

All of the events described in the Old Testament took place within about a 1,000 mile circle, roughly centered on modern-day Israel. In that circle, societies emerged, each with their own laws, languages, cultures, and religions. Over the millennia, those societies sprang up, flourished for a while, but then died out. All except one.

Around 1900BC, God chose Abraham, an obscure man who lived in that circle near Baghdad in Iraq. God promised Abraham land, prosperity, and a great nation that would bless all of the families of the earth. Abraham's family line, God's Chosen People, have spread throughout the world and still exist after more than 4,000 years of oppression, captivity, and holocaust.

Through those generations, the descendants of Abraham wrote down the words and acts of God into a collection of books we call the Old Testament. These writings are one of the greatest gifts the Jews have given to all of the families of the earth.

This Timeline is provided as a Bible study aid. Feel free to copy and distribute to help others better understand the Scriptures.

## What Did They Know and When Did They Know It?

When Abraham lived, there were no Ten Commandments. The Mosaic Law was given almost 500 years later. In Abraham's day, regional gods, idol worship and child sacrifice were common parts of religious experience.

But Abraham came to understand there is one true God. He believed in that God and obeyed what God commanded. But Abraham's knowledge was incomplete. His attitudes about some things, like slavery, polygamy, and human sacrifice represented the culture around him.

The Jews have grown in their knowledge of God over thousands of years by walking in His ways. The lessons they have documented in the Old Testament are for us to learn as well.

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All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

*2 Timothy 3:16, 17*

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This Old Testament Timeline will help you better understand the scriptures, the cultural backgrounds of those who lived during those years, and the sequence of historical events that influenced thought and culture. You will learn what God's people knew about Him, and when they came to know Him more fully.

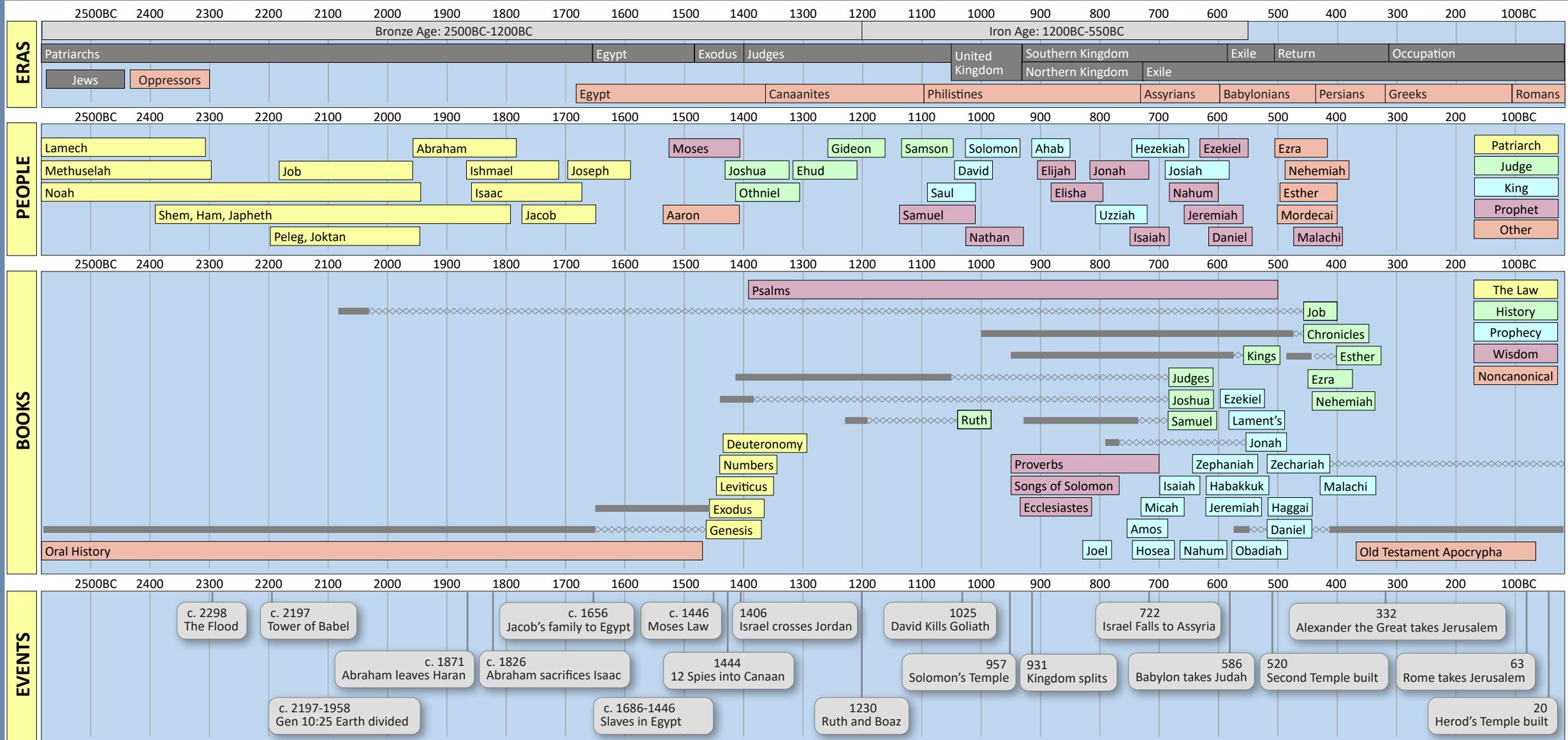
The Apostle Paul wrote that it is good and pleasing in the sight of God for us to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:3). This Timeline can help us discern the timeless truths God has given us in His Word.

# OLD TESTAMENT TIMELINE



# Old Testament Timeline

WHAT DID THEY KNOW AND WHEN DID THEY KNOW IT?



**Book Timeline Symbols:**

- When activity described in the book took place.
- ◇◇◇◇◇ The time between the activity and the book being written.
- Ruth The time when the book was written.

**Notes:**

- The timeline includes details related to God's chosen people from Noah to the birth of Christ.
- All dates are BC, before Christ.
- Dates prior to 1450BC are estimates based on scripture and archaeological findings.
- Old Testament books are shown on the timeline when they were written.
- Eras, People and Books areas include keys showing the meanings of the colors.
- Some multipart Books are shown combined, like Samuel for 1st and 2nd Samuel.
- Some books, like Daniel, describe past and future events.
- Books names may reflect the book's main character, not the author. (ex. Joshua, Jonah, Job)