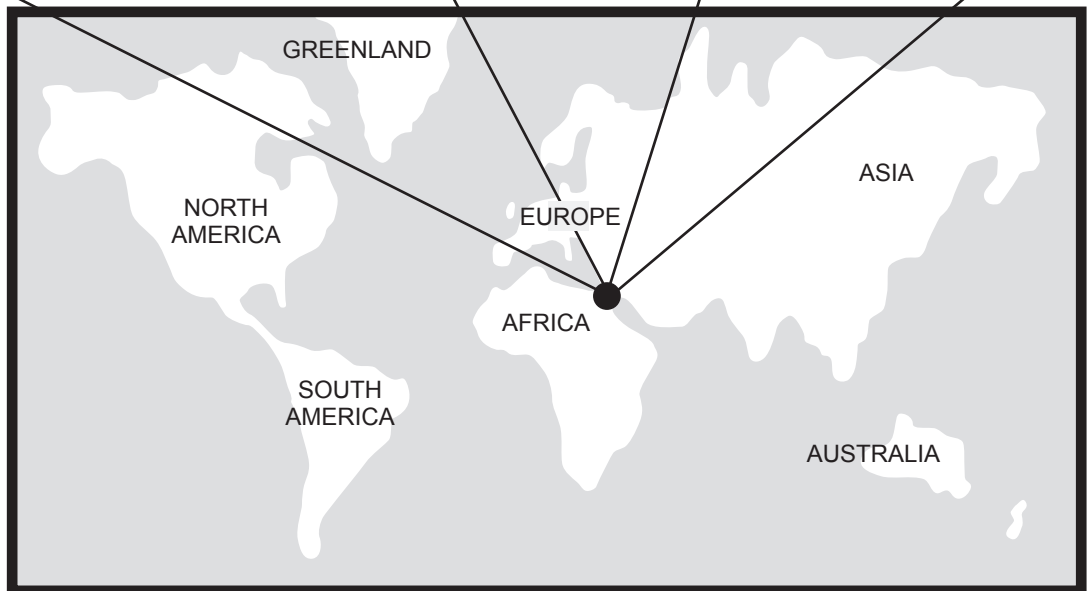
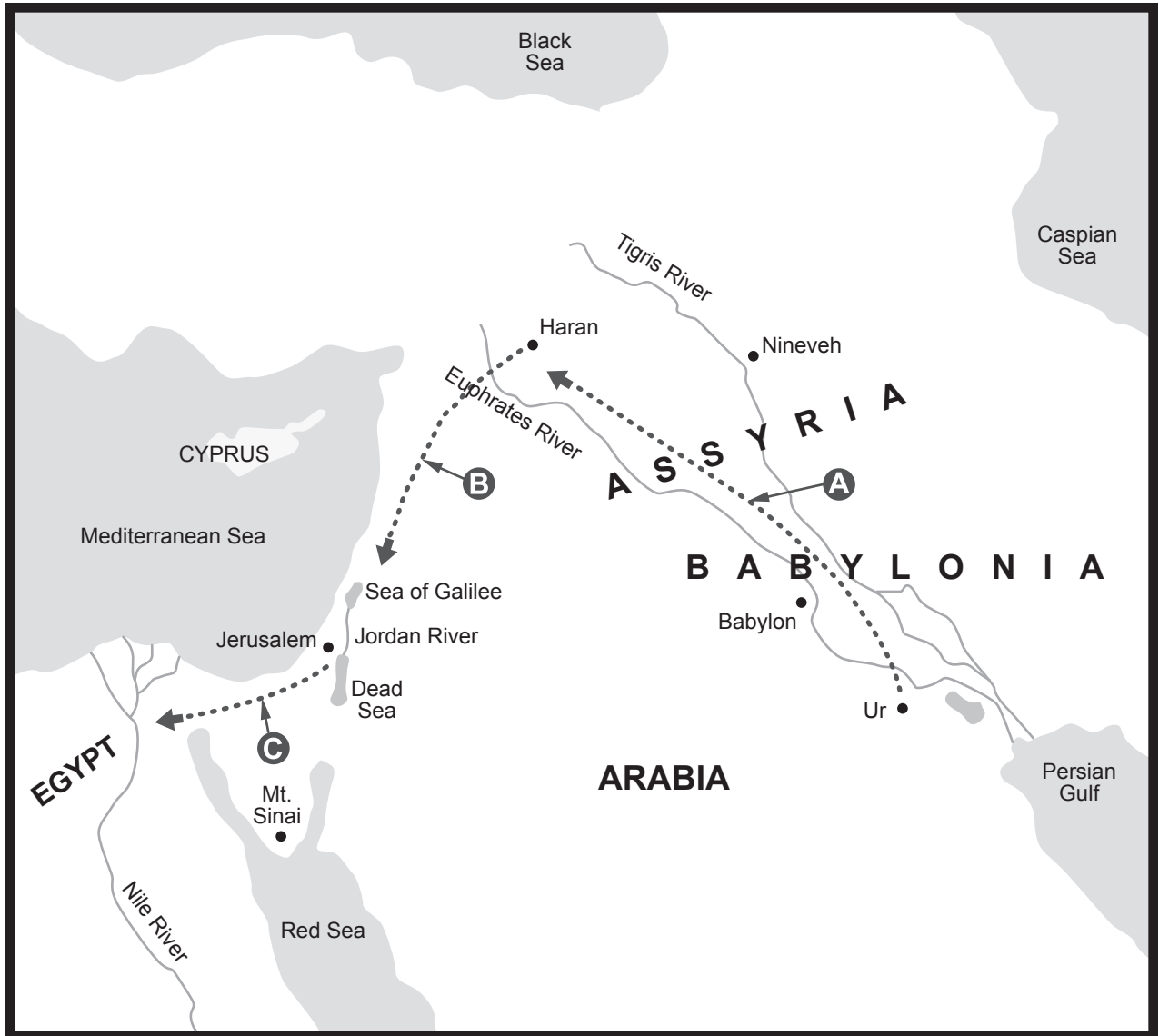
(Genesis 12 - 50)

ABRAHAM ... GENESIS 11:27 - 25:11. God called 75-year-old Abraham to become the father of many nations. Abraham traveled from Ur of the Chaldeans, with his wife Sarah and nephew Lot, to Haran where his father Terah died (see **A** on map, page 4-5). They traveled on to Canaan (see **B** on map, page 4-5). God promised to bless all of the earth through Abraham, 12:1-3 ... to give the land of Canaan to him, 12:7, 13:14-15, 15:18 ... to give him many descendants, 13:16, 15:5 ... and to give an heir to him with Sarah, 15:4. Advanced in age and not trusting God, Sarah gave her handmaid Hagar to Abraham (at age 86). She bore a son, Ishmael, from whom the Arab nations descended. However, as God promised, Sarah bore their heir Isaac ... in 2065 BC when Abraham was 100 years old. God tested Abraham by asking him to sacrifice Isaac, 22:1-19 ... and God provided a ram as a substitute.

ISAAC ... GENESIS 21 - 27. Isaac married Rebekah and had twins in 2005 BC ... Jacob (from whom the Jews descended) and Esau (from whom the Edomites descended). Esau traded his birthright to Jacob for a meal of lentil stew. Later Rebekah helped Jacob (her favorite) trick Isaac so that he would give Jacob the firstborn blessing that was due to Esau. God kept His promise in spite of their sin.

JACOB ... GENESIS 25 - 36. Jacob married Rachel and Leah ... daughters of Laban, Rebekah's brother. Jacob had 12 sons with them and their two handmaidens Bilhah and Zilpah. God renamed Jacob. His new name was Israel, 35:10. God promised Israel that His covenant with Abraham and Isaac would be fulfilled through Jacob, 35:11-12. Jacob's 12 sons are called the 12 tribes of Israel.

JOSEPH ... GENESIS 37 - 50. Joseph had a dream that his family would bow down to him. Because of this and because he was Jacob's favorite, his ten older brothers sold him to a passing caravan. They took him to Egypt and sold him as a slave to Potiphar (see **C** on map, page 4-5). Joseph became second in command in the household but was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife and was put in prison ... where he rose to second in command. After correctly interpreting the cupbearer's and baker's dreams, he interpreted Pharaoh's dreams, predicting seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. Joseph rose to second in command in all of Egypt in 1884 BC. When the famine spread to Canaan, his family came to Egypt for food, and they were reunited with him. Israel and Joseph both died in Egypt.



#3. CAPTIVITY IN EGYPT TO THE EDGE OF CANAAN

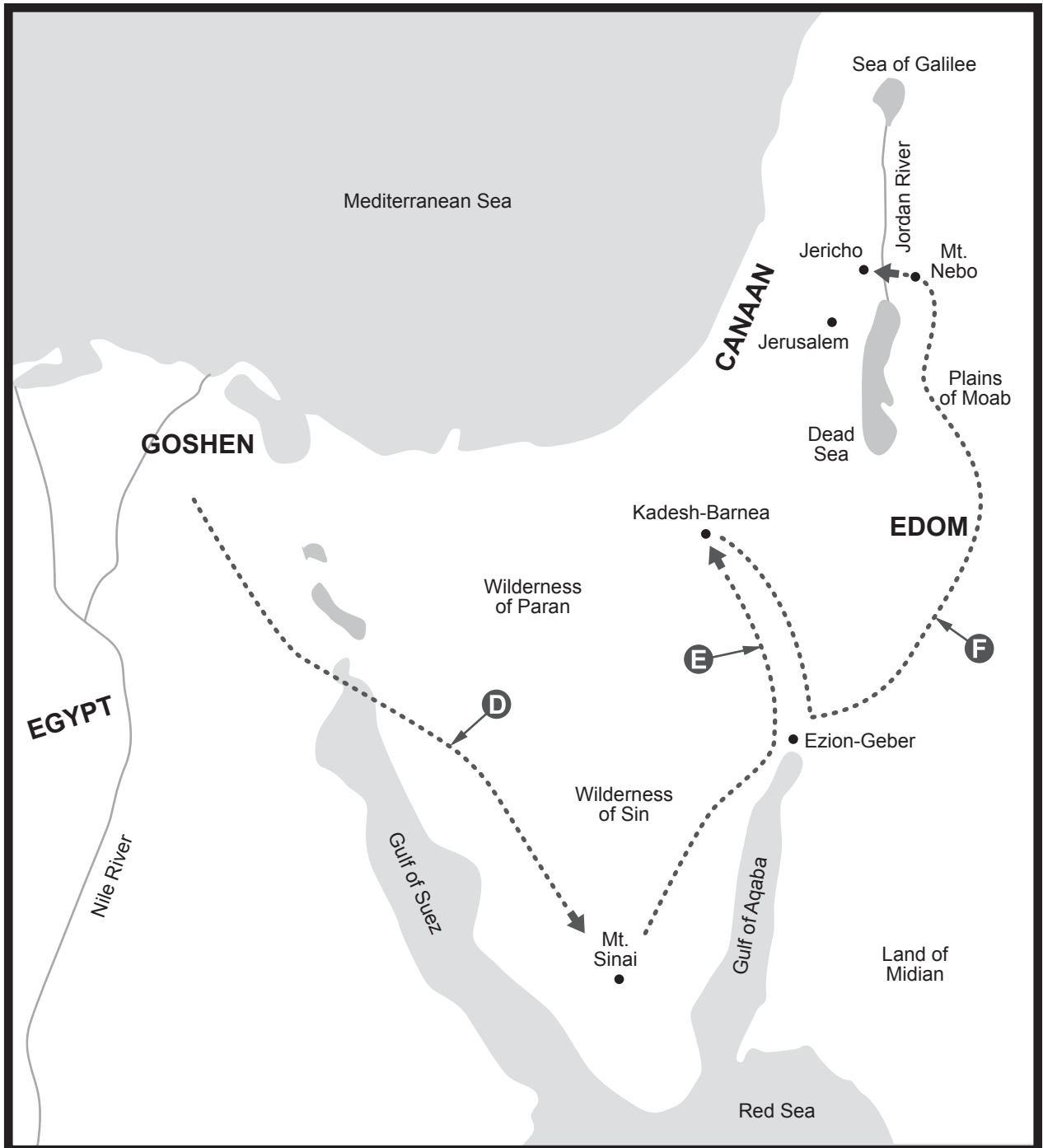
(Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy)

SLAVERY IN EGYPT. The 12 tribes of Israel prospered and multiplied greatly. They were enslaved for 430 years after Joseph's death.

MOSES AND THE EXODUS. Moses was born to a Levite woman ... but was raised as son of the Pharaoh's daughter. *"By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt."* Hebrews 11:24-26. At age 40 Moses killed an Egyptian for beating a Hebrew and then fled to Midian where he spent the next 40 years tending sheep. God called Moses through a burning bush, Exodus 3, to lead His people out of bondage. God worked through Moses and his brother Aaron by means of ten plagues to bring freedom to the Israelites in 1445 BC. The Passover was instituted, Exodus 12 to protect the Hebrew people from the last plague. Moses led the people (600,000+, Exodus 12:37) across the Red Sea to Mt. Sinai (see **D** on map, page 4-7).

MT. SINAI. God instituted the Old Covenant as He gave the law at Mt. Sinai, Exodus 19 and Leviticus. The Law, given at Mt. Sinai, included the Ten Commandments, Exodus 20.

NUMBERINGS, WANDERING, AND DEATH. In the wilderness of Sinai the people were numbered (census #1). Then they traveled north to Kadesh-Barnea. They sent 12 spies into Canaan from Kadesh-Barnea (see **E** on map, page 4-7). The people believed the ten faithless spies, grumbled, complained, and yearned for Egypt. They refused to enter the land. God condemned all who were 20 years old and older (except the two good spies, Joshua and Caleb) to wander and die in the wilderness, Numbers 14:28-30. After 40 years of wandering (see **F** on map, page 4-7), the faithless grumblers had died. Then the new generation was brought to the plains of Moab on the east side of the Jordan River. They were numbered again (census #2). Moses gave his final messages, Deuteronomy. He appointed Joshua to be his successor. Then Moses went up Mt. Nebo to view the Promised Land. Moses died and was buried by God in a valley in the land of Moab. God did not allow Moses to enter the land because he disobeyed God, Numbers 20:8-12, Deuteronomy 3:27.

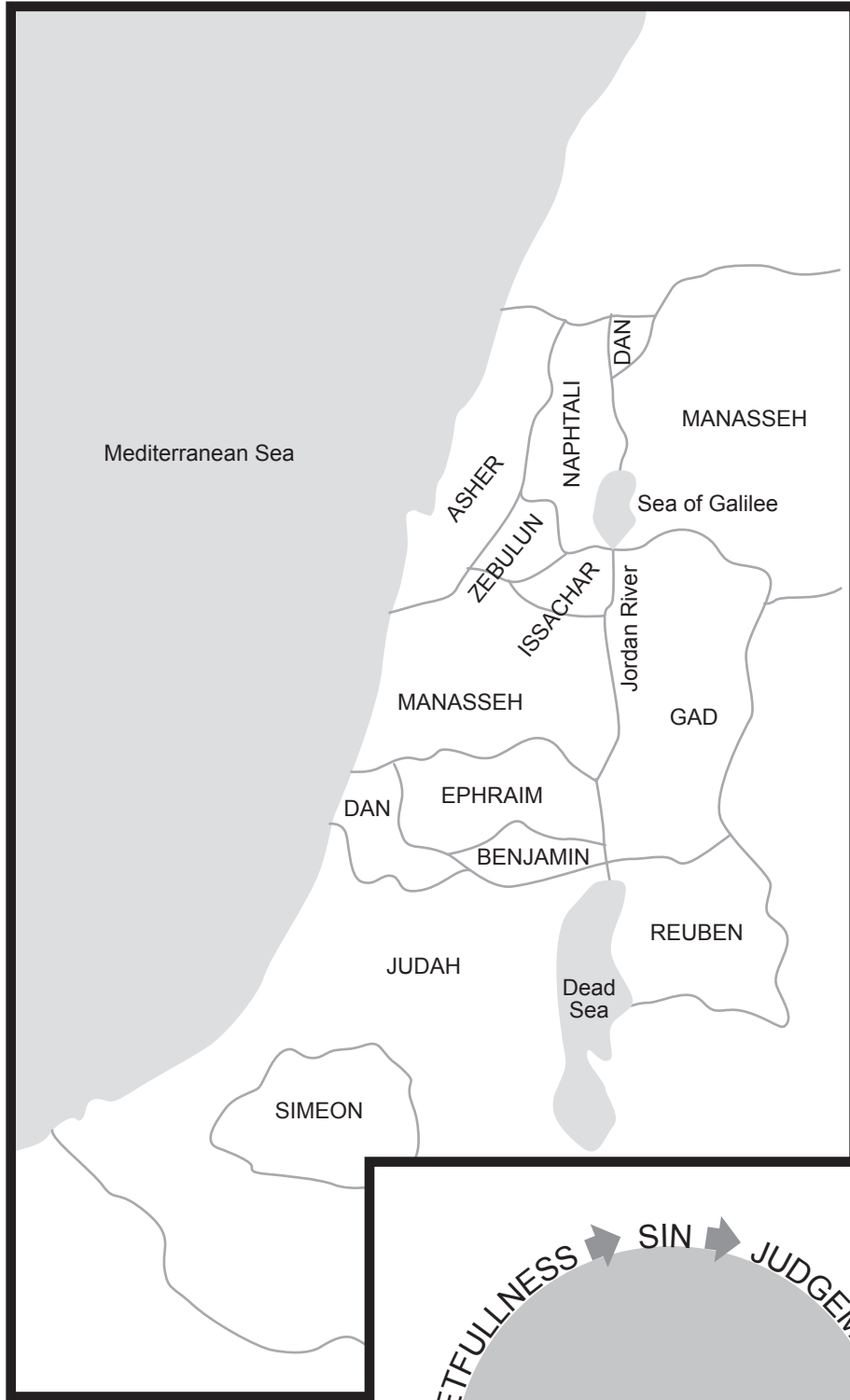


#4. SUCCESS AND FAILURE IN CANAAN

(Joshua, Judges, and 1 Samuel 1 - 8)

JOSHUA AND SUCCESS IN CANAAN. Joshua took the Israelites into Canaan in 1405 BC to conquer, divide, and settle the land. Jacob (Israel) had blessed Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, with a blessing reserved for his own sons ... making them of equal status with Jacob's other sons, Genesis 48:8-22. Therefore, both of their tribes were given a share of the land ... as were the other tribes of Israel. Each of the tribes of Dan and Manasseh received their land in two pieces. The Levites received no land. God was their inheritance, Joshua 13:33. However, the Levites were given 48 cities, Joshua 21:41. God had instructed the Israelites to make no covenants with the people of the land ... not to serve their gods but to tear down their altars ... and to utterly destroy the inhabitants of the land, Exodus 23:32, 34:12-16, and Deuteronomy 7:1-5, 16. The reasons for God's severe judgment against the evil people of Canaan are in Leviticus 18. Joshua and the Israelites did not obey these commands ... and they and their descendants suffered the consequences of coexisting in the land with their enemies and their false gods. However, in spite of their failures, Scripture records, *"Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua."* Joshua 24:31.

THE JUDGES AND FAILURE IN CANAAN. Seventeen cycles of the Israelites' failure over 330 years are outlined in Judges (13 cycles) and 1 Samuel (4 cycles). The description of the cycle of all these failures is in Judges 2:11-19. The people did evil and angered God ... He gave them over to oppressors ... in response to their groaning He sent a deliverer (a judge) to free them ... then in the time of peace that followed they forgot and turned back to their evil ways ... and the cycle began again. Seven cycles are detailed including those of judges Gideon and Samson. Thirteen of the judges are in the book of Judges and four are in 1 Samuel. After the 17 cycles of failure the Israelites wanted a king (monarchy) like everyone else had, 1 Samuel 8:5-20 ... and rejected God's rule (theocracy). At their demand Samuel, one of the last judges, appointed the first king ... Saul, 1 Samuel 8 - 10. Ruth (David's great-grandmother) is an example of a godly woman during the time of the judges.



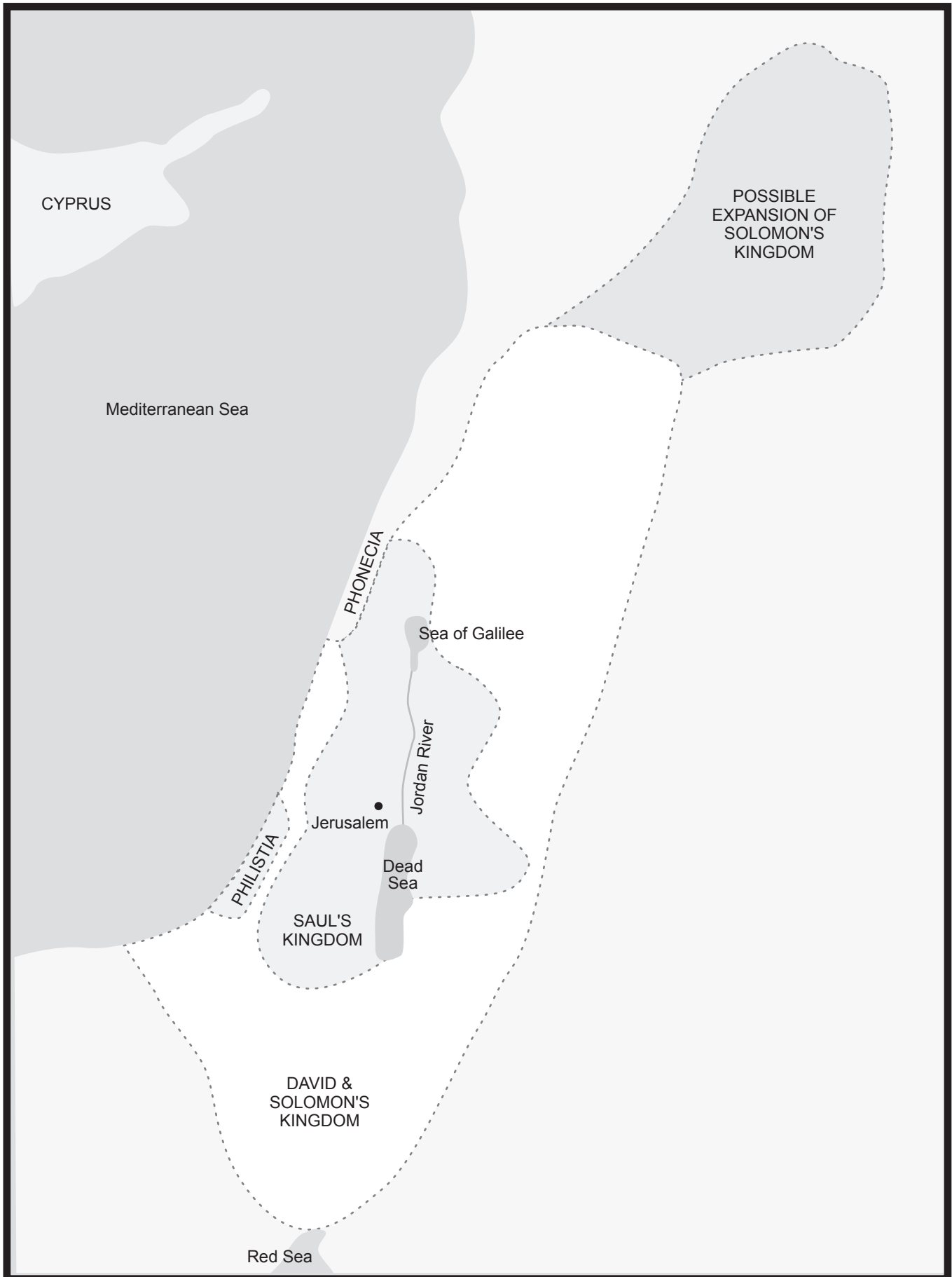
#5. THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE THREE KINGS

(1 Samuel 9-31, 2 Samuel, and 1 Kings 1-11)

SAUL. The people wanted a king, 1 Samuel 8. They rejected God by insisting on having a king, 1 Samuel 8:7. Saul, of the tribe of Benjamin, was chosen to be the king, 1 Samuel 9 - 12. This first king of Israel began to reign at age 40. He reigned 32 years. King Saul was inconsistent, rash, sinful, and gave God partial obedience. Therefore, God rejected him as king, 1 Samuel 13:8-14 and 15:9-11, 26. Saul tried to contact the spirit of the deceased Samuel, 1 Samuel 28:7 ... and he died because he did that, 1 Chronicles 10:13-14.

DAVID. Samuel chose God's man to succeed Saul as king, passing over Saul's son Jonathan. David is described as a skillful musician, a mighty man of valor, a warrior, one prudent in speech, and a handsome man, 1 Samuel 16:18. After years of conflict with Saul, he became king in 1011 BC and prospered ... greatly expanding the kingdom during his 40-year reign. David had an adulterous affair with Bathsheba ... and, finding out that she was pregnant, arranged the death of her husband Uriah in battle. They married ... but their first child died. Solomon, their second son, was successor to the throne. The testimony that David was a man after God's own heart, 1 Samuel 13:14 and Acts 13:22, describes his character before he became king. That testimony was not given to describe him after his sin with Bathsheba. David suffered greatly after that adulterous affair, 2 Samuel 12:10-14.

SOLOMON. He became the third king in 971 BC and was very wise with wisdom given from God, 1 Kings 3:7-12. He spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs numbered 1,005, 1 Kings 4:32. He became greater than all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom. In answer to David's prayer and by David's instructions, Solomon built the Temple. However, God had instructed the kings not to multiply horses, wives, silver, and gold, Deuteronomy 17:16-17 ... and Solomon did all these things. God had instructed the Israelites not to intermarry with foreigners or worship their gods ... and Solomon did these things, 1 Kings 11:1-11. God was angry with Solomon because of his sins. God condemned the kingdom to be divided after Solomon's death ... after because of God's promise to David, 1 Kings 11:9-13. Solomon ruled Israel for 40 years.



#6. THE DIVIDED KINGDOM, THE EXILE, AND THREE RETURNS

(1 Kings 12 – 22, 2 Kings, Ezra, and Nehemiah)

THE KINGDOM DIVIDED INTO TWO KINGDOMS. Solomon's rule ended. The united kingdom was divided into two kingdoms in 931 BC.

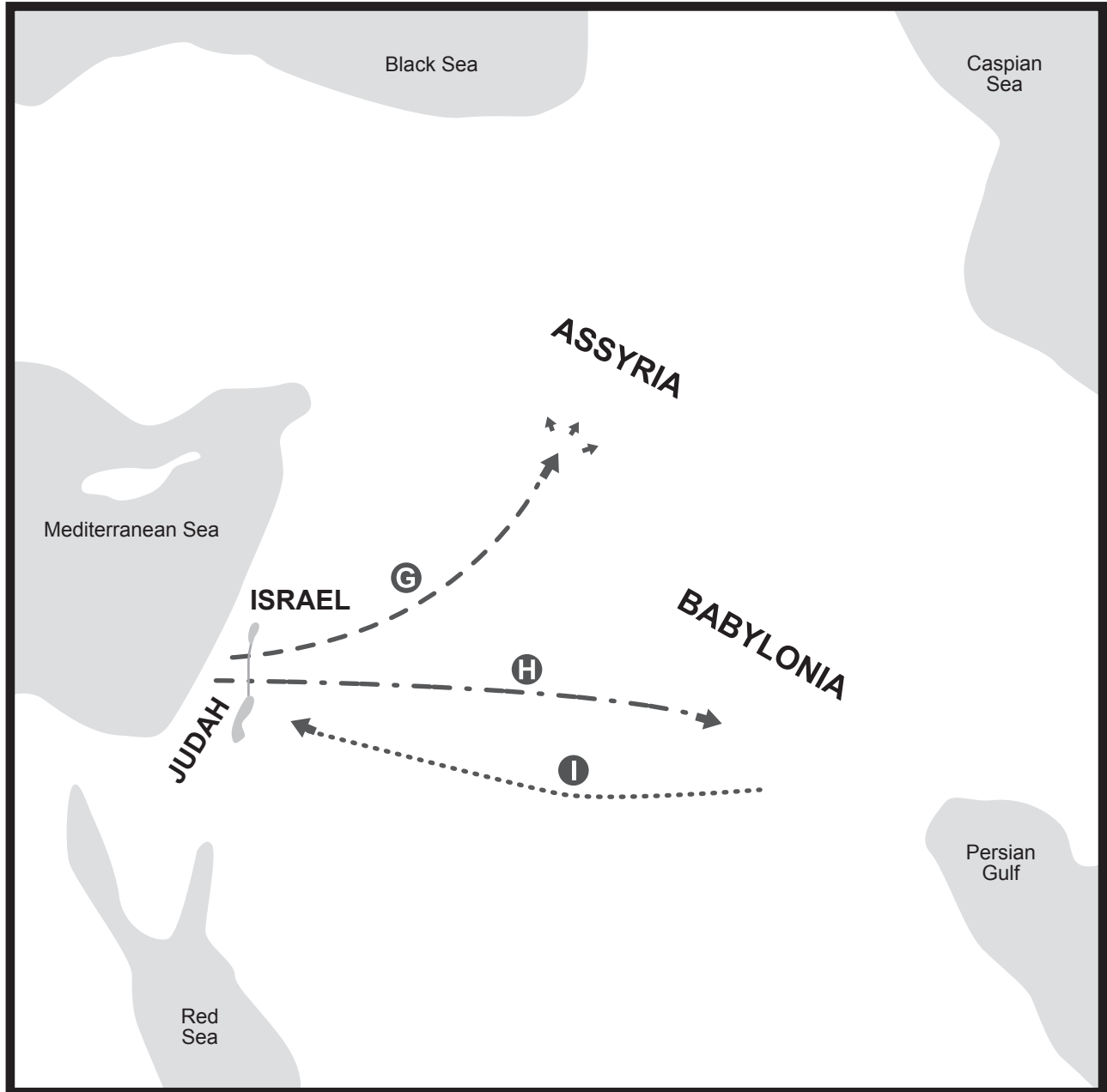
1. The Northern Kingdom ... Israel. The Northern Kingdom, Israel, was comprised of ten tribes (including the tribes of Joseph's two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim). Israel was led by 19 bad kings. In 722 BC, Israel was taken into Assyria and dispersed (see **G** on map, page 4-13).

2. The Southern Kingdom ... Judah. The Southern Kingdom, Judah, was comprised of the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi. Judah was led by a combination of good and bad rulers. There were 19 kings and a queen (Athaliah). In 586 BC, Judah fell when Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed. They were taken into exile in Babylonia through three deportations (see **H** on map, page 4-13). Daniel was in the first in 606 BC, Ezekiel in the second in 597 BC, and the rest in 586 BC when Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed. Babylonia fell to Persia in 539 BC after Judah had been in exile for 70 years (606 BC to 536 BC). At that time, Judah was able to begin returning to Jerusalem.

THE THREE RETURNS OF THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM. Judah was taken into exile in three waves. After 70 years, they returned in three waves.

- 1.** Zerubbabel led the first wave, over 40,000, back to Jerusalem in 536 BC to rebuild the temple ... completed in 516 BC.
- 2.** Ezra led the second wave back in 458 BC. He brought spiritual revival to the people.
- 3.** Nehemiah brought the third wave back in 445 BC. He rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem. Esther records the story of a godly woman among the exiles in Persia.

FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OF SILENCE. Four hundred years of Biblical silence separate the conclusion of Old Testament history and the birth of Christ. No books in the standard canon of Scripture were written in those years. During that time in history, Alexander the Great and the Greeks ruled that part of the world. Then the Roman Empire followed the Greek and was in power before and during the birth and life of Christ.



5 - The Five History Books ... written by Moses

Genesis ... the beginning of the world, man, and Israel.

Exodus ... the exiting from slavery in Egypt ... and Law at Mt. Sinai.

Leviticus ... the Levites and more Law at Mt. Sinai.

Numbers ... a census, wandering, death, and another census.

Deuteronomy ... the final messages of Moses ... and his death.

9 - Nine History Books ... in Canaan before the exile

Joshua ... successful conquering, dividing, and settling in Canaan.

Judges ... 17 cycles of failure.

Ruth ... a godly woman in the time of the judges.

1 Samuel ... the last judges and the first King, Saul.

2 Samuel ... King David's success and failure.

1 Kings ... King Solomon and the division of the Kingdom.

2 Kings ... the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah.

1 Chronicles ... similar to 2 Samuel.

2 Chronicles ... similar to 1 and 2 Kings.

3 - Three History Books ... during and after the 70-year exile

Ezra ... Zerubbabel rebuilt the temple ... Ezra rebuilt the people.

Nehemiah ... Nehemiah rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem.

Esther ... a godly Jewess among the exiles in Persia.

5 - Five Books of Poetry

Job ... an early story of God's sovereignty in a man's suffering.

Psalms ... the hymnbook of Israel.

Proverbs ... the wisdom of God.

Ecclesiastes ... the futility of man without God.

Song of Solomon ... the beauty of marriage.

5 - Five Major Prophets ... before and during the 70-year exile

Isaiah ... predicted condemnation and comfort ... Messianic.

Jeremiah ... the weeping Prophet warns Judah and the nations.

Lamentations ... Jeremiah laments over the destruction of Jerusalem.

Ezekiel ... reminds the Jews of the sins that caused them to be exiled.

Daniel ... prophecy by a godly man exiled in an evil place.

9 - Nine Minor Prophets ... before the 70-year exile

Hosea ... God's love for Israel.

Joel ... God's judgment in the *Day of the Lord*.

Amos ... condemnation of Israel.

Obadiah ... God's condemnation of the nation Edom.

Jonah ... Gentile Nineveh is given a second chance.

Micah ... predictions of judgment and the coming Kingdom.

Nahum ... destruction of Nineveh 150 years after Jonah.

Habakkuk ... God's patience and punishment of Judah.

Zephaniah ... judgment and blessing.

3 - Three Minor Prophets ... after the 70-year exile

Haggai ... The Jews urged to rebuild the Temple.

Zechariah ... call to repent ... predictions of the coming Messiah.

Malachi ... apathy criticized ... predictions of John the Baptist and Jesus.

THE 39 BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

17 HISTORY BOOKS

5 Creation to Canaan

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

9 In Canaan...before
70-year exile

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles

3 In Canaan...after
70-year exile

Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther...in Persia

5 POETRY BOOKS

5 Books of Poetry

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon

17 PROPHECY BOOKS

5 Major Prophets...before
& during 70-year exile

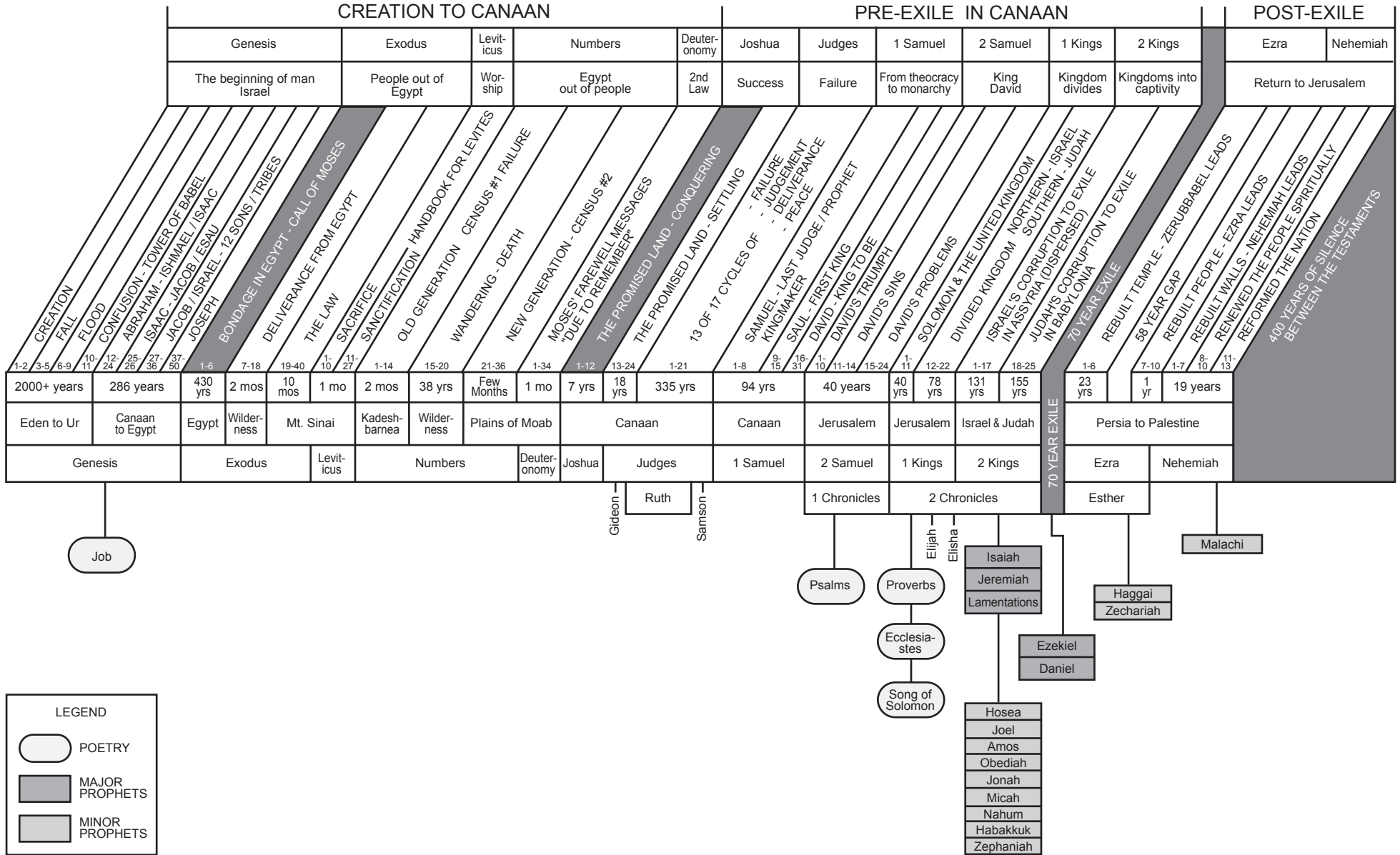
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

9 Minor Prophets...before
70-year exile

Hosea
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Zephaniah

3 Minor Prophets...after
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Zechariah
Malachi



THE OLD TESTAMENT

