

The Old Testament

The **Old Testament**, often referred to as the “**Hebrew Scriptures**,” begins with the story of **creation** in the book of **Genesis**. It describes the faith journey of **the Hebrew people**, beginning with **Abraham** (who was born in approximately **2000 B.C.**) and continuing to the time of the revolt of the **Maccabees** against the Seleucid kings who persecuted the Jews in the year **160 B.C.** This is where the writing of the Old Testament ends. But in the year **63 B.C.** Israel is conquered by Rome, and soon thereafter, in **37 B.C.**, Herod is appointed as king of the Jews.

While much of the Old Testament deals with the history of Israel and the Hebrew people, *the most significant aspect of these writings is the religious message of God.* God is our Creator, and He is the One who made the Covenant with the people: “I will be your God, and you shall be my people.” The Hebrew (or Jewish) people are referred to as the “**Chosen People**” not because they were any better or worse than anyone else, but it was from the Hebrew people that God chose to send His Son, the Messiah, the Christ, Jesus of Nazareth. *Everything in the Old Testament leads up to the birth of our Savior in a stable in Bethlehem, sometime between 3 B.C. and 6 B.C.*

How could Jesus have been born in 3 B.C. or 6 B.C.? At that time no one knew that they were living a certain number of years “**Before Christ**” (**B.C.**) because no one knew when the Messiah was to be born. Years were counted in terms of the reign of a king or emperor. For example, one might say, “in this, the tenth year of the reign of King Herod.” However, after the death and resurrection of Jesus, our current form of calendar was implemented, and the people began to use the letters “**A.D.**” which stand for “**Anno Domini**” (or, “**in the Year of our Lord**”). Much later, historians calculated that Herod died in 4 B.C., and we know that Jesus was born approximately two years before Herod’s death. That is how we get the year **6 B.C.** for the birth of **Jesus Christ**.

The Books of the Old Testament

The Pentateuch

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy

The Wisdom Books

- Job
- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Songs
- Wisdom (D)
- Sirach / Ecclesiasticus (D)

The Historical Books

- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth
- First Book of Samuel
- Second Book of Samuel
- First Book of Kings
- Second Book of Kings
- First Book of Chronicles
- Second Book of Chronicles
- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- Tobit (D)
- Judith (D)
- Esther (Some D – Greek)
- First Book of Maccabees (D)
- Second Book of Maccabees (D)

The Prophetic Books

- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Lamentations
- Baruch (D)
- Ezekiel
- Daniel (Some D)
- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

**NOTE: “D” = Deuterocanonical
(Also known as “Second Canon”)
(Not in Protestant Bibles)**

Total = 46 Books

A Timeline of History - Until the Time of Jesus Christ (as recorded in the Old Testament)

4 Billion Years B.C.	The Creation of the Earth	(Genesis)
2 Million Years B.C.	The Creation of the First Humans (“Homo Erectus”)	
200,000 B.C.	The Creation of the First Humans (“Homo Sapiens”)	
70,000 B.C.	The First Archeological Evidence of the Worship of God Biblical Figures: Adam and Eve, their sons: Cain, Abel, Seth. Noah and the Ark and the Tower of Babel	(Genesis)
8,000 B.C.	The First Civilizations Began to Develop (Greece, Chaldea, Egypt, India, China, and Central America)	
4,000 B.C.	The End of the Prehistoric Age (the “Stone Age”)	
3,760 B.C.	The Date of Creation for Orthodox Jews	(Year 2015 = 5775)
1,950 B.C.	God calls Abraham. He and Sarah leave Ur (in Iraq) and travel to the Promised Land of Canaan (Israel)	(Genesis)
1,900 B.C.	Isaac is born to Abraham and Sarah	(Genesis)
1,800 B.C.	Jacob (and Esau) are born to Isaac and Rebekah (Jacob later becomes known by the name “Israel”)	(Genesis)
1,750 B.C.	Joseph and his eleven brothers are born to Jacob (Joseph’s brother, Judah, is an ancestor of Saint Joseph)	(Genesis)
1,725 B.C.	Joseph is sold into slavery in Egypt by his brothers	(Genesis)
1,710 B.C. to 1,280 B.C.	The Hebrew people are held in slavery in Egypt	
1,280 B.C.	The Exodus - Moses leads the people out of slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land of Canaan (Israel)	(Exodus)
1,240 B.C.	Joshua leads the Hebrews into the Promised Land	(Joshua)

- 1,220 B.C. to 1,050 B.C.** The period of the Judges **(Judges)**
- 1,050 B.C.** Samuel anoints Saul as king of the Hebrew people **(1 Samuel)**
- 1,010 B.C.** Samuel privately anoints David as king of the Jews **(1 Samuel)**
- 970 B.C.** King Solomon builds the First Temple in Jerusalem **(1 Kings)**
- 930 B.C.** The Hebrew people divide into two kingdoms: **(1 Kings)**
 Israel in the north
 Judah in the south
- 587 B.C.** The Hebrew people are Exiled to Babylon (by the Assyrians)
 and the Temple is destroyed **(2 Kings)**
- 538 B.C.** The Hebrews return to Israel and the Temple is rebuilt **(Ezra)**
 (this begins what is known as “The Second Temple Period”)
- 445 B.C.** Nehemiah rebuilds the walls of Jerusalem **(Nehemiah)**
- 332 B.C.** Israel is conquered by Greece (under Alexander the Great)
- 167 B.C.** Antiochus desecrates the Temple in Jerusalem **(1 Maccabees)**
- 164 B.C.** The revolt of the Maccabees and the Dedication of the Temple
 (the Jewish Feast of Hannukah) **(1 Maccabees)**
- 100 B.C.** The rise of the Essenes (who preserved the Dead Sea Scrolls)
- 63 B.C.** Israel is conquered by Rome
 (and Pompey captures the city of Jerusalem)
- 37 B.C.** Herod is appointed king of the Jews
 Herod remodels the Temple for 46 years (see John 2:20)

3 B.C. (or 6 B.C.) *The Birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem*

30 A.D. *The Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ*

The Book of Genesis

The book of Genesis begins with these three words: “**In the beginning...**” and it documents the creation of everything. And “**God saw that it was good.**” The book continues with the stories of **Adam** and **Eve**, **Noah** and the Ark, and the **Tower of Babel**. The dates of these events are all unknown.

In chapter 11 we first hear of **Abram**, who is soon to be known as **Abraham**. He is called by God to leave his home in Ur (modern day Iraq) and go to Canaan (modern day Israel). He journeys with his wife **Sarah** and God blesses them with a son, **Isaac**, who is born to them in their old age. Isaac marries **Rebekah** and God blesses them with two sons, **Esau** and **Jacob**. Jacob steals his father’s blessing from Esau and later becomes known as “**Israel.**” Through his lifetime Jacob (Israel) becomes the father of the sons who make up the twelve tribes of Israel.

One of Jacob’s sons is **Judah**, who becomes an ancestor to Saint Joseph (see the Gospel of Mathew 1:2). The second-to-the-youngest son is **Joseph**, and, out of jealousy, his brothers sell him into slavery in Egypt. Due to a famine that takes place years later, the sons of Jacob travel to Egypt seeking help, not knowing that Joseph is still alive. There they encounter him and beg for his forgiveness. **The book of Genesis ends with the death of Joseph in Egypt.**

The Beginning of World History

CHAPTER 1

- The creation of the earth, the sun, the moon, the stars, animals, and people.

CHAPTER 2

- On the seventh day God rested, and then He created **Adam and Eve**.

CHAPTER 3

- **Adam and Eve** were tempted by the serpent, and sinned by eating the fruit.

CHAPTER 4

- Adam and Eve’s sons: Cain and Abel - and **Seth** (the ancestor of St. Joseph).

CHAPTER 5

- The generations from **Adam** to **Noah**.

CHAPTER 6

- The warning of the flood, and Noah's preparations for it.

CHAPTER 7

- **Noah and the ark**, and the forty days and nights of heavy rain.

CHAPTER 8

- The ark comes to rest on dry land, and **Noah** builds an altar to the Lord.

CHAPTER 9

- **The covenant** that God establishes with **Noah** and his descendents.

CHAPTER 10

- The descendents of Noah's sons.

CHAPTER 11

- **The Tower of Babel** (the people want to make a name for themselves).

The Patriarch Abraham

CHAPTER 12

- God calls **Abram** and directs him to the Promised Land of **Canaan**.

CHAPTER 13

- God tells **Abram** that his descendents will be too numerous to count.

CHAPTER 14

- Abram's nephew, **Lot**, is captured by **Chedorlaomer**, but **Abram** was able to free him and recover all of his possessions.
- **Melchizedek**, king of Salem, brings out bread and wine, and blesses Abram.
- **Abram** then gives him a tenth of everything (*the concept of tithing*).

CHAPTER 15

- **The Covenant that God makes with Abram (descendents and land)**.
- The Lord predicts the 400 years of slavery for Abram's descendents.

CHAPTER 16

- The birth of **Ishmael**, Abram's son by **Hagar**, his maidservant.

CHAPTER 17

- Abram becomes **Abraham**, and his wife Sarai becomes **Sarah**.
- The **Covenant** that God makes with Abram regarding circumcision.

CHAPTER 18

- Visitors promise Abraham and Sarah that they will have a child next year.
- Abraham intercedes with God for the protection of Sodom and Gomorrah.

CHAPTER 19

- Two angels come to Lot's home in Sodom, but are threatened by the people.
- Lot protects them, not knowing that they are angels.
- The angels destroy Sodom and Gomorrah.
- Lot's wife looked back, and she was turned into a pillar of salt.

CHAPTER 20

- **Abraham** lies to **Abimelech, king of Gerar**, saying that his wife, **Sarah**, is his sister in order to protect himself. But he is caught in the lie.

The Patriarch Isaac

CHAPTER 21

- **Abraham** is 100 years old when **Isaac** is born.
- God says, *"for it is through Isaac that descendents shall bear your name."*
- God promises Hagar that of Ishmael, *"I will make of him a great nation."*

CHAPTER 22

- God tests **Abraham** by asking for the sacrifice of his son, **Isaac**.
- **The Lord's messenger** intervenes and saves Isaac, and the Lord says, *"I will bless you abundantly and make your descendents as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore."*

CHAPTER 23

- **Sarah** dies at the age of 127 and is buried in the cave at Machpelah.

CHAPTER 24

- Through a servant of Abraham, **Isaac** meets, and then marries **Rebekah**.

CHAPTER 25 (Verses 1 to 18)

- **Abraham** dies at the age of 175 and is buried in the same cave as Sarah.
- **Ishmael** dies at the age of 137. His descendents are known as **Ishmaelites**.

The Patriarch, Jacob, also known as “Israel”

CHAPTER 25 (Verses 19 to 34)

- Isaac’s wife Rebekah gives birth to twins, first **Esau**, and then **Jacob**.
- **Jacob** bargains with Esau for his birthright (since Esau was the older).

CHAPTER 26

- **Isaac** leaves Canaan and settles in Gerar (because of a famine in his land).
- **Isaac** then leaves Gerar and settles in Beersheba.

CHAPTER 27

- **Jacob** tricks his father (**Isaac**) and receives the blessing (meant for Esau).
- **Jacob** flees to his uncle **Laban** (in Haran) out of fear of his brother, Esau.

CHAPTER 28

- **Jacob** has a dream about a stairway to heaven and a meeting with God.
- **Jacob** then makes a vow to God and sets a memorial stone to God.

CHAPTER 29

- **Jacob** marries the two daughters of Laban, first **Leah**, and then **Rachel**.
- God blesses **Jacob and Leah** with sons: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah.

CHAPTER 30

- Jacob has two sons, Dan and Nephtali, with the maidservant, Bilhah.
- Jacob has two sons, Gad and Asher, with the maidservant, Zilpah.
- Jacob and Leah have two other sons, Issacher and Zebulun.
- Jacob and Leah have a daughter, Dinah.
- Jacob and Rachel have a son, Joseph.
- Jacob outwits **his uncle, Laban**, with a trick involving the animals.

CHAPTER 31

- **Jacob** and his family flee from his uncle, **Laban**, and return to Canaan.
- **Rachel** steals the household idols of **Laban** (her father).
- **Jacob** and **Laban** call upon God for justice between them.

CHAPTER 32

- **Jacob** sends messengers to his brother, **Esau**, hoping that he will spare him.
- **Jacob** wrestles with the angel, and the angel changes his name to “**Israel**.”

CHAPTER 33

- **Jacob** and **Esau** meet, and **Esau** embraces his brother and kissed him.
- **Jacob** arrives safely in the land of Canaan (the Promised Land).

CHAPTER 34

- **Dinah**, the daughter of **Jacob** and **Leah**, is raped by **Shechem**.
- **Jacob’s sons** take revenge on **Shechem** (and his father, **Hamor** the Hivite).

CHAPTER 35

- God sends **Jacob** to Bethel to build an altar to the God who protected him.
- At this point God formally changes **Jacob’s** name to “**Israel**.”
- **Jacob** and **Rachel** have another son, **Benjamin**. **Rachel** dies in childbirth.
- **Isaac** dies at the age of one hundred and eighty years.

CHAPTER 36

- **Esau** takes his wives from among the Canaanite women.
- **Esau** becomes known as the father of the Edomites.

Joseph - and his Eleven Brothers (and one Sister)

CHAPTER 37

- **Jacob** (now known as **Israel**) settles in the land of Canaan (Promised Land).
- **Israel** loved **Joseph** best of his twelve sons, and he makes him a long tunic.
- **Joseph** has two dreams that offend his brothers, and they plot to kill him.
- Instead, **Reuben** tries to save him and send him back home, but his other brother, **Judah**, sells him to the Ishmaelites, who then take him to Egypt.

CHAPTER 38

- Judah's son, **Onan**, fails to preserve his brother Er's line of descendants by having relations with his widow, **Tamar**, by wasting his seed on the ground.
- Judah mistakes Tamar for a harlot and has relations with her fathering twins.

CHAPTER 39

- **Joseph** is taken to Egypt is bought by a courier of **Pharaoh**.
- **Joseph** is assigned to the household of his Egyptian master, but his master's wife tries to tempt Joseph. Even though Joseph resists her, **he is put in jail**.

CHAPTER 40

- **Joseph interprets the dreams** of the other inmates - who work for the king.

CHAPTER 41

- **Joseph** then interprets Pharaoh's dreams (and God gives him the answers).
- **Pharaoh** puts **Joseph** in charge of the whole land of Egypt.
- **Joseph** marries **Asenath** and becomes the father of Manasseh and Ephraim.

CHAPTER 42

- In response to a famine, **Joseph's ten brothers** (*without Benjamin*) go to Egypt to buy an emergency supply of grain.
- **Joseph** recognizes his brothers, but they do not recognize him.
- **Joseph** demands that his ten brothers bring the youngest brother, **Benjamin**, to Egypt, but **Jacob resists** – he is afraid that his youngest son will be killed.

CHAPTER 43

- **Jacob gives in**, and the brothers of Joseph journey to Egypt. Here **Joseph** meets his brother, **Benjamin**, for the first time, and he is overcome with joy.

CHAPTER 44

- **Joseph** plants a silver goblet in Benjamin's bag in order to make him look like a thief, and thus causes his brothers to leave Benjamin behind in Egypt.
- **Judah steps forward** and offers to be Joseph's slave - in place of Benjamin.

CHAPTER 45

- **Joseph** finally reveals himself to his brothers and they are dumfounded.
- **Joseph** then sends for his father, **Jacob**, to come live in Egypt.
- **Pharaoh** then assigns them the best land in Egypt.
- **Jacob (Israel)** is thrilled to learn that his son **Joseph** is alive and well.

CHAPTER 46

- **Israel (Jacob)** migrates to Egypt with his family - and with God's blessing.
- God promises **Israel (Jacob)** that he will make him a great nation in Egypt.

CHAPTER 47

- **Joseph** settles his father and brothers in the land of Egypt.
- **Due to the famine**, all the Egyptian people traded their livestock for bread, and then traded their land to Pharaoh, and they became Pharaoh's slaves.
- **Joseph** made an arrangement whereby the slaves could keep four-fifths of the harvest, and the people were grateful to Joseph for saving their lives.

CHAPTER 48

- **Jacob (Israel)** blesses Joseph's sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, as his own.
- **Jacob (Israel)** then places Ephraim, the younger, before Manasseh.

CHAPTER 49

- **Jacob (Israel)** calls his sons together and predicts what will happen to them in the days to come:
 - 1) **Reuben** (Mother is Leah)
 - 2) **Simeon** (Mother is Leah)
 - 3) **Levi** (Mother is Leah) (**NOTE:** Levi is the tribe of the priests.)
 - 4) **Judah** (Mother is Leah)
 - 5) **Zebulun** (Mother is Leah)
 - 6) **Issachar** (Mother is Leah)
 - 7) **Dan** (Mother is Bilhah – Rachel's Maidservant)
 - 8) **Gad** (Mother is Zilpah – Leah's Maidservant)
 - 9) **Asher** (Mother is Zilpah – Leah's Maidservant)
 - 10) **Naphtali** (Mother is Bilhah – Rachel's Maidservant)
 - 11) **Joseph** (Mother is Rachel) (Sons are **Ephraim** and **Manasseh**)
 - 12) **Benjamin** (Mother is Rachel)
- **These twelve sons of Jacob** become the source of the twelve tribes of Israel.
- **Jacob** requests to be buried in the cave of Machpelah, the same place where Abraham and Sarah are buried (as are Isaac and Rebekah). Then Jacob dies.

CHAPTER 50

- Jacob's sons take his body to Canaan and bury it in the cave of Machpelah.
- Joseph's brothers seek his forgiveness, and they are reconciled.
- **Joseph dies at the age of one hundred and ten and is buried in Egypt.**

The Book of Exodus

After **Joseph** was reunited with his brothers in **Egypt**, his entire family settled in Egypt. But, as the years went on, a new king came to power, and he knew nothing of Joseph. He saw how numerous and powerful the Israelites had become, so **Pharaoh enslaved the Hebrew people** and forced them to build the supply cities of Pithom and Raamses. The Jewish people were in Egypt for four hundred and thirty years (from approximately **1,710 B.C.** to about **1,280 B.C.**).

In approximately **1,360 B.C.** a baby boy was born to a couple of the house of Levi, and his name was **Moses**. The baby Moses was rescued by Pharaoh's daughter, who found him in a basket floating in the Nile River. God had a plan for Moses to lead the people out of slavery, and into the **Promised Land** that God had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (whom God re-named "Israel") in the book of Genesis. Of course, Pharaoh resisted Moses' plan to free the people, and God sent ten plagues upon the people of Egypt, until Pharaoh finally gave in. At the age of 80 (in the year **1,280 B.C.**), Moses led the people in the **Exodus** out of Egypt. But once the people left, Pharaoh's army followed them through the desert to the **Red Sea**, where God performed one of the miracles that enabled the people to escape Pharaoh's grasp – the famous parting of the Red Sea.

For forty years, from about **1,280 B.C.** to **1,240 B.C.**, the Hebrew people journeyed through the desert. Along the way they doubted God, but God never abandoned them. The Lord entered into a covenant with the people, and then God gave Moses the **Ten Commandments** on **Mount Sinai**. The Book of Exodus continues with the various Laws from God, many of which may seem strange to us, looking at them from a 21st Century viewpoint. But each word and action of God were given for the benefit of the people.

During their forty years in the desert, God gave the people the directions for making the **Ark of the Covenant**, which was designed to hold the stone tablets of the **Ten Commandments**. The people again rebelled against God, and made a **golden calf** to worship. As one might expect, Moses was distraught when he saw the people worshipping the golden calf, and God also was not pleased with their actions. But the Lord stayed true to His people, and He continued to lead them on their journey towards the Promised Land. The Hebrew people will enter into Canaan (modern-day Israel) in approximately **1,240 B.C.** We will read about their entry into the Promised Land when we read the book of Joshua.

CHAPTER 1

- A new king, who knew nothing of Joseph, comes to power in Egypt.
- Pharaoh enslaves the Israelites, and forces them to build supply cities.
- Pharaoh commands the murder of all boys born to the Hebrew people.

CHAPTER 2

- Moses is born and then adopted by Pharaoh's daughter.
- After killing an Egyptian Moses departs for Midian where he meets his wife.

CHAPTER 3

- God calls Moses and speaks to him through the burning bush.
- God answers Moses' objections, and gives His name as "I am who am."

CHAPTER 4

- Moses and his brother Aaron call upon God for assistance in their mission.

CHAPTER 5

- Pharaoh is resistant to the demands of Moses (since he does not know God).
- Pharaoh no longer provides straw for the slaves who are making bricks.

CHAPTER 6

- God promises Moses that the Israelites will be freed.
- The genealogy of Moses and Aaron is traced back to the family of Levi.

CHAPTER 7

- God speaks to Moses and turns his walking staff into a snake.
- God sends ten plagues upon the Egyptians.
- The first plague is the water of the river turning to blood.
- The second plague is the frogs.

CHAPTER 8

- The third plague is the gnats.
- The fourth plague is the flies.

CHAPTER 9

- The fifth plague is the pestilence.
- The sixth plague is the boils.
- The seventh plague is the hail.

CHAPTER 10

- The eighth plague is the locusts.
- The ninth plague is the darkness.

CHAPTER 11

- The tenth plague is the death of the first-born of each Egyptian family.

CHAPTER 12

- God prescribes the Passover ritual and the placing of blood on the doorposts.
- The Lord slays all of the first born of each Egyptian family.
- Moses leads the people on the Exodus out of Egypt after 430 years.

CHAPTER 13

- God calls for the consecration of the first born to the Lord from each family.
- Moses leads the people through the desert to the Red Sea.
- God leads the people by a column of cloud and a column of fire.

CHAPTER 14

- Pharaoh and his soldiers pursue the Hebrew people in their chariots.
- Moses stretches out his hands and leads the people through the Red Sea.
- The waters then close in, and the Egyptian soldiers die in the Red Sea.

CHAPTER 15

- Moses and the Israelites praise God in a song.
- Moses leads the people out to the desert of Shur.
- At Marah, God provides fresh water for the people.

CHAPTER 16

- Moses leads the people to the desert known as "Sin."
- The people turn against Moses. God provides manna for forty years.

CHAPTER 17

- At Rephidim, the people again grumble against Moses.
- Moses, following God's command, strikes the rock, and water flows forth.
- This place is known as Massah and Meribah.
- At Rephidim, Amalek wages war against Israel.
- The Israelites win, as long as Moses keeps his hands raised.
- Joshua leads the Israelites into victory in the battle.

CHAPTER 18

- In Midian, Moses meets with his father-in-law, Jethro, and is reunited with his wife and two sons.
- Moses appoints “minor judges” to settle small matters among the people.

CHAPTER 19

- The Hebrew people arrive at Mount Sinai, and Moses goes up the mountain.

CHAPTER 20

- God delivers the Ten Commandments to Moses (*not yet on stone tablets!*).
- God instructs Moses to build an altar for holocausts and peace offerings.

CHAPTER 21

- God gives laws to Moses regarding slaves, personal injury of another, and hurting a pregnant woman. (*See handout regarding slavery in ancient times.*)
- Verse 23 has the famous saying, “A life for a life, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a hand for a hand, a foot for a foot, a burn for a burn,” and more.
- **NOTE: What did Jesus teach about these subjects? (See Matt 5:38-42)**

CHAPTER 22

- God gives more laws to Moses regarding stealing and seducing virgins.
- The Lord tells Moses, “You shall not molest or oppress an alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt. You shall not wrong any widow or orphan.” (*Who do we look upon as aliens in our world today?*)

CHAPTER 23

- God gives more laws to Moses regarding lies, lawsuits, and bribes.
- The Lord gives religious laws regarding the Sabbath, the day of rest.
- God reminds Moses of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Passover), the feast of the grain harvest (Pentecost), and the feast of the fruit harvest (Booths).
- The Lord promises to send an angel to guard the people - and to guide them to the Promised Land.

CHAPTER 24

- Moses writes the words of the Lord in the book of the Covenant.
- Moses ascends Mount Sinai, and a cloud covers the mountain.
- To the Israelites, the glory of the Lord was seen as a consuming fire on the mountaintop.
- Moses stays on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

CHAPTER 25

- The Lord instructs Moses to have the people erect a Dwelling, a sanctuary, so that the Lord may dwell in their midst.
- God describes the ark (made of acacia wood), the propitiatory (the cover), the table of bread (twelve loaves of showbread), and the golden lampstand.

CHAPTER 26

- God describes the Dwelling itself and the wooden walls (also acacia wood).
- The Lord gives instructions for the veil which divides the holy place from the Holy of Holies (for the Ark of the Commandments).

CHAPTER 27

- The Lord describes the altar of burnt offerings, the court of the Dwelling, and the oil for the lamps.

CHAPTER 28

- The Lord selects Aaron and his sons to become the priests, and God describes the priestly vestments that are to be made for them.
- The breastpiece is to have twelve stones (to match the names of the Tribes).

CHAPTER 29

- The Lord describes rite for the consecration (or ordination) of the priests.
- God says that the sacred vestments shall be passed down to his descendents.

CHAPTER 30

- God gives instructions for the altar of incense (again, acacia wood), the bronze laver (for cleansing), the anointing oil, and the incense.

CHAPTER 31

- The Lord chooses the artisan, Bezalel and Oholiab, as his assistant.
- God reiterates the provisions of the Sabbath Laws, and the penalties.
- At this time God gives Moses the two stone tablets with the commandments.

CHAPTER 32

- The people grow tired of waiting for Moses, and they ask Aaron to, "Come, make us a god who will be our leader!" And so they make a golden calf.
- When Moses sees the people, he throws down the tablets and breaks them.
- Moses gives the people a choice of returning to the Lord, and those who do not go back to the Lord are punished with death.

CHAPTER 33

- The Lord tells Moses that he will send an angel to guide the Israelites.
- God then promises Moses that He will go along with him, “to give you rest.”
- God lets Moses see his back, but God’s face is not to be seen by anyone.

CHAPTER 34

- The Lord instructs Moses to cut two new stone tablets and to bring them up Mount Sinai so that God may write the commandments on them again.
- Here God proclaims His name as “Lord” and then says, “The Lord is a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity.”
- God reiterates the Covenant between the Lord and the Hebrew people.
- Again God speaks of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and the Feast of Weeks which is fifty days after the Passover. (*Also known as Pentecost.*)

CHAPTER 35

- The Lord, again, describes the Sabbath regulations.
- God selects artisans and craftsmen for the construction of the Dwelling.

CHAPTER 36

- Again, the Lord instructs the people regarding the construction of the tent cloth (that is placed over the Dwelling), along with the boards and the veil.

CHAPTER 37

- God describes the ark, the table, the lampstand, and the altar of incense.

CHAPTER 38

- The Lord describes the altar of holocausts, the bronze laver, and the court.

CHAPTER 39

- The Lord gives details regarding the vestments and the breastpiece.
- The entire work of the Dwelling of the meeting tent is now completed.

CHAPTER 40

- God tells Moses that the Dwelling of the meeting tent should be erected on the first day of the first month, and that the ark of the commandments should be placed inside of it, screened off by the veil.
- In daytime, the cloud settled upon the tent, and the glory of the Lord filled the Dwelling. At night, fire was seen in the cloud by the whole house of Israel in all the stages of their journey to the Promised Land.

The Book of Leviticus

The Book of Leviticus is made up of over 600 laws and commandments that God gave to Moses when he was standing on Mount Sinai. The Hebrew title of the book is *wayyiqra*, which means, “**And He called.**” The Greek title is *Leutikon*, which means, “**That which pertains to the priests.**” The priests were of the tribe of Levi, and it is from that word that “Leviticus” is derived. While the book deals primarily with the priests and their various tasks, the book applies to all of the people of Israel who had left Egypt and were journeying to the Promised Land.

Leviticus centers around the concept of the holiness of God, and how the people can approach Him and remain in fellowship with Him. This is accomplished through sacrifices and through obedience to God’s laws. In chapter 16 we read of the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) and the “scapegoat.” And, in the last part of the book of Leviticus, we read of the other religious feasts and festivals that the Lord established.

Throughout the book we hear God speaking to Moses, and repeating the famous words, “**You shall be holy, because I, the Lord, am holy.**”

CHAPTER 1

- God instructs Moses regarding the holocaust offerings for atonement of sins.

CHAPTER 2

- God gives directions for the cereal offerings, a “sweet-smelling oblation.”

CHAPTER 3

- The Lord gives the stipulations for peace offerings (in thanksgiving).

CHAPTER 4

- God gives instructions for the sacrifice for “inadvertent sins” of the people.

CHAPTER 5

- The Lord gives the specifications for sacrifices for special causes.

CHAPTER 6

- God gives the provisions for holocausts, cereal offerings, and sin offerings.

CHAPTER 7

- God gives the directions for guilt offerings (the same as the sin offerings).

CHAPTER 8

- The Lord gives instructions for the ordination of Aaron and his sons.

CHAPTER 9

- God sets the specifications for the holocaust on the eighth day of ordination.
- The glory of the Lord is revealed to all the people through the fire.

CHAPTER 10

- Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, offer profane fire which the Lord had not authorized, and the two men die in the presence of the Lord.
- The Lord speaks to Aaron and his surviving sons regarding sacrifices.

CHAPTER 11

- God gives the distinction between clean and unclean foods.

CHAPTER 12

- The Lord gives the provisions for purification after childbirth.
- *Note verses 6-8 in relation to Mary's purification after the birth of Jesus.*

CHAPTER 13

- The Lord stipulates the requirements for someone who has leprosy.

CHAPTER 14

- The Lord gives the instructions for purification after leprosy.

CHAPTER 15

- God gives the provisions for the purification of one who has an affliction.

CHAPTER 16

- The Lord establishes Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.
- God then describes the procedures for the sending off of "the scapegoat".

CHAPTER 17

- The Lord points out that the life of a living body is in its blood, and He requires the blood to be placed on the altar for atonement of sins.

CHAPTER 18

- The Lord speaks of the sanctity of sexual relations, and lists the restrictions against sexual relations with close relatives.

CHAPTER 19

- The Lord gives the people various rules of conduct to govern their lives.
- God calls the people to take care of the poor: “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not be so thorough that you reap the field to its very edge, nor shall you glean the stray ears for grain. These things you shall leave for the poor and the alien.” (*See the book of Ruth, chapter 2*)

CHAPTER 20

- The Lord gives Moses the penalties for various sins of the people.

CHAPTER 21

- God gives the stipulations for the priests in terms of their lives and families.

CHAPTER 22

- The Lord gives more stipulations for the sacred offerings of the Israelites.

CHAPTER 23

- The Lord gives Moses the holy days, beginning with the Sabbath, the Passover (and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is the next day), the Day of the First Fruits, the Pentecost (fifty days after the Passover), New Year’s Day (the day of trumpet blasts, also known as Rosh Hashanah), the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), and the Lord’s Feast of Booths.

CHAPTER 24

- The Lord instructs Moses regarding the sanctuary light and the showbread.

CHAPTER 25

- God instructs Moses on the “jubilee year” which takes place every 50 years.

CHAPTER 26

- God tells the people how He will reward them for their obedience to Him.

CHAPTER 27

- God speaks of dedicating houses or objects to the Lord.

The Book of Numbers

This book, as the name indicates, includes the account of two census counts that were taken by God's request. The book begins about a year after the Exodus from Egypt (when the first census was taken) and concludes thirty-eight years later, just as the Israelites are about to enter the Promised Land (when the second census is taken). In this book we continue to read of the people's grumbings against God, and the consequences of their unfaithfulness (the punishment of having to wander **for forty years in the desert**). **Moses and Aaron** continue to lead the people, but even they are not perfect in following the Lord. And, because of their sin of not being faithful to God at the waters of Kadesh, they are also prohibited from entering the Promised Land.

CHAPTER 1

- The first census is taken of the people (by each of the twelve tribes of Israel). The total count of males, twenty years of age and older, being 603,550. (These were the ones who could serve in the military and fight.)

CHAPTER 2

- The Lord organized the twelve tribes of the people around the meeting tent (three tribes on each side: east, south, west, and north).

CHAPTER 3

- The tribe of Levi replaces the first-born of the Israelites, and a census is taken of the Levite males of one month old or more. The total was 22,000. They are to take the place of the first-born males of the Israelites.
- At this time a census is also taken of all of the first-born Israelite males, one month old or more, and the total was 22,273.

CHAPTER 4

- The duties of the priests were defined by the Lord, and the total number of Levite males between thirty and fifty years of age was 8,580.

CHAPTER 5

- The Lord gives directions for expelling those who are unclean, and those who take unjust possession of the property of others.
- The stipulations for determining guilt or innocence for a woman suspected of committing adultery are spelled out. (*A confusing method in our minds!*)

CHAPTER 6

- The Lord gives the laws and rituals for those men and women who have taken a nazirite vow (to dedicate oneself to the Lord).
- The Lord gives the Priestly Blessing to Aaron, through Moses: *“The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!”*

CHAPTER 7

- Once the Dwelling is completed, the Lord gives Moses the directions for the dedication of the altar, which takes place over twelve days.

CHAPTER 8

- The Lord gives directions for the setting up of the seven lamps.
- The Lord then provides the guidelines for the purification of the Levites.

CHAPTER 9

- The Lord gives the prescriptions for the celebration of the Second Passover.
- The Lord sends the fiery cloud to guide the people of Israel.

CHAPTER 10

- The Lord gives the stipulations for the two silver trumpets, and their uses.
- The Israelites leave the desert of Sinai in their journey to the Promised Land.

CHAPTER 11

- Once again, the people become disgruntled, so the Lord promises meat for the people to eat, and they receive quail (flying from the sea) for food.

CHAPTER 12

- Moses' sister, Miriam, and his brother, Aaron, speak against Moses out of jealousy of his position with the Lord. Miriam is punished with leprosy, but it only lasts for seven days. She is then allowed to return to the people.

CHAPTER 13

- The Lord instructs Moses to send out twelve scouts to the land of Canaan (the Promised Land). The scouts confirm that the land is indeed flowing with milk and honey, but ten of the scouts state that the people who are living in the land are fierce and the towns are fortified and very strong.
- Caleb, however, says that the Israelites should go and seize the land.

CHAPTER 14

- All of the people grumble against Moses and Aaron, and they plan a revolt against them. In response to the unbelief of the people, the Lord threatens the Israelites with a pestilence to wipe them out (but the Lord promises to save Moses). But, at Moses' request, the Lord pardons the people.
- However, as punishment for their unfaithfulness, the Lord sentences the people to forty years of wandering in the desert so that those who sinned against the Lord will die before they enter the Promised Land.

CHAPTER 15

- The Lord makes further stipulations for various types of offerings.
- The Lord pronounces that the punishment for gathering wood on the Sabbath is death by stoning - by the entire community. (*Again, a confusing concept.*)
- The Lord prescribes the wearing of tassels on the corners of their garments as a reminder to keep all of the commandments of the Lord. (*As Jesus did.*)

CHAPTER 16

- Korah initiates a rebellion against Moses, along with Dathan and Abiram.
- They are punished by being swallowed up by the ground.

CHAPTER 17

- Again the people grumble against Moses and Aaron, but the glory of the Lord appears in the cloud covering the meeting tent.
- The staff of Aaron is chosen by God for miraculous signs for the people (by sprouting and bearing ripe almonds) so that they would stop their grumbling.

CHAPTER 18

- The Lord speaks to Aaron about the responsibilities of the priests in the sanctuary, and the priests' share of the sacrifices.

CHAPTER 19

- The Lord prescribes a red heifer as a sin offering and for one who is unclean.

CHAPTER 20

- The Israelites settle in Kadesh, and the people complain that they have no water. The Lord instructs Moses to order the rock to yield its waters.
- Moses strikes the rock twice, and God takes this as a sign that he is not faithful to the Lord. God prohibits Moses from entering the Promised Land.
- Aaron dies on top of the mountain at Mount Hor.

CHAPTER 21

- The people complain about the food, and God sends a seraph serpent among them which bites the people and many of them die.
- At the Lord's directive, Moses makes a bronze serpent and mounts it on a pole. Anyone who has been bitten and looks at it recovers.

CHAPTER 22

- The Israelites move on to the plains of Moab, where they stay for 38 years.
- Balak, king of Moab, asks Balaam to put a curse on the Israelites, but God orders him not to, as the Israelites are blessed by God.
- Balaam saddles his ass, and the ass sees the angel of the Lord (who was placed on the road to stop him). As Balaam beats the animal for not moving forward, God gives the ass the ability to talk, and then Balaam is able to see the angel of the Lord.

CHAPTER 23

- Balaam gives voice to the two oracles (that speak the word of God).
- Balak is not happy with Balaam, and Balaam answers Balak with the words, "Did I not warn you that I must do all that the Lord tells me?"

CHAPTER 24

- Balaam gives voice to the third and fourth oracles.

CHAPTER 25

- The Israelites have illicit relations with the Moabite women and then join them in the worship the false god of Baal of Peor.
- God calls for the public execution of the guilty ones before the Lord.

CHAPTER 26

- The second census is taken (thirty-eight years after the first census), and the total count of the Israelite males over the age of twenty (excluding the Levites) is 601,730.

CHAPTER 27

- Zelophehad's daughters raise the question of inheritance when there are no sons, and God proclaims that their father's heritage passes on to them.
- Because Moses can not lead the people into the Promised Land, Joshua is appointed by God to succeed Moses in leading the people. As the Lord directs him, Moses lays his hands on Joshua and gives him his commission.

CHAPTER 28

- The Lord gives Moses more stipulations regarding sacrifices and feast days (including general sacrifices, oblations in the morning and evening, at the New Moon Feast, at the Passover, and at the Pentecost) .

CHAPTER 29

- The Lord again proclaims the feast days and the ritual sacrifices for New Year's Day, on the Day of Atonement, and on the Feast of Booths .

CHAPTER 30

- The Lord gives stipulations regarding vows (and what makes them valid).

CHAPTER 31

- The Lord tells Moses, "Avenge the Israelites on the Midianites, and then you shall be taken to your people." And Moses follows God's instructions.

CHAPTER 32

- The tribes of Gad and Reuben request the land east of the Jordan River (separate from the land of Canaan), and an agreement is reached with them.

CHAPTER 33

- The author of this book gives details of the journey and the stops that were made along the way under the guidance of Moses and Aaron.
- God instructs the Israelites to drive out all of the inhabitants of the land of Canaan and to take possession of the land.

CHAPTER 34

- The Lord gives the details of the boundaries of the Promised Land. (southern, western, northern, and eastern). God says, "This is the land that shall be yours, with the boundaries that surround it."

CHAPTER 35

- God makes stipulations for the cities for the Levites and cities of asylum.

CHAPTER 36

- The Lord commands the apportionment of land to include the daughters of Zelophehad (in the case where the family had no sons).
- The conclusion of the book refers to the commandments that God has given.

The Book of Deuteronomy

In this, the fifth book of the Old Testament, we come to the end of the “**Pentateuch**” (the five books of Moses). **Deuteronomy** means “**Second Law**” and it includes the completion of the law that God gave Moses on Mount Sinai. The events in this book take place in the plains of Moab, close to the Promised Land. By now the people have been in the desert for forty years, and almost everyone who left Egypt is now dead. Moses is one of the few who are still alive.

The book is set up as a narrative spoken by Moses to the Hebrew people during the forty days prior to their crossing the Jordan River and entering the Promised Land. *His goal is to emphasize the covenant that God made with the people, calling them to obedience, loyalty, and love.* At the conclusion of the book, the Lord takes Moses to Mount Nebo, and there He shows Moses the Promised Land. Then Moses dies at the age of one hundred and twenty. **Joshua** then leads the Hebrew people into the land of Canaan, the Promised Land.

CHAPTER 1

- Moses speaks to the people in the fortieth year of their wandering in the desert, and relays the Lord’s instructions to enter the Promised Land.
- Moses then reiterates many of the events leading up to this time.

CHAPTER 2

- Moses continues with the story of the Israelites’ journey through the desert.

CHAPTER 3

- Moses tells the story of how God enabled the Hebrew people to defeat Og, the king of Bashan, and take the land (including sixty cities).
- Moses re-tells the story of how he asked for God’s permission to enter the Promised Land, but, out of anger, the Lord refused his request

CHAPTER 4

- The Lord gives the people the statutes and decrees which God taught them to observe so that they could enter in and take possession of the land.
- The Lord warns against the worship of idols (including the sun, moon, etc.).
- God says, “**This is why you must now know, and fix in your heart, that the Lord is God in the heavens above and on earth below, and that there is no other.**” (*verse 39*)

CHAPTER 5

- Beginning with Chapter 5, Moses speaks of God and His Covenant.
- Moses re-tells the story of the Lord giving him the Ten Commandments.

CHAPTER 6

- The Lord then gives the “Great Commandment” of: “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength.” (*For the words of Jesus, see the Gospel of Matthew 22:35-40*)
- God says, “You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test, as you did at Massah.” (*Jesus quotes these words to Satan in the desert in Matthew 4:7*)

CHAPTER 7

- God points out that it was out of His love for the people that He brought the Israelites out of slavery.

CHAPTER 8

- God again calls for the destruction of idols and false gods (by fire).
- The Lord reminds the people to be grateful for what God has given them, and not to become “haughty of heart and unmindful of the Lord.”

CHAPTER 9

- The Lord reminds the people that it is He who will lead them into the Promised Land (and that it is not by their own merits or efforts).
- But, God also tells the people that, “it is really because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord is driving them out before you.”
- Moses re-tells the story of his first receiving the Ten Commandments and how, on his return, he found the people worshipping a golden calf.

CHAPTER 10

- Moses reiterates the story of how he had to go back to God to ask for a second set of the Ten Commandments and how he made the ark of acacia wood (the Ark of the Covenant).
- God tells the people, “Think! The heavens, even the highest heavens, belong to the Lord, your God, as well as the earth and everything on it.” (*verse 14*)

CHAPTER 11

- Moses reminds that, “With your own eyes you have seen all these great deeds that the Lord has done.” (*verse 7*)
- Moses reminds the people that their actions bring both blessings and curses.

CHAPTER 12

- From Chapter 12 to chapter 26, Moses speaks of the Laws of God.
- Moses speaks of the sanctuary, profane and sacred meals, and pagan rites.

CHAPTER 13

- Moses describes the penalties for idolatry.

CHAPTER 14

- Moses talks about pagan rituals, clean and unclean animals, and tithes.

CHAPTER 15

- Moses reiterates the concept of the relaxation of debt after seven years.

CHAPTER 16

- Moses again speaks of the Passover, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Booths. Here he also mentions the appointment of judges for the people.

CHAPTER 17

- Moses describes appropriate sacrifices, and, if they decide to have a king, how he should be chosen and what qualifications he should have.

CHAPTER 18

- Moses speaks of the priests (of the tribe of Levi). He then warns against false prophets, and how to recognize a true prophet.

CHAPTER 19

- Moses sets apart three cities of refuge, and talks about false witnesses.

CHAPTER 20

- Moses reminds the people that God will be with them in times of war.
- Moses describes the approach for attacking cities of the enemy.

CHAPTER 21

- Moses speaks of unsolved murders, the taking of a female captive as one's wife, the rights of the first-born, and the stubborn and unruly son. (*Note the common use of capital punishment in the time that this was written.*)
- Moses speaks of God's curse on "him who hangs on a tree." (*See Galatians 3:13-14 for Saint Paul's views on the message of Christ's crucifixion.*)

CHAPTER 22

- Moses talks about care for lost animals and other precepts of the Law.

CHAPTER 23

- Moses discusses membership in the community, and cleanliness in the camp.

CHAPTER 24

- Moses describes the procedure for a man who wishes to divorce his wife.
(See Matthew 19:3-9 for the teachings of Jesus on this subject.)
- Moses discusses justice, equity, and charity as part of God's Laws.

CHAPTER 25

- Moses describes the "levirate marriage" of a man to his brother's widow.

CHAPTER 26

- Moses reminds the people to give thanks to God for the harvest.

CHAPTER 27

- From Chapter 27 forward, we hear the final words of Moses before he dies.
- Moses speaks of the ceremonies of the people as they prepare to cross the Jordan River into the Promised Land.
- But, Moses also speaks of the curses that the Levites shall proclaim aloud.

CHAPTER 28

- Moses speaks of the blessings that will come upon the people if they "heed the voice of the Lord, your God, and observe all of His commandments."
- Moses re-emphasizes how the Lord will protect the people from enemies that rise up against them, provided that they keep God's commandments.
- Moses tells the people that God will "establish you as a people sacred to himself, as he swore to you; so that when all the nations of the earth see you bearing the name of the Lord, they will stand in awe of you." (*verses 9-10*)
- But, Moses also points out the curses for disobedience.

CHAPTER 29

- Moses reminds the people that they are bound to the Covenant with God.
- He then warns against idolatry and gives the punishment for infidelity.
(Moses then reminds the people of what happened when their ancestors served and adored other gods.)

CHAPTER 30

- Moses reminds the people of the mercy of God.
- Moses tells the people that God has “set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the Lord, your God, heeding his voice, and holding fast to him.” (*verses 19-20*)

CHAPTER 31

- Moses is now 120 years old, and he knows that he will not cross the Jordan.
- Then Moses commissions Joshua in the presence of all of Israel.
- The Lord speaks to Moses of his impending death, and instructs him to write out a song for the people.
- Moses then writes the words of the Law on a scroll, and he gives it to the Levites to put it with the Ark of the Covenant.

CHAPTER 32

- The Song of Moses is recited by Moses and Joshua.
- Moses then instructs the people to take these teachings to heart, and to pass them on to their children.
- The Lord takes Moses up on mount Nebo, and there he is able to view the land of Canaan which God is giving to the Israelites as their possession.
- Why could Moses and his brother Aaron not enter the Promised Land? God says, “because both of you broke faith with me among the Israelites at the waters of Meribath-kadesh in the desert of Zin by failing to manifest my sanctity among the Israelites.” (*verse 51*)

CHAPTER 33

- Moses blesses the tribes of Israel, tribe by tribe.

CHAPTER 34

- Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, the headland of Pisgah, which faces Jericho, and the Lord showed him all of the land.
- Then the Lord said to Moses, “This is the land which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that I would give to their descendants. I have let you feast your eyes upon it, but you shall not cross over.” (*verse 4*)
- So there, in the land of Moab, Moses, the servant of the Lord, died as the Lord had said. He was one hundred and twenty years old.
- “Since then no prophet has arisen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face.” (*verse 10*)

The Book of Joshua

At the end of the Book of Deuteronomy, Moses dies and Joshua is commissioned to lead the Israelites across the Jordan River into the Promised Land of Canaan. The journey begins with **the conquest of Jericho** and then the campaigns against the inhabitants of the other cities. **The land is then divided by Joshua according to the Twelve Tribes of Israel**, with each receiving a portion of land. At the end of the book, Joshua dies at the age of 110 and is buried in the land that the Lord had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

CHAPTER 1

- The Lord speaks to Joshua and commands him to “be firm and steadfast.”

CHAPTER 2

- Joshua sends out spies to scout the land of Jericho. The “harlot” Rahab hides the spies to protect them from the king of Jericho.

CHAPTER 3

- Led by the Ark of the Covenant, carried by the Levitical Priests, the people cross the Jordan River and enter into the Promised Land. (Here we read of the parting of the Jordan River for the priests and the Hebrew people.)

CHAPTER 4

- Joshua sets twelve stones, one for each tribe of Israel, as a memorial to God.

CHAPTER 5

- God instructs Joshua to circumcise those who had not been circumcised.

CHAPTER 6

- The Lord delivers Jericho into the hands of the Israelites, with a ritual that brings down the walls of Jericho (the horns blew, and the people shouted).
- The “harlot” Rahab and her family are spared (since she protected the spies).

CHAPTER 7

- The Israelites are defeated by the people of Ai, as a result of the sin of Achan (who took forbidden goods from Jericho, against God’s will).
- Joshua confronts Achan, and Achan admits that he stole the goods and buried them. Achan is then stoned to death by the people of Israel.

CHAPTER 8

- The Lord then delivers the land of Ai to Joshua and the Israelites.
- Joshua builds an altar to the Lord on Mount Ebal.

CHAPTER 9

- The inhabitants of Gibeon lie to Joshua by telling him that they live far away, when, in fact, they live in the Promised Land. Joshua spares their lives, but he then turns them into slaves because of their deceit.

CHAPTER 10

- Adonizedek, the king of Jerusalem, joins forces with the five Amorite kings of Jerusalem, and they march against Gibeon. But Joshua and the Israelites prevail in battle against them as the Lord hurls great stones from the sky upon them (hail) and the Lord delivers up the Amorites to the Israelites.
- Joshua asks the Lord to halt the sun in the middle of the sky so that they can extend their time in battle (as recorded in the lost book of Jashar).
- Joshua then conquers Makkedah and the rest of southern Canaan.

CHAPTER 11

- The kings of the northern part of Canaan joined forces to fight against Israel, but Joshua continues his conquest of northern Canaan and he ends up capturing the remainder of the Promised Land.

CHAPTER 12

- In this chapter the writer lists all of the conquered kings of Canaan.

CHAPTER 13

- Joshua is getting older, and so he so he begins to divide the land.
- He first allocates land to the eastern tribes (half of the tribe of Manasseh, and Reuben and Gad).

CHAPTER 14

- Joshua divides the remaining land among the other nine and a half tribes, as well as giving the city of Hebron to Caleb.

CHAPTER 15

- Joshua establishes the boundaries of the land of the tribe of Judah.
- Joshua then allocates the cities of the tribe of Judah in the foothills, in the mountain regions, and in the desert.

CHAPTER 16

- Joshua divides the land among the sons of Joseph (Manasseh and Ephraim).
- However, the tribe of Ephraim did not drive out the Canaanites in Gezer.

CHAPTER 17

- The tribe of Manasseh, the first-born of Joseph, receives their land.

CHAPTER 18

- The seven remaining portions of land are divided among the other tribes, beginning with the tribe of Benjamin.

CHAPTER 19

- The remaining land is then divided among the six tribes of Simeon, Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and Dan.

CHAPTER 20

- Joshua then establishes cities of asylum (for those who are guilty of accidental and unintended homicide).

CHAPTER 21

- The heads of the Levite families (the tribe of Levi) receive cities, just as the Lord had commanded through Moses.

CHAPTER 22

- The tribes that occupy the land east of the River Jordan (the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh) are dismissed to their land.

CHAPTER 23

- It is now many years later, and Joshua is coming to the end of his life.
- He summons all of Israel and advises them to “Strive hard to observe what is written in the book of the law of Moses.” (*verse 6*)

CHAPTER 24

- Joshua gives the people the command to “fear the Lord and to serve Him completely and sincerely.” He then tells the people, “As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” (*verse 15*)
- Joshua dies at the age of one hundred and is buried (along with the remains of Joseph which the Israelites had brought up from Egypt).

The Book of Judges

Joshua has led the Israelites into the Promised Land of Canaan, and now it is time for the Hebrew people to settle in to the land that God has promised them. However, the people are quick to turn against God and to worship the gods of the people whom they were supposed to drive out of the land. To lead the people, God sent **judges** who were **military leaders** to rescue the people and bring them back to the Lord. The purpose of this book is to show that the fortunes of Israel depended on the obedience (or disobedience) of the people to God's law. But, as much as the people turned away from God, the truth is that **God promised this land to the Israelites, and ultimately they took control of it.**

CHAPTER 1

- The Lord delivers the Canaanites and the Perizzites into the hands of the tribe of Judah. However, many of the other tribes of Israel did not take possession of the land that God had promised to them.

CHAPTER 2

- The generation of Joshua dies off, and the new generation does not know the Lord. They begin to worship the false gods of the Canaanite people.
- An angel of the Lord chastises the people for making a pact with the inhabitants of the Promised Land, and the Lord raises up judges to deliver them from the power of the people who surrounded them.

CHAPTER 3

- The first judge who comes to power is **Othniel**, son of Caleb's younger brother Kenaz. The second judge is **Ehud**, son of Gera. Ehud kills Eglon, the king of Moab, by stabbing him with a dagger. The third judge was **Shamgar**, who slew six hundred Philistines with an oxgoad.

CHAPTER 4

- The Canaanite king, Jabin, conquers the Israelites. His general was Sisera.
- The prophetess, **Deborah**, was the judge in Israel at this time, and she summoned **Barak** to go and march on Mount Tabor.
- Sisera flees to the tent of Jael (the wife of Heber) and Jael kills Sisera.

CHAPTER 5

- The **Canticle of Deborah** summarizes her victory in the form of a song.

CHAPTER 6

- Once again the Israelites turn against the Lord, and God delivers them into the power of Midian for seven years. Then the angel of the Lord appears to **Gideon** and the Lord instructs him to save Israel from the power of Midian.
- Based on God's instructions, **Gideon** destroys the altar to the god, Baal.

CHAPTER 7

- **Gideon** (also known as **Jerubbaal**) leads the Israelites in battle against the camp of Midian. He started off with 32,000 soldiers, but 22,000 left, leaving 10,000 men. However, this number was soon reduced to 300 soldiers.

CHAPTER 8

- **Gideon** reaches the Jordan with 300 men and continues to pursue the kings of Midian. And the Lord delivers the Midianites into **Gideon's** power.
- **Gideon** makes an ephod out of gold, and all Israel began to worship it, and this causes the ruin of **Gideon** and his family.

CHAPTER 9

- Gideon's son, **Abimelech**, slays his 69 brothers. Only the youngest brother, **Jotham**, was able to escape. The people of Shechem make **Abimelech** their king, but Jotham questions the decision of the people.
- After three years the people of Shechem rebel against **Abimelech**.
- **Gaal** leads the people in their revolt against Abimelech, but **Abimelech** prevails and kills all of Shechem's inhabitants.
- Finally, a woman kills **Abimelech** by fracturing his skull.

CHAPTER 10

- Two other judges, **Tola** and **Jair**, come to power to save Israel.
- The Israelites again offend the Lord by serving the false gods of Baal.
- Once again, the people turn back to the Lord and He saves them.

CHAPTER 11

- **Jephthah** of Gilead sends a message to the king of the Ammonites who were at war against Israel, asking him to let the Lord decide between the Israelites and the Ammonites. But the king ignored Jephthah's message.
- **Jephthah** makes a vow to the Lord in order to defeat the Ammonites. His vow was to sacrifice the first person came out of the doors of his house after his victory. Unfortunately for him, it turned out to be his daughter. (*NOTE: Human sacrifice was a pagan custom, not a practice authorized by God.*)

CHAPTER 12

- The people of Gilead defeat the people of Ephraim and **Jephthah** dies.
- The next three judges of Israel are **Ibzan**, **Elon**, and **Abdon**.

CHAPTER 13

- The Israelites again offended the Lord, and God delivered them into the power of the Philistines for forty years.
- An angel of the Lord appeared to a barren woman and promises her a son who will deliver Israel from the Philistines. His parents name him **Samson**.

CHAPTER 14

- **Samson** marries a Philistine woman. However, due to a riddle that Samson proposes to the Philistines, his wife ends up marrying Samson's best man.

CHAPTER 15

- **Samson** exacts revenge on the Philistines by causing a fire, and then the Philistines kill Samson's wife and her family by fire.
- **Samson** is then handed over to the Philistines, but he is able to break free from the ropes around his arms.
- **Samson** then uses the jawbone of an ass to kill a thousand men.
- **Samson** judges Israel for twenty years in the days of the Philistines.

CHAPTER 16

- **Samson** falls in love with **Delilah**, and the lords of the Philistines convince her to find out the secret of Samson's strength.
- Three times **Samson** lies to **Delilah** when she asks him about his strength, and finally he tells her that he is consecrated to the Lord and that no razor has touched his head. His hair is the source of his strength.
- **Delilah** has a man cut off **Samson's** hair while he is sleeping, and the Philistines then gouge out his eyes and put him to grinding in prison.
- **Samson's** hair grows back, he regains his strength, and in revenge against the Philistines, he kills himself, all the lords of the Philistines, and thousands of other Philistines by pulling down the columns that support the temple.

CHAPTER 17

- A young **Levite** from Bethlehem visits **Micah** in the mountain region of Ephraim, and Micah consecrates the young Levite as a priest.
- However, the family of Micah has carved idols in their house.
- **Micah** believes that his actions with the Levite will make him prosperous.

CHAPTER 18

- The tribe of **Danites** migrates to the mountain region of Ephraim to the house of Micah. There they convinced the young Levite priest to leave the house of Micah and to be the priest for the entire tribe of Dan.
- The people of the house of Micah chased the Danites and confronted them, but they realized that they were outnumbered and returned home.
- The Danites then attacked the city of Laish, a quiet and trusting people, and the Danites maintained the carved idol that they had taken from Micah.

CHAPTER 19

- A **Levite** from **Ephraim** had taken a concubine (a second-class wife), but she left him and returned home to Bethlehem. The man went to retrieve her.
- On the way home to Ephraim, they stopped in the town of **Gibeah** (of the tribe of **Benjamin**), and they were welcomed by an old man. But the corrupt and sinful townspeople raped and murdered the concubine.
- The **Levite** cut his concubine's body into twelve pieces and sent the pieces throughout the territory of Israel to inform the people of what had happened.

CHAPTER 20

- All of the **Israelites** joined together and spoke out against the tribe of Benjamin, the **Benjaminites** would not listen.
- As a result, the Israelites, beginning with the tribe of Judah, attacked the Benjaminites.
- At first the Israelites were losing, and they asked the Lord if they were doing the right thing, and the Lord supported their decision. In the third battle the Israelites prevailed and destroyed the cities of the tribe of Benjamin.

CHAPTER 21

- **After the conquest, the Israelites realized that one of the twelve tribes of Israel had been wiped out.** They arranged for the surviving men of the tribe of Benjamin to have wives from the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead.
- However, there were not enough virgins from Jabesh-gilead, so they arranged for the surviving men of Benjamin to take wives from the girls of Shiloh.
- The Benjaminites then went on to rebuild and re-occupy their cities.
- The book of Judges ends with the familiar words, ***"In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what he thought best."***

The Book of Ruth

Ruth was a woman from Moab who, through a complicated set of circumstances, has to make a difficult decision. A man named **Elimelech** had a wife named **Naomi**, and they had two sons, **Mahlon** and **Chilion**. They were of the tribe of Judah and had left Bethlehem and travelled to Moab because of a famine. Elimelech (Naomi's husband) died, leaving her with her two sons and their Moabite wives, **Orpah** and **Ruth**. When her two sons died, Naomi was left in a foreign land with her two daughters-in-law. **Naomi** then decides to return to Bethlehem, and she encourages **Orpah** and **Ruth** to remain in their home land of Moab. At this point **Ruth** has a decision to make, whether to accompany Naomi back to Bethlehem, or to remain in Moab. *Because Ruth is faithful to her mother-in-law, Naomi, God blesses Ruth and she becomes an ancestor of Jesus.*

CHAPTER 1

- The writer establishes the situation of **Elimelech, Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah**.
- After the deaths of the three men, **Naomi** decides to return to Bethlehem.
- Naomi encourages **Ruth** and **Orpah** to stay in Moab, since it is their home.
- Orpah decides to stay in Moab, but **Ruth** decides to journey with her mother-in-law, **Naomi**, and they both proceed to Bethlehem.

CHAPTER 2

- **Ruth** goes into the field to glean ears of grain. (*See Leviticus, chapter 19*)
- Here she encounters **Boaz**, a prominent kinsman of **Naomi**, who says to her, "May the Lord reward you for what you have done!"

CHAPTER 3

- At the request of Naomi, **Ruth** presents herself to **Boaz**, Naomi's relative, hoping that he will find a way to take care of her.
- **Ruth** says to Boaz, "I am your servant Ruth" and **Boaz** offers to take care of her by arranging a marriage with a close relative (due to the relative's responsibility of raising up descendents for her deceased husband).

CHAPTER 4

- The relative refuses the proposed marriage, and **Ruth** marries **Boaz**.
- **Ruth** and **Boaz** are blessed with a son, and they name him **Obed**. He becomes the father of **Jesse**, who becomes the father of **David**. (*See Matthew 1:5 for the genealogy of the ancestors of Jesus.*)

Old Testament Dates: Genesis to Ruth

GENESIS

- **Abraham** (2000 B.C. to 1825 B.C.)
- Abraham leaves Ur (approximately 1925 B.C.)
- Isaac (1900 B.C. to 1720 B.C.)
- Jacob and his brother, Esau (1800 B.C. to 1700 B.C.)
- Joseph (1750 B.C. to 1640 B.C.)
- **The Exile in Egypt** (1710 B.C. to 1280 B.C.)

EXODUS

- Moses (1360 B.C. to 1240 B.C.)
- Joshua (1330 B.C. to 1220 B.C.)
- **The Exodus from Egypt** (1280 B.C.)
- **Forty Years in the Desert** (1280 B.C. to 1240 B.C.)

LEVITICUS

- The events in this book take place during the forty years in the desert.

NUMBERS

- The events in this book take place during the forty years in the desert.

DEUTERONOMY

- This book continues up to time of the **death of Moses**, when **Joshua** is commissioned by God to lead the Hebrews into Canaan (**Promised Land**).

JOSHUA

- **Joshua leads the Hebrews into the Promised Land (1240 B.C.)**

JUDGES

- **The Period of the Judges lasted from 1220 B.C. to 1050 B.C.**
- Deborah (1224 B.C. to 1184 B.C.)
- Gideon (1224 B.C. to 1137 B.C.)
- Samson (1070 B.C. to 1050 B.C.)

RUTH

- Ruth lived during the time of the Judges, but the exact dates of her life and of the people in this book are unknown.

The First Book of Samuel

This book picks up where the Book of Judges left off, in approximately the year **1050 B.C.** (Before Christ) and continues for approximately 100 years. **God has called Samuel to be the last of the judges, and the first accredited prophet for the Hebrew people.** The surrounding nations all have earthly kings, and the Hebrews have asked Samuel to appoint a king for them. Samuel argues with them, pointing out that the Lord is the only king, but the people prevail, and God gives Samuel the authority to anoint a king. At first Samuel, with God's approval, anoints **Saul as the first king of the Jews**, but due to Saul's inability to remain faithful to God's will, Samuel is forced to appoint a second king, and that is **King David**. Of course Saul is not pleased with this, and he sets out to kill David, but the Lord protects David right up until the time of the death of **Saul** and his sons.

CHAPTER 1

- **Hannah**, who is childless, invokes the priest **Eli** to intercede to God for her.
- **Hannah** gives birth to **Samuel**, and she dedicates him to the Lord.

CHAPTER 2

- *The canticle of Hannah* is a hymn of praise and thanksgiving to God.
- **Eli's** two sons, **Hophni** and **Phinehas**, turn against their father and the Lord.

CHAPTER 3

- The Lord calls **Samuel**, but he thinks it is Eli who is calling him. Finally, Eli tells him to respond with, *"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."*
- **Samuel** becomes an accredited prophet of the Lord.

CHAPTER 4

- The **Philistines** attack Israel, and Israel is defeated. The **ark of God** was captured, and **Eli's two sons**, Hophni and Phinehas, are among the dead.
- After Judging Israel for forty years, **Eli** dies.

CHAPTER 5

- The **Philistines** take the **ark of God** to the temple of **Dagon**, but diseases afflict the Philistines, and they decide to return the ark to the Hebrews.

CHAPTER 6

- After seven months, the Philistines send the **ark of God** back to **Israel**.

CHAPTER 7

- The ark came to rest in **Kiriath-jearim** where it stayed for twenty years, and the people of Israel put away their foreign gods and turned to the Lord.
- Again the **Philistines** attack Israel, but this time the Lord thundered loudly against the Philistines, and they were defeated by Israel.
- There was now **peace between Israel and the Amorites.**

CHAPTER 8

- **Samuel** appoints his two sons as judges, but they did not follow God's will.
- The people ask **Samuel** to appoint a king over them, as other nations have.
- **Samuel** was displeased with this, but he went to the Lord, and the Lord granted the request and **the Lord allowed Samuel to anoint a king.**

CHAPTER 9

- **Samuel** encounters **Saul** and **the Lord** says, *"He is to govern my people."*

CHAPTER 10

- **Samuel** anoints **Saul** as king to govern the Lord's people. **Samuel** tells **Saul** that, *"The spirit of the Lord will rush upon you."*

CHAPTER 11

- **Nahash** the Ammonite attacks Israel, and the spirit of God rushes upon Saul.
- **Saul** arranges the troops and Israel is able to defeat the Ammonites.

CHAPTER 12

- **Samuel** chastises the people for wanting a king, but he reminds them not to turn away from the Lord, but *"to worship Him with your whole heart."*

CHAPTER 13

- **King Saul** attacks the Philistines, and his army overcomes them.
- But the Philistines regroup, and Saul waits seven days for Samuel.
- **Saul** tires of waiting for Samuel, and, out of fear, he offers a holocaust. However, it was Samuel's role to offer the sacrifice, not Saul's.
- **Samuel** arrives and tells Saul how foolish he has been for not keeping God's command. *Samuel tells Saul that his kingdom will not endure.*

CHAPTER 14

- **Jonathan, Saul's son**, decides to attack the Philistines, without telling Saul.
- The Lord saved Israel that day by enabling them to win in battle.
- **Saul** makes a very rash oath, cursing anyone who takes food before that evening. **Jonathan**, who knew nothing of his father's oath, eats the honey that he found. *But the soldiers convinced Saul not to kill his son, Jonathan.*

CHAPTER 15

- **Samuel** instructs Saul to follow God's instructions to attack **Amalek**.
- **The Lord** tells Samuel that He regrets having made Saul the king, "for he has turned from me and not kept my command."
- **Saul** seeks the Lord's forgiveness for disobeying the Lord, but Samuel tells Saul that, *"the Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day."*

CHAPTER 16

- The Lord sends **Samuel** to **Jesse** of Bethlehem to choose a new king from among his sons. And Samuel anoints **David** as the new king.
- **David** was a skilled harpist, and entered the service of **Saul**.

CHAPTER 17

- The Philistines and the Hebrews go into battle again. But, this time, the Philistine, **Goliath**, challenges one of the individual Hebrews to fight him.
- **David** asks Saul for permission to fight Goliath, and Saul grants it.
- With one stone, **David kills Goliath** and the Philistines take flight.

CHAPTER 18

- The Hebrew people give more credit to **David** than to Saul, and this angers Saul, to the point that he wishes to kill David out of jealousy.
- **Saul** gives his daughter, **Michal**, to **David** in marriage.

CHAPTER 19

- **Saul** tells his son, **Jonathan**, that he wishes to kill David, but Jonathan sides with David, and discourages his father from following through with his plan.
- **Saul** tries to nail David to a wall with a spear, but David escapes from Saul.
- David's wife, **Michal**, protects him from her father (Saul).

CHAPTER 20

- **David** asks **Jonathan** what he has done to anger **Saul**, and Jonathan continues to side with David, and he continues to protect him.
- **Saul** becomes angry with his son, **Jonathan**, but Jonathan remains loyal to David.

CHAPTER 21

- **David** goes to **Ahimelech**, the priest of Nob, and receives the holy bread.
- **David** continues to flee from Saul, fearing for his life.

CHAPTER 22

- **Saul** continues his relentless pursuit of **David**, and he encounters **Ahimelech**, the priest, and threatens to kill him for protecting David.
- **Doeg, the Edomite**, Saul's chief henchman, kills **Ahimelech** and the priests.

CHAPTER 23

- The **Philistines** were to attack **Keilah**, but David consulted the Lord, and God said, "*Go to Keilah and I will deliver the Philistines into your hands.*"
- Saul continues his relentless pursuit of David into the desert.

CHAPTER 24

- David has an opportunity to kill Saul in the cave, but he does not do so.
- Rather, David says to Saul, "*The Lord will be the judge; he will decide between me and you.*"
- Saul comes to the realization that David will be the new king of Israel.

CHAPTER 25

- **Samuel** dies, and all of Israel gathers to mourn him. He is buried in Ramah.
- **David** goes to the desert of Maon, where he meets **Nabal**, and his wife, **Abigail**. Nabal is rude to David's men, but Abigail treats them with respect.
- **Nabal** dies, and **David** marries **Abigail** (and he also marries **Ahinoam**).
- **Saul** gave David's wife, **Michal**, Saul's own daughter to **Palti** as his wife.

CHAPTER 26

- **David** has another opportunity to kill **Saul**, this time while Saul is sleeping.
- But, again, he refuses to do so, since **Saul is still the anointed one of God**.
- **Saul** admits that he has done wrong in pursuing David, and **he repents**.

CHAPTER 27

- But, **David** is still afraid of Saul, and he takes refuge among the Philistines.

CHAPTER 28

- The **Philistines** again attack **Israel**, and Saul receives no response from God.
- So, **Saul consults a medium** who conjures up **Samuel** (who has died).
- **Samuel** tells Saul that Israel will fall into the clutches of the Philistines.

CHAPTER 29

- **Achish**, a Philistine ruler, respects David's loyalty to the Hebrews, and **David** and his men return to the land of the Philistines (avoiding the battle).

CHAPTER 30

- When **David** returns to the city of **Ziklag**, he realizes that the **Amalekites** had burned the city and taken their wives, sons, and daughters captive.
- **David invokes the Lord**, and God tells him that he will overtake them.
- An Egyptian slave leads David's men to the Amalekites.
- David attacks them, and he recovers everything that the Amalekites had taken, and he rescues his two wives.

CHAPTER 31

- The **Philistines** continue to pursue **Saul**, and Saul's three sons, **Jonathan**, **Abinadab**, and **Malchishua**, are all killed.
- **Saul** is struck by an arrow, and asks his armor-bearer to run him through with a sword. But the armor-bearer refuses.
- So **Saul** falls upon his own sword and dies, as does his armor-bearer.
- **The Philistines came and took over the Hebrew cities and lived in them.**
- The followers of **Saul** brought the bodies of Saul and his three sons to **Jabesh**, where they cremated them, and took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree in Jabesh.

The Second Book of Samuel

The **Second Book of Samuel** continues where the First Book of Samuel leaves off, with **the death of Saul**, the first King of Israel (who was anointed by Samuel). The emphasis of the Second Book of Samuel is on the kingship of **King David**, who follows Saul as the King of Israel. David was called by God and anointed by Samuel in the First Book of Samuel, and in this, the Second Book of Samuel, King David rules over the Hebrew people for **forty years (from 1011 B.C. to 971 B.C.)**. (*7 years in Hebron and 33 years in Jerusalem.*)

David is not the perfect person, nor is he the perfect king. He has his share of faults, and, at times, he commits acts that are directly against the will of God. And, in each instance, he suffers the consequences. But he continues to repent, to turn back to God, and God never abandons him.

This book can be divided into three sections:

- **Chapters 1 through 10:** The triumphs of David.
- **Chapter 11:** The transgressions of David.
- **Chapters 12 through 24:** The troubles of David.

CHAPTER 1

- **David** mourns when he hears of the death of **Saul** and his son **Jonathan**.
- **David** chants an elegy for **Saul** and **Jonathan**. (*Book of Jashar?*)

CHAPTER 2

- **David** is anointed King of the people of **Judah** (the Judahites).
- **Ishbaal**, son of **Saul**, is made king over the rest of Israel, for two years.

CHAPTER 3

- **David** and his wives have six sons, and they live in the city of Hebron.
- **David** has his first wife, **Michal** (Saul's daughter), returned to him.

CHAPTER 4

- David's troops kill **Ishbaal**, another son of Saul, but David is not pleased.

CHAPTER 5

- David is anointed **King of all Israel** (including Judah).

CHAPTER 6

- David brings the **Ark of the Covenant** to **Jerusalem**, “the City of David.”
- When the Ark starts to tip over, **Uzzah** reached out his hand to steady the Ark. However, this was in violation of God’s law and **Uzzah** was killed.
(Note: This is a passage of the text that is confusing to many readers.)

CHAPTER 7

- **David** wants to build a house (a temple) for the **Ark of the Covenant**, but the Lord tells him that it is David’s heir who will build the temple.
- **The Lord** establishes His Covenant with **David**. The Lord says, “*Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever.*”

CHAPTER 8

- **The Lord** brings victory to **David** in all his battles, especially over the **Philistines**. **Joab**, son of Zeruiah, was in command of the army.

CHAPTER 9

- **David** commits to take care of Saul’s son, **Meribbaal**, who is crippled.
- **David** does this out of respect for Saul’s son, **Jonathan**, who died with Saul.

CHAPTER 10

- **David** defeats the **Ammonites** and the **Arameans**. **Israel** has become very powerful and influential over the neighboring kings and countries.

CHAPTER 11

- **David** commits adultery with **Bathsheba**, the wife of **Uriah the Hittite**.
- **Bathsheba** becomes pregnant with David’s child.
- **David** tries to get **Uriah** to sleep with his wife, **Bathsheba**, (and then believe that he is the baby’s father) but **Uriah** does not return home.
- **David** sends **Uriah** into battle so that he is intentionally killed by the enemy.
- **David** then marries **Bathsheba**.

CHAPTER 12

- **Nathan**, the prophet, tells **David** a parable about a greedy rich man and what he does with the ewe lamb of his poor neighbor. *David realizes that he is the man in the parable*, and he repents for the evil that he has committed.
- **The Lord forgives David**, but the Lord punishes David for his sins. As a result, the child that Bathsheba has becomes ill and dies.

CHAPTER 13

- David's son **Amnon** "loves" his half-sister, **Tamar**, but he tricks her and he then rapes her. David becomes very angry at the sin his son has committed.
- **Absalom**, another of David's sons, then kills **Amnon** in revenge for his sin.
- **Absalom** flees to **Geshur** where he stays for three years.
- **King David** continues to long for the return of his son **Absalom**.

CHAPTER 14

- After three years **Absalom** returns to **Jerusalem**. After living in Jerusalem for two more years, **Absalom** is then pardoned by his father, **King David**.

CHAPTER 15

- **Absalom** does not respect his father's kingship, and he steals the loyalty of the Israelites in order to become their king.
- In a state of fear, **David** flees Jerusalem, and weeps as he departs the city.

CHAPTER 16

- **Absalom** enters Jerusalem and, following the advice of **Ahithophel**, disgraces his father by having public relations with his father's concubines.

CHAPTER 17

- **Ahithophel** proposes a plan to **Absalom** whereby **Ahithophel** will kill **Absalom's** father, **David**. However, **Hushai** disagrees with **Ahithophel's** idea. *This is part of God's plan to bring Absalom to ruin.*

CHAPTER 18

- **David's** troops go to war with **Absalom**, but **David** still loves his son, and instructs his men to, "**Be gentle with young Absalom for my sake.**"
- While riding a mule **Absalom's** hair is caught in a tree and he is left hanging there. **Joab** (the army commander) and his armor-bearers kill **Absalom**.

CHAPTER 19

- **David** is shaken by the death of **Absalom**, and weeps for him.
- But **Joab** reproves **David** for not recognizing the victory of the army and spending his time grieving over the death of **Absalom**.
- The people of **Judah** then return to **David**, and recognize him as their king.
- The people of **Judah** quarrel with the people of **Israel** (over **King David**).

CHAPTER 20

- **Sheba** convinces the Israelites to leave David and to follow him.
- **David** sends his army (led by the commander **Joab**) in pursuit of Sheba. They find him in Beth-maacah, and there **Sheba** is beheaded.

CHAPTER 21

- The **Gibeonites** seek revenge for what Saul had done to them (many years ago), so **David** gives them seven men so that they may dismember them on the Lord's mountain. (*Again we have a text that is very confusing.*)
- **David** obtains the bones of **Saul** and his son **Jonathan** and buries them in the tomb of Saul's father, **Kish**.
- The **Israelites** and the **Philistines** go to war again and again, and Israel continues to prevail.

CHAPTER 22

- **David** sings a **song of thanksgiving to the Lord** for rescuing him from the grasp of his enemies.

CHAPTER 23

- **This chapter is a retrospective view of the career of David, as if he were already dead.** It begins with the last words of David.

CHAPTER 24

- **The Lord** became angry with Israel again, and David responds by "**numbering**" (**counting**) the people of Israel and Judah.
- **David** regrets having "**numbered the people**" and the Lord gave him a choice of three punishments: (**#1**) to have three years' famine on the land, or (**#2**) to have to flee from your enemy for three months, or (**#3**) to have three days' pestilence on the land.
- David chose the pestilence, and seventy thousand of the people died.
- Once the angel of the Lord reached **Jerusalem**, the Lord regretted the calamity and said to the angel causing the destruction among the people, "**Enough now! Stay your hand!**"
- **David** then went to the threshing floor of **Araunah the Jesubite** and built an altar to the Lord. He offered holocausts and peace offerings. The Lord granted relief to the country, and the plagues were checked in Israel.

The First Book of Kings

While the Second Book of Samuel concentrates on the kingship of David, the **First Book of Kings** follows with the anointing of David's son, **Solomon**, as king, and Solomon's rule for forty years, from 971 B.C. until his death in 931 B.C. (chapters 1 through 11). The book continues with the dividing of the kingdom into the **northern kingdom of Israel** and the **southern kingdom of Judah**. Over the next 120 years, from 971 B.C. to approximately 850 B.C., various kings rule over each region (chapters 12 through 16). Kings **Asa** and **Jehoshaphat** (both kings of Judah) follow the will of God; the other kings do not. The final part of the book includes the stories of the prophets **Elijah** and **Elisha** and their advice to the kings to follow the Lord (chapters 17 through 22).

CHAPTER 1

- David's son, **Adonijah**, displays his ambition to be the king. But David has promised the position to one of his other sons, **Solomon** (whose mother was **Bathsheba**), and **Solomon is anointed king by his father**.

CHAPTER 2

- **David** tells **Solomon** to "*keep the mandate of the Lord, your God, following his ways and observing his ordinances and decrees.*" Then **David dies**.

CHAPTER 3

- **Solomon** asks God to give him an understanding heart to judge the people and distinguish right from wrong. And God grants Solomon's request.
- **Solomon** is forced to make a decision concerning a baby, and two women who both claim to be the child's mother. Solomon makes a wise decision.

CHAPTER 4

- **Solomon** appoints nine officials and twelve commissaries (food suppliers).

CHAPTER 5

- Judah and Israel lived in security, as long as King Solomon lived.
- **King Solomon** makes plans to build the Temple in honor of the Lord.

CHAPTER 6

- **King Solomon** constructs the Temple out of stone and boards of cedar, and the Holy of Holies was made to house the **Ark of the Covenant**.

CHAPTER 7

- **King Solomon** constructs his palace, a process that took him thirteen years.
- The Temple is furnished with the dedicated offerings of **David**, his father.

CHAPTER 8

- The Temple is dedicated by **Solomon** and the Ark of the Covenant is placed in the Temple by the priests and Levites, along with all the sacred vessels.
- **King Solomon** prays to the Lord on behalf of the people.

CHAPTER 9

- Again the Lord speaks to **King Solomon** and God promises Solomon that if he follows God's will, he will always have someone from his line on the throne of Israel. But, if he does not follow the Lord, and worships strange gods, Israel will be cut off from the land that God gave to the Hebrews.

CHAPTER 10

- The **Queen of Sheba** visits King Solomon to test his wisdom.
- **King Solomon** has surpassed in riches and wisdom all the kings of the earth.

CHAPTER 11

- Against God's will, **Solomon** sins by having 700 wives and 300 concubines, all from foreign lands. And **Solomon** turns his heart to their strange gods.
- The Lord sees Solomon's sin and God promises to take away all of the tribes except for one tribe (for the sake of David and of Jerusalem).
- After forty years of reigning over Israel, **King Solomon** dies.

CHAPTER 12

- At this point the kingdom is split into two kingdoms, **Israel in the north**, and **Judah in the south**.
- **Rehoboam**, Solomon's son, is proclaimed king of the cities of **Judah**.
- **Jeroboam** is proclaimed king of the cities of **Israel** (the north).

CHAPTER 13

- **King Jeroboam** continues his evil ways, turning against the will of God.

CHAPTER 14

- **King Jeroboam** rules for twenty-two years, still worshipping strange gods.
- Jeroboam's son, **Nadab**, succeeds him as king of **Israel**.

CHAPTER 15

- **Abijam**, son of Rehoboam, becomes king of **Judah**, and followed in the sinful ways of his father.
- **Asa**, son of Abiham, becomes king of **Judah**, but he pleased the Lord by banishing the temple prostitutes and removing his father's idols.
- **Baasha** becomes king of **Israel**, and he attacks and goes to war with Judah.
- **Judah** prevails, and Asa's son, **Jehoshaphat**, succeeds him as king.

CHAPTER 16

- **Baasha**, king of **Israel**, like the other kings of **Israel**, turns against the Lord.
- **Elah**, son of Bassha, becomes king of **Israel**. Then we have **Zimri**, and then **Tibni**, and then **Omri**, and then **Ahab**. And they all turned against the Lord.
- **Ahab** married **Jezebel**, and Ahab began to worship the false god, Baal.

CHAPTER 17

- **Elijah** the Tishbite (from Tishbe) is **a prophet of the Lord**, and he predicts that there will be no rain until he calls for it. He travels to the Wadi Cherith, and when that stream goes dry, God designates a widow to care for him.
- The son of the widow becomes very sick, and Elijah calls upon God to return the breath of life to the child. God does so and the child is revived.

CHAPTER 18

- Three years later God sends **Elijah** to **Ahab**, the king of **Israel**, so that he may send rain and end the drought. But the people still worship the false god Baal, so Elijah devises a plan to test the power of Baal in comparison to the power of God. The fire of the Lord came down, and the people proclaimed, ***"The Lord is God!"*** And then the rains began to fall.

CHAPTER 19

- Ahab's wife, **Jezebel**, threatens **Elijah**, and **Elijah** flees into the desert. There he prays for his own death. But an angel of the Lord orders him to get up and eat. Then Elijah walks for forty days to the mountain of God, Horeb.
- God speaks to **Elijah**, and tells him that, ***"the Lord will be passing by."*** Elijah waits for the Lord, and hears the Lord in a tiny, whispering sound.
- God sends **Elijah** back along the desert road to Damascus.
- At the Lord's request, **Elijah** anoints **Elisha** as prophet to succeed him.
- **Elisha** leaves his family and follows **Elijah** as his attendant.

CHAPTER 20

- **Ben-hadad**, king of **Aram**, attacks **King Ahab** and the people of **Israel**, but the Lord promises Ahab that He, the Lord, will deliver the army to Ahab.
- **Ahab** defeats the army, and Ben-hadad escapes on a chariot steed.
- At the beginning of the year, Ben-hadad attacks again, and loses again.
- Ben-hadad pleads for his life, and Ahab set him free.

CHAPTER 21

- As a sign of his greed, **Ahab** asks Naboth for his vineyard, so that he can use it as a vegetable garden. **Naboth** refuses to give up his ancestral heritage.
- **Jezebel** plots an evil plan to get the vineyard for Ahab. Through her lies **Naboth** is stoned to death, and **Ahab** tries to take possession of the land.
- The Lord speaks to **Elijah** and instructs him to confront Ahab with the evil he has done. **Elijah** then pledges to destroy **Ahab** for all of the evil that he has done and how he has led Israel into sin.
- **Ahab** repents and humbles himself before the Lord, and the evil that the Lord threatens will happen in the reign of Ahab's son.

CHAPTER 22

- **King Jehoshaphat** of **Judah** went to **King Ahab** of **Israel** and they planned to take back the land of Ramoth-gilead that had previously belonged to the Israelites.
- They sought the word of God in deciding what to do, and most of the prophets said that God would deliver the land to them. But, the Lord put a lying spirit in the mouths of these prophets, and the Lord decreed evil against them. **King Ahab** is killed by the bow of a warrior.
- **King Jehoshaphat** of **Judah** reigned for twenty-five years in Jerusalem, and followed his father's example by doing what was right in the eyes of the Lord. He also made peace with the king of Israel. When **Jehoshaphat** died he was buried in the City of David, with his ancestors.
- **Ahaziah**, son of **Ahab**, became king of **Israel**, but he also did evil in the sight of the Lord. He served and worshiped Baal, just as his father had done.

The Second Book of Kings

In chapter 12 of the First Book of Kings, at the time of the death of Solomon, the Hebrew people were divided into the two kingdoms of **Israel** (in the north) and **Judah** (in the south). In this book, the **Second Book of Kings**, there continues to be a succession of kings in both lands, **from 850 B.C. to 538 B.C.** Some of the kings were good, but most turned against the will of God by worshiping false gods and other idols. The **Second Book of Kings** begins with the ascension of the prophet **Elijah** into heaven in a flaming chariot, and he is succeeded by **Elisha**. The prophet **Elisha** continues to spread the Word of God to the people, just as Elijah had before him.

In chapter 17 of the **Second Book of Kings**, **Israel** is conquered by **Assyria** (in approximately the year **722 B.C.**). At the end of this book, **Judah** is conquered by **Babylon** (in approximately the year **587 B. C.**). This is referred to as the “**Babylonian Exile**” and it continues for **50 years** to **538 B.C.**

CHAPTER 1

- **Ahaziah**, king of **Israel**, turns away from God and falls to his death.

CHAPTER 2

- The prophet **Elijah** is taken up to heaven in a flaming chariot.
- The prophet **Elisha** succeeds him in spreading God’s Word to the people.

CHAPTER 3

- **Joram** becomes king of **Israel** and attacks the people of **Moab**.

CHAPTER 4

- **Elisha** encounters a widow and helps her financially (through her oil).
- **Elisha** is welcomed by a woman of influence and Elisha promises her a son.
- Her son dies, but **Elisha** is able to revive him and bring him back to life.
- **Elisha** feeds a hundred men with twenty barley loaves.

CHAPTER 5

- **Naaman**, the army commander, is cured of leprosy, by washing himself seven times in the Jordan River.
- But **Gehazi**, the servant of Elisha, took advantage of Naaman’s generosity, and Gehazi ends up with leprosy.

CHAPTER 6

- The soldiers of **Aram** wage war on **Israel**, but the Lord temporarily blinds the soldiers and the **Arameans** never came into the land of Israel again.

CHAPTER 7

- Due to a famine, four lepers went to the camp of the **Arameans**, and the people went out and plundered the camp of the Arameans.

CHAPTER 8

- **Elisha** predicts another famine, and predicts the death of the king of **Aram**.
- **Jehoram** becomes king of **Judah**, followed by **Ahaziah**.

CHAPTER 9

- **Jehu** is anointed king of **Israel**. He kills **Joram**, the previous king of **Israel** and then kills **Ahaziah**, the king of **Judah**.
- **Jehu** also kills **Jezebel**, the evil wife of **Ahab**, by throwing her out of a window (*just as Elijah had predicted*).

CHAPTER 10

- **Jehu** then proceeds to kill all of the descendants of **Ahab**.
- **Jehu** also destroys the temple of **Baal**, and burns the shrine to Baal, thereby rooting out all of the worship of Baal from Israel.

CHAPTER 11

- **Athaliah**, the mother of **Ahaziah**, rules **Judah**, but then she is killed and her grandson, **Joash**, becomes king of **Judah**.

CHAPTER 12

- **Joash** is a king of Judah who is faithful to the Lord's will.
- **Joash** orders the repairs of **Solomon's Temple**, which has been neglected for many years (due to the worship of false gods, such as Baal).

CHAPTER 13

- **Jehoahaz** becomes king of **Israel**, and is followed by **Jehoash**. Elisha dies.

CHAPTER 14

- **Amaziah** becomes king of **Judah**, and he follows the Lord's will.
- **Jeroboam II** becomes king of **Israel**, but he does evil in the Lord's sight.

CHAPTER 15

- **Azariah (Uzziah)** becomes king of **Judah**, and he follows the Lord's will.
- **Zechariah** becomes king of **Israel**, followed by **Shallum**, **Menahem**, **Pekahiah**, and then **Pekah**. None of these kings followed the will of God.
- **Jotham** becomes king of **Judah**, and he follows the Lord's will.

CHAPTER 16

- **Ahaz** becomes king of **Judah**, and he also turns against the Lord.

CHAPTER 17

- **Hoshea** becomes king of **Israel**, and he also turns against the Lord.
- **Shalmaneser**, king of **Assyria**, marches into **Israel** and conquers the people. He deports the **Israelites** to **Assyria** (modern day Iraq) where the Israelites become slaves. (*This was in the year 722 B.C.*)
- This is the end of the ten tribes of **Israel**, "*because the people of Israel sinned against the Lord their God.*"

CHAPTER 18

- **Hezekiah** becomes king of **Judah**, and he follows the Lord's will.
- **Sennacherib**, king of **Assyria**, captures many of the cities of **Judah**

CHAPTER 19

- **Hezekiah** becomes distressed with this news of the capture of these cities.
- **Hezekiah** encounters the prophet **Isaiah** who encourages him with the messages of the Lord.
- **Sennacherib**, king of **Assyria**, tries to overtake Jerusalem, but the angel of the Lord prevents him from doing so.

CHAPTER 20

- The **Lord** tells **Isaiah** to inform **Hezekiah** that he (Hezekiah) is about to die. **Hezekiah** turns to the Lord in prayer, and the Lord hears his prayer.
- **Hezekiah** is healed and the **Lord** adds fifteen years to his life, and the Lord promises to rescue him and Jerusalem from the hand of the king of Assyria.
- **Isaiah** predicts the fall of **Judah** to **Babylon**, "and everything that your fathers have stored up until this day shall be carried off to Babylon; nothing shall be left," says the **Lord**.

CHAPTER 21

- **Hezekiah's** son, **Manasseh** becomes king of **Judah** and turns against the Lord by rebuilding the pagan shrines and killing many innocent people.
- **Manasseh** also sacrifices his son to the false gods by burning him alive.
- The **Lord** then promises to *“bring such evil on Jerusalem and Judah that, whenever anyone hears of it, his ears shall ring.”*
- **Amon** becomes king of Judah, and he does evil in the sight of the Lord.

CHAPTER 22

- **Josiah** becomes king of **Judah**, and he follows the Lord's will.
- The high priest finds the **book of the law** in the Temple of the Lord, and he reads to the people the commands of the Lord.

CHAPTER 23

- **Josiah**, king of **Judah**, orders the removal from the Temple all of the objects that had been placed in the Temple for the worship of false gods. All of these objects were taken outside of Jerusalem and burned.
- **Josiah** reinstates the observation of the **Passover**, which had been neglected by the people for many years.
- **Josiah** turned to the Lord more than any other king in history.
- However, the **Lord** is still angry with Judah because of the actions of the king **Manasseh** (worshiping false gods and killing many innocent people).
- **Johoahaz** becomes king of **Judah**, but he does evil in the sight of the Lord.
- **Jehoiakim** (Eliakim) becomes king of Judah, and he does evil as well.

CHAPTER 24

- **Jehoiachin** becomes king of **Judah**, and he also does evil.
- **Nebuchadnezzar**, king of **Babylon**, attacks the city of **Jerusalem**.
- **Zedekiah**, the uncle of Nebuchadnezzar, becomes king of **Judah**.
- **Johoiachin**, the former king, is held captive in prison.

CHAPTER 25

- By this time **Babylon** has conquered **Assyria**, and **Nebuchadnezzar**, king of **Babylon**, attacks Jerusalem and burns the Temple of Solomon, the palace, and he destroys the entire city of Jerusalem by fire.
- One hundred and thirty-five years after **Assyria** conquered **Israel**, the people of **Judah** are exiled to **Babylon** as captives. (*This was in the year 587 B.C.*)

The First Book of Chronicles

The Second Books of Kings ends with the Hebrew people going into exile into Babylon, under King Nebuchadnezzar in the year 587 B.C. **The First and Second Books of Chronicles** re-tell the stories of Jewish History, but the two Books of Chronicles were written *after the Jewish people had returned to Israel at the end of the Babylonian Captivity*. So the viewpoint is a bit different.

The first ten chapters of **The First Book of Chronicles** include the genealogical tables of the Hebrew people, beginning with **Adam**, and continuing through the genealogy of **Saul**, who was the first king of Israel.

The remaining nineteen chapters re-tell the story of **King David** that we read about in the **two Books of Samuel** and the **First Book of Kings**.

CHAPTER 1

- The genealogies from **Adam** to **Jacob** (who became known as “**Israel**”).

CHAPTER 2

- The genealogies from **Jacob** (“**Israel**”) to **King David**.

CHAPTER 3

- The genealogies of the sons of **King David**.

CHAPTER 4

- The genealogies of **Judah** and **Simeon** (sons of **Jacob**).

CHAPTER 5

- The genealogies of **Ruben, Gad, Manasseh, and Levi** (all sons of **Jacob**).

CHAPTER 6

- The genealogies of the sons of **Levi**, and their ancestors.

CHAPTER 7

- The genealogies of **Issachar, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Manasseh, and Asher**.

CHAPTER 8

- The genealogies of **Benjamin**.

CHAPTER 9

- The story of **the people in Jerusalem**, including the priests and Levites.
- The genealogy of **Saul**, the first king of the Hebrews (anointed by **Samuel**).

CHAPTER 10

- The death and burial of **Saul**. (*See the First Book of Samuel, chapter 31*)

CHAPTER 11

- **David** is anointed king. (*See the Second Book of Samuel, chapters 2 and 5*)
- **David's warriors** are listed, name by name.

CHAPTER 12

- **Saul's kingdom** is given to **King David** in Hebron as the Lord ordained.

CHAPTER 13

- **David** brings the **Ark of the Covenant** from Kiriath-jearim to the house of **Obed-edom** the Gittite. (*See the Second Book of Samuel, chapter 6*)

CHAPTER 14

- The Lord delivers the **Philistines** into the power of David.

CHAPTER 15

- **David** brings the **Ark of the Covenant** into **Jerusalem** - and **David** dances!

CHAPTER 16

- The **Ark of the Covenant** is placed in the **tent** which **David** had prepared.

CHAPTER 17

- **King David** desires to build a house for the Lord (and for the **Ark of the Covenant**) but the prophet **Nathan** tells David that the Lord wants David's son to build the house for the Lord. (*See Second Samuel, chapter 7*)

CHAPTER 18

- **King David** defeats the Philistines again, and **David** reigns over all of Israel.

CHAPTER 19

- **David's warriors**, under the leadership of **Joab**, defeat **King Hanun** and the **Ammonites** and the **Arameans**. (*See Second Samuel, chapter 10*)

CHAPTER 20

- Once again, **David's army** defeats the **Philistines**.

CHAPTER 21

- **David** is enticed into taking a **census of Israel**, against the will of God. He suffers a **pestilence**, but the Lord decides to stop the calamity and retrieves the angel who was destroying **Jerusalem**. The **Lord** said to the destroying angel, "Enough now! Stay your hand!" (*See Second Samuel, chapter 24*)
- **David** buys Ornan's threshing floor and builds an altar to the Lord.

CHAPTER 22

- **David** instructs his son **Solomon** to build a house for the Lord, and **David** provides the materials for the **Temple**.

CHAPTER 23

- **David** makes **Solomon** king over Israel. (*See the First Book of Kings, chapter 2*)

CHAPTER 24

- The **descendants of Aaron** are divided into **priestly classes**.

CHAPTER 25

- **David** appoints **singers of inspired songs** (with lyres, harps, and cymbals).

CHAPTER 26

- Classes of **Gatekeepers** are established, as well as **Treasurers**.

CHAPTER 27

- The army commanders and tribal heads are listed, along with the overseers.

CHAPTER 28

- **David** assembles **all of the leaders of Israel** in **Jerusalem**, and he announces that it is his son, **Solomon**, who will build the **Temple**.

CHAPTER 29

- **King David** blesses the Lord, and again he proclaims **Solomon** as king.
- **King David** dies at a ripe old age, and **Solomon** succeeds him as king.

The Second Book of Chronicles

Like the First Book of Chronicles, **the Second Book of Chronicles** was *written for the Jewish people after they had returned from the Babylonian Exile*. This book picks up with the kingship of **Solomon**, son of David, and emphasizes his building of the Temple. Like the First Book of Chronicles, **the Second Book of Chronicles** includes material from the First and Second Books of Kings. **The Second Book of Chronicles** ends with the Hebrew people returning to Jerusalem (from Babylon) through the efforts of **King Cyrus of Persia**. He then orders the people to rebuild the Temple (which had been destroyed fifty years earlier).

CHAPTER 1

- The reign of **King Solomon** (son of David). (*See First Kings, chapters 1-3*)

CHAPTER 2

- **King Solomon** prepares to build the Temple. (*See First Kings, chapter 5*)

CHAPTER 3

- **King Solomon's** workers build the Temple. (*See First Kings, chapter 6*)

CHAPTER 4

- **King Solomon** has all of the interior pieces made for the House of God.

CHAPTER 5

- The **Temple** is dedicated and the **Ark of the Covenant** is brought from Zion to be placed in the **Temple**. (*See First Kings, chapter 8*)

CHAPTER 6

- **King Solomon** prays at the altar of the Lord.

CHAPTER 7

- The **Temple** dedication is completed, and God makes a promise to **King Solomon**, concerning his faithfulness to God and to God's commands, especially the prohibition against false gods. (*See First Kings, Chapter 9*)

CHAPTER 8

- **King Solomon** brings his wife (the daughter of Pharaoh) from the City of David to the palace which he had built for her.

CHAPTER 9

- The **queen of Sheba** visits **King Solomon** and asks many questions, and she is pleased with his answers. *(See First Kings, chapter 10)*
- **King Solomon** dies after reigning over all Israel for forty years.

CHAPTER 10

- **King Solomon's** son, **Rehoboam**, becomes king, but is cruel to the people.
- The kingdom is divided into *Israel in the north* and *Judah in the south*.
- **King Rehoboam** continues to reign over the southern kingdom of **Judah**.

CHAPTER 11

- **King Rehoboam** arrives in **Jerusalem** and builds fortified cities in **Judah**.

CHAPTER 12

- **King Rehoboam** abandons the law of the Lord.

CHAPTER 13

- **King Jeroboam** becomes king of **Israel** (in the north) and **King Abijah** becomes king of **Judah** (in the south).
- **Israel** and **Judah** go to war, and **Judah** (under King **Abijah**) prevails.

CHAPTER 14

- **King Asa** becomes king of **Judah**, and he does what is pleasing to God.

CHAPTER 15

- **King Asa** removes the detestable idols from the whole land of **Judah**.

CHAPTER 16

- **King Baasha** of **Israel** attacks **King Asa** and the people of **Judah**.
- **King Asa** did not rely on the Lord, and his opponents escaped.

CHAPTER 17

- **King Jehosaphat** becomes king of **Judah**, and he follows the Lord.

CHAPTER 18

- **King Ahab** of **Israel** joins with **King Jehosaphat** of **Judah** and they consult the prophets to see if they should attack Ramoth-gilead.
- The prophet **Micaiah** speaks the truth, and foretells **King Ahab's** death.

CHAPTER 19

- **King Jehoshaphat** of **Judah** brings the people of Beer-sheba back to God.

CHAPTER 20

- The people of Edom attack **King Jehoshaphat** of **Judah**, and the king prays to God with the words, *“Trust in the Lord your God, and you will be found firm. Trust in the prophets and you will succeed.”* And they succeeded.

CHAPTER 21

- **King Jehoram**, son of Jehosaphat, becomes king of **Judah**.
- **Elijah** the prophet sends him a letter condemning his evil deeds.

CHAPTER 22

- **King Ahaziah** becomes king of **Judah**. (See *Second Kings, chapter 1*)
- At the death of **Ahaziah**, his mother, **Athaliah**, rules over **Judah**.

CHAPTER 23

- **Jehoiada**, the priest, organizes the overthrow of **Athaliah**, and **Athaliah** is killed by her own army.
- **Jehoiada** makes a covenant with the people that they should be the Lord's, and the people tear down the temple of **Baal**, the false god.

CHAPTER 24

- **King Joash**, grandson of **Athaliah**, becomes king of **Judah**, and does what is pleasing to the Lord.
- **King Joash** decides to restore the **Temple** and eliminate the false gods.
- However, **King Joash** and the people abandon the Lord and are punished.

CHAPTER 25

- **King Amaziah** becomes king of **Judah**, and he does what is pleasing to God, but not wholeheartedly. He brings the gods of the people of Seir, and set them up as his own gods.

CHAPTER 26

- **King Uzziah** becomes king of **Judah**, and he does what is pleasing to God.

CHAPTER 27

- **King Jotham** becomes king of **Judah**, and he does what is pleasing to God.

CHAPTER 28

- **King Ahaz** becomes king of **Judah** and he is not faithful to the Lord. He worships the molten idols of the false god, **Baal**.

CHAPTER 29

- **King Hezekiah** becomes king of **Judah**, and he is faithful to the Lord.

CHAPTER 30

- **King Hezekiah** invites all of **Israel** (the north) and **Judah** (the south) to celebrate the Passover in honor of the Lord, the God of Israel.

CHAPTER 31

- **King Hezekiah** reestablishes the classes of the **priests** and the **Levites**.

CHAPTER 32

- **Sennacherib**, king of **Assyria**, invades **Judah**, and he rebukes the people of **Judah** for relying on the Lord. *(See Second Kings, chapter 19)*
- The Lord then sends an angel to defeat **King Sennacherib** of **Assyria**.

CHAPTER 33

- **King Manasseh** becomes king of **Judah**, and he does evil in the sight of the Lord, but then he is converted to the will of God.
- **King Amon** becomes king of **Judah**, and he also does evil.

CHAPTER 34

- **King Josiah** becomes king of **Judah**, and he is faithful to the Lord.
- **Hilkiah**, the priest, finds the book of the law of the Lord (given to **Moses**).

CHAPTER 35

- **King Josiah** celebrates the **Passover** in Jerusalem to honor the Lord.
- **King Josiah** returns the **Ark of the Covenant** to its place in the **Temple**.

CHAPTER 36

- **King Jehoahaz** becomes king of **Judah**, and he is followed by **King Jehoiakim**, and then by **King Jehoiachin**, and then by **King Zedekiah**.
- **Nebuchadnezzar**, king of **Babylon**, carries the Hebrew people into captivity in Babylon where they remain for 49 years. *(See Second Kings, chapter 25)*
- **King Cyrus** of **Persia** returns the Hebrew people to the **Promised Land**.

The Book of Ezra

This book begins with the exact same words as the last two verses of **The Second Book of Chronicles**, with the proclamation by **King Cyrus of Persia** that the Hebrew people should be allowed to return to Jerusalem (from the exile in Babylon) and that they should rebuild their Temple. The first group of Hebrews began to return to Israel under the leadership of **Sheshbazzar** in **538 B.C.**, followed by **Zerubbabel** and **Jeshua** in **521 B.C.** This, the second **Temple** was completed in the year **516 B.C.** The people then celebrate the **Passover**.

In chapters 7 through 10 we read of **Ezra**, the priest and scribe who led the third group of exiles back into Jerusalem in the year **458 B.C.** Now that the Temple has been restored, **Ezra** feels that it is now time to restore the spirituality, faith, and morals of the people, and he accomplishes this by using the Law of Moses.

CHAPTER 1

- The Lord inspires **King Cyrus of Persia** to free the Hebrew people to return to Jerusalem and to rebuild the Temple. **Sheshbazzar** leads the first group.

CHAPTER 2

- A census is taken and 42,360 Hebrew people (plus their 7,337 slaves and 200 male and female singers) return to Jerusalem.

CHAPTER 3

- **Zerubbabel** and the Hebrew people rebuild the **altar** of the God of Israel.
- The people lay the **foundation** for the Temple. (*This is the second Temple*).

CHAPTER 4

- The enemies of the Hebrew people set out to interfere with the building of the Temple, and construction is halted until the time of **King Darius**.

CHAPTER 5

- The prophets **Haggai** and **Zechariah** prophesy in the name of God to the Jews, and work begins again on the Temple in Jerusalem.

CHAPTER 6

- **King Darius of Persia** issues a decree to rebuild the Temple.
- The Israelites who had returned from the exile celebrate the **Passover**.

CHAPTER 7

- **Ezra**, a priest-scribe and a descendent of Aaron, comes to Jerusalem from Babylon and sets his heart on the study and practice of the law of the Lord.
- **King Artaxerxes of Persia** issues a decree for cooperation with **Ezra**.

CHAPTER 8

- **Ezra** himself describes the journey from Babylon to Jerusalem.

CHAPTER 9

- **Ezra** denounces the inter-marriage of the Israelites with foreign wives.

CHAPTER 10

- The people enter into a covenant with God to dismiss their foreign wives and their children.

The Book of Nehemiah

In the year **445 B.C.** **Nehemiah** led the fourth return of the Hebrews from Babylon to their home in Jerusalem. **Nehemiah** was the cupbearer (the personal adviser) of the **King Artaxerxes of Persia**, and it was he who rebuilt the walls of the city of Jerusalem – in fifty-two days – despite opposition from **Sanballat**. In chapter 8, **Ezra** arrives and he reads from the book of the Law of Moses.

CHAPTER 1

- **Nehemiah** hears from his brother, **Hanani**, that the people in Jerusalem are in great distress. Nehemiah prays for the people, and asks God for guidance.

CHAPTER 2

- **Nehemiah** asks **King Artaxerxes of Persia** if he could return to Jerusalem to help his people. The king gives him permission, as well as provisions.

CHAPTER 3

- **Nehemiah** begins the work of building the walls and gates of Jerusalem.
- **Sanballat** of Samaria opposes the rebuilding of the walls and mocks him.

CHAPTER 4

- **Sanballat** continues his threat of attack on the Hebrew people, but **Nehemiah** devises a plan for the protection of the workers.

CHAPTER 5

- There was a great outcry among the poor of Israel, and **Nehemiah** instructs the rich Hebrews to return the fields and vineyards to the poor, with interest.

CHAPTER 6

- Again **Sanballat** plots to do harm to **Nehemiah**, but God protects him.
- **The wall around Jerusalem is completed** after fifty-two days of work.

CHAPTER 7

- **Nehemiah** prepares a census of the people who had returned from captivity. *(See the Book of Ezra, chapter 2, and note that the numbers are the same.)*

CHAPTER 8

- **Ezra** the priest-scribe brings forth the book of the **Law of Moses** which the Lord prescribed for Israel. He opens the scroll and reads it to the people.

CHAPTER 9

- The Israelites gather together fasting and in sackcloth to repent for what they had done in prior years. They recognize that their ancestors had been a stiff-necked people who had not obeyed the Lord's commandments.

CHAPTER 10

- In view of all of this, the people enter into a firm pact to follow the law of God that was given through Moses, and to follow God's commandments.

CHAPTER 11

- The leaders of the Israelites return to Jerusalem and others go to live in the other cities of Judah, especially the Judahites and the Benjaminites.

CHAPTER 12

- **The city wall in Jerusalem is dedicated** and the Levites were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate with thanksgiving hymns and choirs of music.

CHAPTER 13

- After spending some time with **King Artaxerxes** of Persia, **Nehemiah** returns to **Jerusalem** and sees the evil that is taking place.
- **Nehemiah** institutes a series of reforms by reinstating the Sabbath observance and eliminating marriages with foreigners.

The Book of Tobit

The **Book of Tobit** is referred to as a “**Deuterocanonical**” book (that is, the “Second Canon”) and therefore is not included in Protestant Bibles. The Catholic Church believes that it is inspired by God and it is included in all Catholic Bibles.

Tobit was an Israelite who had been deported to **Nineveh** in **721 B.C.** **Tobit** becomes blind and a young woman named **Sarah**, who is unknown to **Tobit**, has a series of negative events in her life. Both **Tobit** and **Sarah** pray for death. God then sends **the angel Raphael** to their aid, and **Raphael** intercedes using **Tobit’s** son, **Tobiah**. *The emphasis of this book is the power of prayer.*

CHAPTER 1

- **Tobit**, a righteous man, has been deported from his home town of **Thisbe** and sent to **Nineveh**, along with his wife, **Anna**, and their son, **Tobiah**.
- Before their deportation, **Tobit** had deposited a great sum of money with **Gabael**, who lives in **Rages** in **Media**.
- When **King Sennacherib of Assyria** realizes that **Tobit** is burying the dead whom the king had killed, **Tobit’s** property is confiscated.

CHAPTER 2

- **Tobit** becomes blind due to cataracts that are caused by having bird droppings fall in his eyes while he is sleeping, and he is blind for four years.

CHAPTER 3

- In his grief, **Tobit** prays for death.
- Meanwhile, **Sarah**, unknown to **Tobit**, has been married to seven husbands, each of whom is killed by the demon **Asmodeus** before their wedding night.
- In her grief, **Sarah** also prays for death.
- God hears their prayers, and He sends **the angel Raphael** to heal them both.

CHAPTER 4

- **Tobit** gives sound advice to his son, **Tobiah**, and he then informs **Tobiah** of the money that he has on deposit with **Gabael** in **Media**.

CHAPTER 5

- **Tobiah** sets off for **Media**, and he is guided by **the angel Raphael**, who introduces himself to **Tobiah** as **Azariah** (rather than giving his real name).

CHAPTER 6

- **Tobiah** is attacked by a large fish, and **Raphael** tells him to cut out the gall, heart, and liver. **Raphael** explains that the heart and liver can be used to ward off demons, and the gall can be used to cure cataracts.
- **Raphael** suggests that they stay with **Raguel**, the father of **Sarah**.
- **Raphael** then encourages **Tobiah** to marry **Sarah**, but he is afraid that he will meet the same fate as her first seven husbands. But, after receiving some advice from **Raphael**, **Tobiah** falls in love with **Sarah**.

CHAPTER 7

- **Tobiah** and **Sarah** marry, and are blessed by her parents, **Raguel** and **Edna**.

CHAPTER 8

- **Tobiah** takes the fish's liver and heart and drives the demon into Egypt.
- **Tobiah** and **Sarah** celebrate their wedding feast for fourteen days.

CHAPTER 9

- **Tobiah** and **Raphael** retrieve Tobit's money from **Gabael** in Media.

CHAPTER 10

- **Tobiah** and **Sarah** depart for Nineveh, to the home of **Tobit** and **Anna**.

CHAPTER 11

- **Tobiah** greets his parents with joy, and then rubs the fish gall on his father's eyes. **Tobit** immediately regains his sight and rejoices in the Lord.
- **Tobit** and **Anna** celebrate the marriage of **Tobiah** and **Sarah**.

CHAPTER 12

- The angel **Raphael** reveals his true identity as "*one of the seven angels who enter and serve before the Glory of the Lord.*" He then ascends into heaven.

CHAPTER 13

- This chapter includes the words of **Tobit's hymn of praise to God**.

CHAPTER 14

- Before **Tobit** dies, he advises his sons to leave Nineveh and to flee into Media. **Tobit** then predicts the destruction of Nineveh (of 612 B.C.).
- **Tobit** and **Anna** die, and eventually **Tobiah** dies, as he is blessing the Lord.

The Book of Judith

Like the Book of Tobit, the Book of Judith is one of the “**Deuterocanonical books**” that are included in Catholic Bibles but not in Protestant Bibles. In this book **King Nebuchadnezzar**, formerly the King of Babylon, has conquered Assyria and intends to take over the entire world and become the world’s god. **Judith**, a widow and a devout Jew, hatches a plan to disrupt the goal of **Nebuchadnezzar** by infiltrating his camp and then killing **Holofernes**, the general of the Assyrian army. The message of this book is that victory comes not from human might but through the power of God.

CHAPTER 1

- **King Nebuchadnezzar** is now king of the Assyrians and he begins his wars.

CHAPTER 2

- **King Nebuchadnezzar** refers to himself as “*the great king, the lord over all the earth*” and he sends his general **Holofernes** to continue his conquests.

CHAPTER 3

- **Nebuchadnezzar** sets out “*to destroy all the gods of the earth, so that every nation may worship him alone, and every people will invoke him as a god.*”

CHAPTER 4

- The Israelites grow in fear of **Nebuchadnezzar**, but **Joakim**, who was high priest in Jerusalem, encourages the people to keep a firm hold of the land.
- The people cry out to the Lord, and the Lord has regard for their distress.

CHAPTER 5

- **Achior**, the leader of the Ammonites, gives the history of the Israelites to **Holofernes** and he tells him of their historical relationship with their God.
- **Achior** then advises **Holofernes** not to fight against the Israelites.

CHAPTER 6

- **Holofernes** responds to **Achior** by asking, “*What god is there beside Nebuchadnezzar?*” Then he hands **Achior** over to the Israelites.
- **Uzziah**, one of the rulers of **the city of Bethulia**, takes **Achior** to his home and the people call upon the God of Israel for help.

CHAPTER 7

- **Holofernes** begins the attack on **the city of Bethulia** and takes control of the sources of water, and his army then surrounds the city for thirty-four days.
- The Israelites implore **Uzziah** to allow them to surrender and become the slaves of the Assyrians. But **Uzziah** tells them to have courage in the Lord, and to wait five days before giving up and surrendering to the Assyrians.

CHAPTER 8

- **Judith**, a beautiful and God-fearing widow, challenges the rulers and accuses them of putting God to the test rather than remaining faithful.
- **Uzziah** gives a weak response to **Judith**, and then **Judith** tells **Uzziah** that *“the Lord will rescue Israel by my hand.”*

CHAPTER 9

- **Judith** prays to the Lord for the strength to execute her plan.

CHAPTER 10

- **Judith** leaves the city of Bethulia and is captured by the Assyrians. She is taken to the tent of the general, **Holofernes**, and he marvels at her beauty.

CHAPTER 11

- **Holofernes** believes that **Judith** ran away in order to serve Nebuchadnezzar.
- **Judith** then offers to lead the Assyrians through Judea to Jerusalem.

CHAPTER 12

- Each night **Judith** goes out to pray, asking the Lord to direct her way.
- **Holofernes** is charmed by **Judith** and he drinks a great quantity of wine.

CHAPTER 13

- **Judith** takes a sword and proceeds to cut off the head of **Holofernes**.
- **Judith** returns to **Bethulia** and **Uzziah** blesses her for her actions.

CHAPTER 14

- **Judith** advises the Israelites to prepare for an attack on the Assyrians, knowing that the Assyrians will seek out **Holofernes** - who is now dead.
- **Achior** hears the account of **Judith’s** actions, and he sees the head of **Holofernes**. From that day on **Achior** believes firmly in God.
- When the Assyrians see the Israelites attacking, they go to the tent of **Holofernes** and they find the headless corpse. Then they begin to panic.

CHAPTER 15

- The Assyrian scatter in every direction, and the Israelite warriors overwhelm them.
- The high priest **Joakim** comes to see all the good things that the Lord had done for Israel, and they meet and congratulate **Judith**.
- All of the women of Israel gather to see **Judith**, and to bless her for what she has done.

CHAPTER 16

- **Judith** leads all Israel in a song of thanksgiving, and the people sing a hymn of praise.
- The people then went back to Jerusalem to worship God.
- **Judith** went back to Bethulia and died at the age of one hundred and five.
- During the life of **Judith**, and for a long time after her death, no one again disturbed the Israelites.

The Book of Esther

Just as in the Book of Judith, the **Book of Esther** is a story of a Jewish woman who helps her people. In Catholic Bibles there are *six extra chapters* in this book that come from the **Greek** translation – and *they are referred to by the letters A through F* (instead of numbers like the rest of the chapters).

Esther is a queen who stops a holocaust of the Jewish people. **Queen Esther** is the second wife of **King Ahasuerus (Xerxes)** and the cousin of **Mordecai**, a Persian official. The second-in-command to the king is a man named **Haman**, but **Mordecai** refuses to bow down before him because, as a Jew, he bows down only to God. In retaliation for his lack of reverence, **Haman** decides to kill **Mordecai** and all of the Jews. **Queen Esther** agrees to approach the king and asks him to stop **Haman's** plot. **King Ahasuerus**, not knowing that his wife was Jewish, is furious with **Haman** and orders that he be hanged. The king then permits the Jews to assemble and to defend themselves, and the Jews succeed. Each spring the Jews celebrate this event with a holiday known as **Purim**.

CHAPTER A

- **Mordecai**, the cousin of **Esther**, has a dream about a plan to destroy the Jewish people, and how God steps in to protect them. He then wakes up.
- **Mordecai** hears of two men planning to kill **King Ahasuerus**, and he informs the king of this plot, thus saving the king's life.

CHAPTER 1

- **King Ahasuerus** gives a feast of seven days, and he invites his wife, **Queen Vashti**, to join the festivities. She refuses to come to the feast, and the king becomes furious with her. **King Ahasuerus** then divorces her.

CHAPTER 2

- **King Ahasuerus** decides to find a new wife from among the beautiful young virgins. **Esther** is chosen and is then named as queen.
- **Mordecai** hears of two men planning to kill **King Ahasuerus**, and he informs the king of this plot, thus saving the king's life.

CHAPTER 3

- **Haman** is raised to the second highest rank, and the people bow down before him. **Mordecai** refuses to do so, since he is a Jew and loyal to God.
- **Haman** decides to kill not only **Mordecai**, but all of the Jews in the kingdom. The date was then set for the destruction of the Jewish people.
- A letter was written and sealed by the king for the murder of all of the Jews.

CHAPTER B

- This chapter includes a copy of the letter from **King Ahasuerus**.

CHAPTER 4

- **Mordecai** and **Queen Esther** hear of the letter and they cry out loudly.
- **Mordecai** asks **Queen Esther** to intercede with the king on behalf of the Jews. *“Invoke the Lord and speak to the king for us; save us from death.”*
- **Queen Esther** hesitates to approach the king, but **Mordecai** convinces her to do so to save the Jewish people. **Esther** agrees: *“If I perish, I perish!”*

CHAPTER C

- **Mordecai** prays to the Lord, asking the Lord to save Israel.
- **Queen Esther** also prays, asking God to help her approach the king.

CHAPTER D

- **Esther** gathers up her courage and approaches the king, and he receives her with kindness. But she is so afraid that she faints right in front of him.

CHAPTER 5

- **Queen Esther** invites the king – and **Haman** – to a banquet, and then she invites both of them to a second banquet, to be held on the following day.
- **Haman** is still angry with **Mordecai**, and **Haman’s** wife, **Zeresh**, convinces **Haman** to set up a gibbet (gallows) in order to hang **Mordecai**.

CHAPTER 6

- **King Ahasuerus** is reminded of when **Mordecai** warned him of the plot to kill him, and asks **Haman** what sort of reward should be given to **Mordecai**.
- **Haman**, thinking that the reward is for himself, lays out an elaborate plan for honoring such a fine citizen of the kingdom.
- **Haman’s** plan of honor is now bestowed upon **Mordecai**, and **Haman**, realizing how he was mistaken, returns home with his head covered in grief.

CHAPTER 7

- **King Ahasuerus** and **Haman** go to the second banquet that **Queen Esther** has prepared for them, and here she asks the king to spare the Jewish people.
- When the king finds out that it was **Haman** who initiated this plot, the king decides to hang **Haman** from the gibbet that he had prepared for **Mordecai**.

CHAPTER 8

- The king gives **Queen Esther** the authority to issue a second letter concerning the Jews and to seal it with the royal signet ring. However, because the first letter was sealed with the royal ring, it can not be revoked.
- The second decree authorizes the Jews to group together to defend themselves against any armed group that attacks them.

CHAPTER E

- This chapter includes a copy of the second letter from **King Ahasuerus**.

CHAPTER 9

- On the date stipulated in the letter, the Jews struck down all of their enemies, and at the request of **Queen Esther**, the ten sons of **Haman** were hanged.
- In celebration of the time when their sorrow into joy, from mourning into festivity, the Jews begin to celebrate the **Feast of Purim**.
- **Queen Esther** issues a command confirming the prescriptions for **Purim**.

CHAPTER 10

- **King Ahasuerus** promotes **Mordecai** to next in rank to the king.
- **Mordecai** is held *“in high standing among the Jews, and was regarded with favor by his many brethren, as the promoter of his people’s welfare and the herald of peace for his whole race.”*

CHAPTER F

- **Mordecai** recalls the dream that he had (*see Chapter A*) and he then explains the aspects of the dream in terms of the events that had taken place, and how *“the Lord saved his people and delivered us from all these evils.”*
- *“God remembered his people and rendered justice to his inheritance.”*

The First Book of Maccabees

The **First Book of Maccabees** and the **Second Book of Maccabees** conclude the **Historical Books of the Bible**. Everything from **Genesis** to the **Books of Maccabees** tells the history of God's plan of salvation, leading up to the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem.

The **First Book of Maccabees** begins with the conquests of **Alexander the Great (of Greece)** from the years 336 B.C. to 323 B.C. and then jumps ahead to **King Antiochus** (king of the **Seleucids**), who desecrates the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem in the year 167 B.C. The book continues with the story of the priest, **Mattathias**, and his five sons: **John, Simon, Judas, Eleazor, and Jonathan**, who lead the revolt against the King. They become known as the **Maccabees**. **Judas Maccabeus** becomes the leader of the Jewish people, and he is the one who re-dedicates the **Temple** and its altar, and institutes the eight-day **Feast of Hanukkah** that is celebrated by the Jewish people to this day. **NOTE: Jesus** celebrates this feast in Jerusalem (see the *Gospel of John 10:22*). **Judas** is followed in leadership by his brothers **Jonathan** and **Simon**, and Simon's son, **John Hyrcanus**. This book ends with the time of **John Hyrcanus** becoming ruler and high priest in 135 B.C., and he continues his time as ruler and high priest until his death in 104 B.C.

CHAPTER 1

- **Alexander the Great** becomes **King of Greece**, and reigns for twelve years before he dies (336 B.C. to 323 B.C.). **Alexander** conquers **Persia**.
- **King Antiochus IV** rules over the **Seleucids** from 175 B.C. to 163 B.C. and defeats **King Ptolemy of Egypt** in 169 B.C., and rules over both kingdoms.
- **King Antiochus IV** desecrates the **Temple in Jerusalem** in 167 B.C.
- The people of **Israel** are driven into hiding out of fear of the king.

CHAPTER 2

- **Mattathias** and his five sons mourn over the Temple in Jerusalem. They had refused to offer sacrifices to the king, and **Mattathias** and his sons remained faithful to the Lord by keeping the law and the covenant.
- **Mattathias** and his sons flee to the mountains, and they are pursued by the king who killed a thousand persons.
- **Matthathias** and his friends tear down the pagan altars and save the law from the hands of the Gentiles and the kings.
- **Mattathias** dies (in 166 B.C.) and encourages his sons to remain strong.

CHAPTER 3

- Mattathias's son, **Judas Maccabeus**, takes his place in leadership.
- **Seron** gathers the Syrian army to fight Israel, and **Judas** calls on the strength that comes from **Heaven**. **Judas** then defeats Seron and his army.
- **Lysias** sends an army to attack Israel, and again, **Judas** relies on **Heaven**. *"Whatever Heaven wills, he will do."* (verse 59)

CHAPTER 4

- **Gorgias** attacks the camp of **Judas**, and **Judas** defeats them, glorifying **Heaven**, *"for he is good and his mercy endures forever."* (verse 24)
- **Judas** and his brothers rededicate the **Temple**. For eight days they celebrate the dedication of the **Temple**. *This becomes the feast of Hanukkah.*

CHAPTER 5

- More battles take place between the Gentiles and the Hebrew people, and **Judas** destroys the altars of the false gods and burns their statues.

CHAPTER 6

- **King Antiochus IV** hears that Israel has defeated his armies, and the king recalls the evil he has done in Jerusalem. He then dies in 164 B.C.
- **King Antiochus V** becomes king, and he continues the war against the Israelites. Soon thereafter **King Antiochus V** is killed.

CHAPTER 7

- **Demetrius** becomes king, and **Alcimus** and **Bacchides** attempt to overtake the Hebrews, but are unsuccessful.
- **Nicanor** is then sent to destroy the Israelites, but he is also defeated.

CHAPTER 8

- In order to protect the Israelites from the Greeks, **Judas** enters into an alliance with the **Romans**.

CHAPTER 9

- **King Demetrius** sends the army of **Bacchides** to attack the Israelites, and **Judas** is killed. The Israelites grieved for **Judas** for many days.
- **Jonathan** is chosen to succeed his brother as leader, and the Israelites take revenge for Judas's death.
- **Alcimus** orders the destruction of the inner court of the sanctuary, but he then dies of a stroke. **Bacchides** is then defeated by **Jonathan's** army.

CHAPTER 10

- **Alexander Balas** becomes king, much to the dismay of **King Demetrius**.
- **Jonathan** begins to rebuild the city of **Jerusalem** and enters into an alliance with **King Alexander**, which angers **King Demetrius**.
- **King Demetrius** makes an offer to **Jonathan** and the Jewish people, but they do not trust Demetrius because of what he has done to them in the past.
- **King Ptolemy** of Egypt enters into a treaty with **King Alexander**. **King Ptolemy** gives **King Alexander** his daughter, **Cleopatra**, for his wife.

CHAPTER 11

- Both **Alexander** and **Ptolemy** die, and a new **King Demetrius** is named.

CHAPTER 12

- **Trypho** is determined to become king of Asia, and he tricks **Jonathan** and **Jonathan** is killed.

CHAPTER 13

- **Simon** succeeds his brother as leader of the Jews, and **Simon** names his son, **John Hyrcanus** as commander of all of his soldiers.

CHAPTER 14

- **Arsacas**, king of Persia and Media, defeats the army of **King Demetrius**.
- **Simon** enters into an alliance with **Rome** and **Sparta**, and all the people approve the right of **Simon** to act as high priest and governor general.

CHAPTER 15

- **King Antiochus VII** sends a letter to **Simon**, stating that he intends to reclaim the land that was lost years ago. But **Simon** replies by pointing out that the land that the Hebrews occupy is their ancestral heritage which for a time had been unjustly held by their enemies.

CHAPTER 16

- **John Hyrcanus** gathers warriors and sets out to defend themselves against **Cendebeus**, and they are able to return to Judea in peace.
- **Simon and two of his sons** are murdered by **Ptolemy**.
- Ptolemy attempts to do the same to John Hyrcanus, but John does not fall for the same deceitful trick, and he has his attackers put to death.
- The remainder of the history of **John Hyrcanus** is recorded in another book (*but that book no longer exists*).

The Second Book of Maccabees

This book is **not** a sequel to the First Book of Maccabees. Rather, this book deals with events in Jewish history that took place before the events in the First Book of Maccabees, and then re-tells some of the events that are recorded in First Maccabees. The author indicates that this is a condensation of five volumes written by **Jason of Cyrene**. A key theological implication in this book is the idea of the **resurrection of the dead**, which was not widely accepted at that time.

CHAPTER 1

- This book begins with a letter written in 124 B.C. by **the Jews in Jerusalem and the land of Judea** to the Jews in Egypt, wishing them true peace.
- A second letter was written forty years earlier (in 164 B.C.) by these same people to **Aristobulus** (counselor of **King Ptolemy**) and those in Egypt.

CHAPTER 2

- The writer of the second letter refers to the prophet **Jeremiah** taking the ark from the Temple (*even though the ark was not mentioned in the Scriptures from the time of Solomon until now*).
- The writer begins to re-tell the story of **Judas Maccabeus** and his brothers, and of the rededication of the Temple.

CHAPTER 3

- The high priest **Onias III** brings peace to the people, but a certain **Simon** begins a quarrel regarding the supervision of the city market, and reports that the treasury in Jerusalem is full of “untold riches.”
- **King Seleucus** sends **Heliodorus** sets to obtain the money, but the high priest explains that part of the money is a care fund for widows and orphans.
- When **Heliodorus** implements his plan, the people cry out to the Lord.
- A horse and rider appear and attack **Heliodorus**, and he is carried away helpless. **Onias III** invokes the Lord to save the life of **Heliodorus**.
- **Heliodorus** turns to the Lord, and he testifies to the king about the people.

CHAPTER 4

- **King Seleucus** dies and is succeeded by **Antiochus**. Onias’ brother **Jason** obtains the high priesthood through a bribe. **Jason** then initiates the people into a **Greek** way of life (*known as **Hellenism***), turning away from the Lord.
- **Onias** protests a theft by **Menelaus**, and **Onias** is murdered by **Andronicus**.

CHAPTER 5

- **Jason** “slaughtered his fellow citizens without mercy” and is disgraced by the survivors. He then flees into Egypt, where he perishes in exile.
- **King Antiochus** then takes Jerusalem by storm and steals from the Temple.
- **Judas Maccabeus** withdraws into the wilderness with nine others.

CHAPTER 6

- **King Antiochus** forces the Jews to abandon the customs of their ancestors, and to live no longer by the laws of God.
- **King Antiochus** profanes the Temple and dedicates it to Olympian **Zeus**.
- The writer pauses to reflect upon God’s correction of the people and mercy.
- **Eleazor** the scribe chooses death rather than to eat pork (a defilement). He is offered an opportunity to pretend to eat the pork, but he refuses. He dies as “a model of courage” and “an example of virtue” for the whole nation.

CHAPTER 7

- **A mother and her seven sons** are martyred because they refuse to defile themselves by eating pork in violation of the Jewish covenant with God.
- Here we read of the concept of “**the God-given hope of being restored to life**” (*in verse 14 - and again in verse 23 - and again in verse 36*).

CHAPTER 8

- **Judas Maccabeus** gathers the troops together, and “with the Almighty as their ally,” they won victories over **Nicanor** and **Timothy** and **Bacchides**.

CHAPTER 9

- **King Antiochus** declares that, “I will make Jerusalem the common graveyard of the Jews as soon as I arrive there.” (*verse 4*). “So the all-seeing Lord struck him down with an unseen but incurable blow.” (*verse 5*)
- Before he dies **Antiochus IV** names his son, **Antiochus V**, as king.

CHAPTER 10

- **Judas Maccabeus** rededicates the Temple and the people celebrate the eight days of Hanukkah. And they sang hymns of grateful praise to the Lord.
- Like his father, Antiochus V (Eupator) makes trouble for the Jews.
- **Judas Maccabeus** triumphs over the **Idumeans** and the army of **Timothy**.

CHAPTER 11

- The Hebrews defeat **Lysias** and make peace with the **Syrians**.

CHAPTER 12

- Persecution of the Jews is renewed, and again **Judas Maccabeus** calls upon the Lord to protect them. And the Lord does protect them.
- **Judas Maccabeus** proclaims “the resurrection of the dead” and prays for them in the expectation that they will rise again (*verses 43-46*).

CHAPTER 13

- **Antiochus V (Eupator)** invades Judea with a large force (a Greek army).
- **Judas Maccabeus** urged the people to call upon the Lord night and day.
- With the battle cry, “**God’s victory**” (*verse 15*) they triumphed in battle.

CHAPTER 14

- Three years later **King Demetrius** does away with **King Antiochus V**.
- **Alcimus**, a former high priest, spreads lies about the Jews, calling them “warmongers” (*verse 6*) stating that with them there would be no peace.
- **Nicanor** enters into a treaty with **Judas Maccabeus** in order to have peace.
- When this treaty does not pan out, **Judas Maccabeus** goes into hiding.
- **Razis**, the father of the Jews, turns a sword on himself “rather than fall into the hands of vile men and suffer outrages unworthy of his noble birth.”

CHAPTER 15

- **Nicanor** proclaims himself to be “ruler on earth” (*verse 5*) and, as he plans his battle against the Hebrews, **Judas Maccabeus** prays to God for help.
- **Judas Maccabeus** encourages the people by relating to them a vision he had of Onias, the former high priest, and of the prophet **Jeremiah**.
- **Judas Maccabeus** prays to the Lord for support, and the Jews prevail.
- **Nicanor** is killed and his army is defeated by **Judas Maccabeus**.

Post Script:

The writings of the Old Testament end about 100 years before the birth of Jesus Christ. As we saw in the two books of Maccabees, the area of Palestine was ruled by the **Greeks from 336 B.C. to 164 B.C.** For the next one hundred years or so the Jews were able to rule themselves independently of other countries (this is known as the **Hasmonean Kingdom**). However, in **63 B.C.**, the **Romans** took control over the entire region under the leadership of the **Roman general, Pompey**. In **37 B.C.**, **Herod** was named by Rome to be “King of the Jews” (even though he was not Jewish!). **Herod** organized a renovation and remodel of the Temple in Jerusalem, a task that took forty-six years (*see John 2:20*). Finally, **King Herod** died in 4 B.C. (*two years after the birth of Jesus in 6 B.C.*).

Old Testament Dates: 1 Samuel to 2 Maccabees

From the years **1050 B.C. to 930 B.C.**, the kingdoms of **Israel** and **Judah** were united as one kingdom. In **930 B.C.** they split into two separate kingdoms.

FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL

- **The priest Eli** 1115 B.C. to 1075 B.C.
- **Samuel** (the last of the Judges) 1075 B.C. to 1035 B.C.
- **King Saul** (the first earthly king of Israel) 1050 B. C. to 1011 B.C.
- **King David** 1010 B. C. to 970 B.C.

SECOND BOOK OF SAMUEL

- **King David** (Rules from 1011 B. C. to his death in 970 B.C.)

FIRST BOOK OF KINGS

- **King David** dies (He dies in 970 B.C.)
- **King Solomon** (He rules from 970 B.C. until his death in 930 B.C.)
- **The First Temple** is constructed by **Solomon** (966 B.C. to 959 B.C.)
- **Elijah** (the Prophet)

After **King Solomon's death in 930 B.C.**, the kingdom is divided into **Israel** in the north (930 B. C. to 722 B.C.) and **Judah** in the south (930 B.C. to 587 B.C.)

Beginning in 930 B.C., various kings rule over **Israel** and **Judah**.

SECOND BOOK OF KINGS

- **Elijah the Prophet** is taken up to heaven 870 B.C.
- **Elisha the Prophet** succeeds Elijah 850 B.C.
- Various kings rule in Israel 852 B.C. to 722 B.C.
- Assyria conquers Israel 722 B.C.
- Various kings rule in Judah 848 B.C. to 587 B.C.
- The Hebrew people are exiled to Babylon 587 B.C. to 538 B.C.

FIRST BOOK OF CHRONICLES

- Re-tells the events of the two Books of Samuel and the First Book of Kings.

SECOND BOOK OF CHRONICLES

- Re-tells the events of the First and Second Books of Kings.

THE BOOK OF EZRA

- **King Cyrus** Rules **Persia** from 539 B.C. to 530 B.C.
- First return of Exiles to Judah (under **Sheshbazzar**) 538 B.C.
- Second return of Exiles to Judah (under **Zerubbabel** and **Jeshua**) 521 B.C.
- **The Second Temple** is completed 516 B.C.
- **Ezra** (the priest and scribe) Returns to Jerusalem in 458 B.C.

THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

- **Nehemiah** Leads the Fourth Return to Jerusalem in 445 B.C.
- **Nehemiah** Rebuilds the city of Jerusalem in 445 B.C. to 433 B.C.

THE BOOK OF TOBIT

- **Tobit** Deported to Nineveh in 721 B.C.

THE BOOK OF JUDITH

- **King Nebuchadnezzar** Rules **Babylon** from 605 B.C. to 562 B.C.

THE BOOK OF ESTHER

- **King Ahasuerus (Xerxes)** Rules **Persia** from 486 B.C. to 465 B.C.

FIRST BOOK OF MACCABEES

- **King Alexander the Great** Rules **Greece** from 336 B.C. to 323 B.C.
- **King Antiochus IV (Epiphanes)** Rules **Israel** from 175 B.C. to 163 B.C.
- **King Antiochus IV** desecrates the **Temple** 167 B.C.
- **Judas Maccabeus** Leads the Jews from 166 B.C. to 161 B.C.
- **The Temple is Rededicated (Hanukkah)** 164 B.C.
- **King Antiochus V (Eupator)** Rules Israel from 163 B.C. to 161 B.C.
- **Jonathan Maccabeus** Leads the Jews from 160 B.C. to 143 B.C.
- **Simon Maccabeus** Leads the Jews from 143 B.C. to 135 B.C.
- **John Hyrcanus** (son of Simon) Leads the Jews from 135 B.C. to 104 B.C.

SECOND BOOK OF MACCABEES

- **King Seleucus** Rules Asia from 187 B.C. to 175 B.C.
- **King Antiochus IV (Epiphanes)** Rules from 175 B.C. to 163 B.C.
- **High Priest Onias III** Murdered in 171 B.C.
- **Judas Maccabeus** Leads the Jews from 166 B.C. to 161 B.C.
- **King Antiochus V (Eupator)** Rules from 163 B.C. to 161 B.C.
- **King Demetrius** Begins his rule in 161 B.C.
- **Defeat of Nicanor's army** 161 B.C.