

THE BIBLE THAT JESUS KNEW

A SERMON SERIES ON
THE OLD TESTAMENT

BACKGROUND NOTES
INCLUDING

Sermon dates and themes
An Old Testament timeline
A glossary of commonly used words

The bible that Jesus knew

Sermon dates

Sunday 10 June - In the beginning

Sunday 17 - Pause from the series for a talk about Fegans work with young people and mental illness

Sunday 24 June - Promised Land

Sunday 1 July - Good Kings, Bad Kings (at the 8:00 & 9:15 only)

Sunday 8 July - Exile

Sunday 15 July - Jesus the Jew

Other than on 1 July, the sermon series will be preached at all 3 services, the 8:00, the 9:15 and the 10:45 each Sunday.

A simple glossary of Old Testament words

The Apocrypha

The biblical books received by the early church as part of the Greek version of the Old Testament, but not included in the Hebrew Bible. Written between 300 B.C. to A.D. 100. The books of the Apocrypha are accepted by the Roman Catholic churches as part of Scripture, but not by the Protestant churches. The Anglican church formally says they are to be read 'for example of life and instruction of manners' but not to establish doctrine.

The Covenant

A mutual bond entered into voluntarily by two parties by which each pledges himself or herself to do something for the other. There are 285 mentions of the word in the Old Testament - including many different 'covenants'. Most of them are between God and His people. The most important are between God and Abraham; you can read about them in Genesis 12, where Abraham is promised that God will make his descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky.

The Exile

The period following the expulsion of the Jews from Jerusalem following defeat by the Babylonians in 536BC

Torah

Strictly and commonly speaking, Torah is defined as "law" and refers to the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament. More broadly, it may refer to the whole Old Testament or the whole of Jewish religious writing both ancient and modern

The Passover

A holy day celebrated in the spring to commemorate the exodus of the Jews from Egypt.

Pentateuch

A name derived from Greek for the first five books of the Old Testament

Post-exilic period

The period following the exile

Shema

The Jewish confession of faith; *Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One. Blessed is His name, whose glorious kingdom is forever and ever.* Its name is derived from the first word of the first of the three Scriptural passages of which it consists; Deut. 6:4-9, 11:13-21, Num. 15:37-41

An Old Testament Timeline

Key:-

Bolded black words are books of the Bible

Red words are the names of people in the Bible.

Blue words are concerning idol worship.

Approx dates	What's happening
2000 BC	<p>Abraham leaves his homeland (modern Iraq) in response to God's call God seems impressed with his faith God speaks to him and makes a covenant with him</p> <p>(It is expected that Job was living around this time also, in the same region as Abraham)</p>
1700 BC	<p>Joseph is ambushed by his brothers and sold to Egyptian slave traders He ends up becoming effective Prime Minister after a series of events His brothers (now very sorry) and whole family then join him in Egypt to escape famine, but successive Pharaoh's enslave their descendants for 400 years.</p>
1300 BC	<p>Moses leads them out of Egypt, through the Red Sea and the Sinai desert, they receive the Ten Commandments, and then enter the promised land. Moses is thought to have written the Torah (first five books of Bible)</p>
1200 – 1000 BC	<p>The time of the Judges (Gideon, Samson, Deborah), this time was also when the story of Ruth, Naomi and Boaz happened. The prophet Samuel anoints Saul to be the first king of Israel.</p>
1000 BC	<p>Saul's heart is not dependant on Yahweh, and Samuel anoints David, son of Jesse, to be the next king. Wars with the Philistines (including Goliath). When Saul dies in battle, David becomes king. He writes many Psalms.</p>
900 BC	<p>Solomon is the son of David and Bathsheba, and he becomes the next king, and he builds the Temple in Jerusalem. Known for wisdom, he is thought to have written Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Songs of Songs.</p>
931 BC	<p>Solomon chooses Rehoboam to be his heir to the throne, because Rehoboam was the son of an Ammonite princess and Soloman thought this was a good idea to strengthen diplomatic relations here.</p>

	<p>Soon after Rehoboam was appointed, the kingdom split, with the northern tribes rebelling against Rehoboam's leadership. The rebellion was led by Jeroboam, who set himself up as king.</p>	
	<p>The Kingdom of Israel (initially under Jeroboam)</p>	<p>The Kingdom of Judah (initially under Rehoboam)</p>
931 BC	<p>Jeroboam set up two golden calves to be 'the gods who brought you out of Egypt' in Bethel, and made this the new religious centre of Israel (as opposed to the Temple in Jerusalem, where Rehoboam was based). He and then his son Nadab ruled until 910 BC, when Baasha took over by force. His son Elah was then king when Zimri (his servant) killed the entire family and took over, to be king only for a week until Omri (another commander enforced control)</p>	<p>Unfortunately Rehoboam and his wife Maacah (son of Absalom) made some questionable moves... Rehoboam put off the entire northern tribes by his autocratic and harsh leadership, such that they set up their own kingdom under Jeroboam. Maacah was a proponent of the religion to the goddess Asherah, a fertility god. The Bible text infers that she is also the mother of Asa, who is the son of her own son Abijah. However, Asa refused her leadership and her position as 'gebira (queen mother and figurehead of the fertility religion) and had her sanctioned to quarters with no public office. He reinstated the worship of Yahweh again.</p> <p>Asa ruled in Judah for 41 years</p>
875 BC	<p>The year that Ahab, son of Omri, became king of Israel. He married Jezebel, the Sidonian princess, who brought the worship of Baal to the people of Israel. This was the time of Elijah and Elisha. Wars with Syria, Jezebel arranges to have Naboth killed because Ahab wanted his land. Ahab dies in 843 BC while disguised as a foot soldier in battle with the Syrians (again). Ahaziah his son became king for 2 years, but fell through the roof,</p>	<p>Four years after Ahab became king of Israel, Asa finally died and his son Jehoshaphat became king (in 871 BC). Jehoshaphat and Ahab seemed to be on good terms (1 King 22)</p> <p>Jehoshaphat agreed to fight the Syrians with Ahab, after hearing from Micah the prophet.</p> <p>Jehoshaphat also agreed to fight the Moabites with Jehoram, after hearing from Elisha.</p> <p>Each time Jehoshaphat fought he insisted on hearing from Yahweh first, through a</p>

	<p>and had an interesting run in with Elijah (in 2 Kings 1). His brother, Jehoram, took the throne then, because Ahaziah had no sons.</p> <p>Jehu takes the throne of Israel and kills the whole of Ahab's descendants and has Jezebel pushed out of a window to her death also.</p>	<p>prophet, despite the other kings worshipping mainly Baal and Asherah.</p> <p>Jehoshaphat's mistake was his alliances. His son Jehoram married Ahab's daughter Athaliah. Jehoram was king for 7 years then he died and their son, Ahaziah became king of Judah in 842 BC.</p> <p>Ahaziah went with his (maternal) uncle Joram to war with Syria (again). After the war both men are assassinated by Jehu in 841 BC - Athaliah becomes queen in Judah (after murdering all her grandsons - except Joash who was hidden)</p>
835 BC	<p>Jehu had wiped out Baal worship from Israel, the legacy of Ahab and Jezebel, but not the worship of the golden calves that Jeroboam got started 100yrs before. God was happy that Baal worship had gone though, and happy with the measure of single-mindedness Jehu showed, and promised Jehu four generations of his would hold the throne in Israel.</p> <p>His son Jehoahaz did not follow Yahweh though, and continued both golden calf and Asherah worship. After continual wars at their northern border with Syria, Jehoahaz sought Yahweh, and relief came (possibly through the threat to Syria of the advancing Assyrian</p>	<p>Joash (aged seven) becomes king in Judah, highly guarded by priests in the Temple. He reigned for 39 years, and repaired the Temple.</p>

	<p>regime).</p> <p>His son Joash (or Jehoash) took over in 798 BC and saw the three-time victory with Syria after the conflagration with Elisha in 2 Kings 13.</p> <p>His son Jeroboam II still worshipped idols, but Israel enjoyed prosperity in his reign, as well as borders of Solomonic proportions. The prophets Jonah, Hosea and Amos prophesied during his reign (782 - 753 BC)</p> <p>His son Zechariah survived only 6 months on the throne before being struck down by Shallum in 752 BC</p>	<p>Joash's son Amaziah became king in 796 BC. He went to war against Joash (king of Israel) but both survived. He ended up on the throne for 29 years.</p> <p>In 767 BC his son Uzziah (also known as Azariah, confusingly) became king, who followed Yahweh, and reigned for a staggering 52 years (but the final 10 years he was incapacitated by illness).</p>
752 - 722 BC	<p>A series of very short reigns of various men who take the Israeli throne by force and assassination (Shallum for one month, then the nightmare of Menahem for 10 years, then Pekahiah his son for 2 years who was killed by his army captain Pekah (who reigned for 20 years), finally killed by Hoshea in 732 BC who then reigned for 9 years before the Assyrians invaded and took Israel into captivity in 722 BC.</p>	<p>Jotham was Uzziah's son who became king in 750 BC. He followed Yahweh also but did not abolish idolatry from Judah.</p> <p>In 735 BC his son Ahaz became king, and during this reign his own idol worship took Judah into new levels of sin: Ahaz even sacrificed his own son in the manner of the cultic religions surrounding Judah. Politically, fearing Syria, Ahaz made an agreement with Assyria, the new superpower of the time, and even made alterations to the Temple so that it resembled a temple in Assyria.</p>
715 BC	<p>Hezekiah (Ahaz's son) became king in Judah. He trusted in Yahweh with all his heart, and removed the places of idol worship and cut down the pillar of Asherah. He reigned for 29 years, and saw Assyria taking the Israeli tribes into captivity in 722BC, and saw his own city, Jerusalem, surrounded by the Assyrian army in 701 BC. He trusted the Lord still, and astonishingly this ferocious army abandoned pursuit (2 Kings 18-19). Isaiah (the prophet) counselled the king throughout this time. Both Isaiah and Micah were prophets in Jerusalem at this time.</p>	

687 BC	<p>Manesseh (Hezekiah's son) was the lynchpin of Judah's downfall. He took Judah into new levels of flagrant and blatant idolatry, sacrificing his sons and even setting up a statue of Asherah within the Temple itself. He rebuilt the idols that his father had destroyed, even bringing in Baal worship too, and worship of the stars. He was heavily involved in the occult, with fortune telling, omens and necromancy. 2 Kings 21:9 says it was worse than the terrors of the Canaanite religions before 1400BC. He shed so much innocent blood in Jerusalem during his 55 year reign. Astonishingly, he turned to Yahweh in his latter years, who seemed to have mercy on him as an individual (2 Chron 33:10-12), but the damage was already done to the society of Judah. Despite Manesseh dumping his idols outside Jerusalem's walls, Amon his son got them back into operation again... Amon only reigned for 2 years before his servants killed him, and Josiah (the eight year old boy) was instituted king in his place.</p> <p>The prophet Nahum probably prophesied around 660-640BC.</p>
640 BC	<p>Josiah sought Yahweh even as a boy (2 Chron 34:3). He destroyed the Asherah poles, the carved and metal statues, star/sun worship, the altars of Baal and all remnants of idol worship, even stretching up into the territory of the northern tribes (former Israel). He destroyed the altars of Molech at Topheth, so that children could no longer be sacrificed there. He even destroyed altars that King Solomen had built for Ashtoreth (for the Sidonians), Chemosh (the god of the Moabites), and Milcom (the god of the Ammonites). He even burned the altars that Jeroboam I had set up at Bethel for the worship of the golden calves. He removed all mediums and necromancers and household gods which were used for divination and speaking to the dead from within the family setting. He restored the Sabbath, and the Passover, but still the sins that Manesseh had started raged deep within the psyche of Judah (2 Kings 23:26-27).</p>
609 – 586 BC	<p>Josiah's son Jehoahaz reigned for 3 months before being taken as a prisoner to Egypt.</p> <p>Josiah's other son Jehoiakim became king for 11 years, when Nebucanezzar enforced servitude on him. He rebelled 3 years in, when King Neb sent marauders to destroy Jerusalem, and took the cream of society to Babylon, including Jehoiakim's son Jehoiachin, who had only just been king for 3 months at that point, but also the prophet Ezekiel, and Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.</p>

	<p>Josiah's other son, Zedekiah was then appointed king, but for only eleven years before King Neb had finally had enough of the rebellions, sacked Jerusalem, destroyed it, killed many and captured many, and left only a scanty few. Jeremiah the prophet had been in Jerusalem all this time (since 627 BC) prophesying with desperate pleas that repentance had to be heartfelt and sincere, to no avail. Jeremiah also wrote Lamentations. Other prophets of the time were Habakkuk and Zephaniah (and Ezekiel in Babylon).</p> <p>Exile for Judah 586 BC.</p>
605-539 BC	<p><u>Babylonian empire</u> – with kings Nebucanezzar, Nabonidus and Belshazzar, some of the history of which is documented in the book of Daniel.</p>
539 -331 BC	<p><u>Persian empire</u> – Cyrus the Great united the Medes and Persia, overthrowing the Babylonians and forming an enormous empire, eventually spanning from modern Greece to India. He is prophesied about in Isaiah 45. Cyrus agreed with Nehemiah for funds for the restoration of Jerusalem's wall, and state protection. Ezra restored the Law to the returning exiles.</p> <p>Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi and probably Joel and Obadiah were the 'post-exilic' prophets to the Jewish returning exiles.</p>
331-63 BC	<p><u>Greek Empire</u> – Originally Alexander the Great, who had no heir, the empire was split between 4 army commanders, the prophecies in Daniel 7-12 seem to mainly concern them.</p>
63BC - 476AD	<p><u>Roman empire</u></p>
0-33 AD	<p>Time of Jesus.</p>

