

# EIGHT GREAT EPOCHS IN THE FABRIC OF TIME



D A V E N A D L E R

## 50 DAYS - 8 EPOCHS!

The **Eight Great Epochs In The Fabric Of Time** workbook has been produced to help grasp the “big picture” on the God Story, and at the same time, to think through the deeper issues of life.

I have done my best to accurately represent the Living God’s words about time, eternity, life, death, and the human struggle.

There are 8 video presentations which are each about 30 minutes in length. This workbook follows these presentations, asking questions to augment your understanding of each epoch in the God Story.

My work is to provide an accurate representation of the facts, not recruit you to an ideology. It is my hope your worldview will be enhanced as you systematically think your way through each segment in the unfolding context of these woven threads.

For someone looking for a fuller understanding of the God story, context is always helpful. To find context read the verses listed. And if you can, underline or highlight in your (paper) bible each verse you reference for your ongoing study and encountering of God through His Word.

**ENJOY!**

**FOURTH  
STREAM**  
FINDING HOPE



## EIGHT GREAT EPOCHS *within the fabric of time!*

EPOCH ONE (Days 1-7)

**ORIGINS**..... pages 7-22

EPOCH TWO (Days 8-17)

**DELIVERANCE**..... 23-39

EPOCH THREE (Days 18-22)

**KINGS & KINGDOMS**..... 40-51

EPOCH FOUR (Days 23-25)

**PROPHETS & CAPTIVITY**..... 52-60

EPOCH FIVE (Days 26-29)

**THE RETURN & THE SILENCE**..... 61-67

EPOCH SIX (Days 30-36)

**THE SHINING LIGHT**..... 68-99

EPOCH SEVEN (Days 37-39)

**TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH**..... 100-111

EPOCH EIGHT (Days 40-50)

**THE END OF THE AGE**..... 113-135





## How to get the most out of this experience...

The slide diagrams on each page mirrors the eight presentations included in your course data at [Fourthstream.com/courses/8-great-epochs](http://Fourthstream.com/courses/8-great-epochs). I believe if you take several “passes” at each presentation, you will walk away with enough to stimulate your personal spiritual worldview. Because this is so foundational, time spent here will be huge for your connection with His Word.

## What do I mean by worldview?

Each of us has a series of beliefs or operating principles upon which we make our decisions. For instance, if we lost someone important to us at some point in our life, it may make us sad, depressed, thoughtful, searching, angry, or aggressive about denial. It could make us overindulge in substances or unhealthy choices for food intake. Our experiences, both traumatic and pleasant, each help to shape our world view. Our own world view is made up of hundreds of pieces to each puzzle that is uniquely us.

### #1 LISTENING & OBSERVING PASS

I would suggest viewing one presentation and paging through the workbook as you listen. Try to grasp each part of the unfolding epoch, and to weigh each of your conclusions about the Story. Integrate what you already know with what you are discovering as you go.

### #2 ABSORBING PASS

Next, return to each page of that section and answer the questions presented - frame by frame. This gives you a chance to absorb what I am communicating and then observe the passages from which I have formed my conclusions. This should be deliberate and involve some time set aside to think things through. *Do I think this is right? Is this something I have encountered or wrestled with before? How is each epoch relevant to how my life is unfolding?*

### #3 WORLD VIEW PASS

Finally, draw some conclusions about your own world view. *Does this principle (and Dave’s conclusions) ring true for me? Is the foundation of how I operate clear and strong? Is there any place where I should consider modifying my world view? In what ways do I feel as though I am on shaky ground with any particular principle? On solid ground?*

***If you take the time to weigh each epoch and evaluate your personal world view, I believe you will grow in your understanding of the Kingdom, your usefulness to the King, and your satisfaction with your spiritual life.***

**HAPPY HUNTING!**



## ENDLESS ETERNITY PAST

### THE AGE OF TIME

1. Origins
2. Deliverance
3. Kings & Kingdoms
4. Prophets & Captivity
5. Return (400 silent years)
6. The Shining Light
7. To the Ends of the Earth
8. The End of the Age

## ENDLESS ETERNITY FUTURE

# DAY ONE I

### WELCOME!

Listen to video #1 and think about the following questions.

What images come to mind when you think about *endless eternity*?

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How firm are you in your belief that there is *eternity apart from the time continuum*?

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With which of the above eight epochs would you say you are *most familiar*?

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*Least familiar?* \_\_\_\_\_

On a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being the most likely and 1 being the least - how well thought through are your ideas about the *scientific*, *philosophical*, and *faith* realities of existence outside of time (eternity)?

1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 (circle one)

### MY WORLDVIEW

- ✓ Do I believe in life after death?
- ✓ Do I feel my mind and heart are prepared to enter eternity?
- ✓ Do I feel I have any part in the ultimate occurrence of this event?

## DAY ONE I

# The God Story!

The Living God has spoken.  
Hebrews 1:1-4

### HEBREWS 1:1-4

Read this passage in your favorite copy of the scriptures, answering these questions.

Why are the Hebrew prophets relevant to us?

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What is the significance of identifying Jesus as the Son of the Living God? Read **Psalm 2** regarding the Son. What do you learn about Him?

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Read **John 1:1-5**. In your world view, have you thought through the fact that Jesus (the Son) created the world? Read **John 1:14-18**. The Son left heaven and came to earth (into time) and was born as a human child (the incarnation). He accomplished something within the time continuum - and yet He also exists outside of time? Does this seem likely to you? What issues does it present?

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### MY WORLDVIEW

- √ Do I believe God has spoken in nature? Through His God Story?
- √ How has He spoken through the Jews?
- √ Do I believe He still communicates with “sons of Adam” today? With me?

— *There is only one Testament* —  
Deuteronomy 6:4/Matthew 22

The Living God  
(Yahweh)

The Son of the Living God  
(Yeshua)

The Spirit of the Living God  
(Ruach - Breath)

## DAY TWO 2

The terms *old* and *new* testament are not something that appear within the Scriptures, but are man-made distinctions. There is little doubt that both the Creator Father and the Son reveal themselves as distinct, yet in Their very essence, are completely One. There is only one testament - and only One Living God.

√ Read and Search: [DEUTERONOMY 6:4](#)

How does this passage reflect upon what we observe in Genesis 1:26?

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√ Read and Search: [MATTHEW 22:35-46](#)

Why did Jesus' words preclude future questions?

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√ Read and Search: [MATTHEW 14:22-36](#)

**What made Peter come to the conclusion that he did?** What would it have been like to have talked with God face to face?

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### MY WORLDVIEW

√ Do I believe that God is One?

√ Does it make sense that there is only one story and one "testament?"

√ Why would this make any difference to me as I read the God Story?

# The God Story!

## LIFE - DEATH - GLORY



When God chose Abraham it was not *because* he was a Jew. God was going to fashion a *chosen people* for His own purposes, and Abram was His choice.

We know from Genesis 1-11 that mankind was subverting the Living God's purposes for the human race. He confused our language and scattered us to the four winds - so that His purpose of redemption could be brought about through loss. This loss was shared with the Living God - in the garden we lost our innocence - and our souls. The Lord God gave His Son before the foundation of the world - and we cannot imagine the depth of this sacrificial choice.

*The God Story was given to the Jews.* Through this nation the power of God would be shown. Through this people the scriptures would *unfold* and be *cared for*. Through the Hebrews the Messiah would be born into the world - to save us from our sins.

One of the questions I want to ask God when I see Him face to face is *why loss was necessary for redemption*. Redemption (rescuing) and loss (separation) are somehow linked to Who He is on a very deep level. It is also totally entwined with who we are.

Life is a gift of amazing proportions. Loss is inevitable for any human - because death is loss. But the Living God is bringing about a great glory - and He has included mankind right in the middle of this Epic story!



- EPOCH ONE -  
**origins**



## ENDLESS ETERNITY PAST

### THE AGE OF TIME

1. Origins
2. Deliverance
3. Kings & Kingdoms
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## ENDLESS ETERNITY FUTURE

# DAY THREE 3

WATCH VIDEO ONE  
"ORIGINS"  
as you work through  
this section.



It is important to realize that [GENESIS 1-11](#) as well as the book of Job are *not* Hebrew. They are *Human*. Through the Hebrew scriptures the Living God has preserved the Story of our origins.

### SOME GOOD BIG PICTURE QUESTIONS

If you were God, and You wished to *speak to the human race over many centuries*, what approach would you have taken?

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What are your current beliefs about *your origins*?

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What is the relationship between *scientific* ideas and *biblical statements* about our origins? Remember, all scientific inquiry begins with hypothesis, moves to theory, and then is potentially proven as a *law or truth*.

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√ What do you feel you know for certain?    √ Do you believe there is a God?

√ What do you feel you know about Him?

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# Acts 17:22-31

## DAY THREE 3

THIS PASSAGE IS KEY TO UNDERSTANDING THE KINGDOM!

So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, ‘Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, ‘To an unknown God.’ Therefore what you worship in ignorance - I proclaim to you:

“The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for *in Him we live and move and exist*, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are His children.’

“Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man. Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, *God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.*”

Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some began to sneer, but others said, “We shall hear you again concerning this.” So Paul went out of their midst. But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

**Paul had been a devoted Jew. Now He had encountered the promised Hebrew Messiah, the Son of God, the One Who is the Savior of the world.**

√ What was Paul’s approach to explaining the God Story to these unbelievers?

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√ What were the particulars of his explanation? √ What things are unexpected?

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# DAY FOUR 4

17 HISTORICAL	5 POETIC	17 PROPHETIC
Genesis	Job	Isaiah
Exodus	Psalms	Jeremiah
Leviticus	Proverbs	Lamentations
Numbers	Ecclesiastes	Ezekiel
Deuteronomy	Song of Solomon	Daniel
Joshua		Hosea
Judges		Joel
Ruth		Amos
1 Samuel		Obadiah
2 Samuel		Jonah
1 Kings		Micah
2 Kings		Nahum
1 Chronicles		Habakkuk
2 Chronicles		Zephaniah
Ezra		Haggai
Nehemiah		Zechariah
Esther		Malachi

**“In you all the  
nations of the  
earth will be  
blessed.”**

**Genesis 12:3  
17:5-7  
Romans 9:1-8**

## THE HEBREW CONNECTION TO OUR LIVES

As we begin to nail down the Eight Epochs of the God Story it is important to properly interpret the role of the Jewish (Hebrew) people. Not understanding this connection is like moving through life without ties to our family history. The Hebrew story is our *roots*. Our human story in [GENESIS 1-11](#) provides the basis for the Hebrew story.

Read [GENESIS 12](#) and observe God’s interaction with Abraham. What do you see?

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Read [GENESIS 17](#). What do you see?

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Read [ROMANS 9:1-8](#). This is saying something astonishing! What do you think it is?

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8 EPOCHS

#1. ORIGINS of matter, the cosmos, life

Genesis

Human Race

Job = relational narrative

Chosen Race

## DAY FOUR 4

If not for His chosen people, we would have no authentic record of man's beginnings - or our future!

### WHY DO OUR ORIGINS MATTER?

The sheer volume of knowledge garnered in the last generation is astounding. Daniel prophesied that in the last days “knowledge will increase” ([Daniel 12:4](#)). Think about what has been learned since the launching of both the Hubble and Webb satellites! In science and physics, let alone quantum physics, we have made mind-blowing progress in understanding the complexities and beauties of design, down to the molecular level. It is no wonder God said at the Tower of Babel “*nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them*” ([GENESIS 11:6](#)).

Genesis provides THE authoritative *faith* and *scientific* explanation of our roots. Our *connection* to our Creator and everything that is made is carefully and succinctly set forth for anyone who wishes to search the depths of the real meaning of our existence.


### MY WORLDVIEW

√ Where do I come down on harmony between science and faith?

√ Do I believe there is an ultimate harmony within God Himself?

√ If there is a supernatural God, what is it about my origins that would be *personal* and at the same time *infinite*?

## DAY FIVE 5



Straightforward.  
Truthful.  
Supernatural.  
Scientific.  
Mind-blowing.

### WHY THE GENESIS ACCOUNT OF OUR ORIGINS IS BELIEVABLE

Honest-minded scientists are open to intelligent design. Randomness is simply not scientifically satisfying. *The Bible's science is impeccable and super-intelligent. Natural laws do not preclude supernatural intervention.*

Other religious and *modern* accounts of our origins seek to paint mankind in a *flattering* or self-serving manner. The Bible does not pander to the human ego. *It is brutally truthful when it makes scientific, faith, or anthropomorphic claims.* While other belief systems bring the Creator down to created's level, the Scriptures do the opposite. *God comes near* to return mankind to a *restored* relationship with our Creator.

### MY WORLDVIEW

√ How much effort have I given to understanding what God has said about my origins?

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√ What about the Bible seems small or limiting to me?

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√ What about the Bible seems hard to understand to me?

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# GENESIS

# Origins

# DAY FIVE 5

## HUMAN RACE

Creation...1:1,2

Fall...3:6-8

Flood...6:8;9:16

Tower...11:6,9

1-11

## CHOSEN RACE

Abraham...12:1,8

Isaac...22:7,8

Jacob...25:23

Joseph...46:3,4

11-20 21-26 27-36 37-50

JOB

"In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." 12:3

## I AM YOUR CREATOR - I AM THE FATHER OF ALL LIVING THINGS

For the purposes of this study it is important to recognize the connection of *Job* to the book of Genesis. It is also helpful to understand the unfolding story of the chosen race, and this is best done by becoming familiar with the life, faith, and foibles of the four patriarchs: *Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph*.

Why do you think the first 11 chapters of Genesis non-Hebrew?

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Why did the Living God choose a people (the Jews) to display His power?

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Take a few minutes and look up the references listed in the overview chart above. What do you observe?

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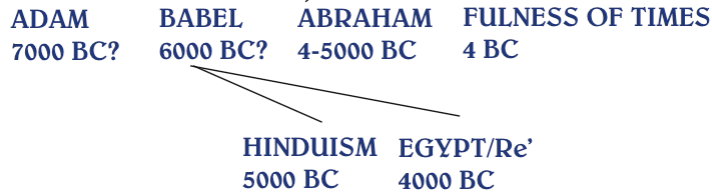
## MY WORLDVIEW

√ If you take the time to highlight each of these references in your bible, you will cover a huge amount of ground in the scriptures.

√ Each of the passages considered in the Eight Epochs in the Fabric of Time series are "markers" that help us to understand the Story!

# DAY SIX 6

## TIMELINE ANCIENTS



## DO ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE SAME PLACE?

The subject of all religions is an interesting one. *According to scripture there are basically two religious systems.* They are as old as the Garden of Eden.

√ There is the existence of the Living God. All things created flow from Him, the Son proceeds eternally through Him. He is simply the Father of everything.

√ From His created beings another “god” emerges. He is one of three archangels (covering). He is a usurper of the glory of the Living God. His name is Satan, son of the morning. He is extremely powerful, though all his authority is derived from his Creator. *He is our adversary and the reason we are born into a world at war.*

From these two sources come all other “gods” and religions of the earth. Just as Satan tempted Adam and Eve to usurp the Father’s authority over their lives, so other religions hold promise of *liberation* from accountability to our King.

I recommend taking the time to personally investigate Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and other eastern syncretism - as well as historic Christianity. Compare them to the ancient faith of Abraham, father of the True Jews. Hold each one beside the unfolded God Story from the Hebrew Messianic Scriptures - and make your own Jesus determination concerning authenticity.

You owe this process to yourself - and the Honor to your Living Father!

## MY WORLDVIEW

√ Am I familiar with other religious belief systems and the claims they make about spirituality?

√ Am I reasoned and solid in my choices for what I believe?





## DAY SIX 6

### ABRAHAM IS OUR FAITH LINK TO BELIEVING GOD

According to Paul, Jew among Jews and apostle to the Gentiles: *Abraham is our Father. True Jews are those who are Jews inwardly, who have had our hearts circumcised.*

Read [ROMANS 9:8](#).

What is a “child of the promise?”

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Read [GALATIANS 3](#).

What is the relationship between the Law and faith? The purpose of the Law?

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Who is the “Seed?”

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Why was the Son born “under the Law?”

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✓ [HEBREWS 11](#) is a really cool chapter to read when looking for the faith link between ourselves as believing Gentiles and our Jewish roots.

## JOB Sovereign Suffering

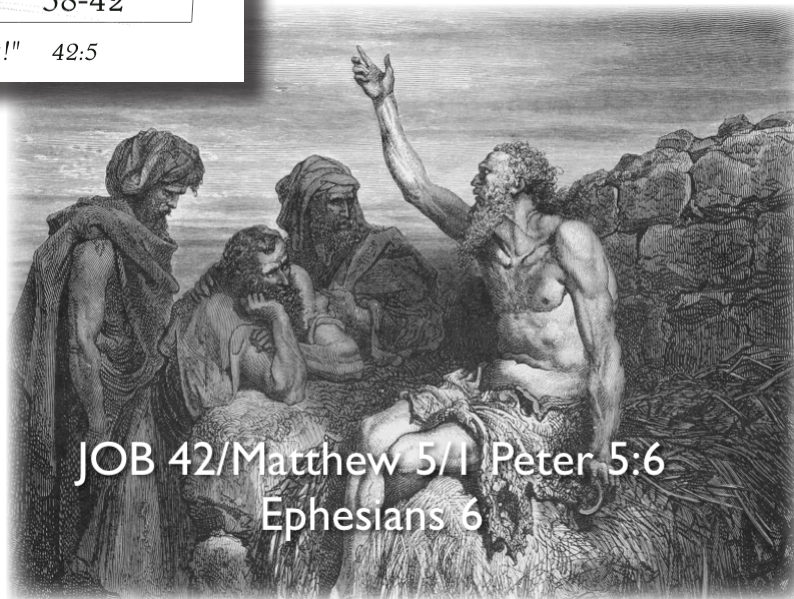
Job's Test	Friend's Solution	God's Solution
1:6-12	42:7	40:2-5
1-2	3-37	38-42

"I had heard of You...but now I see You!" 42:5

## DAY SEVEN 7

Job is a wonderful story which expresses the fundamental truths about God and man. Read [JOB 42](#) and answer the following questions.

These are the conclusions of a long and gut-wrenching experience for Job. What do you learn from the first two chapters about God? About Satan and angels? About the relationship with mankind?



JOB 42/Matthew 5/1 Peter 5:6  
Ephesians 6

Read [MATTHEW 5](#). What does humility have to do with spirituality?

Read [1 PETER 5:6](#) and [EPHESIANS 6](#). What do we learn about the spiritual dimension of life?

### MY WORLDVIEW

√ Do I believe in the active presence of evil in my daily affairs?

√ Am I open to the process of humility that produces growth in the deep parts of my soul?





- EPOCH TWO -  
**DELIVERANCE**

## ENDLESS ETERNITY PAST

### THE AGE OF TIME

1. Origins
2. Deliverance
3. Kings & Kingdoms
4. Prophets & Captivity
5. Return (400 silent years)
6. The Shining Light
7. To the Ends of the Earth
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## ENDLESS ETERNITY FUTURE

# DAY EIGHT 8

WATCH VIDEO TWO  
"DELIVERANCE"  
as you work through  
this section.

# 2

### GOOD NEWS & BAD NEWS

The story of Genesis helps us understanding our roots as part of the human race and the chosen race. If the Living God is who He says He is, the implications are massive. Implicit in an understanding of our ORIGINS is our need for DELIVERANCE. *The Good News means little if we are not acquainted with the Bad News.*

Through Adam and Eve we were created to live forever. That was changed when these parents rejected God's Word in exchange for the serpent's word. If we are to once again acquire eternal life, it will be done through *faith* in the One whom God has sent.

### MY WORLDVIEW

- ✓ Do I believe that God is my Father?
- ✓ Do I believe that I was born separated from God?

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✓ Do I believe that I am lost apart from God's intervention in my life?

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✓ Do I believe that my Father cares enough about me to search for me and deliver me?

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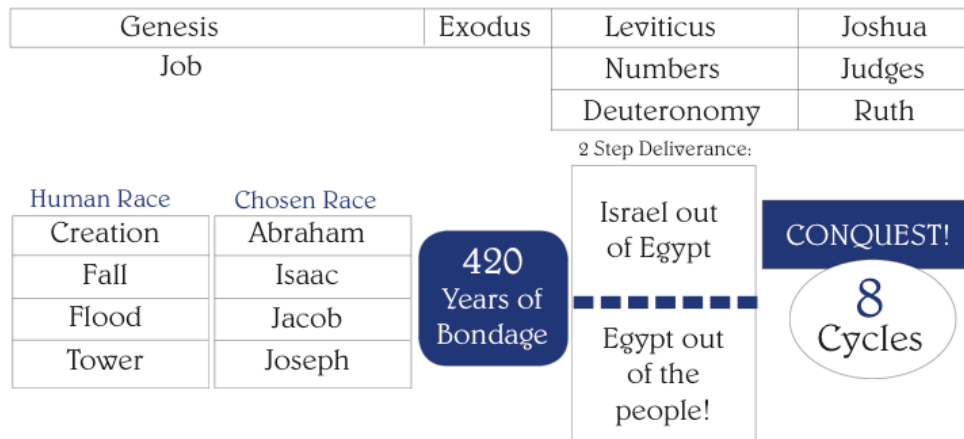


## DAY EIGHT 8

*The Promise?*  
In a coffin in Egypt.

### TIMELINE OF THE LAW & PROPHETS

*One*



#### NOTE THE KEY PEOPLE AND EVENTS IN THE TIME-LINE

It is easy to think that God is not going to come through. It is clear from Scripture and from life experience that *all* men and women die. Whether Adam and Eve, Noah and his family, the people in the wilderness, Moses himself, or you and me - *one earthly fate awaits all men.*

*But it becomes clear in the God Story that there is more to life than living and dying - there is reward and hope as well. This is the outcome of **faith**. There is meaning beyond our 80 or so years of life upon this earth. The Law and the prophets give the foundation for this understanding. Life can produce good things, but what good is life lived apart from God?*

Israel carried Joseph's bones and buried them in the promised land (see [Exodus 13:19](#) and [Joshua 24:32](#)). While Joseph may have been buried in an Egyptian coffin - his life and death are a picture of the deliverance on the horizon!

## EXODUS

## Exit

Deliverance from Bondage	Law Exposed	Tabernacle Constructed
1:9-22; 12:51	20:1-17	25:1-22
1-12	13-24	25-40

"God's sovereign redemption." 12:51

Bondage is the Bad News.  
God's Law is the Good News.  
God is among us!

## LEVITICUS

## Worship

Way of Access		
Sacrifice 1:4; 2:13; 7:37-38	Priests 9:23-24; 10:10, 11	Ceremony 16:29-34
1-7	18-10	11-16

Way of Fellowship	
Separation 18:3-5; 19:36-37	Observances 23:44; 25:8-12
17-22	23-27

God's Holiness Revealed! 11:44

You may come **near** to Me.  
You may **know** Me.

## NUMBERS

## Wander

Journey Prepared			
Warriors	Levites	Purity	Worship
1:2,3,19	3:12,13; 4:49	5:6,7; 6:21	10:13,35,36
1-2	3-4	5-6	7-10

Journey Wanderings	
Sinai to Moab	Events at Moab
12:1-3; 14:22-33	25:1-3; 26:64,65
10-21	22-36

"God's people as they walk!" 33:1

40 day journey = 40 years.  
Because of **unbelief** (Hebrews 3)

## DAY EIGHT 8

## DAY NINE 9

The Lord God remembers His people in **Egypt**. He provides deliverance through Joseph and Moses, and has now brought His people out of Egypt with a "mighty hand."

The book of **Exodus** not only describes this process for the Jews, but also for all who call upon God to deliver us into eternal life. He leads Israel through the **fire** and the **cloud**.

Because this generation has grown up in Egypt and does not know the Lord, He gives them His **Law** at Mount Horeb to explain who He is. Yahweh then provides a meeting place called the Tabernacle, where His people can experience His presence.

The priesthood is established in **Leviticus** to help the Hebrews **draw close** to their Deliverer. Faith was God's desire for His chosen people, just as it is today.

√ If you take the time to read and note each of these section passages in your bible, you will establish a solid, basic understanding of His "Torah" or Law. And you will also move deeper into how God has chosen to deliver mankind!





Numbers 14:11-21

## IT IS NO WONDER WE WANDER

The best way to summarize the events and teaching of the book of **NUMBERS** is to consider **chapter 14**.

What was the complaint of the people, and what was their solution to their concerns?

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What is the significance of Joshua and Caleb's place in the story?

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What do we learn about Moses from the events of this chapter?

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What was God's issue with the people and the situation?

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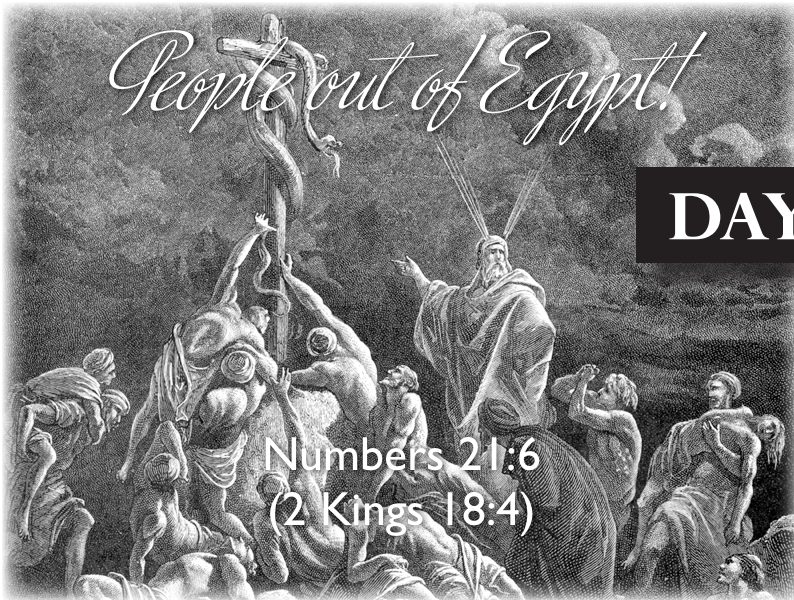
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You may also wish to read about Korah's rebellion in **NUMBERS 26**.

## MY WORLDVIEW

It appears that all grumbling is evidence of a lack of faith (**Hebrews 3**).

- √ Would I consider myself a grumbler?
- √ How do I avoid succumbing to negativity and cynicism?
- √ Do I have the same spiritual disposition as Moses?



## DAY ELEVEN II

### READ NUMBERS 21:1-10

Why were the people upset?

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What was God's response to their complaining?

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Why was His response so harsh?

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What does this incident have to do with what Jesus says in [JOHN 3:14,15](#)?

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What happened in [2 KINGS 18:4](#) that relates to this story?

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### MY WORLDVIEW

√ There are clear principles in these first five books of Moses which help us to live in a way that pleases our Father. He also opens the door to eternal life. Cool.



## DAY ELEVEN II

### THE GRACE OF LAW

God's Law is not antithetical to His grace - it is a *part* of His grace.

Read [DEUTERONOMY 11:26-28](#).

What was the purpose of His Law?

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What were the freeing upsides of following His Law?

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The downsides of ignoring it?

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[GALATIANS 5](#) places the Law into the context of a person who has encountered the Son of God and found life in His Name.

√ What is specifically explained about the purpose of the Law?

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## DEUTERONOMY Standards

Three Discourses:

HISTORICAL REVIEW	LAW EXPOSITED	COVENANT RATIFIED	MOSES GOODBYE
1:26; 4:39	5:29; 6:12	30:11-20	34:6-12
1-4	4-26	27-30	31-34

God's faithfulness and instruction! 10:12

This is Who I Am.  
Deuteronomy 6:4-9  
Matthew 22:36-40

## DAY TWELVE 12

### THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS

Read [DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9](#). What do we learn about His intention for generations?

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Read [MATTHEW 22:36-40](#) and compare it to either list of the “ten commandments” from either [EXODUS 20](#) or [DEUTERONOMY 5](#). What similarities do you see?

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Deuteronomy means “second law.” What happened to the first set of tablets? Why?

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### MY WORLDVIEW

- √ What place do the commandments of God play in my life?
- √ In the lives of those who lead my country?
- √ In the lives of my co-workers or fellow-students?

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## DAY THIRTEEN I3

TRUE JEWS.  
Grafted to the Root.  
Romans 11

Read [ROMANS 2:29](#). Paul was a dedicated Jew, yet Paul knew that it was not enough to be connected to God through any blood or social status. Jesus had revealed to him (and throughout all of scripture) that the Good News belonged to the Gentile as well as the Jew. *The Good News is for both the human and chosen races.*

### READ ROMANS 11.

What is the *result* of the Jews *rejecting* the Messiah, the Son of God?

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How should I feel about being a *wild branch* that has been “grafted in” to the true root?

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How important is it to *continue in His kindness*, and what do you think this means?

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What were Paul’s feelings and conclusion about God’s plan for the Jews and the Gentiles?

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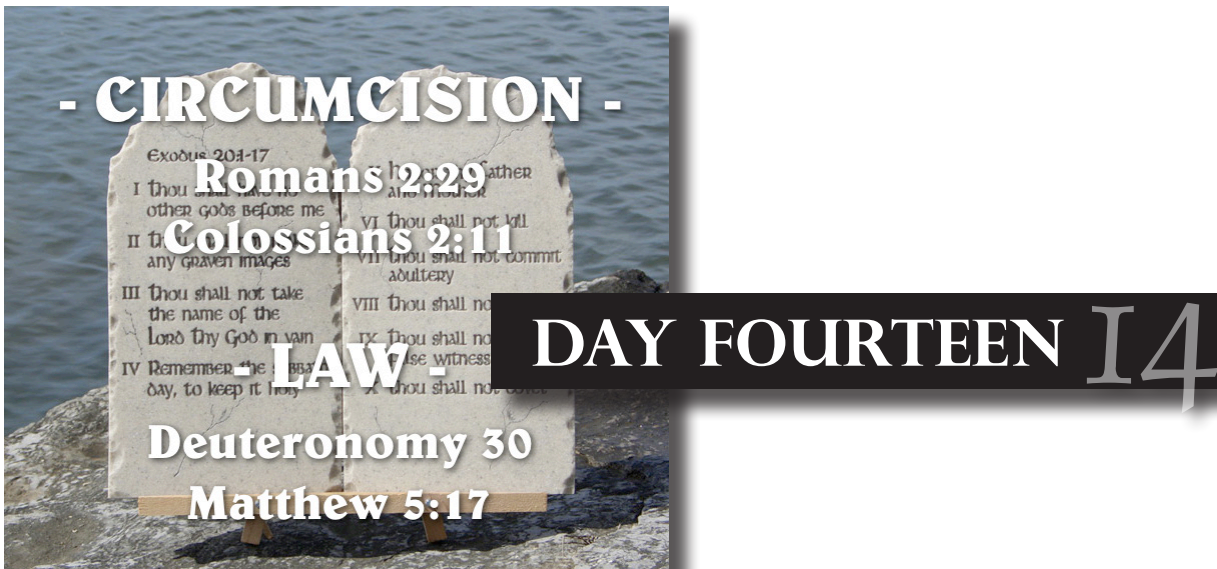
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### MY WORLDVIEW

Gratefulness is one of the true signs of spirituality.

√ Would I consider myself a grateful person?

√ Would grateful be a word others would use to describe me?



We just read [ROMANS 2:29](#). Now read [COLOSSIANS 2:11](#). Circumcision was the outward sign of the covenant made with Abraham, and with the Hebrew people.

What is the “true circumcision?”

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The Law is pretty poorly represented among most modern Gentile believers. Considering how much time was spent by the apostles explaining the link between what Moses said and what Jesus lived and taught, it is incredible we are so far off base. Read [DEUTERONOMY 30](#). Was it possible to interact with the Law in such a way as to be right with God?

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What do you think Jesus meant in [MATTHEW 5:17](#) as He explains righteousness through these “beatitudes?”

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## MY WORLDVIEW

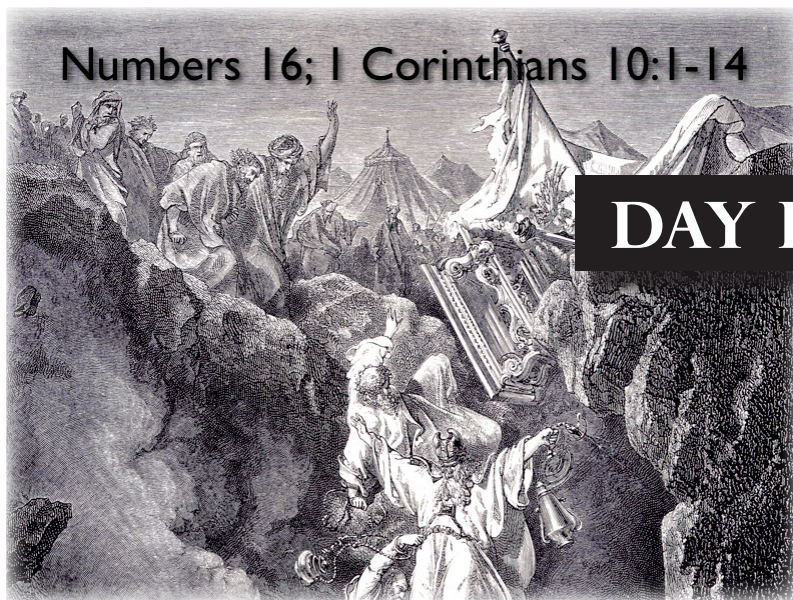
It is easy to live in a world where accountability is non-existent.

√ Do I feel accountable to my Creator for how I choose to live my life?

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Numbers 16; I Corinthians 10:1-14

## DAY FIFTEEN 15

### READ NUMBERS 16

Who was considered a “son of Levi?” Why were the people upset with Moses?

---

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Why was this situation dangerous for the people? For the purposes of God?

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Why was the result so harsh?

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### READ 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-14

What insight do we receive as Paul recalls the events of the book of Numbers?

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### MY WORLDVIEW

✓ Am I a grumbler?

✓ Do I think that there are situations that merit grumbling?

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## JOSHUA

## Conquest

### LAND CONTESTED

1:5-9; 5:14,15  
6:10; 7:5; 9:14

1-12

### LAND DIVIDED

13:1; 14:5-9

12-21

### Joshua Goodbye

22-24

"The land flowing with milk and honey!" 11:23

We are more than conquerors!  
Romans 8:37-39; John 16:33

## DAY SIXTEEN 16

Read THE PASSAGES LISTED IN THE OVERVIEW ABOVE

Why was "the land" so important to the Jews?

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What is your sense for the type of leadership that Joshua provided?

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READ ROMANS 8:37-39

Why is war and conquering so important to the Jews? To God?

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READ JOHN 16:33

Why is trouble such a big part of our lives?

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## MY WORLDVIEW

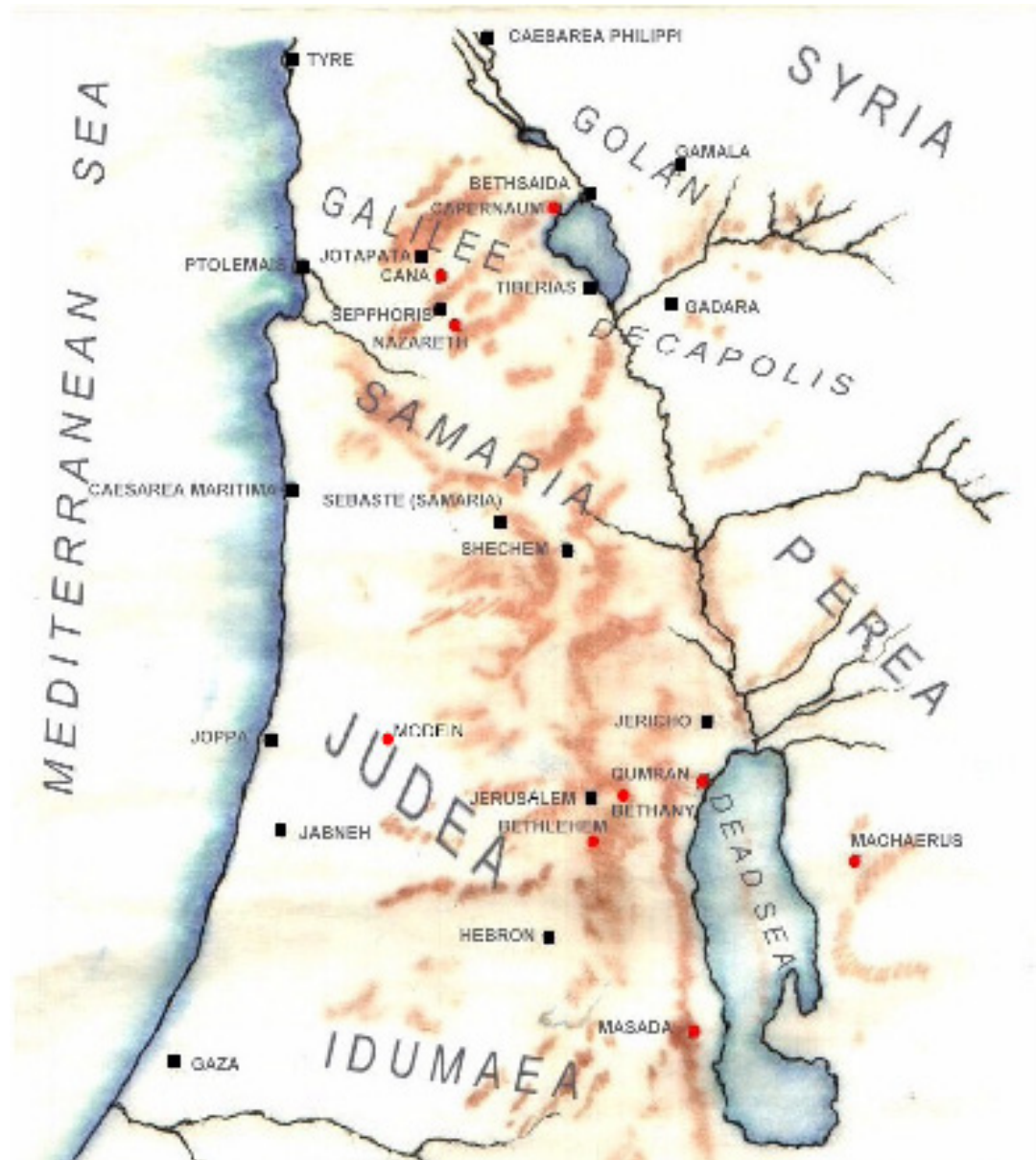
✓ Am I someone who overcomes?

✓ Do I view life like a war with a series of battles? (EPHESIANS 6:10-17)

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## THE BEAUTIFUL LAND: ISAIAH 9:1

Some basic geography provides a helpful backdrop for understanding the Promised Land. Note the location of the Sea in Galilee (top), where Jesus spent much of His public ministry. Locate Nazareth where He grew up - just west of that sea. Now trace the Jordan River, flowing out of the Sea of Galilee downward to the Dead Sea.

Look to the left and you will find Jerusalem, Bethlehem, where Jesus was born, and Hebron - where King David ruled. South is Masada, a site with amazing history. For our current purposes note the city of Jericho at the top of the Dead Sea. This is the city mentioned in the book of Joshua. The Living God led the children of Israel in their first *military* campaign to secure the Promised Land - *a land flowing with milk and honey* - as well as giants to overcome!



## DAY SIXTEEN 16

### READ JOSHUA 1:5-9

What was the core of God's communication to Joshua?

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### READ JOSHUA 5:11-15

Why is this encounter significant, and where have you seen something like this before?

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### MY WORLDVIEW

- √ What are some examples of my personal courage?
- √ My spiritual courage?

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- √ I feel I have experienced a "take my shoes off" moment when:

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# DAY SEVENTEEN 17

## JUDGES

## Cycles

### Climate for Testing

### Climate for Compromise

No Leader (1:1)  
No Persistence (1:27)  
No Knowledge (2:10)  
No Power (2:20-23)  
No Commitment (2:1-3)

No Perspective (8:22-23)  
No Appreciation (8:33-35)  
No Loyalty (10:13)  
No Conscience (19:22-30)  
No Choice (20:3,18)  
No Understanding (21:3)

1-2

3-18

*Every man did what was right in his own eyes! 17:6*

## SIN - SERVITUDE - JUDGEMENT

Othniel, Ehud, Shagmar

Deborah, Gideon, Abimelech

Tola, Yair, Jephthah

Ibzan, Elon, Abdon

**Samson**

**Eli**

**Samuel**

Take the time to observe each of the references in the overview chart of the book of Judges.

- ✓ What were the problems?
- ✓ Why did the cycles perpetuate?

Note the list of the Judges.

Samson is one of the most familiar, and Eli and Samuel will come into focus as we transition to the time of the Kings of Israel.

- ✓ With which judge are you most acquainted? \_\_\_\_\_

## MY WORLDVIEW

- ✓ In what areas am I susceptible to compromise?

\_\_\_\_\_

- ✓ In what areas have I found cycles in my own life that I just can't seem to shake?

\_\_\_\_\_

## RUTH Love Story

Ruth and her:

Resolve	Unselfishness	Appeal	Reward
1:15-17	2:11-12	3:9-11	4:11,22
1	2	3	4

*Under whose wings you have come to take refuge! 2:12*

## DAY SEVENTEEN 17

I John 4 - God IS love.

The book of **RUTH** is a high point during the very dark days of the judges of Israel. Because Ruth is a Gentile, her faith in placing herself under the wings of the Living God is even more special and astonishing. *Ruth is mentioned in the lineage of Christ!*

**READ AND NOTE THE REFERENCES LISTED IN THE OVERVIEW ABOVE**

What do you learn about love? Disappointment? Reward?

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**READ 1 JOHN 4**

What was the Apostle John's (and Jesus') take on the subject of love?

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## MY WORLDVIEW

Finish this sentence. "I have found that love..."

---



---

√ Do I feel I have found refuge under His wings? In what ways?

√ In what areas do I still have need? \_\_\_\_\_

---



## *The Fire & the Cloud!*

**EXODUS**.....I will direct you.  
**LEVITICUS**.....You belong to Me.  
**NUMBERS**....Will you Walk or Wander?  
**DEUTERONOMY**.....I am with you.  
**JOSHUA**.....I will carry you.  
**JUDGES**.....Faith will fail/I Am faithful.  
**RUTH**.....I Am your refuge.

We have encountered the first eight books of the so-called *old testament*, including the five books of Moses (the Pentateuch). The above graphic walks through the spiritual unity woven throughout these books.

- ✓ Am I confident in my origins?
  - ✓ Where faith and science and anthropology come together?
- 

- ✓ Do I feel responsive to and directable by God?
- 

### SPIRITUAL SITUATION CLARIFICATION

- ✓ My sense of belonging to Him is (warm) (lukewarm) (cold).
- ✓ I feel more like I am (walking) or (wandering).
- ✓ I (sense) or (do not sense) God is with me.
- ✓ I am (confident) (not confident) He is able and interested in carrying me when I need to be carried.
- ✓ I am (confident) (not confident) that God's faithfulness overrules the times my faith fails.





**- EPOCH THREE -  
KINGS & KINGDOMS**

## ENDLESS ETERNITY PAST

### THE AGE OF TIME

1. Origins
2. Deliverance
3. Kings & Kingdoms
4. Prophets & Captivity
5. Return (400 silent years)
6. The Shining Light
7. To the Ends of the Earth
8. The End of the Age

## ENDLESS ETERNITY FUTURE

# DAY EIGHTEEN 18

WATCH VIDEO THREE  
"KINGS & KINGDOMS"  
as you work through  
this section.

3

## TIMELINE OF THE LAW & PROPHETS

Two

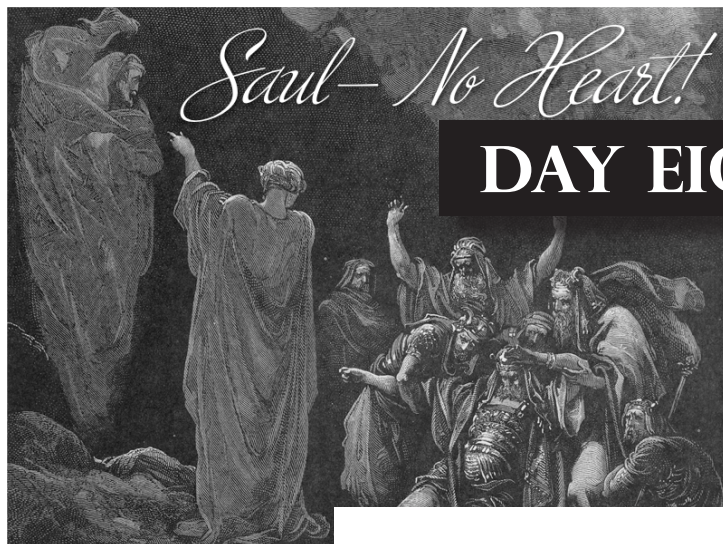
	1 Chronicles	2 Chronicles	
1 Samuel	2 Samuel	1 Kings	2 Kings
	Psalms	Proverbs Ecclesiastes	<b>ISRAEL</b> 722 BC To Assyria
SAUL No Heart	DAVID Whole Heart	SOLOMON Half a Heart	931BC Division
...Samuel		Songs	<b>JUDAH</b> 586 BC To Babylon

## GOD WANTS TO BE HIS PEOPLE'S CHOICE FOR A KING

Consider that Samuel is the last in a series of judges who delivered Israel. *It is almost as if His People try everything except submitting to His Kingship.* Note the timeline overview above.

Who are the three kings of the united Kingdom? What was the chief difference between them?

- ✓ When did the northern Kingdom of Israel go into captivity?
- ✓ The southern Kingdom of Judah?
- ✓ What were their respective destinations?



## 1 SAMUEL People's King

Samuel the Judge	Reign of Saul		
	Rise	Decline	Fall
3:1,19; 7:15,16	15:9	15:22,23	16:3,12,13
1-7	8-16	16-31	

*Give us a king to rule over us! 8:6*

READ 1 SAMUEL 8:6.

√ Why did the people want to have a king?

---

READ THE PASSAGES LISTED IN THE OVERVIEW ABOVE.

√ What do you learn about Samuel? He is surrounded by corruption, yet something makes him unique. What is it? \_\_\_\_\_

---

√ Why is Saul crowned as king? What made him a suitable candidate?

---

√ What appears to be Saul's downfall?

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## MY WORLDVIEW

√ In what ways do I find that I am more impressed with outward appearances than internal substance? \_\_\_\_\_

---



## DAY NINETEEN 19

### 2 SAMUEL

### God's King

David's Success 3:1,36; 7:18	David's Shame 12:12-24	David's Song 23:1-7
Judah...2:14 Israel...5:2,12	Bathsheba...11:1-4 Absalom...16:20,21	
1-9	10-20	21-24

*You will shepherd my people Israel! 5:2*

READ 2 SAMUEL 5:2.

Why did God cooperate with and yet overrule the people's choice for a king?

---

READ THE PASSAGES LISTED IN THE OVERVIEW ABOVE.

What was the source of David's success?

---

What was the source of his shame?

---

When you read David's song in chapter 23, what materializes regarding His heart? (also PSALM 51)

---

### MY WORLDVIEW

√ In what ways do I find myself to be a person of courage?

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√ In what ways would I consider myself "whole-hearted" toward God?

---



# DAY NINETEEN 19

## PSALMS

## Prayer & Praise

### PRAYERS of Reliance

### PRAISES for His Providence

20; 51; 90

77; 92

*Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise! 100:4*

“Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of **praise** to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.” - Heb. 13:15

The lion's share of the Psalms are written by King David. Why do you think this is?

---

List the Psalms you are most familiar with:

---

READ PSALM 100:4

How does someone living on earth enter into the presence of God?

---

READ HEBREWS 13:15

Why are songs and Psalms nourishment for the heart?

---

READ COLOSSIANS 3:15,16

Why are songs and Psalms good for spiritual relationships?

√ How can I integrate learning from the Psalms into my life?

---





# DAY TWENTY 20

MANY THINK SOLOMON WROTE SONGS AS A YOUNG MAN, PROVERBS IN HIS PRIME, AND ECCLESIASTES AT THE BEGINNING OF HIS OLD AGE.

1 KINGS	Solomon/Split
REIGN OF SOLOMON	REIGN OVER JUDAH
ascension...1:47; 2:46 wisdom...3:9,28; 4:29,30 work...6:12,38; 7:8 splendor...10:23,24	<i>Divided Kingdom</i> 12:8,19 <i>Divided Kings</i> 11:11,12; 14:22
1-11	12-22

None but the tribe of Judah followed the House of David. 12:20

UNITED KINGDOM.....Saul, David, Solomon  
DIVIDED KINGDOM.....Israel and Judah

READ THE PASSAGES ABOVE LISTED UNDER THE REIGN OF SOLOMON

What sense do you get for Solomon as a man?\_\_\_\_\_

What appear to be the advantages of being a second generation king?\_\_\_\_\_

READ THE OVERVIEW PASSAGES DESCRIBING THE SPLIT IN THE KINGDOM

What appear to have been the reasons for the captivity?\_\_\_\_\_

## MY WORLDVIEW

What are the things that make my heart prone to wander?\_\_\_\_\_

## PROVERBS Wisdom Above

Wisdom to be Acquired	Wisdom is Superior	Wisdom's Voice
1:20-25,32,33	3:1-12	10:1; 29:7-9
1	2-9	10-31

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. 1:7*

“The **fear of the LORD** is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”

- Proverbs 9:10

## DAY TWENTY 20

## ECCLESIASTES Vanity Below

The Vanity of:			Be Wise!
DOING	HAVING	BEING	12:1-14
2:18-23	5:10-17	9:11; 10:5-7	
1-2	3-6	7-10	11-12

*"And behold, all was vanity and striving after wind." - 2:11*

SONG OF SOLOMON.....the days of his youth.  
PROVERBS.....the years of his strength.  
ECCLESIASTES.....In his old age.

### READ THE PASSAGES IN EACH SECTION OF PROVERBS

It appears that “fearing” or reverencing our Creator is quite important. Why would fear be the beginning of wisdom?\_\_\_\_\_

### READ THE PASSAGES IN EACH SECTION OF ECCLESIASTES

How does the tone of this book differ from Proverbs?\_\_\_\_\_

### MY WORLDVIEW

✓ Do I consider myself a reflective person?

✓ In what ways could I benefit from more of a reflective approach to life?



## DAY TWENTY-ONE 2I

### 2 KINGS

### Exile/Scatter

#### DIVIDED KINGDOM

16:2-4

prophets...1:3; 2:9  
kings...17:7,8

1-17

#### SURVIVING KINGDOM

18:3-6

reform...22:10-13  
rebellion...23:32,37; 24:9,19

18-25

"Now this came about because the sons of  
Israel had sinned." 17:7

READ THE KEY VERSE LISTED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CHART ABOVE

What is the reason given here for the Kingdom falling apart?\_\_\_\_\_

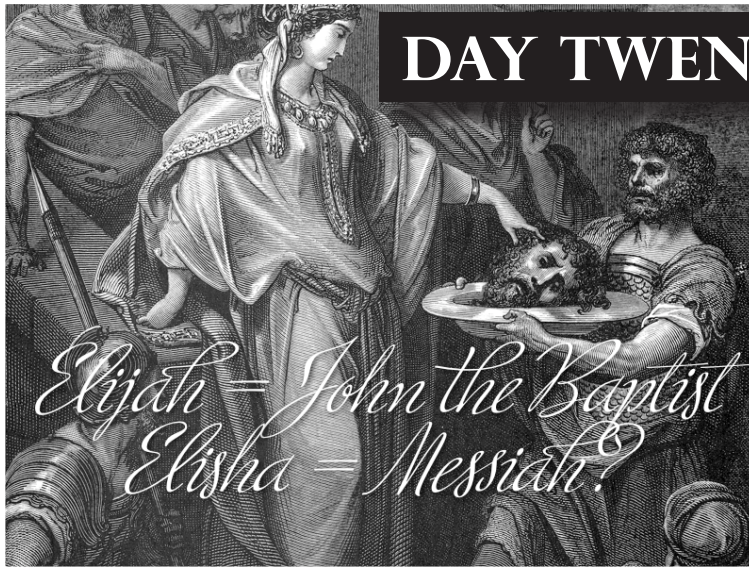
READ THE PASSAGES LISTED IN THE OVERVIEW OF 2 KINGS

What did Elijah bring to the situation and how do you think he was received?\_\_\_\_\_

What appears to have constituted reform and rebellion among the people?\_\_\_\_\_

### MY WORLDVIEW

How does my life usually respond to the truth?\_\_\_\_\_



## DAY TWENTY-ONE 21

*Elijah = John the Baptist  
Elisha = Messiah?*

REQUIEM FOR A SERVANT OF GOD MOST HIGH  
READ MATTHEW 11

What did Jesus have to say about John the Baptist?

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Why did Jesus choose to talk about John at this juncture?

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READ MALACHI 4 and ISAIAH 40

What is it here which refers to John the Baptist?

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### MY WORLDVIEW

√ In what ways does my life reflect the courage and devotion of John the Baptist?

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## 1 CHRONICLES Throne Secured

GENELOGIES 9:1	DAVID'S REIGN 17:7,8; 29:29,30
Adam to Noah Abraham to Isaac Returning Remnant	Saul...10:13,14 Kingdom...14:2 Temple...22:18,19
1-9	10-29

"And David realized that the Lord had established him." 14:2

*Written for the return.*

## DAY TWENTY-TWO 22

## 2 CHRONICLES Temple Revered

SOLOMON'S REIGN	DIVIDED KINGDOM	JUDAH
1:12-22; 2:5,6	11:16; 12:1,2	Kings...13:18 Captivity...36:11-21
1-9	10	11-36

"Behold, heaven and highest heaven cannot contain Thee."  
- 6:18

The content of **1 and 2 CHRONICLES** was compiled years after when Israel returned from captivity and resettled her land - under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah.

Take a few minutes and look up the references within the overview charts above. What is reinforced about what you already know of these kings?

### MY WORLDVIEW

Three kings - three hearts. In what ways do I reflect the *half heart of Saul*?

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*Whole heart of David?*

---

*Heartless wisdom of Solomon?*

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## DAY TWENTY-TWO 22

### *The Fire & the Cloud!*

**EXODUS**.....I will direct you.  
**LEVITICUS**.....You belong to Me.  
**NUMBERS**...Will you Walk or Wander?  
**DEUTERONOMY**.....I am with you.  
**JOSHUA**.....I will carry you.  
**JUDGES**.....Faith will fail/I Am faithful.  
**RUTH**.....I Am your refuge.

### *The Kings of Israel!*

**1 SAMUEL**.....The Carnal Heart  
**2 SAMUEL**.....The Soft Heart  
**1 KINGS**.....The Exiled heart  
**2 KINGS**.....We reap what we sow  
**1 CHRONICLES**.....Throne Secured  
**2 CHRONICLES**.....Temple Revered

### *The Poets of Israel!*

**JOB**.....The truth about life  
**PSALMS**.....The living power of praise  
**PROVERBS**.....The fear of the Lord  
**ECCLESIASTES**.....Perspective  
**SONGS**.....The beauty of true love

Take this opportunity to think through the books we have looked at so far. Do you feel you have a strong sense for the story of these first 19 books of the Hebrew scriptures?







- EPOCH FOUR -  
**PROPHETS & CAPTIVITY**

## ENDLESS ETERNITY PAST

### THE AGE OF TIME

1. Origins
2. Deliverance
3. Kings & Kingdoms
4. Prophets & Captivity
5. Return (400 silent years)
6. The Shining Light
7. To the Ends of the Earth
8. The End of the Age

## ENDLESS ETERNITY FUTURE

# DAY TWENTY-THREE 23

WATCH VIDEO FOUR  
"PROPHETS"  
as you work through  
this section.

# 4

## WELCOME TO THE PROPHETS & THE STORY OF ISRAEL'S CAPTIVITY

The early prophets began to explain to the people why they were headed for captivity. Even their best kings were unable to deliver them spiritually. *It is in God's eternal plan to bring all honor and glory to Himself.* Men and women of God are instruments within this process.

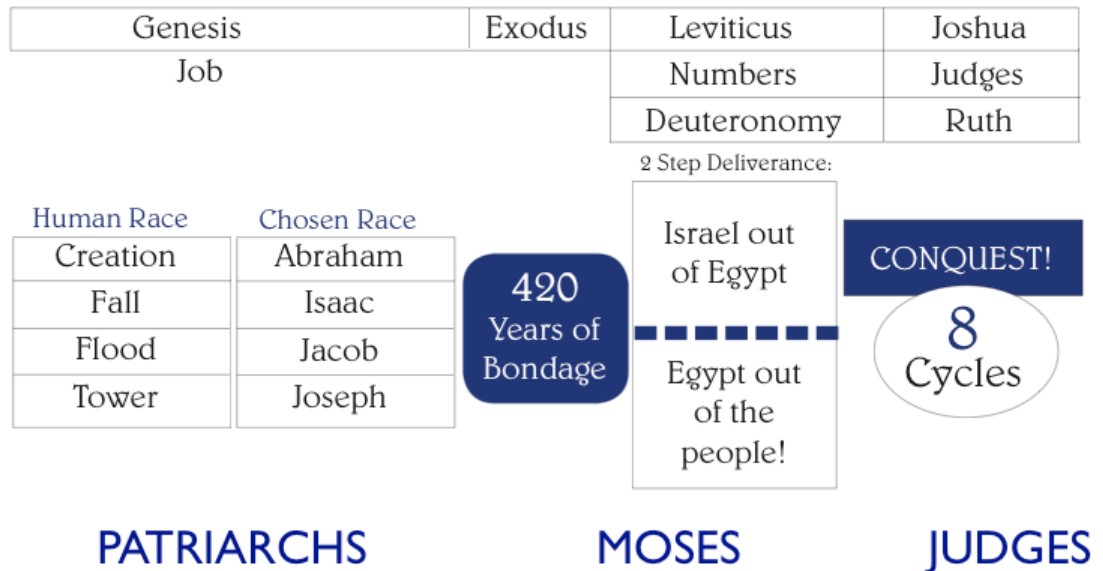
The particulars and purpose of Israel's fall and subsequent captivity is two-fold. First is to *recount the story* of these two disobedient "sisters" and the consequences for placing idols above the Living God. But there is also a deep companion message communicated through the prophets: *"If you will return to Me - I will return to you."*

The Lord is gracious with humanity - and gracious with His people.  
He "longs to be gracious" to us (ISAIAH 30).

*As you encounter this section and observe the severity of captivity -  
remember that God will move heaven and earth to restore a soul.  
Life is for 80 years if we are fortunate. Eternity is forever!*

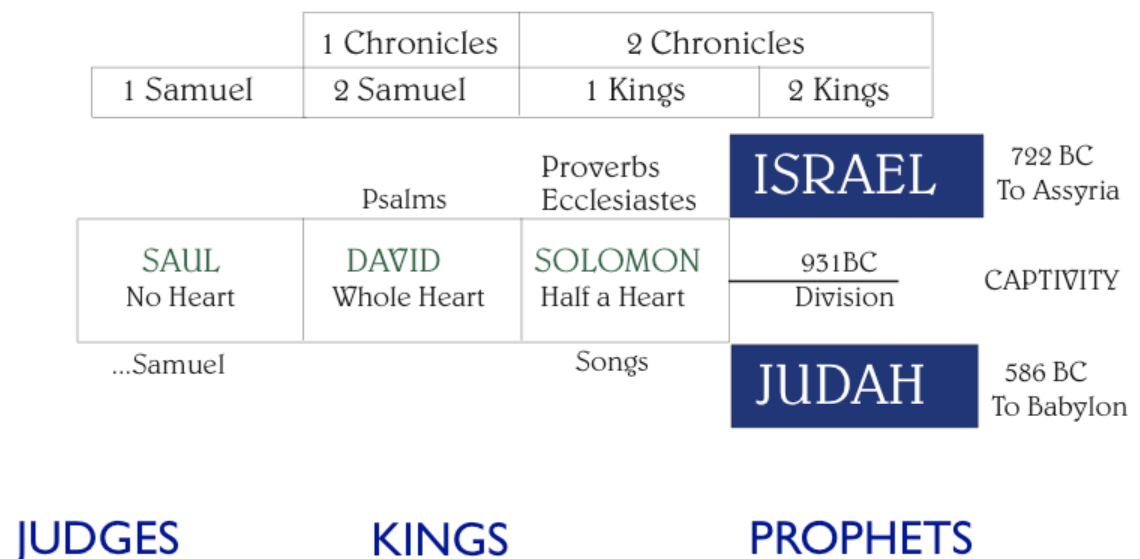
# DAY TWENTY-THREE 23

## TIMELINE OF THE LAW & PROPHETS *One*



TAKE A FEW MOMENTS AND RECOUNT OUR JOURNEY THUS FAR.  
DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE GETTING A STRONGER SENSE FOR THE GOD STORY?

## TIMELINE OF THE LAW & PROPHETS *Two*



# DAY TWENTY-FOUR 24

*— Why was Israel exiled? —*  
Two sisters - Jeremiah 3:6-10

## READ JEREMIAH 3:6-10

What do you learn from the story of the two sisters?

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## READ HEBREWS 11:32-40

What does this reflective passage teach us about the role of the prophets?

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## READ DEUTERONOMY 30:1-6

What does this passage teach us about the threefold grace of the prophets?

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## MY WORLDVIEW

What would be the potential purposes of the prophets in my life?

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*— Who were the prophets? —*  
Hebrews 11:32-40

*The Prophets of Grace!*  
*Face to face reinforcement*  
*Face to face consolation*  
*Messianic preparation*

Deuteronomy 30:1-6



## DAY TWENTY-FOUR 24

### *The Prophets of Israel!*

**PRE-EXILE**.....Samaria & Judah

**CAPTIVITY**.....Ezekiel & Daniel

**RETURN**.....Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

**DIVIDED KINGDOM = GOOD & EVIL KINGS**

**NORTHERN KINGDOM = SAMARIA/ISRAEL**

**SOUTHERN KINGDOM = JUDAH**

HERE ARE SOME BASIC FACTS ABOUT THE PROPHETS THAT PROVIDE A HELPFUL BACKDROP FOR YOUR STUDY OF THE KINGS OF ISRAEL:

Before the √ **EXILE** prophets were speaking to both the Northern Kingdom (known both as Israel and Samaria) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah). Ezekiel followed Israel into √ **CAPTIVITY** and Daniel was taken as a young man - and prophesied in captivity all of his life. During the √ **RETURN** three prophets were raised up to encourage the returning remnant of Jews: Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

Prophesies found their fulfillment often in the current time they prophesied, sometimes in Jesus the Messiah, others in the distant future - and some in more than one time period.

After the split in the Kingdom there were two dynasties of kings. Each prophet had a particular audience and a specific role. They came from both low and high places in society. Each prophet's desire and mission can be summarized in the phrase "return to Me."

God wanted the hearts of His people to RETURN to Him.

## DAY TWENTY-FIVE 25

*Each king & prophet brings  
insight into human idolatry  
and Yahweh's everlasting love.*

Micah 7:18; 1 John 5:20,21

### READ MICAH 7:18-20

What does this teach us about God's hopes for His wandering people?

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### READ 1 JOHN 5:20,21

What does this teach us about the presence of idols in our lives?

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### MY WORLDVIEW

- √ What premium do I place upon everlasting life?
- √ In what ways do the prophets articulate the wandering of America?
- √ Of the Church?
- √ My own wandering?

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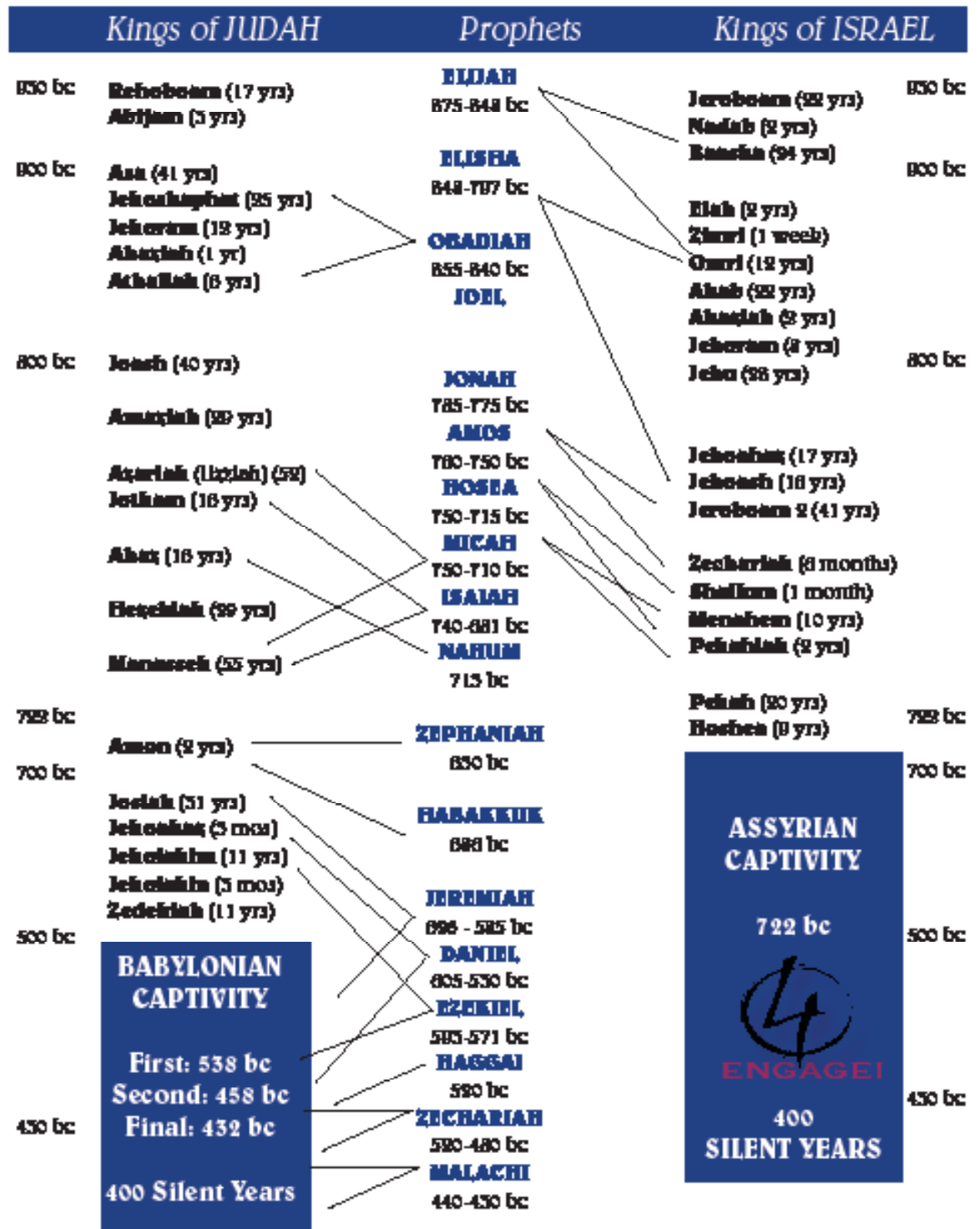
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# DAY TWENTY-FIVE 25

Take a few minutes to study this chart. These are the prophets and the corresponding kings and kingdoms to which they prophesied. Note where each captivity begins, and which prophet spoke to which king(s). This should help in your future analysis of the kings. There are many helpful principles that can be distilled from these chapters found in 1 & 2 Kings and 1 & 2 Chronicles.

Take the time to highlight the key verses from the following page in each respective book.



# DAY TWENTY-FIVE 25

## 5 LAW

Genesis	Origins	12:2
Exodus	Exit	12:51
Leviticus	Worship	11:44
Numbers	Wander	33:1
Deuteronomy	Standards	10:12

## 12 HISTORICAL

Joshua	Conquest	11:23
Judges	Cycles	17:6
Ruth	Love Story	2:12
1 Samuel	People's King	8:6
2 Samuel	God's King	5:2
1 Kings	Solomon/Split	12:20
2 Kings	Exile/Scatter	17:7
1 Chronicles	Throne Secured	14:2
2 Chronicles	Temple Revered	6:18
Ezra	Return/Reform...the Temple	7:10
Nehemiah	Renew/Rebuild...the Walls	5:16
Esther	God Delivers	4:14

## 5 POETS

Job	Sovereign Suffering	1:21-22
Psalms	Prayer/Praise	100:4
Proverbs	Wisdom Above	1:7
Ecclesiastes	Vanity Below	2:11
Song of Solomon	Intimate Love	8:6

## 5 MAJOR PROPHETS

Isaiah	Christ is Salvation	53:6
Jeremiah	Sin's Condemnation	6:16
Lamentations	Weeping Prophet	1:16
Ezekiel	Exiles-Ruined/Restored	21:27
Daniel	Future Things	7:27

## 12 MINOR PROPHETS

Hosea	Love/Apostasy	14:4
Joel	Blow the Trumpet	2:31,32
Amos	Roaring Punishment	1:2
Obadiah	Brother Violence	1:10
Jonah	Compassion's Voice	1:3
Micah	Unchanging Love	7:18
Nahum	Nineveh's Doom	3:19
Habakkuk	Just/Rejoice	2:4
Zephaniah	Last Chance	2:3
Haggai	Obedient Building	1:4,5
Zechariah	Lord of Hosts	4:6
Malachi	Sin's Dialogue	2:2



- EPOCH FIVE -

# THE RETURN

& THE 400 SILENT YEARS



## ENDLESS ETERNITY PAST

### THE AGE OF TIME

1. Origins
2. Deliverance
3. Kings & Kingdoms
4. Prophets & Captivity
5. Return & the 400 Silent Years
6. The Shining Light
7. To the Ends of the Earth
8. The End of the Age

## ENDLESS ETERNITY FUTURE

# DAY TWENTY-SIX 26

WATCH VIDEO FIVE  
"THE RETURN"  
as you work through  
this section.

# 5

Israel paid a severe price for her idolatrous heart. True to His word, Yahweh is bringing His people back from the futility of captivity. But only a few will return - a "remnant." It appears that those who cling to God are a very small group!  
(see [MATTHEW 7:13,14](#)).

### MY WORLDVIEW

In what ways do I feel I have returned to God?

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In what ways do I have yet to surrender to God?

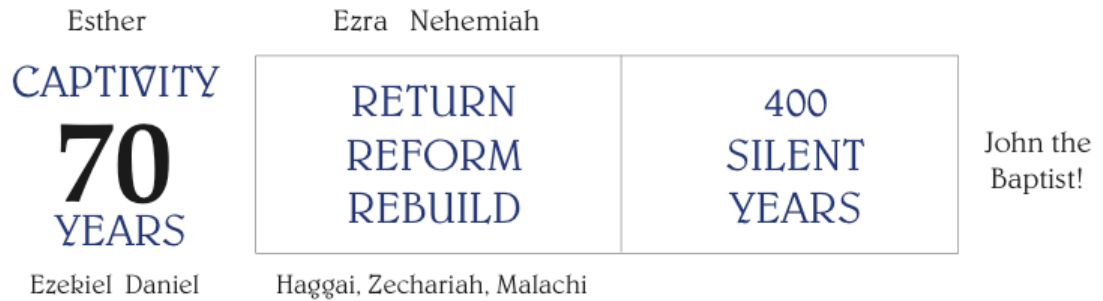
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# DAY TWENTY-SIX 26

## TIMELINE OF THE LAW & PROPHETS *Three*



TAKE SOME TIME TO OBSERVE THE TIMELINE ABOVE

What do you notice about the corresponding books?

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In what ways do you feel that the overall timeline is coming into focus?

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In what ways is it still fuzzy?

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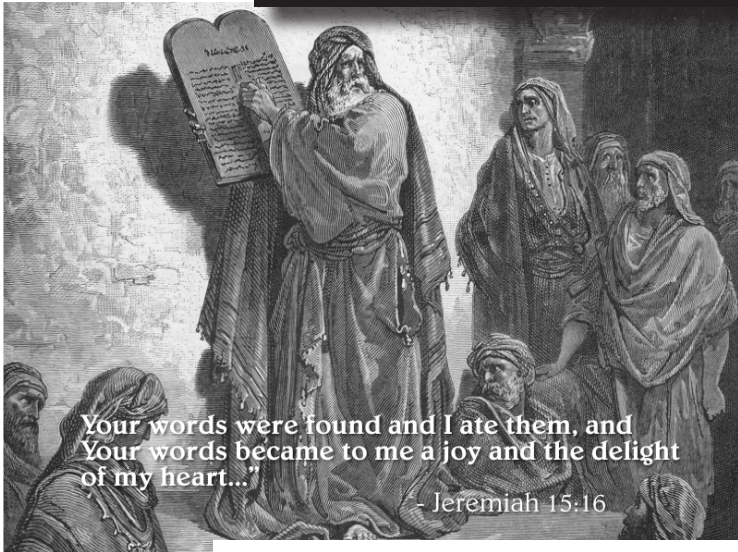
How does John the Baptist fit in with “old” and “new” testament prophets?

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# DAY TWENTY-SEVEN 27



Your words were found and I ate them, and  
Your words became to me a joy and the delight  
of my heart..."

- Jeremiah 15:16

## EZRA

## Return/Reform

### RECONSTRUCTION under Zerubbabel

1:3,5; 2:1,2

Return...2:1,2,68

Rebuild...6:15

1-6

### REFORMATION under Ezra

7:25-28

Return...7:6; 8:31,32

Reform...10:19

7-10

"For Ezra had set his heart." 7:10

READ EACH OF THE PASSAGES LISTED IN THE OVERVIEW ABOVE

What do you learn about reformation of heart from Ezra?

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## MY WORLDVIEW

Life reform follows a return to Him.

√ How do I feel about the reconstruction He is accomplishing in my heart?

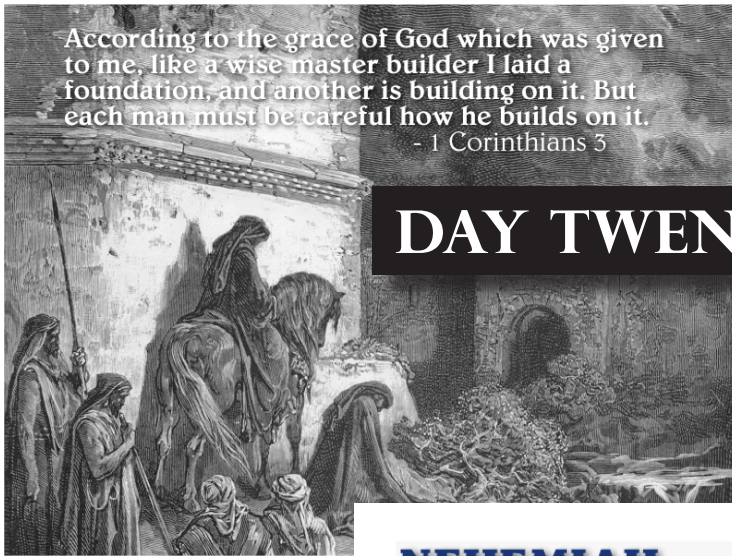
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According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.  
- 1 Corinthians 3

## DAY TWENTY-SEVEN 27

### NEHEMIAH

### Renew/Rebuild

<b>Nehemiah Arrives</b>	<b>Walls Restored</b>	<b>People Revived</b>
2:11,12	6:15,16	8:3,17,18
1-2	3-6	7-13

*"I also applied myself to the work on this wall." 5:16*

READ EACH OF THE PASSAGES LISTED IN THE OVERVIEW ABOVE

What do you learn about principles for rebuilding from Nehemiah?

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### MY WORLDVIEW

The rebuilding of the **Temple** was the first task, and it was accomplished under the leadership of Ezra. Now it was time to rebuild the **walls** of the city to protect the people.

✓ In what ways is my spiritual rebuilding process protecting my heart?

✓ The hearts of those I love and care for?

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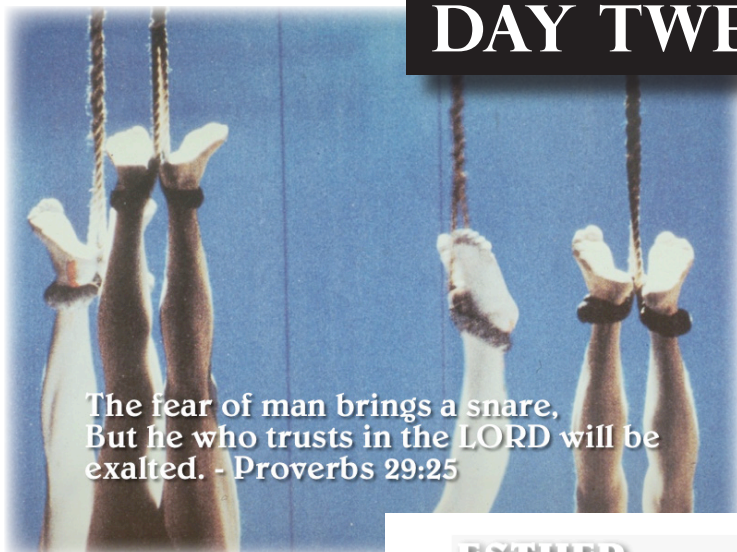


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# DAY TWENTY-SEVEN 27



The fear of man brings a snare,  
But he who trusts in the LORD will be  
exalted. - Proverbs 29:25

## ESTHER

## God Delivers

### DANGER TO THE JEWS

3:1-15

The plot is set...2:21-23

The plot is formed...3:5,6

1 - 3

### DELIVERANCE OF THE JEWS

The plot is frustrated...6:1-3

The plot is dissolved...7:8-10

4 - 10

"Relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews..." 4:14

**What then shall we say to these things?  
If God is for us, who is against us?**

- Romans 8:31

READ EACH OF THE PASSAGES LISTED IN THE OVERVIEW ABOVE

What do you learn about deliverance from this basic sketch of the book of ESTHER?

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How does PROVERBS 29:25 fit with the theme of Esther?

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## MY WORLDVIEW

√ In what ways do I feel others are against me?

√ That God is against me?

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# DAY TWENTY-EIGHT 28

## HAGGAI Obedient Building

REVERENCE FOR GOD	ENCOURAGEMENT FROM GOD
Priorities...1:2-6 Produce...1:7-14	Vision...2:3-5 Acceptance...2:20-23
1	2

"Consider your ways" 1:4,5

According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.

- 1 Corinthians 3:10

What does HAGGAI offer the builders under Ezra and Nehemiah?

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## ZECHARIAH Lord of Hosts

EIGHT NIGHT VISIONS	HOLY PROPHECIES
1:1-6,9	6:12-13; 14:20
1-6	6-14

"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit." 4:6

Then he said to me... "not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit" says the Lord of Hosts.

- 1 Corinthians 3:10

What does ZECHARIAH offer the builders under Ezra and Nehemiah?

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## MALACHI Sin's Dialogue

God's Love? 1:2 Priests Despise? 1:6,7 Covenant Profaned? 2:13-14	Weary God? 2:7 Way of Return? 3:7,8 Lord Accused? 4:1-4
- SIX QUESTIONS -	

"Your words have been arrogant." 3:13

There is a big difference between asking God and seeking answers and questioning His authority.

Why ask questions that have been asked - and answered?

What does MALACHI offer the builders under Ezra and Nehemiah?

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— *400 Years of Silence* —

Decline of the Greek Empire.  
The iron fist/civilization of Rome.  
The story of the priests of Moden.  
The thirst for a deliverer.  
The choice of 30 Messiahs.  
Why the Jews missed Yeshua.

— *The “fullness of times”* —

## DAY TWENTY-NINE 29

With the transfer from the Greek to the Roman empire, the world entered a new phase of sophistication and domination. No one would be able to stand before Rome. Yet before the coming of the Messiah, [Judas Maccabeus and the priests of Moden](#) delivered Israel from the emerging iron fist of Rome. This political independence was highly valued by the Jews, and once Rome’s grip re-emerged and crushed any rebellion in the empire, it left them longing for a promised “Messiah” who would, in their minds, *bring national sovereignty* once again.

There are apparently accounts of about 30 “*messiahs*” in Jerusalem as the public ministry of Christ took place. The religious leaders investigated the authenticity of the claims of each, and in the *fullness of times* the Son of God was revealed. The [four hundred years of silence](#) (no prophets) was anything but silent. Culture, power, and universal language (Greek) all were shaped into the backdrop for the Good News to launch to “the nations.”

*Remarkable times indeed!*



- EPOCH SIX -  
SHINING LIGHT

## ENDLESS ETERNITY PAST

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## ENDLESS ETERNITY FUTURE

# DAY THIRTY

# 30

WATCH VIDEO SIX  
"THE SHINING LIGHT"  
as you work through  
this section.

# 6

As you can see through our study thus far, the arrival of the Son in human form is not whimsical or reactionary. God's Son literally *incarnates* into a human child and grows to adulthood for the express purpose of *buying back* the souls of mankind.

This is what the concept of *Messiah* is all about. The word means *to smear* or anoint - and clearly is the fulfilled requirement of acceptable blood sacrifice foreshadowed in Adam and Eve and their two sons, Cain and Abel - as well as the Law of Moses.

This **SHINING LIGHT** is none other than the Creator Himself. There is no doubt that a *covenant* or agreement was made before the foundations of the world between the eternal Father and His eternal Son.

This is the prophesied "Shiloh" of **GENESIS 49**, the prophet of **DEUTERONOMY 18**, and the **Shining Light** spoken of in **ISAIAH 9**. He is the great High **Priest** of all who believe in Him (**HEBREWS 3**).

John the Baptist knew who He was (**JOHN 2**). His followers knew as well (**MATTHEW 16**). All that remains is for us to believe or disbelieve.

# DAY THIRTY 30



## READ HEBREWS 9

List the things that you learn about the *copies* on earth and the *real thing* in heaven.

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√ What do you think “a copy” means?

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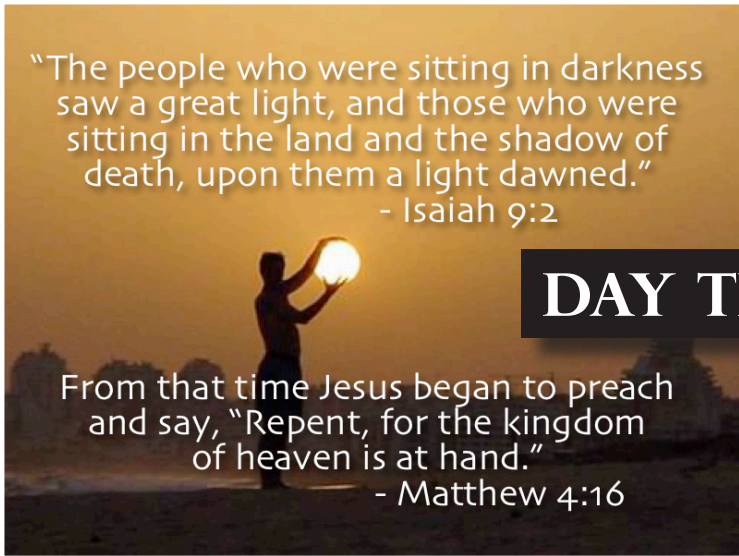
√ What light does this shed on the “one story” of the scriptures?

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## DAY THIRTY-ONE 31

### READ ISAIAH 9.

List the things you find in this prophecy that teach you about the coming Messiah.

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How does the message of the last “old testament” prophet (Malachi 4) differ from that of “God’s Prophet” in [MATTHEW 4:17](#)?

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### MY WORLDVIEW

√ When I consider the prophetic preparation and evidence for the coming Messiah, it makes me feel...

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# DAY THIRTY-ONE 31

## *Is Yeshua God's Son?*

In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.  
All things came into being through Him,  
and apart from Him nothing came into  
being that has come into being.

- John 1:1-3

### RE-READ THE PASSAGE ABOVE FROM JOHN 1

All of humanity is left with one all-or-nothing question.

√ Is Yeshua (Jesus) God's Son?

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√ DID THE SON CREATE THE WORLD?

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### MY WORLDVIEW

When I disentangle the Son from a supposed 2000 year old religion, all kinds of possibilities arise.

√ Who is Jesus to me?

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# DAY THIRTY-TWO 32

*Matthew – for the Jewish mind*

*Mark – for the Gentile mind*

*Luke – for the Greek mind*

*John – for the human heart*

## FOUR GOSPELS - FOUR PROPHETIC PURPOSES

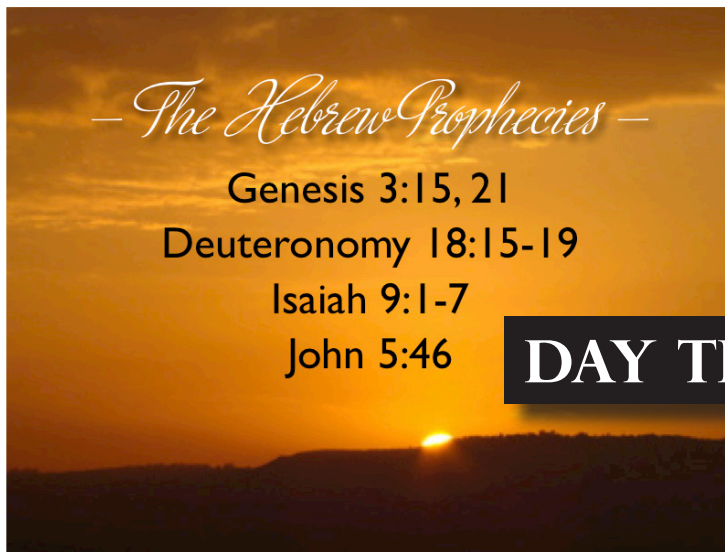
If you were the Creator and You were going to present Yourself to thousands of cultures over thousands of years, *what approach would you take?* Yahweh (the Living God) chose to give His Story through one people via His Torah - His Law. This Law would suffice for speaking His truth until the *fullness of times*, when His own dear Son would come to conquer death and rescue mankind.

The Jewish mind would trace everything to an authentic **Messiah**. *His pedigree would be important, for Israel was God's chosen people to bring the Light to all the nations.* The historic Hebrew backdrop for the Good News would present the seamless Gospel - where those who *live by faith* in the Living God will find life. This is the purpose of **MATTHEW**.

The Gentile would be much more interested in *what Jesus did*. **MARK** is a book of *action*, and the thoughtful listener to his testimony was struck with the *authority* by which the Word made flesh commanded the blind and the sick.

The Greek mind would be interested in a *chronological* account regarding such an amazing, explosive appearance. This is where Dr. **LUKE** came in, placing the weight of Jesus' deeds into the greater Story - a "meta-story!"

**JOHN**, arguably the closest person to the Son of God during His public ministry, wrote for the *human heart* in every nation under heaven. Here was a personal Gospel, and even though it was contained in an historic context, we have only a small part of all that Jesus taught and did! √ Read **JOHN 21:24,25**.



— *The Hebrew Prophecies* —

Genesis 3:15, 21

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

Isaiah 9:1-7

John 5:46

**DAY THIRTY-TWO** 32

The prophetic Word concerning the Messiah is significant to every human being who ever has or ever will live on the face of the earth. Check out 2 PETER 1:19. *The Morning Star was a re-set point for travelers in the ancient world. It is a reset point for us as well!*

✓ READ GENESIS 3:15,21...Why do you think this prophecy is pertinent to you?

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✓ READ DEUTERONOMY 18:15-19...Why do you think this prophecy is pertinent to you? \_\_\_\_\_

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✓ READ ISAIAH 9:1-7...Why do you think this prophecy is pertinent to you?

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✓ READ JOHN 5:46...Why do you think this statement is pertinent to you?

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# DAY THIRTY-THREE 33

"This is the same disciple who was eyewitness to all these things and wrote them down. And we all know that his eyewitness account is reliable and accurate.

There are so many other things Jesus did. If they were all written down, each of them, one by one, I can't imagine a world big enough to hold such a library of books."

- John 21:24,25

## EYE WITNESSES

The Gospels record approximately 30 days of Jesus' 3-4 year public ministry, with about 35 of what must have been thousands of miracles ([LUKE 4:40](#)). There were many eyewitness encounters with the resurrected Messiah.

✓ [1 CORINTHIANS 15:6](#) indicates that over 500 people saw Him at one time!

✓ And here is a mind-blower. Read [MATTHEW 27:50-53](#).

## READ 2 PETER 1:16

What do you learn about first century witnesses?

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## MY WORLDVIEW

✓ If you were writing your own account of your encounter with the Messiah, how would you describe it?

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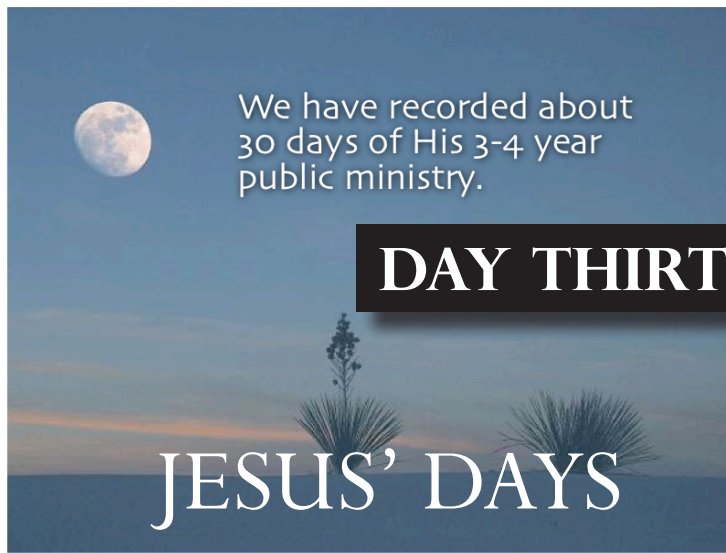
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We have recorded about 30 days of His 3-4 year public ministry.

## DAY THIRTY-THREE 33

### JESUS' DAYS

#### BIRTH

These accounts are limited in scope. [LUKE](#) gives us the fullest account of the amazing event. This is the birth of the True King!

#### BAPTIST

John the Baptist was the one spoken of in [ISAIAH 40](#) who would *prepare the way* for the coming Messiah. While his ministry was brief, he accomplished all the scriptures prophesied about this "Elijah."

#### TRAINING THE TWELVE

Jesus spent most of His time in GALILEE, training His followers, preaching the Gospel to the non-religious poor, and *healing the sick and the suffering*.

#### JERUSALEM TEACHING

He would come to JERUSALEM for feasts and celebrations, most often spending His nights in the Garden of Gethsemane. Two times He scourged the money-lenders in the Temple - and often did intense battle with the religious leaders.

#### JERUSALEM KILLING

Jesus' destiny was completely in His own hands. He is *laying down His life* willingly and on the Father's timetable. A LAMB - then a King!

#### RISEN LORD!

As if the many who saw Him after His resurrection were not enough, men and women from every NATION under heaven are experiencing Him - every day in every year!



## DAY THIRTY-THREE 33

**The center of spiritual life: GALILEE**

**The center of religious life: JERUSALEM**

Take a moment and familiarize yourself with the regions, cities, and geographical markers.

*Doesn't it seem odd that Jesus would work from Galilee rather than Jerusalem?*

# DAY THIRTY-THREE 33



TAKE A FEW MINUTES AND REVIEW THIS SNAPSHOT  
OF THE NATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

- ✓ Egypt and Africa are to the south and west.
- ✓ Asia and Rome are to the west and north - above the Mediterranean.
- ✓ Afghanistan, Russia, and China to the east and north.
  
- ✓ It is truly incredible that the tiny nation of Israel is right in the middle of everything - and she will be until the end of time!

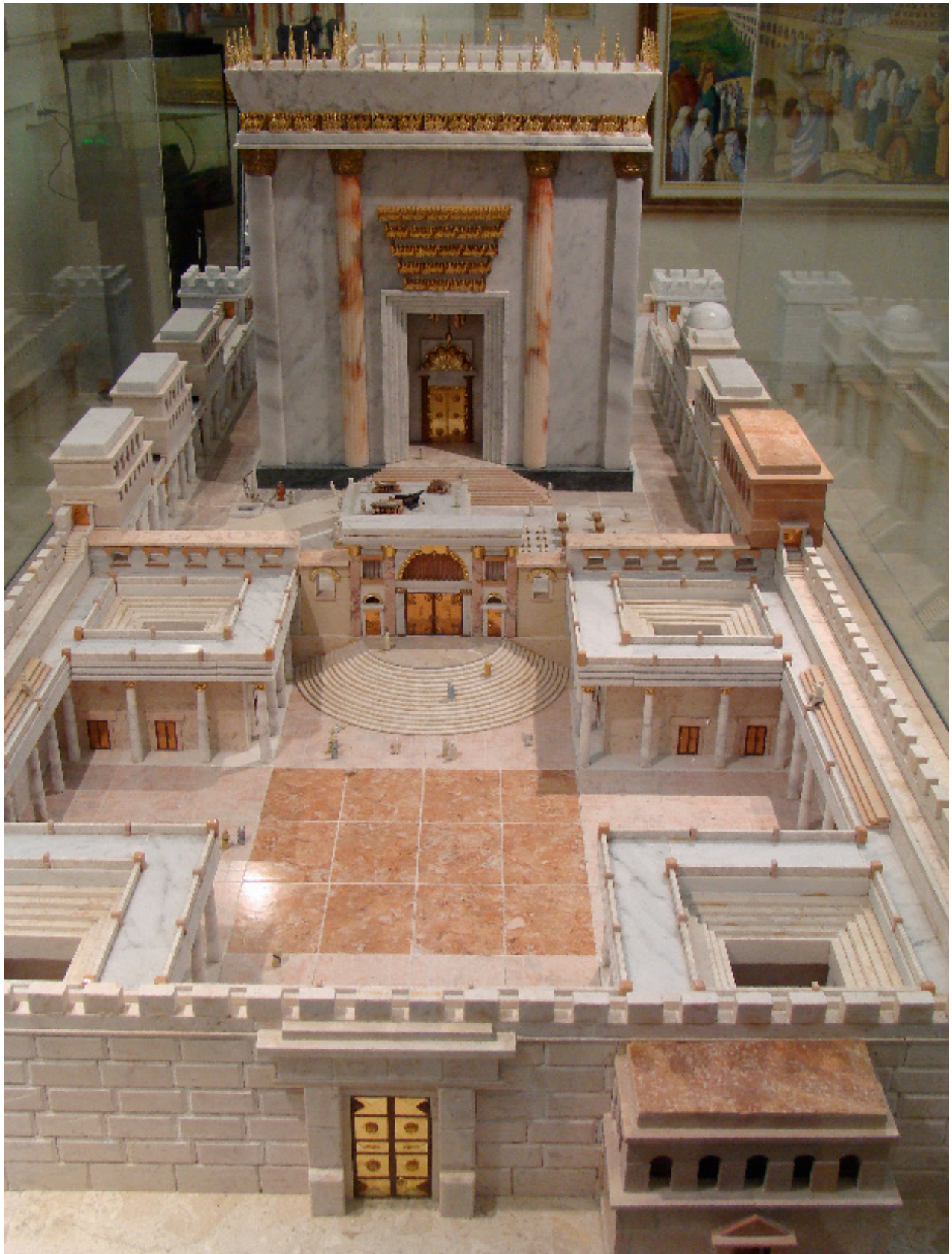
✓ What does this map reveal about current and end time events?

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THE TEMPLE AT THE TIME OF JESUS



THE ABOVE PASSAGES ARE A “STUDY IN LIGHT”

What does each one teach us about the nature and impact of light?

✓ JOHN 1:9

✓ JOHN 3:19

✓ JOHN 8:12

JOHN 12:35

## MY WORLDVIEW

Read 2 CORINTHIANS 4:6.

✓ In what specific ways has Light shone into my life?



## MESSIAH'S GOOD NEWS!

THE SACRIFICIAL SERVING MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST

BIRTH

BAPTIST

TRAINING THE TWELVE

JERUSALEM TEACHING

JERUSALEM KILLING

# DAY THIRTY-SIX 36



Luke 4:16-21

READ LUKE 4:16-21

√ What were the signs that the Promised One had arrived?

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MY WORLDVIEW

√ The most stirring things I see from Christ's life are...

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# DAY THIRTY-SIX 36

TAKE THE TIME TO NOTE EACH OF THE FOLLOWING “KEY VERSE” REFERENCES IN YOUR BIBLE.

√ What do you notice about the variety and cohesiveness of these basic themes?

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Book	Theme	Key Verse
<b>5 HISTORICAL</b>		
Matthew	King Comes	4:17
Mark	Servant Sacrificed	10:45
Luke	Man Suffers	19:10
John	God Revealed	20:31
Acts	Church Witnesses	1:8
<b>12 CHURCH LETTERS</b>		
Romans	Our Salvation	1:16,17
1 Corinthians	Carnality's Consequences	3:1,3
2 Corinthians	Authority's Care	2:17
Galatians	True Gospel	3:3
Ephesians	Christ's Body	4:16
Philippians	Christ's Joy	3:1
Colossians	Christ's Headship	1:17,18
1 Thessalonians	Excel More	4:1
2 Thessalonians	Day of the Lord	2:1,2
<b>5 PASTORAL &amp; 7 GENERAL LETTERS</b>		
1 Timothy	Church's Ministry	3:15
2 Timothy	Church's Minister	2:15
Titus	Sound Teaching	1:9
Philemon	Forgive & Beget	10
Hebrews	Better Covenant	8:6
James	Tested Faith	1:12
1 Peter	Trust in Trials	4:19
2 Peter	Full Knowledge	1:19
1 John	True Fellowship	1:3
2 John	Wrong Hospitality	10
3 John	Right Hospitality	6
Jude	Contend & Build	3,20
<b>PROPHETIC</b>		
Revelation	Judge Revealed	19:16

# DAY THIRTY-SIX 36

"And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life."

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life."

- 1 John 5:11-13

## READ 1 JOHN 5

How do we know we belong to God?

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What does it mean to overcome in this life?

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What does it mean to *have God*?

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How do you feel about the *power of the evil one*?

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Why do you think John ended this letter the way He did?

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## MY WORLDVIEW

√ On the basis of 1 JOHN 5 - I would say that my spiritual life is...

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# THE LIFE OF JESUS

It is key to grasp the events of the life of Christ in order to understand His role in our present and our future. **Just as He walked this earth in submission to His Father's will, we are to pursue the will of the Lord Jesus Christ for our own lives.** By understanding the chronological sequence of events, we can clearly see the plan of the Master as He accomplished His purposes. In the Gospels we see firsthand "the **author** (beginner) and **perfecter** (finisher) of our **faith**."

As we observe the **footsteps of Jesus** we see the pattern for a spiritually productive life; lived perfectly by the only One who was able to do so. This comparative chronology will help us to learn more about this effective pattern for living to help us please the One who created us. The four Gospels give four harmonizing perspectives on this miraculous life!

## GOD COMES NEAR

Christ is prepared as the perfect submitted human heart coming to seek and to save what has been lost. Here are the major events of His preparation.

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
The Method God Chose			1:1-4	
The "Word" Revealed				1:1-18
The "Word" Introduced (by genealogy)	1:1-17		3:23-28	

### THE BIRTH

Baptist Announced			1:5-25	
Jesus Announced			1:26-38	
Elizabeth's Song			1:39-45	
Mary's Song			1:46-56	
Baptist's Childhood & Birth			1:57-80	
Joseph Prepared	1:18-25			

### JESUS IS BORN

Angels and Shepherds			2:1-7	
Jesus is Circumcised			2:8-20	
Simeon and Anna			2:21	
Visit of the Magi	2:1-12		2:22-38	
Flight to Egypt/Children Slain	2:13-18			
To Nazareth	2:19-23		2:39	
Jesus in the Temple			2:41-50	
Childhood at Nazareth			2:51-52	

### THE BAPTIST

Beginnings		1:1	2:1	
Message	3:1-6	1:2-6	3:3-6	
Preaching	3:7-10		3:7-14	
Baptism	3:13-17	7:9-11	3:21-23	
Temptation	4:1-11	1:12-13	4:1-13	

## ALONE WITH HIS OWN

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
TRAINING THE TWELVE				
Resting/Feeding	14:13-21	6:30-44	9:10-17	6:1-14
Prevented Proclamation	14:22-23	6:45-46		6:14-15
Water Walk	14:24-33	6:47-52		6:16-21
Parable for Traditions	15:1-20	7:1-23		7:1
Open Opposition	15:39-16:4		8:10-12	
Faith Test	16:13-20	8:27-30	9:18-21	
Death Predicted	16:21-26	8:31-37	9:22-25	
Transfiguration	17:1-8	9:2-8	9:28-36	
Future Resurrection	17:22-23	9:30-32	9:43-45	
A Child's Lesson	18:1-5	9:33-37	9:46-48	
Mistaken Zeal Rebuked	18:6-14	9:38-50	9:49-50	
Forgiveness	18:15-35			
Forsaking All	8:19-22		9:57-62	
Private Approach			9:51-56	7:10

## PREPARING FOR THE END

Jesus knew when His time had come to give Himself to be crucified.

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
IN JUDEA				
Messiah at the Feast				7:11-52
Adulterous Woman				7:53-8:11
"Light of the World"				8:12-20
Attempted Stoning				8:21-59
"The Good Shepherd"				10:1-21
70 Sent Forth			10:1-24	
Good Samaritan			10:30-37	
Martha and Mary			10:38-42	
Prayer			11:1-13	
Parable of the Fig Tree			14:1-9	
Repeated Parables			13:10-21	
Attempted Stoning				10:22-39
IN PEREA				
Messiah at the Feast				
Withdrawal to Safety				10:40-42
Count the Cost			14:25-35	
Three Parables			15:1-32	
Lazarus Raised				11:1-44
To Jerusalem			17:11-37	
Rich Young Ruler	19:16-20	10:17-31	18:18-30	
Rebuke For the Future	20:17-28	10:32-45	18:31-34	



	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
<b>IN JERUSALEM TEACHING</b>				
Triumphal Entry	21:1-11,14,17	11:1-11	19:29-44	12:12-19
Fig Tree Cursed/Second Cleansing	21:18-29,12-13	11:12-18	19:45-48	
"If I Am Lifted Up:				12:20-50
The Greatest Commandment	22:34-40	12:28-34		
Religious Leaders Denounced	23:1-39	12:38-40	20:45-47	
Future Things	24:25	13:1-37	21:5-36	
Foot Washing				13:1-20
Desertion Warning	26:31-35	14:27-31	22:31-38	13:31-38
Lord's Supper	26:26-29	14:22-25	22:17-20	1Co 11:23-26
Upper Room Farewell				14
On the Way to Gethsemane				15:16
Intercessory Prayer				17
Agony in the Garden	26:20,36-46	14:26,32-42	22:36-39	18:1
<b>TAKEN IN JERUSALEM</b>				
Betrayed, Arrested, Forsaken	26:47-56	14:43-52	22:47-53	18:2-12
Peter's Denial	26:58,69-75	14:54,66-72	22:54-62	18:15-18,25-27
Before Pilate	27:2,11-14	15:1-5	23:1-5	18:28-38
Before Herod			23:6-12	
Before Pilate	27:15-26	15:6-15	23:13-25	18:39-19:16
First Three Hours	27:35-44	15:24-32	23:33-43	19:18-27
Three Hours of Darkness	27:45-50	15:33-37	23:44-46	19:28-30
Death's Phenomena	27:51-56	15:38-41	23:45-47,49	
Burial	27:57-60	15:42-46	23:50-54	19:31-42
Tomb Watch	27:61-66	15:47	23:55-56	

## A NEW BEGINNING!

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15, "For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins...If we have only hoped in Christ in this life, we are of all men most to be pitied."

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
<b>RISEN</b>				
Rolling Earthquake	28:2-4			
Sunday Sunrise Visit	28:5-8	16:2-8	24:1-8	20:1
Guard Report	28:11-15			
The Road to Emmaus		16:12-13	24:13-32	
Catch of Fishes				21
Appearance of 500/Commission Given	28:16-20	16:15-18		1Co 15:6
Another Commission			24:44-49	Acts 1:3-8
Final Appearance/Ascension		16:19-20	24:51-53	Acts 1:9-12





**- EPOCH SEVEN -**  
**TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH**

## ENDLESS ETERNITY PAST

### THE AGE OF TIME

1. Origins
2. Deliverance
3. Kings & Kingdoms
4. Prophets & Captivity
5. Return & the 400 Silent Years
6. The Shining Light
7. To the Ends of the Earth
8. The End of the Age

## ENDLESS ETERNITY FUTURE

# DAY THIRTY-SEVEN 37

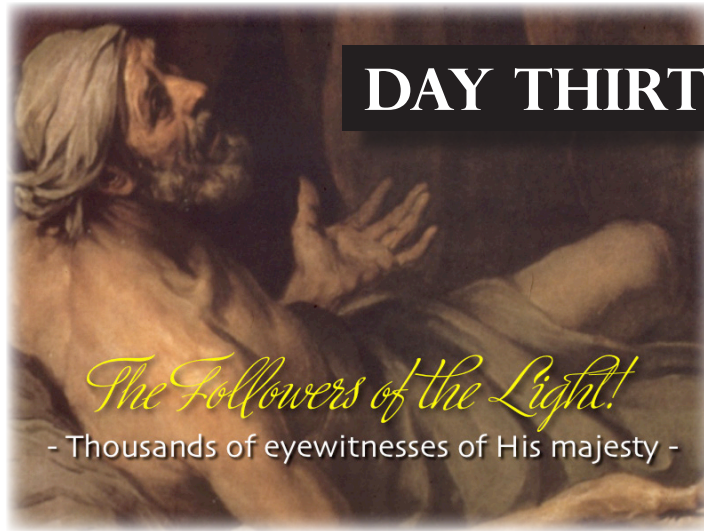
WATCH VIDEO SEVEN  
"TO THE ENDS  
OF THE EARTH"  
as you work through  
this section.

# 7

Within the age of time we have found the Bible's explanation of our roots and the **ORIGINS** of both the human and chosen races. The **CHOSEN RACE** was delivered from bondage and given the privilege of honoring the Living God among the nations. They inhabit the **PROMISED LAND** after 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, and are given **judges, prophets, and kings** to guide them as a spiritual nation. *They reside in the beautiful land at the current day, awaiting the promises of Yahweh.*

The Chosen people rejected God's Law (the Torah) and in so doing rejected Him. The Creator gives them over to 80 years of **CAPTIVITY**, and afterwards supernaturally **restores** them to the Promised Land. 400 years of **SILENCE** ensue during which God is anything but silent. The last prophet speaks, and John the Baptist emerges as the "*voice of one crying out in the wilderness.*" (**ISAIAH 40**).

The *fullness of times* has arrived, and the appropriate spiritual, social, and political sovereignty are all in place. The Roman Empire and the Greek language form a conduit that swiftly launches the Good News throughout the world, based upon the foundation of the Hebrew experience. Jesus or "Yeshua" is the **SHINING LIGHT** - God Himself. He makes many "disciples" or followers and sends them to the **ENDS** of the earth!



## DAY THIRTY-SEVEN 37

*The Followers of the Light!*

- Thousands of eyewitnesses of His majesty -

### THE FOLLOWERS OF THE LIGHT

During Jesus' time on earth He deeply impacted family, friends, and followers. He brought the Good News to the Jews because it was theirs by birthright - He brought the Good News to the nations (Gentiles) because this was His plan from the beginning.

READ JOHN 10:16 AND GENESIS 12:3.

√ What do you learn about the statements from these two passages?

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Jesus carefully selected 12 *disciples* and about 70 other *men and women* to accompany Him during His public ministry. For 3-4 years they lived, ate, and slept the Kingdom. Their home base was Galilee, with many forays into Jerusalem, Samaria, and *beyond the Jordan*. This band of men and women, along with the Jewish network throughout the empire, would together turn the world upside down. The Gospel of God's Son continues to permeate and explode today!

What each have in common is an understanding that *Jesus is the Light of the world*.

√ What are the revolutionary aspects to my personal encounter with Jesus Christ?

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# DAY THIRTY-SEVEN 37

*Jesus & the Nations!*

“Even the dogs eat the crumbs...”

- Matthew 15 -

## READ MATTHEW 15:20-28

Jesus almost seems cruel in dealing with this woman. Why would the fact she is a Gentile have been held against her?

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Why had the woman come to Jesus?

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What did her persistence reveal about who she was spiritually? This is what Jesus was talking about in [MATTHEW 5:1-11](#)!

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## MY WORLDVIEW

√ Do I feel like I deserve spiritual favor, or am I content to take the crumbs which fall from the table?

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# DAY THIRTY-EIGHT 38

## ACTS & The New Testament Letters

This study is provided to help you see a general chronology of where the church letters fit in relation to the events of the book of Acts. This may prove valuable as you try to determine the circumstances of the author (particularly Paul) at the time each book was penned.

Pentecost (Acts 2)  
Stephen martyred (Acts 6:8-7:60)  
JAMES written  
Agrippa's persecution, James martyred (Acts 12:1-23)  
First Missionary Journey (Acts 13-14)  
Peter at Antioch (Galatians 2:11-16)  
GALATIANS written from Antioch  
Jerusalem council, Paul's third visit (Acts 15)  
Second Missionary Journey  
1 THESSALONIANS written  
2 THESSALONIANS written  
Third Missionary Journey  
1 CORINTHIANS written  
2 CORINTHIANS written  
ROMANS written  
Paul's arrest and trial before Felix (Acts 21:26-24:22)  
Paul before the Sanhedrin  
Appearance of the Lord (night)  
Trial before Festus (Acts 25:7-12)  
Trial before Agrippa (Acts 26)  
Voyage to Rome (Acts 27:1-28:29)  
MATTHEW written  
Arrival in Rome  
EPHESIANS written  
COLOSSIANS and PHILEMON written  
PHILIPPIANS written  
MARK written  
LUKE written  
1 TIMOTHY written  
1 PETER written  
JUDE written  
HEBREWS written (author unknown)  
TITUS written  
2 TIMOTHY written  
2 PETER written  
**ACTS** written  
REVELATION written  
JOHN, 1-2-3 JOHN written

# DAY THIRTY-EIGHT 38



## READ ACTS 2

It is important to recognize that the book of *Acts of the apostles* would best be termed the *acts of the Holy Spirit*. There were Jews and converts from *every nation under heaven* for the Feast of Pentecost, which occurred 50 days after Passover. This was one of the Jews major memorial feasts which were outlined in the books of Moses.

Jesus was very clear with His disciples: “*You shall receive power after the [Holy Spirit](#) has come upon you...*” Some people mistakenly believe that the Holy Spirit was not present before Pentecost, yet He was present at the Creation of everything ([GENESIS 1:2](#)) - as was the Son ([HEBREWS 1:2](#)).

This outpouring occurred for the express purpose of launching the Good News to both Jews and Gentiles, and to make it clear that the *fullness of times* was at hand. The effect was electric and explosive. These participants then dispersed to every corner of the empire - testifying to the reality of the resurrection. The bold presentation of the Gospel in [ACTS 1](#) is a backdrop for the outpouring of [ACTS 2](#).

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “But the righteous man shall live by faith.” - Romans 1:16,17*

## *How we know we know.*

"For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty...

...so we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

- 2 Peter 1

## DAY THIRTY-EIGHT 38

### READ 2 PETER 1

What did the eyewitnesses supply to the testimony of the Good News?

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Why should we be able to count on the testimony which has been given to us?

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### MY WORLDVIEW

- ✓ What part does the Holy Spirit play in my life with regard to illuminating truth?
- ✓ Convicting me of my sin?
- ✓ Empowering the Word of God in me?
- ✓ Drawing me closer to Jesus and the Father?

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# DAY THIRTY-NINE 39



## JERUSALEM

The Gospel poured out of Jerusalem into the world after the Day of Pentecost. That very day ([ACTS 1-2](#)) there were Jews celebrating the feast from “every nation under heaven.” Peter, James, and John were *pillars* in this work, along with the other apostles Jesus had chosen and empowered.

This platform for the Good News was built upon the emerging **Kingdom** and was rooted in the Hebrew scriptures. The Kingdom enemies (per the Jewish leaders) were [arrogance](#) and the [idolatry](#) of tradition (in order to achieve standing and recognition among men).

The roots in Jerusalem were very Hebrew, and through the Law and the Prophets and the Psalms, grounded the fledgling church in a deep, rich history. **King first, then Kingdom, then church.**

## ANTIOCH

The Gospel launched to the Gentiles out of Antioch, primarily under the leadership of men such as Paul, Silas, Barnabas, and Apollos. Antioch was hundreds of miles north of Jerusalem, and poised strategically as a springboard all the way to Rome - and everywhere in around and between.

Antioch was a tool for the [expanding Kingdom](#), a *called out* group of Gentiles taken from the *nations*. Rooted in the Gospel and the letters, the early church stormed the bastions of false gods and worthless idols, calling lost Jews and Gentiles from all over the world to become *one new man* in Christ.

Their chief enemies were [paganism](#) and [syncretism](#), against brash idolatry and hybrids which seem to be in never-ending supply as the Kingdom expands into our decaying world.

# DAY THIRTY-NINE 39

## ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!



THINK THROUGH THE OVERVIEW ABOVE

### READ ACTS 1:8

Notice how the Gospel grows just as Jesus said it would - to the *Jew first* and then to the *Greek* (Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria - then the world!). (page 108)

There were three *missionary journeys* as the Good News spread from the Jews throughout the world to the Gentiles.

Notice how each *letter* is placed somewhere on this historic growth explosion. From a handful of men and women disciples the world was literally turned upside down by the power of God in and through their lives!

Each of these letters is a tool for the Holy Spirit as we devote our hearts to the King of Kings, and await His coming from heaven.

THE BOOK OF ACTS CONTINUES TO UNFOLD  
IN AND THROUGH OUR LIVES !

## DAY THIRTY-NINE 39

Upon the foundation of the **Kingdom**.  
The Hebrew demonstration

Within the **Mystery** of the Church.  
“One New Man” of all the nations

It is important to understand that the word “**church**” is used only a few times in the Gospels - but the word **Kingdom** is used over 100 times.

The historic church has somehow switched this emphasis, not realizing that by diminishing the Kingdom (which is organic, growing in the hearts of Kingdom followers) and focusing on building the church (which is organizational, focused on visibility) - a theological hybrid has been produced that has **difficulty reproducing** in the soil of the world.

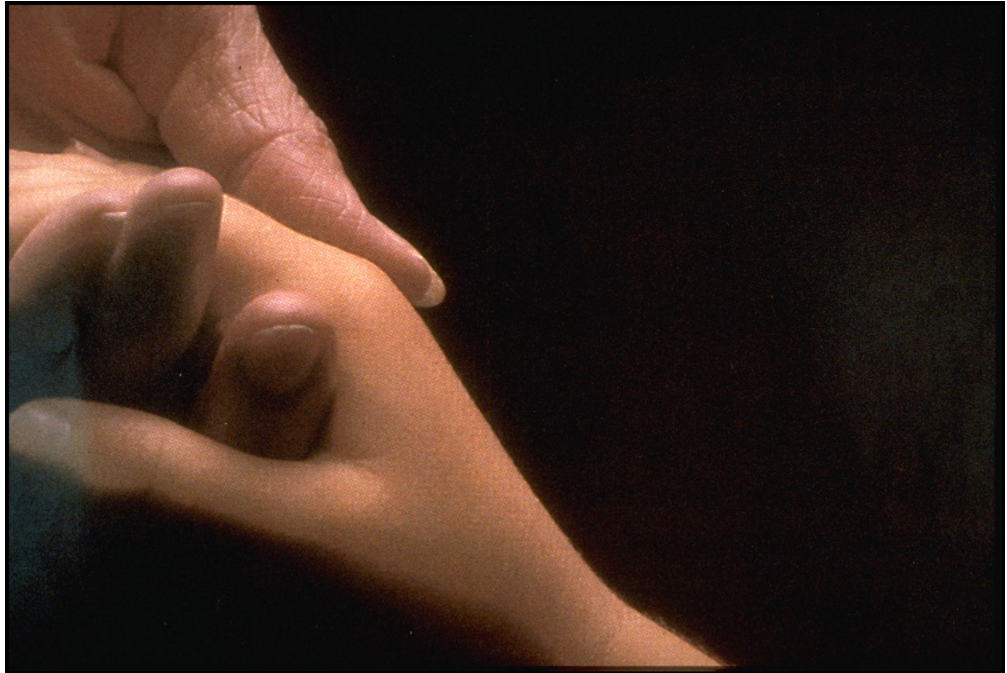
The **Hebrew** story is the foundation. The Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms revealed the Messiah. The Gospels and the apostles work together to **build the house** upon the deep roots of the Hebrew faith. (**LUKE 24:44**)

At the end of the age our Hebrew roots will unfold with the Mystery of the Church and fulfill the Kingdom Heart of the Messiah and His Father (**EPHESIANS 2:15**).

When the end comes we will be separated into sheep and goats (**MATTHEW 25:32**). The sheep will move into life. The goats will not.

**This is the story of the Biblical Kingdom.**





**- EPOCH EIGHT -  
END OF THE AGE**



## ENDLESS ETERNITY PAST

### THE AGE OF TIME

1. Origins
2. Deliverance
3. Kings & Kingdoms
4. Prophets & Captivity
5. Return & the 400 Silent Years
6. The Shining Light
7. To the Ends of the Earth
8. The End of the Age

## ENDLESS ETERNITY FUTURE

# DAY FORTY 40

WATCH VIDEO EIGHT  
"THE END OF THE AGE"  
as you work through  
this section.

# 8

Within the age of time we have found the Bible's explanation of our roots and the **ORIGINS** of both the human and chosen races. The **CHOSEN RACE** was delivered from bondage and given the privilege of honoring the Living God among the nations. They inhabit the **PROMISED LAND** after 420 years in *bondage* and 40 years of *wandering* in the wilderness, and are given **judges, prophets, and kings** to guide them as a spiritual nation.

The Chosen people reject God's Law (the Torah) and in so doing reject Him. The Creator gives them over to 80 years of **CAPTIVITY**, and afterwards supernaturally **restores** them to the Promised Land. 400 years of **SILENCE** ensue during which God is anything but silent. The last prophet speaks, and John the Baptist emerges as the "one crying out in the wilderness." (**ISAIAH 40**).

The "fullness of times" has arrived, and the spiritual, social, and political sovereignty are all in place. The Roman Empire and the Greek language form a conduit that launches the Good News throughout the world, upon the foundation of the Hebrew experience. Jesus or "Yeshua" is the **SHINING LIGHT** - God Himself. He makes many "disciples" or followers and sends them to the **ENDS** of the earth!

The **Church** fulfills God's purpose and the **Kingdom** grows to include every predestined soul within the scope of God's sovereign grace - now it is time to roll up the scroll of time and return to **ENDLESS ETERNITY FUTURE!**

## DAY FORTY 40

### 2 PETER 3:3-13 END OF THE AGE

#### READ 2 PETER 3:3-13

What are the specifics about the end of the age from this Peter passage?

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#### MY WORLDVIEW

√ I would identify myself as a mocker in the sense that...

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√ I would place myself in the role of a Christ follower in the sense that...

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## DAY FORTY-ONE 41

### THE LAST DAYS

Joel 2:28-32/Acts 2:1-47

READ JOEL 2:28-32

List the particulars of what this passage says about the end of the age:

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READ ACTS 2:1-47

What similarities do you see to the Joel passage? What differences?

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### MY WORLDVIEW

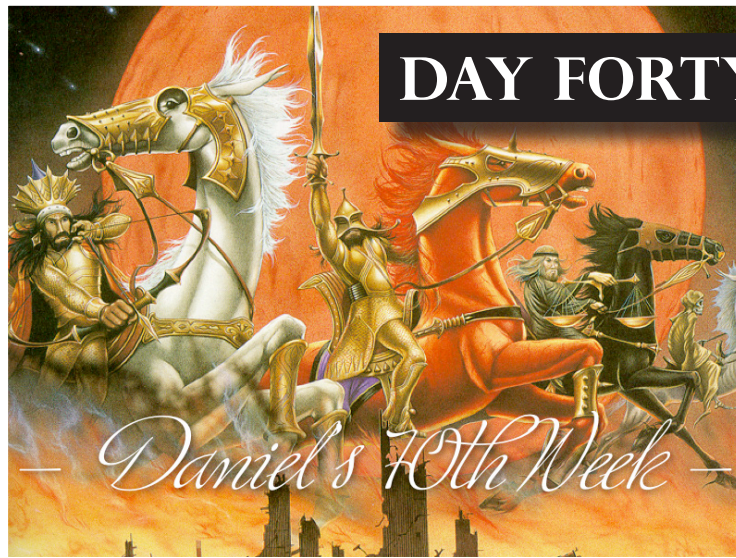
It is hard to imagine such a difficult end for mankind.

√ What is the bigger story here (Read [EPHESIANS 6:10-17](#))?

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## DAY FORTY-ONE 41

### READ DANIEL 9

What framework is explained for the “end of the age?”

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What are your impressions of what this time will be like and how long it will last?

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How is it possible to apply what is in the book of Daniel to the content of Revelation?

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Do I believe that the earth will end the way it is described here?

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Jesus covers this same message in Matthew chapters 24 and 25.

# DAY FORTY-TWO 42

## DANIEL

## Future Things

### DANIEL EXALTED

1:8; 2:9-21; 3:16-18;  
4:25-31; 6:10:11

1-11

### FUTURE PRESENTED

2:31-35; 7:13,14;  
9:24-27; 12:8-13

12-22

*"Then the sovereignty will be given." 7:27*

READ EACH OF THE PASSAGES LISTED IN THE OVERVIEW ABOVE.

What do you learn about Daniel the man from these verses?

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What do you learn about the future from these verses?

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## MY WORLDVIEW

√ When I think about the end of time it makes me feel...

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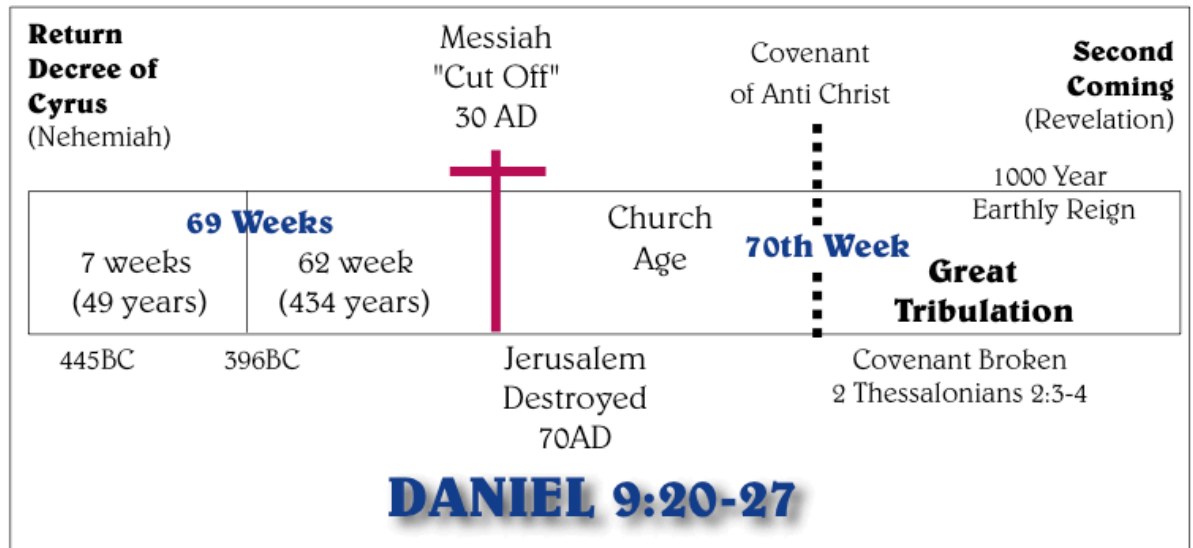
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# DAY FORTY-THREE 43

## DANIEL'S SEVENTIETH WEEK



READ DANIEL 9:20-27

√ What do you see from this passage that reflects upon the chart above?

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### MY WORLDVIEW

√ What do I believe about the eternal nature of my soul?

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√ About the end of the world?

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# DAY FORTY-THREE 43

## REVELATION

## Judge Revealed

HIS AUTHORITY	HIS SUBJECTS	HIS POWER
2:17, 18	3:19-22	Mercy...5:1-8 Terror...16:17-21 Joy...22:1-5
1	2-3	4-22

*He has a name written, "King of Kings, and Lord of Lords." 19:16*

READ EACH OF THE PASSAGES LISTED IN THE OVERVIEW ABOVE

What do you learn about Jesus from this basic sketch of the book of Revelation?

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## MY WORLDVIEW

When I think about:

- ✓ Jesus in the manger
- ✓ Jesus as Healer
- ✓ Jesus dying on the cross and
- ✓ Jesus coming back makes me feel...

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# DAY FORTY-THREE 43

YET TO COME!

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF JESUS CHRIST

## REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

THE VISION - SEALS - TRUMPETS - BOWLS

RAPTURE - MILLENNIUM - JUDGMENT - ETERNAL LIFE

Daniel's Seventieth Week (Daniel 9:24-27)

“But in those days, after that tribulation, ‘the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven,’ and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken.

“Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN CLOUDS with great power and glory. “And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven.” - Mark 13  
(**Luke 21**; Matthew 24)

NOTICE THE OUTLINE OF REVELATION IN THE BLUE SHADED AREA ABOVE.

What have you been taught about end time events?

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Why is it important to be aware about the end of the age?

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Take a few minutes and read MARK 13, LUKE 21, and MATTHEW 24. Jesus provides the framework for understanding end times events (after all - He IS God!).

√ What are the things He says with clarity?

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READ EZEKIEL 38, REVELATION 20, and ISAIAH 49.

The end of the age will include Jerusalem being surrounded by armies (LUKE 21). It appears that many current nations will play a part in the end of the age. Russia, Iran, Libya, China, and Israel will all be key to the events of the end.

It is quite fascinating that this tiny country (Israel = 150 miles long by 75 miles wide) continues to be in the middle of world events - and will continue until the end of time!

### MY WORLDVIEW

√ How strong is my belief that the end of time will unfold the way it is described here?

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√ How do these facts impact how I am making choices in my life?

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## DAY FORTY-FIVE 45

2 PETER 3:11-18  
What about us?

READ 2 PETER 3:11-18

How is it possible to “hasten” the coming Day of the Lord?

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How is it possible to be *diligent* to be *spotless* and *blameless*?

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Why are humans so susceptible to error?

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### MY WORLDVIEW

√ How strong is my belief that the end of time will unfold the way it is described here?

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√ How does this fact change how I am making choices in my life?

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17 HISTORICAL	5 POETIC	17 PROPHETIC
Genesis	Job	Isaiah
Exodus	Psalms	Jeremiah
Leviticus	Proverbs	Lamentations
Numbers	Ecclesiastes	Ezekiel
Deuteronomy	Song of Solomon	Daniel
Joshua		Hosea
Judges		Joel
Ruth		Amos
1 Samuel		Obadiah
2 Samuel		Jonah
1 Kings		Micah
2 Kings		Nahum
1 Chronicles		Habakkuk
2 Chronicles		Zephaniah
Ezra		Haggai
Nehemiah		Zechariah
Esther		Malachi

*Loss & Redemption!*

## DAY FORTY-SIX 46

These two charts help illustrate how the God Story unfolds. Notice the grouping of the books in each “testament.” What do you learn about purposes which are being revealed?

THE SHINING LIGHT	PAUL'S LETTERS and Antioch	FAMILY LETTERS and Jerusalem
Matthew	Romans	Hebrews
Mark	Corinthians	James
Luke	Galatians	Peter
John	Ephesians	John
<b>ACTS</b>	Philippians	
	Colossians	<b>END OF THE AGE</b>
	Thessalonians	
	Timothy	
	Titus	
	Philemon	Jude
		Revelation

*God Comes Near!*

# DAY FORTY-SIX 46

Carefully think your way through the story of the “old” testament. What do you notice about the flow of the story? What within the story do you find amazing? Compelling? Scary?

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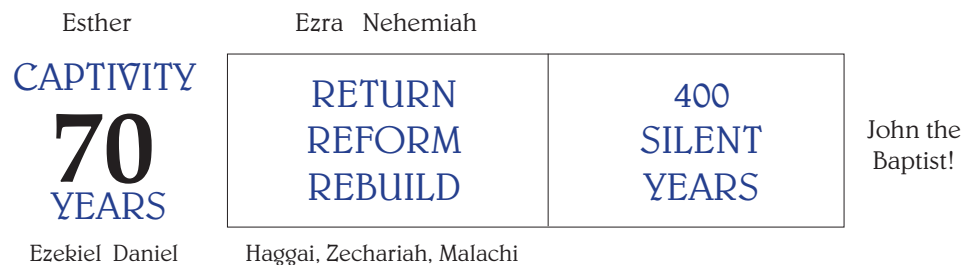
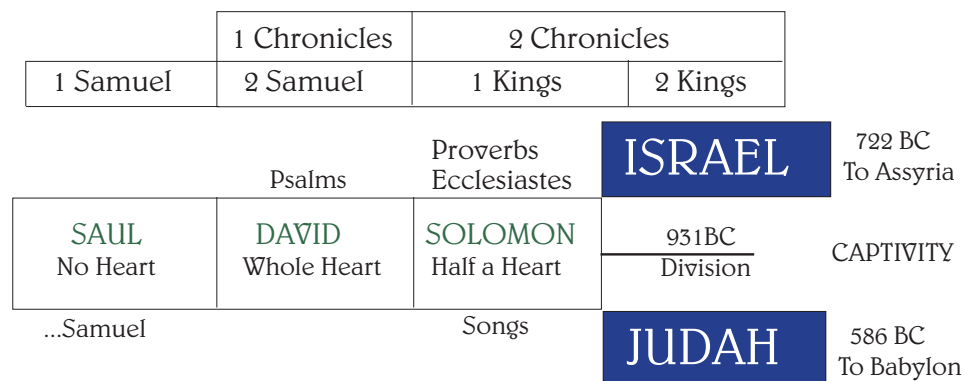
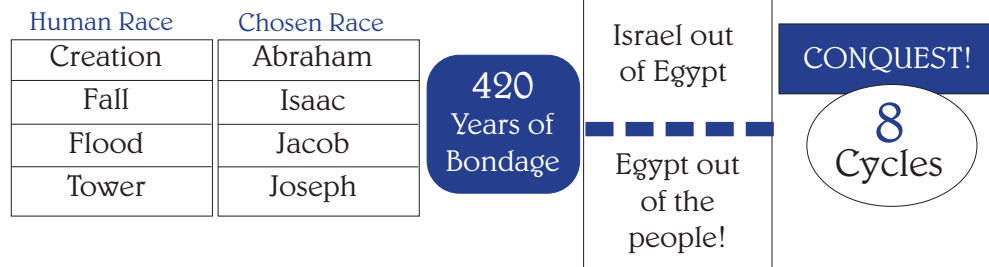
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Genesis	Exodus	Leviticus	Joshua
Job		Numbers	Judges
		Deuteronomy	Ruth

2 Step Deliverance:



# DAY FORTY-SEVEN 47

Carefully think your way through the story of the “new” testament. What do you notice about the flow of the story? What in the story do you find amazing? Compelling? Scary?

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<b>MATTHEW</b>	<b>MARK</b>	<b>LUKE</b>	<b>JOHN</b>
<b>KING COMES</b>	<b>SERVANT SACRIFICED</b>	<b>MAN SUFFERS</b>	<b>GOD REVEALED</b>
<b>Jews</b>	<b>Greeks</b>	<b>Romans</b>	<b>World</b>

## MESSIAH'S GOOD NEWS!

THE SACRIFICIAL SERVING MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST

**BIRTH**

**BAPTIST**

**TRAINING THE TWELVE**

**JERUSALEM TEACHING**

**JERUSALEM KILLING**

## THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!

THE MINISTRY OF THE RISEN CHRIST  
ACTS 1:8

**JERUSALEM**

**JUDEA &  
SAMARIA**

**ENDS OF THE EARTH**

JOURNEY 1

JOURNEY 2

JOURNEY 3

ROME

**WOMEN  
DISCIPLES  
500**

**JAMES  
HEBREWS**

**ROMANS  
1 & 2  
CORINTHIANS**

**GALATIANS  
EPHESIANS  
PHILIPPIANS  
COLOSSIANS**

**THESSALO-  
NIANS  
TIMOTHY  
TITUS**

**PETER  
JOHN  
JUDE**

## YET TO COME!

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF JESUS CHRIST

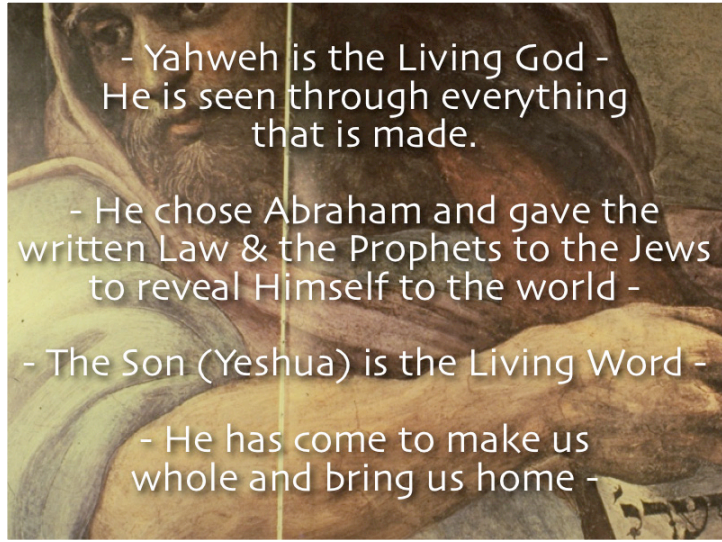
**REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST**

**THE VISION - SEALS - TRUMPETS - BOWLS**

**RAPTURE - MILLENNIUM - JUDGMENT - ETERNAL LIFE**

Daniel's Seventieth Week (Daniel 9:24-27)

# DAY FORTY-SEVEN 47



## MY WORLDVIEW

READ ROMANS 1:20.

√ How is it possible to see the Living God through everything that is made?

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√ Why would He work primarily among the Jews to reveal His power to the earth?

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RETURN TO ACTS 17, a passage we considered at the beginning of our quest. How is this passage helpful in defining roots for my beliefs about coming to know God?

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√ Have I become convinced that Jesus (Yeshua) is the Living Word?

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# DAY FORTY-EIGHT 48



There is only One God:  
**THE LIVING GOD**

- 4 living creatures
- 24 elders
- 3 archangels (1 evil/2 good)
- myriads of other angels/demons
- and the human race

## MY WORLDVIEW

While there are many false gods, according to scripture there is only One Living God. How does this mesh with my own beliefs as well as popular, politically-correct views of God?

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What do I believe about the existence of angels and demons, good and evil, Satan and God?

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What is the practical difference in our world if there is more than one god?

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## READ 1 JOHN 5:12

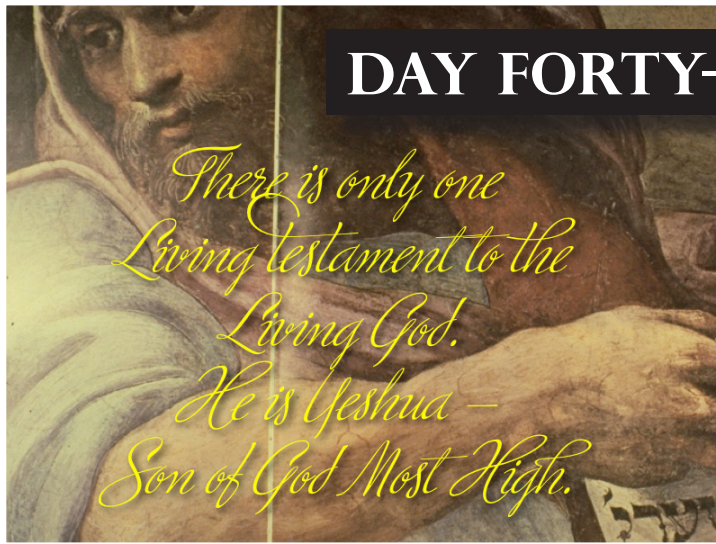
How can all other religions be incorrect, and how could Jesus be so exclusive about eternal life?

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## DAY FORTY-EIGHT 48

*There is only one  
Living testament to the  
Living God.  
He is Yeshua -  
Son of God Most High.*

### MY WORLDVIEW

How does the perspective of “One Testament” differ from what I have learned in the past?

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In what ways do I think my Hebrew roots connect to my own walk of faith?

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What does the “Jewishness” of Jesus or Yeshua imply about the authenticity of faith?

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HOW CAN JESUS THE MESSIAH BE BORN OF JEWISH VIRGIN AND  
AT THE SAME TIME BE GOD’S SON - THE EXACT REPRESENTATION  
OF HIS FATHER?

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Why is this important to consider in light of my personal faith?

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- TWO MOUNTAINS -  
Hebrews 12:18-29

## DAY FORTY-NINE 49

READ HEBREWS 12:18-29

√ List the unique features of Mount Sinai as found here (Mt. Horeb):

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√ List the unique features of Mount Zion:

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√ What are the similarities between the two mountains?

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√ What are the differences?

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√ The Living God is the same Inhabitant of both mountains. What is the same about Him?  
What is different?

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### MY WORLDVIEW

Gratitude appears to be a gift that I may possess to give back to God.

√ In what ways is my life a grateful gift? \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE!**

**“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword,**

**and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” - Hebrews 4:12**

## **DAY FIFTY 50**

YOU HAVE JUST SPENT A NUMBER OF HOURS LEARNING MUCH ABOUT THE OVERALL STORY OF THE BIBLE.

YOU NOW KNOW:

- ✓ the designations “old” and “new” testament are man-imposed
- ✓ the origins of all we see have been scientifically and spiritually explained
- ✓ all men are born fallen in our human nature, and the Lord God is our only hope
- ✓ the Living God intervened by presenting His only Son to buy back the souls of man
- ✓ God has spoken through Creation, His Word, and finally through His Son
- ✓ through each of the Eight Epochs in the fabric of time we are taught more about the Story, who God is, who we are, and the existence of a specific God-plan
- ✓ each of our lives are significant in the Big Story
- ✓ in fact - the Big Story is expanded by each of our stories
- ✓ the scriptures are knowable for those who devote time and reflection
- ✓ the goal of knowing the scriptures is to come to know the Living God more fully

DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER HE HAS CHOSEN TO REVEAL TO US THROUGH HIS WORD!

## ENDLESS ETERNITY PAST

### THE AGE OF TIME

1. Origins
2. Deliverance
3. Kings & Kingdoms
4. Prophets & Captivity
5. Return & the 400 Silent Years
6. The Shining Light
7. To the Ends of the Earth
8. The End of the Age

## ENDLESS ETERNITY FUTURE

*The God Story!*

The Living God has spoken.  
Hebrews 1:1-4

## DAY FIFTY 50

EACH OF THESE “EPOCHS” fill in more of the Story, and prepare us for what will happen as we transition out of time and return to our never-ending future.

Think your way through each part of the story and the parts of scripture that are represented in each of the eight epochs.

What were some of the segments you found to be most compelling?

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To which will you return for more interaction?

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In what ways do you feel you are better prepared to draw more out of the God Story?

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CAN YOU THINK OF ANYONE WHO WOULD ENJOY LEARNING ABOUT THESE EIGHT EPOCHS JUST AS YOU HAVE?

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# HOW CAN I GET A LOT OUT OF THE BIBLE WHEN I READ?

*What are the elements of the passage?*

*What did it mean to the original participants?*

*What does it mean to me?*

It is key to care enough to investigate faith stories from the Word of God, and to make room for asking the question: "what are the basic facts before me?" We must take the time and have a plan!

We then **EXPOSE** the meaning by placing ourselves into the particular context from which truth is emerging. ✓ What did it mean to the characters involved? ✓ The one telling the story? ✓ The original recipients of the story? ✓ What were the sounds?

✓ The smells? ✓ The feelings? ✓ The vivid pictures that such a situation exposes?

Once we have been careful to **ENCOUNTER** and **EXPOSE** it is time to experience an **ENLIGHTENED HEART**. ✓ What principles have been presented for my personal growth in faith? ✓ What does the Holy Spirit have to teach me from this passage? ✓ How will adapting such a principle enrich my life as well as the lives of those around me?

It is a true joy in life to live in Light and to help others interact with truth. Our world views dictate how we will live - and how we live is inseparably tied to our eternal glory in Christ!

**ENCOUNTER THE WORD!**  
**EXPOSE THE MEANING!**  
**ENLIGHTEN YOUR HEART!**

A number of things contribute to our world view. ✓ Upbringing and culture, ✓ our life-experiences and those who have been our teachers, ✓ our personal philosophical conclusions, and ✓ how we view faith and eternity.

JESUS invites us to consider His context for life and eternity, and to allow our personal **worldview** to be shaped by His Good Spirit.

**Always a great question:**

How has this particular truth shaped my world view and the way I choose to treat others - and invest my time, my talents, and my treasures?



# HOW THE PSALMS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO MY HEART!

**Whatever passage you are reading, always look for the heart connection!**

The human body is fragile. Even in strength and good health it takes very little to turn everything upside down when our physical health is impaired. Our emotional life is similar. We can be high as a kite on life one moment, and then a simple word or change of circumstances can send us plummeting to earth, often to a very rude landing!

The soul is the indestructible part of us. It is where the true battles are fought and it is the arena of our conscience and our spirit as well. You could say it is where the essence of a person exists. It is where our interior life is thought out, forged, and where we are won or lost. The soul is crucial to the measure of our lives. Giving attention to our interior lives is critical to the sum of who we are.

The [Psalms](#) are probably the best representations of an interior life that we have in all of human recorded history. The struggle with good and evil, desire and want, and anger and joy are all arrayed before us in the lives of the Psalmists - David, King of Israel owning the lion's share of these helpful snapshots into our interior lives.

To put this into perspective, we must understand that David probably enjoyed one of the most intimate and spiritually favored lives with the Living God of any human who has ever lived. We can look into his writings and find his heart, and in so doing we can find God's heart. [The Psalms are a key to unlocking our hearts.](#)

When you take a look at almost any Psalm you will find it easy to break down, usually by paragraph. Often a premise is explained, a struggle is engaged, and each Psalm usually releases when the Psalmist has given his care and concern back to God.

## TO “CRACK” A PSALM

- ✓ **Pray** that God will open the Psalm to you as you read.
- ✓ Read any story **background** in the scriptures on that particular Psalm that you can find.
- ✓ **Divide** the Psalm into sections (paragraphs or thoughts).
- ✓ Follow the circumstance and **emotions** of the Psalmist through the entire passage.
- ✓ Choose and **note one or two verses** you think are key to your heart relationship with Him.
- ✓ Ask the **question**, “in what ways is this Psalm expanding my drive to be whole-hearted?”

**ENJOY!**



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