

TEST #7 (Fill in this final chart from memory. **TIP:** It may be easier to fill in the Eras, then go back and fill in the Central Figures and Main Locations).

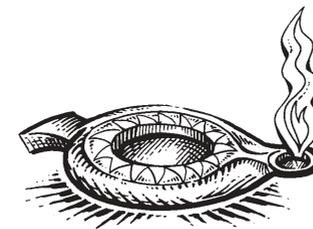
<u>ERA</u>	<u>FIGURE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>STORYLINE</u>
_____	_____	_____	To be supplied later ...
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

An Introductory Guide To Understanding The Scriptures

PART THREE

The Old Testament Timeline



"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path"
PSALM 119:105

When you are in an aeroplane, being propelled through the atmosphere at 40,000 feet, it is often difficult to gain a proper perspective about objects on the ground.

The problem with perspective also emerges if, when you are flying over a mountain range, you want to identify which are the higher mountain peaks. But if you were to fly over the mountain range after a light snowfall, (since the snow will only lie on the higher elevations), the highest peaks stand out, for they are the ones with snow on them.

Only The Highest Peaks

As we begin our examination of the stories of the Old Testament (the first 17 books - 'History'), we will only pause to look at the highest peaks - the 'ones with snow on them.'

We will take:

1. the main periods of history (eras);
2. link them with the central historic figures of the era;
3. add the primary locations where the main/key events took place;
4. then give you a short story line - a summary of what happened.

Entire Storyline In Twelve Eras

The entire storyline of the Bible can be divided into 12 main eras ... with a central figure and main location for each era.

- 9 of these eras are found in the Old Testament,
- and 3 are found in the New Testament.

In this study we are dealing only with the Old Testament period and in this study we intend only to complete the first 3 columns in the chart:

- the main **eras**,
- the central **figures**,
- and the main **locations**.

We will add the 'summary story line,' plus the New Testament events, at a later date.

TEST #5 (From the options given, fill in the blanks in the following chart, matching the location to the Era and Central Figure. NB. A location may be used more than once).

<u>ERA</u>	<u>FIGURE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>STORYLINE</u>
Creation	Adam	_____	
Patriarch	Abraham	_____	
Exodus	Moses	_____	
Conquest	Joshua	_____	To be supplied
Judges	Samuel	_____	later ...
Kingdom	David	_____	
Exile	Daniel	_____	
Return	Ezra	_____	
Silence	Pharisees	_____	

A Vital Chart

You are now ready to begin final mastery of a very critical chart in the History of the Old Testament. When you master this chart, you have travelled a considerable distance in understanding the overview of the Old Testament.

From this point on, we will enter into more 'fine details' – but already we have laid a good foundation that can be built on in successive studies.

TEST #6 (Fill in the blanks in the following chart, completing whatever detail is missing in each line - Era, Central Figure, or Location).

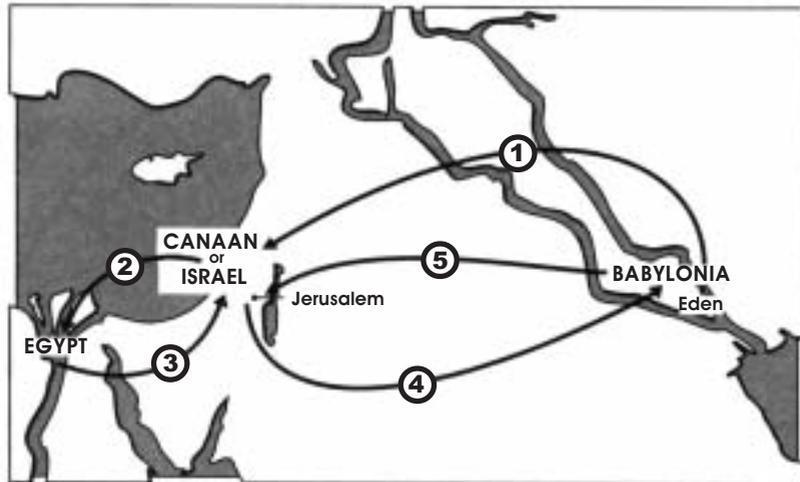
<u>ERA</u>	<u>FIGURE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>STORYLINE</u>
Creation	Adam	_____	
Patriarch	_____	Canaan	
_____	Moses	Egypt	
Conquest	_____	Canaan	To be supplied
Judges	_____	_____	later ...
_____	David	Israel	
Exile	Daniel	_____	
Return	_____	Jerusalem	
_____	Pharisees	Jerusalem	

TEST #4 (Arc of Bible History: fill in the names of the eras):

1. C _____
 2. P _____
 3. E _____
 4. C _____
 5. J _____
 6. K _____
 7. E _____
 8. R _____
 9. S _____
 10., 11., & 12. ...All NT eras.

Map Showing Movement Through The Eras

The map shows the movement during the major ERAS of the Old Testament. Beginning at Eden, we go to Canaan; then Egypt, Canaan, Babylonia, Jerusalem.



A. THE 9 MAIN ERAS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. CREATION

The creation of the world and man, and early events.

2. PATRIARCH

The birth of the Hebrew people through a family of patriarchs (father/ruler of family/tribe), covering a period of two hundred years.

3. EXODUS

The exodus of the Hebrew people as they are delivered from 400 years of slavery in Egypt, receive the law, set up the tabernacle, and then wander in the wilderness.

4. CONQUEST

The conquest and partition of the Promised Land by the Hebrew people upon their return from Egypt.

5. JUDGES

A 450-year period during which Israel is governed by rulers called 'judges.'

6. KINGDOM

An additional 400-year period during which Israel becomes a full-fledged nation ruled by a monarchy.

7. EXILE

A 70-year period during which Israel's leaders live in exile, having been conquered by foreign countries.

8. RETURN

The return of exiled Jews to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and the temple.

9. SILENCE

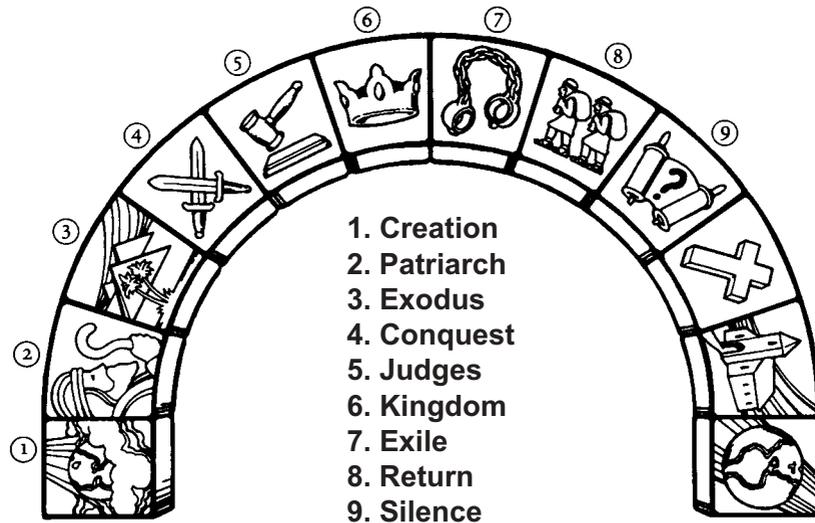
A final 400-year period between the close of the Old Testament and the opening of the New Testament.

We will begin to chart the **Story of the Old Testament**.

<u>ERA</u>	<u>FIGURE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>STORYLINE</u>
Creation			
Patriarch			
Exodus			
Conquest	To be supplied later ...	To be supplied later ...	To be supplied later ...
Judges			
Kingdom			
Exile			
Return			
Silence			

ARC OF BIBLE HISTORY

A good way to remember the historical storyline of the Bible is to visualize the main eras using symbols ... such as The Arc of Bible History pictured below.

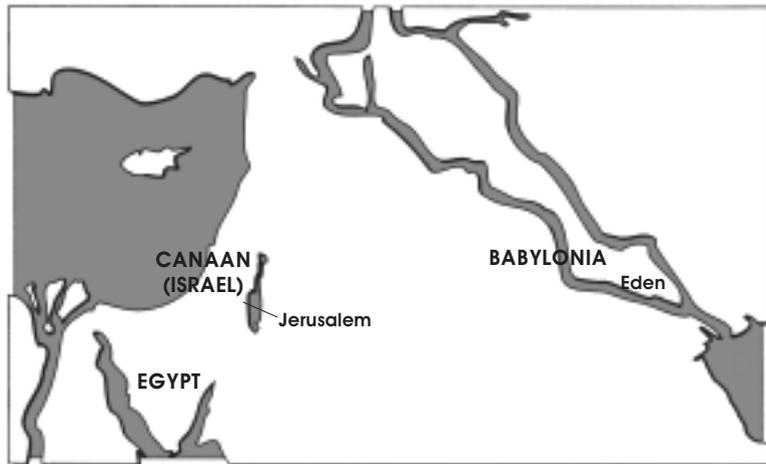


3. Exodus	Moses	Egypt	During a severe famine, the Israelites migrate to Egypt and are enslaved 400 years before their march to freedom.
4. Conquest	Joshua	Canaan	Joshua leads the conquest of the Promised Land in Canaan.
5. Judges	Samuel	Canaan	The Israelites live in Canaan under a loose tribal system ruled by judges for the next 450yrs.
6. Kingdom	David	Israel	With the establishing of a formal monarchy, the land is now referred to by the national name of 'Israel.'
7. Exile	Daniel	Babylonia	Because of judgment for national sin, Israel is conquered by foreign nations, finally forcing her leaders into 70 years of exile in Babylon.
8. Return	Ezra	Jerusalem	The exiled Israelites are allowed to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and temple, though they remain under the dominion of Persia.
9. Silence	Pharisees	Jerusalem	Though dominion of the land changes from Persia to Greece to Rome, Israel is allowed to worship in Jerusalem without disruption for the next 400 years of "silence."

C. THE 9 MAIN LOCATIONS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Map of the Old Testament Story

Our final task is to identify the **general or primary geographic location** of the events of the main eras of the Old Testament – the chief places where all the action took place.



ERA:	FIGURE:	LOCATION:	DESCRIPTION:
1. Creation	Adam	Eden	The garden of Eden, where Adam was created. Near the convergence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.
2. Patriarch	Abraham	Canaan	Abraham migrates from Ur, near Eden, to Canaan, where he and the other patriarchs live until the time of slavery in Egypt.

TEST #1 (Filling in the Eras)

Write in the correct era on the line matching the description.

<u>OPTIONS:</u>	<u>ERA:</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION:</u>
Exile	_____	The creation of the world and man, and early events
Judges	_____	The birth of the Hebrew people through a family of patriarchs, covering a period of 200 years
Creation	_____	The exodus of the Hebrew people as they are delivered out of 400 years of slavery in Egypt
Kingdom	_____	The conquest of the Promised Land by the Hebrew people upon their return from Egypt
Patriarch	_____	A 450-year period during which Israel is governed by rulers called judges
Conquest	_____	An additional 400-year period during which Israel becomes a fully-fledged nation ruled by a monarchy
Return	_____	A 70-year period during which Israel's leaders live in exile, having been conquered by foreign countries
Silence	_____	The return of the exiled Jews to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and the temple
Exodus	_____	A final 400-year period between the close of the Old Testament and the opening of the New Testament.

B. THE 9 CENTRAL FIGURES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Now we will add the Central Figure to our story-line chart.

<u>ERA:</u>	<u>FIGURE:</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION:</u>
Creation	Adam	The first man
Patriarch	Abraham	The first patriarch
Exodus	Moses	The leader of the exodus
Conquest	Joshua	The leader of Israel's army
Judges	Samuel	The greatest judge
Kingdom	David	The most successful Israelite king
Exile	Daniel	The major exilic prophet
Return	Ezra	The central return leader
Silence	Pharisees	The religious leaders

SPOTLIGHT ON ... ADAM – THE FIRST MAN

1. When were Adam and Eve created?

If Old Testament history and the ages in **Genesis 5** are computed, Adam and Eve were likely created in approximately 4000 B.C.

2. How many children did Adam and Eve have?

The Bible does not give us a specific number. We are told that Adam and Eve had Cain (**Genesis 4:1**), Abel (**Genesis 4:2**), Seth (**Genesis 4:25**), and many other sons and daughters (**Genesis 5:4**). Considering their long life spans (Adam lived for 930 years; **Genesis 5:5**), and the command given to them to "Be fruitful, and multiply" (**Genesis 1:28**), it seems reasonable to conclude they had many sons and daughters.

3. Were Adam and Eve cavemen?

Genesis 3 records Adam and Eve having a fully intelligent conversation with God. They were not "ape-like" or intellectually deficient by any means. As the product of God's genius and grace, Adam and Eve were the most perfect human beings in world history. Their immediate descendants were extremely skilful (cf. **Genesis 4:19-22**).

4. Were Adam and Eve the first human pair?

The answer to this question has huge implications for the message of

TEST #2 (Fill in the blanks)

<u>ERA:</u>	<u>FIGURE:</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION:</u>
Creation	Adam	The first _____
Patriarch	Abraham	The first _____
Exodus	Moses	The leader of the _____
Conquest	Joshua	The leader of Israel's _____
Judges	Samuel	The greatest _____
Kingdom	David	The most successful Israelite _____
Exile	Daniel	The major exilic _____
Return	Ezra	The central _____ leader
Silence	Pharisees	The _____ leaders

TEST #3 (Match the era with the key figure)

<u>ERA:</u>	<u>FIGURE:</u>	<u>OPTIONS:</u>
Creation	_____	Moses
Patriarch	_____	Daniel
Exodus	_____	Abraham
Conquest	_____	Joshua
Judges	_____	Pharisees
Kingdom	_____	Ezra
Exile	_____	David
Return	_____	Samuel
Silence	_____	Adam

Story of the Old Testament

<u>ERA</u>	<u>FIGURE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>STORYLINE</u>
Creation	Adam	Eden	
Patriarch	Abraham	Canaan	
Exodus	Moses	Egypt	
Conquest	Joshua	Canaan	To be supplied later ...
Judges	Samuel	Canaan	
Kingdom	David	Israel	
Exile	Daniel	Babylonia	
Return	Ezra	Jerusalem	
Silence	Pharisees	Jerusalem	

shedding of His blood (1 **Corinthians 15:21&22**; cf. **Ephesians 1:7**; **Hebrews 9:22**).

Seven centuries before Christ's incarnation and death, the Prophet Isaiah identified Him as the 'Kinsman-Redeemer,' i.e. one who is related by blood to those he redeems (cf. **Isaiah 59:20** where the same Hebrew word *goel* is used to describe Boaz's relationship to Ruth; **Ruth 3&4**).

Therefore, only descendants of the first man Adam can be saved.

5. How long were Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden before they sinned?

The Bible does not explicitly tell us how long Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden before they sinned. Adam and Eve did not conceive any children until after the Fall (**Genesis 4:1&2**), so it is highly unlikely they were in the Garden for very long.

6. Were Adam and Eve saved?

While the Bible does not specifically tell us whether Adam and Eve were saved, we do know that:

- Adam and Eve were the only two human beings who knew about God before they became tainted with sin. It is likely that they still knew God better and believed in Him more after their sin than any of us do today. God continued to talk with Adam and Eve and provide for them after the Fall (**Genesis 3:8-19**).
- Adam and Eve knew of God's promise that He would provide a Saviour (**Genesis 3:15**);
- God made garments of skin for Adam and Eve after the Fall (**Genesis 3:21**) – the first animal sacrifice, foreshadowing the eventual death of Christ on the cross for sin.

These facts demonstrate that Adam and Eve were "saved" and did indeed go to Heaven / Paradise when they died.

the gospel, as the Bible makes it clear that only the descendants of Adam can be saved.

Adam – The first man

1 Corinthians 15:45 informs us that Adam was "the first man." God did not start by making a whole group of men. He made one man - and that was Adam.

Eve – The first woman

It is recorded in **Genesis 3:20**, "And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living." In other words, all people are descendants of Adam and Eve - she was the first woman.

In **Genesis 2:20**, we are told that when Adam looked at the animals, he could not find a mate; there was no one of his kind. Eve was made from Adam's rib (or side, Hebrew *tsela*, **Genesis 2:21-24**)—a totally unique event.

Jesus (**Matthew 19:4-6**) and Paul (**Ephesians 5:31**) use this historical and one-time event as the doctrinal foundation for the marriage of one man to one woman. Their message is straightforward: "God made Adam and Eve, **not** Adam and Steve ... and this is how He intended it to stay!"

All this makes it obvious that there was only one man, Adam, and one woman, Adam's wife, at the beginning, and there were never any other people who were not their descendants (cf. **Acts 17:26**).

Who was Cain's Wife?

This automatically solves the perceived problem of who Cain married. Many skeptics have claimed that, for Cain to find a wife, there must have been other 'races' of people on the Earth who were not descendants of Adam and Eve. **Genesis 5:4** tells us that Adam and Eve "begat sons and daughters." One of these daughters had to become Cain's wife!

Many people immediately reject this conclusion by arguing that you cannot marry your relation. The truth is, anyone who marries, marries a relation! If you do not marry your relation, then you do not marry a human! All people are descendants of Adam and Eve—all are of 'one blood.'

God's Law

Provided marriage was between one man and one woman for life (based on **Genesis 1&2**), originally when close relatives (even brothers and sisters) married each other they did not break God's law. Abraham married his half-sister (**Genesis 20:12**), and God blessed this union to produce the Hebrew people through Isaac and Jacob. It was not until some 400 years later that God gave Moses laws that forbade such marriages.

Biological deformities

Today, brothers and sisters (and half-brothers and half-sisters, etc.) are not permitted by law to marry because their children have an unacceptably high risk of being deformed.

However, when the first two people were created, they were physically perfect. Everything God made was "very good" (**Genesis 1:31**), so their genes were perfect—no mistakes!

But, when sin entered the world (because of Adam; **Genesis 3:6ff**, **Romans 5:12**), God cursed the world so that the perfect creation then began to degenerate, i.e., suffer death and decay (**Romans 8:22**). Over thousands of years, this degeneration has produced all sorts of genetic mistakes in living things.

Belonging to the first generation of children ever born, Cain (as well as his brothers and sisters) would have received virtually no imperfect genes from Adam or Eve. The effects of sin and the curse would have been minimal to start with (it takes time for these copying errors to accumulate). In this situation, brother and sister could have married with God's approval, without any potential to produce deformed offspring.

The law forbidding marriage between close relatives was not given until the time of Moses (**Leviticus 18–20**). By this stage in human history, degenerative mistakes would have built up in the human race to such an extent that it was necessary for God to forbid brother-sister (and close relative) marriage. (Also, there were plenty of people on the Earth by now, so there was no necessity for close relations to marry).

Implications For The Gospel

The most important aspect of this topic is: if we cannot demonstrate

the fact that all humans can trace their ancestry back to Adam and Eve, then the whole gospel message runs into problems.

Adam – Our Representative

Romans 5:12 teaches that "by one man sin entered into the world" and that death then "passed upon all men." Because Adam was the federal (representative) head of the human race, when he sinned, the death penalty that he received as judgment for his sin also passed on to all his descendants.

The idea that there were 'preAdamic men' or other human-like creatures in the world unaffected by Adam's sin is theological nonsense. "As by the offense of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life" (**Romans 5:18**).

Man's Fall meant that Adam and all of his descendants would have been separated from God in our sinful state forever.

However, the good news is that there is a way for us to return to God!

Because a man brought sin and death into the world, the descendants of Adam need another man – another representative, without sin, but also a member of the human race – to pay the penalty for sin and the resulting judgment of death.

Where could this sinless Man be found? - as every man had sinned (**Romans 3:23**)!

God Himself provided the solution. Paul tells us in **1 Corinthians 15** that God provided another Adam!

Christ – The last Adam

The Son of God took on a human nature in addition to His full deity (**Hebrews 2:11-18**), becoming a perfect God-man — Jesus Christ.

- In His humanity He was a descendant of Adam (through the family line of Noah, Abraham and David) ... He therefore became our relation! He is called "the last Adam" (**1 Corinthians 15:45**), because He took the place of the first Adam.

- Christ became the new head and, because He was sinless, He was able to pay the penalty for sinners on the cross by His death and the