

SURVEY OF THE ENTIRE BIBLE

Introduction

The entire Bible is broadly classified under two categories; Old Testament and New Testament.

| OLD TESTAMENT - 39 BOOKS [1400 B.C. – 450 B.C.] | | NEW TESTAMENT - 27 BOOKS [A.D. 44 - A.D. 95] | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Genesis 2. Exodus 3. Leviticus 4. Numbers 5. Deuteronomy 6. Joshua 7. Judges 8. Ruth 9. 1 Samuel 10. 2 Samuel 11. 1 Kings 12. 2 Kings 13. 1 Chronicles 14. 2 Chronicles 15. Ezra 16. Nehemiah 17. Esther 18. Job 19. Psalms 20. Proverbs 21. Ecclesiastes 22. Song of Solomon | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 23. Isaiah 24. Jeremiah 25. Lamentations 26. Ezekiel 27. Daniel 28. Hosea 29. Joel 30. Amos 31. Obadiah 32. Jonah 33. Micah 34. Nahum 35. Habakkuk 36. Zephaniah 37. Haggai 38. Zechariah 39. Malachi | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Matthew 2. Mark 3. Luke 4. John 5. Acts 6. Romans 7. 1 Corinthians 8. 2 Corinthians 9. Galatians 10. Ephesians 11. Philippians 12. Colossians | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. 1 Thessalonians 14. 2 Thessalonians 15. 1 Timothy 16. 2 Timothy 17. Titus 18. Philemon 19. Hebrews 20. James 21. 1 Peter 22. 2 Peter 23. 1 John 24. 2 John 25. 3 John 26. Jude 27. Revelation |

These two categories can be further classified according to the occurrence of certain key events. There are 11 key events pertaining to the Old Testament and 4 as pertaining to the New Testament [see diagram below]. Each of the key events will be surveyed in this study.

OLD TESTAMENT TIMELINE

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|---------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Creation | Fall | Flood | Babel | Patriarchs | Exodus | Conquest | Judges | Kingdom | Exile & Return | Silence |
| Beginning – 2164 BC | | | | 2165 – 1445 BC | 1445-1405 BC | 1406-1398 BC | 1398-1043 | 1043–586 BC | 605–430 BC | 430–4 BC |

NEW TESTAMENT TIMELINE

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Life of Christ | Birth and Growth of Church | Letters | Future |
| 4 BC–30 AD | 30–96 AD | 44–96 AD | AD?? |

Let us begin by looking at key events in the Old Testament.

OLD TESTAMENT TIMELINE

| | | | | | | | | | | |
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1. CREATION [Genesis 1–2]

- **All out of Nothing.** God created the entire universe from nothing in six successive 24-hour days. It is important to note that the Bible says, “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day” [Gen 1:31]. And God rested from his works of creation on Day 7. It was a perfect world, untouched by sin.

6 Days 24-Hours-A-Day Creation Sequence

Days 1–3 “God FORMED”

Days 4–6 “God FILLED”

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| DAY 1 | Light | Day 4 | Sun, Moon, Stars |
| Day 2 | Heavens and Earth | Day 5 | Sea Creatures, Birds |
| Day 3 | Land, Vegetation | Day 6 | Land Animals, Man |

Each day was 24 hours is clear when we read Exodus 20:8-11. In the context of giving the 10 Commandments, God’s motive for the sabbath day command was based on the pattern that he himself had set in the creation week:

“⁸ Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God...¹¹ **For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.**”

It would make absolutely no sense if somehow the 6 days of creation mentioned here was different in duration from the 6 days of labor and work!

- **Adam and Eve.** Adam and Eve were created in God’s image on Day 6 [Gen 1:26-27]. To be created in God’s image means to possess certain attributes of God. Examples are speech, emotions, intellect, etc. Even after the fall of man in Genesis 3, the image of God is still present in all human beings [Col 3:10; Jas 3:9].

Adam and Eve were put in charge of the Garden of Eden with one prohibition [Gen 2:15-17].

The exact location of the Garden of Eden is not certain. However, since it was near the convergence of four rivers, two of which are Tigris and Euphrates, it is generally considered to be near Babylon, which is in modern day Iraq.

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2. FALL [Genesis 3]

- **Temptation and Fall.** Satan in the form of a serpent tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God by eating fruit from the forbidden tree. The very first question recorded in the bible is that which came from the lips of Satan and it was a question designed to doubt God’s Word “Did God really say?” [Gen 3:1]. And unfortunately, they both did succumb to the temptation [Gen 3:6-7].

- **Picture of Grace.** God judged all the guilty parties—Adam, Eve and Satan [Gen 3:14-19]. However, in his grace, God killed some animals to provide clothing for Adam and Eve [Gen 3:21] as a temporary covering for their sin.

By this act, God gave a picture of the ultimate sacrifice he would provide through his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of all our sins.

- **Broken Fellowship.** Adam and Eve were driven out of the Garden and thereby lost the sweet fellowship they once had with God [Gen 3:22-24]. The perfect world was corrupted due to the entrance of sin.

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3. FLOOD

[Genesis 4–10]

- **First Murder.** The first murder in the Bible occurred in Genesis 4:8 where Cain, the son of Adam and Eve, and also the first human to be born by natural means kills his younger brother Abel. Jealousy and anger were the reasons behind this killing.
- **Increase of Sin.** As mankind increased, so did wickedness. God’s heart was grieved by the actions of all mankind and so decided to destroy the whole earth except Noah and his family who were different from the other people [Gen 6:5–8].

God commanded Noah to build an ark as He was planning to destroy the whole earth by a flood. It took over a hundred years for Noah to build the ark. During that time, God was patiently calling for people to turn from their evil ways through the preaching of Noah. However, none turned from their evil ways. God commanded Noah to enter into the ark with his family and various animals.

- **Flood.** God judged the world by bringing about severe rain for 40 days and 40 nights. The whole world was submerged in flood [Gen 7:19] as a result of this rain. Every human being outside the ark was destroyed in this flood as a judgment for sin.
- **Deliverance.** God brought Noah, his family and the various animal species into a new world. God promised never to destroy this earth by waters and gave the rainbow as a sign of this covenant [Gen 9:12-17]. He also increased human population through the sons of Noah [Gen 10].

MOUNT ARARAT

This is the traditional site of the landing of Noah’s Ark [Gen 8:4], although the term “Ararat” in the Bible refers to a region covering much of Modern Turkey



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4. TOWER OF BABEL [Genesis 10-11]

- **Population Increases [10].** After the flood, population increased through Noah’s family. However, within a few years of the flood, people once again turned to evil ways.
- **People Scattered.** Even though God commanded them to multiply and fill the earth [Gen 9:1], they disobeyed by settling down in one city, called Shinar [Gen 11:1-2]. At this time, there was only one language spoken in the world. As they settled there, in their pride, they started to build a great tower to try and reach heaven. God judged them for their disobedience by confusing their language. God named this place as Babel because it was here that he confused their language [Gen 11:9].

As a result, the building project was brought to a stop. The people were also forced to spread to other parts of the earth, each group going and settling where their own language was spoken. Genesis 11:1-9 records this entire incident.

TABLE OF NATIONS [Genesis 10]



OLD TESTAMENT TIMELINE

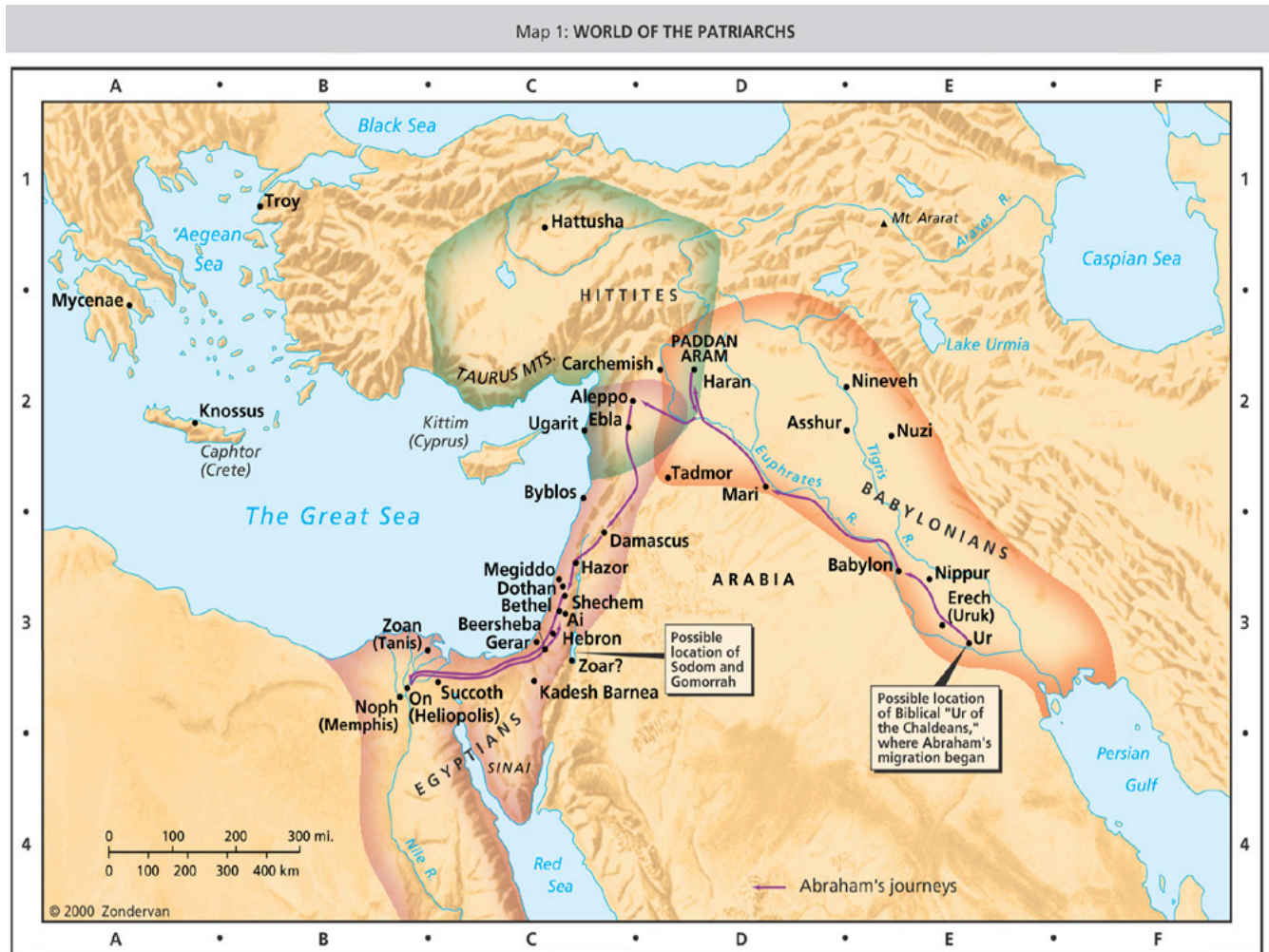
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5. PATRIARCHS [Genesis 12–50]

- **Calling of Abraham [12–15].** Genesis 12 starts with God calling one man by the name of Abram [later known as Abraham] to leave his hometown of Ur to a land that God would show him. God promised Abraham land, seed [i.e. generations of people] and blessing if he would go to the place where God would take him [called as Canaan]. Abraham obeyed God and left Ur with his wife Sarah, father Terah and nephew Lot [Gen 12:1-5].

- **Ishmael and Isaac [16–23].** In Canaan, Abraham had Ishmael through his maidservant Hagar [Gen 16: 3-4a] who would become the father of the Arabs. Abraham then had Isaac through Sarah [Gen 21:2-3] who would become the father of the Jews and also be the one through whose lineage would be the fulfillment of the promises.

JOURNEYS OF ABRAHAM



- **Esau and Jacob [24–36].** Isaac had two sons, Esau [father of Edomites; Gen 36:9] and Jacob [father of Jews; Gen 32:28]. Jacob had twelve sons through who come the twelve tribes of Israel [see Family Chart in the next page].
- **Joseph enters Egypt [37–41].** Jacob favored Joseph more than his other sons. This led to the jealousy of his brothers who sold him as a slave into Egypt [Gen 37:27-28].

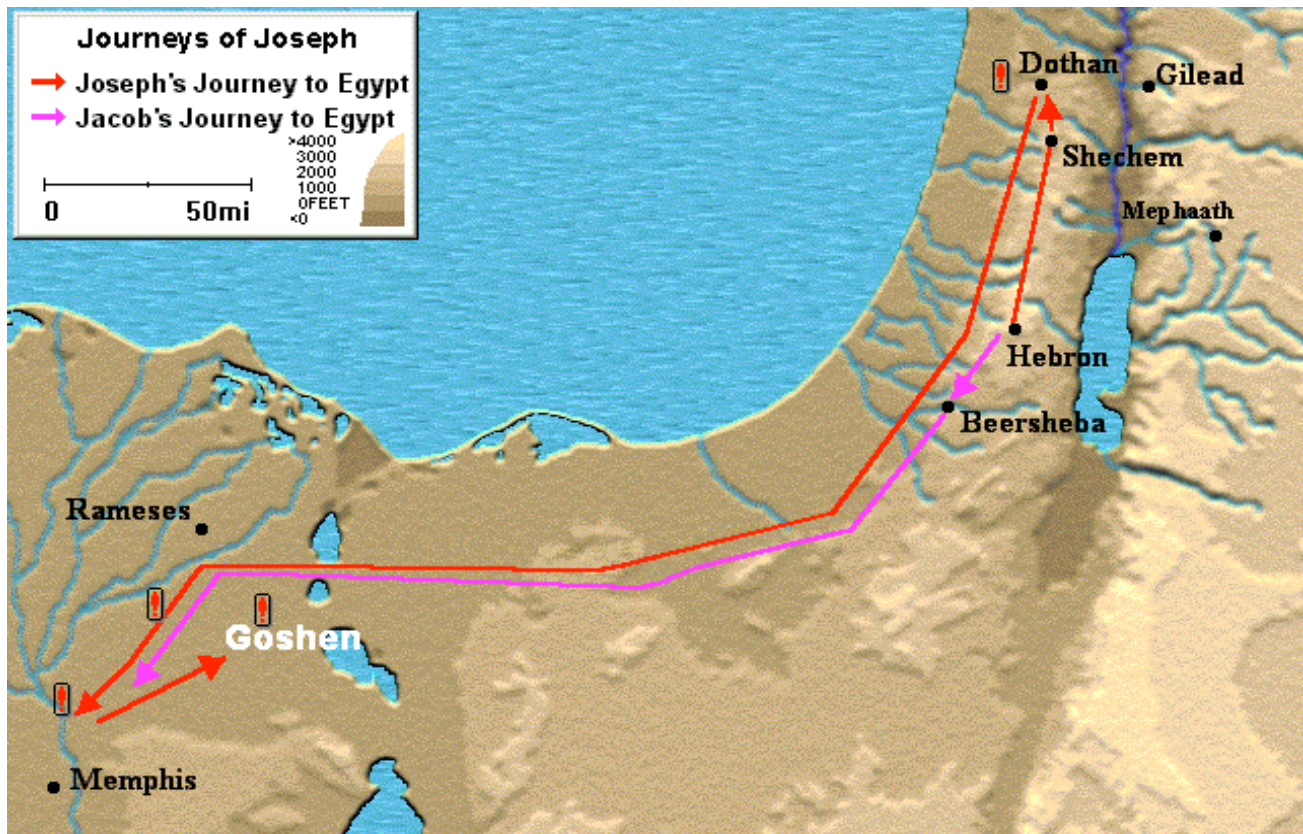
In Egypt, Joseph was a slave in the house of Potiphar, an officer in the court of Pharaoh. Due to Joseph’s refusal to have sexual relations with Potiphar’s wife, Joseph is unjustly thrown into prison [Gen 39:6-20].

While in prison, he interprets Pharaoh’s dream, which was a prediction of 7 years of abundant food to be followed by 7 years of severe famine. Pharaoh, impressed by Joseph’s gifts, gives him the responsibility to handle the food supplies for those years, a responsibility that Joseph handled brilliantly [Gen 41].

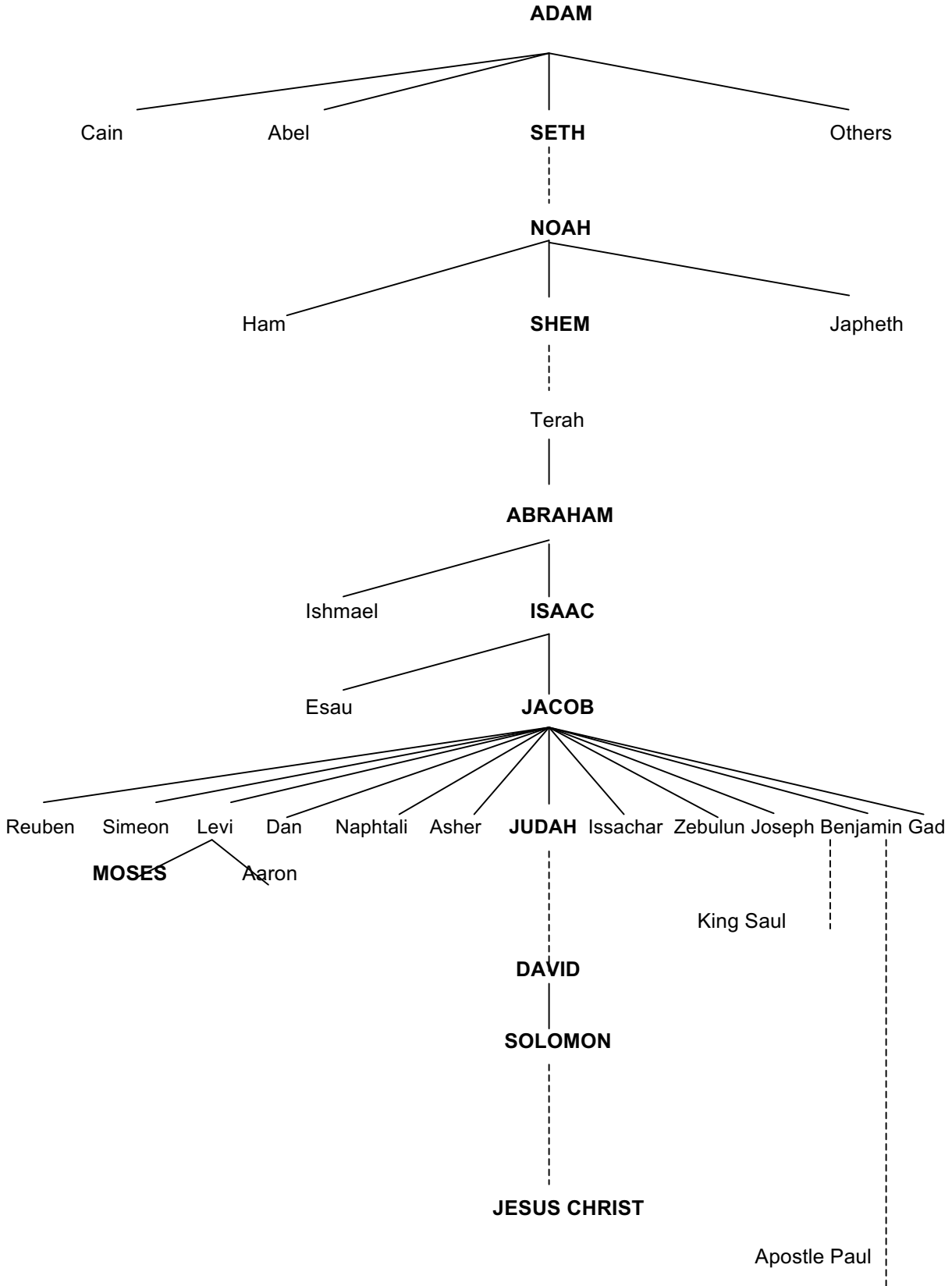
- **Jacob’s Family Unites [42–50].** Due to the famine, Jacob and his sons are forced to move to Egypt. Here, they unite with Joseph and his family. Genesis ends with the death of Jacob [Gen 49:33] and Joseph [Gen 50:26], though Joseph predicts that God will take them back to the promised land [Gen 50:24–25].

Thus ends the book of Genesis—starts with paradise and ends up with a coffin!

JOURNEYS OF JOSEPH



FAMILY CHART



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6. EXODUS

[Exodus – Deuteronomy]

- **Deliverance [Exodus 1–18].** The people of Israel grew from about 70 with Jacob’s migration [Exod 1:1-5] to over 2 million over a period of 430 years. After Joseph’s death, the people of Israel became slaves to the Egyptians [Exod 1:8-14].

God through Moses in 1445 B.C. brought about the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt [Ex 2:1-2; 3:7-10]. Exodus 4-12 records the conflict between Moses and Pharaoh culminating in God killing all the firstborn of Egypt and instituting the Passover [Ex 12:1-3, 6-7, 11, 12-13, 29-32].

God guided the Israelites through the wilderness by providing them with a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night [Exod 13:21-22].

God parted the Red Sea for the people to cross over into the other side as a final act of deliverance from the Egyptians [Exod 14:21-22, 27-28, 30-31].

- **Giving of Law [Exodus 19–40].** God gave the law [primarily referred to as Ten Commandments - Exod 20:1-17] and descriptions on building the Tabernacle at Mount Sinai [Exod 25-40]. It's interesting to note that only 2 chapters were given to describe creation, whereas nearly 15 chapters dedicated for the tabernacle!

LAYOUT OF THE TABERNACLE

THE TABERNACLE AND COURT

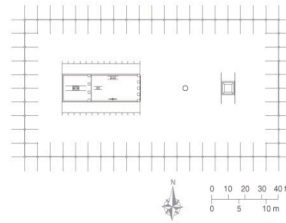
The tabernacle was a portable temple—a “tent of meeting”—within a movable courtyard (Exodus 25-31; 35-40). It was constructed after the pattern that Yahweh revealed to Moses on Mount Sinai, and was assembled in the desert as Moses led the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land. For an enlargement of the tent itself, see p. 186. The tabernacle courtyard was 150 feet (46 m) long and 75 feet (23 m) wide, totaling 11,250 square feet (1,045 square meters).

The Most Holy Place of the tabernacle tent was a 15-foot (4.6-m) cube, containing only the ark of the covenant (Ex. 25:10-22; 37:1-9). It was here that Yahweh would descend to meet with his people in a cloud theophany (divine appearance).

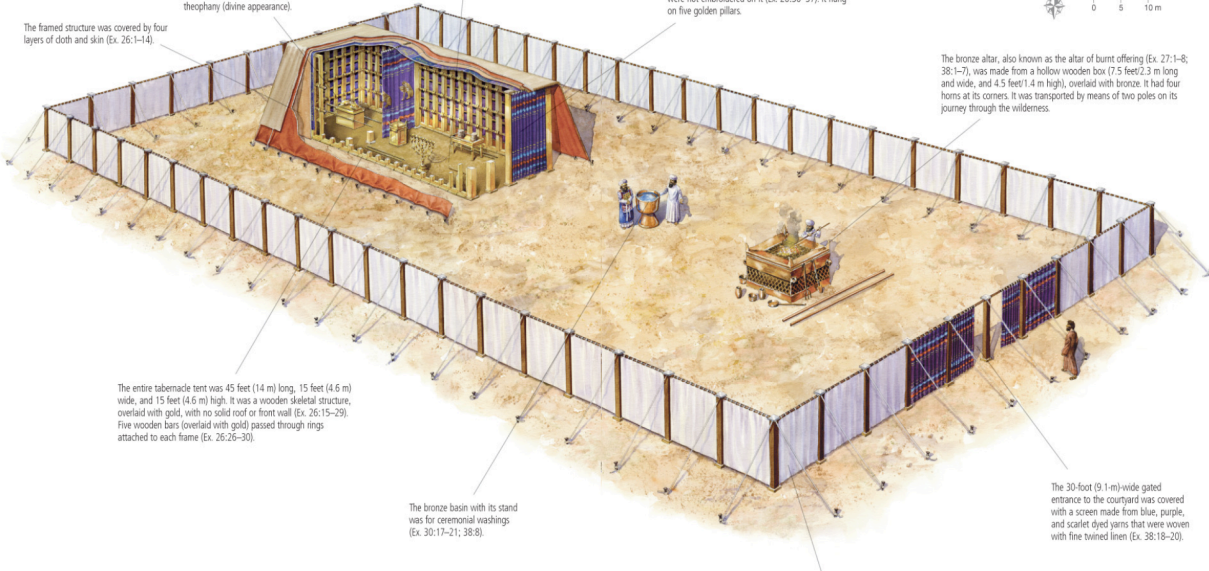
The Holy Place of the tabernacle tent was 30 feet (9.1 m) long, 15 feet (4.6 m) wide, and 15 feet (4.6 m) high. It housed the table (Ex. 25:23-30), the golden lampstand (Ex. 25:31-40; 37:17-24), and the altar of incense (Ex. 30:1-10; 37:25-29).

The veil separating the Holy Place from the tabernacle courtyard was similar to the veil separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place, except that cherubim were not embroidered on it (Ex. 26:36-37). It hung on five golden pillars.

Tabernacle and Court Architectural Plan



The framed structure was covered by four layers of cloth and skin (Ex. 26:1-14).



The bronze altar, also known as the altar of burnt offering (Ex. 27:1-8; 38:1-7), was made from a hollow wooden box (7.5 feet/2.3 m long and wide, and 4.5 feet/1.4 m high), overlaid with bronze. It had four horns at its corners. It was transported by means of two poles on its journey through the wilderness.

The entire tabernacle tent was 45 feet (14 m) long, 15 feet (4.6 m) wide, and 15 feet (4.6 m) high. It was a wooden skeletal structure, overlaid with gold, with no solid roof or front wall (Ex. 26:15-29). Five wooden bars (overlaid with gold) passed through rings attached to each frame (Ex. 26:26-30).

The bronze basin with its stand was for ceremonial washings (Ex. 30:17-21; 38:8).

The 30-foot (9.1-m)-wide gated entrance to the courtyard was covered with a screen made from blue, purple, and scarlet dyed yarns that were woven with fine twined linen (Ex. 38:18-20).

The surrounding hangings (fine twined linen curtains connected to pillars and stabilized by guy ropes and pegs) stood about 7.5 feet (2.3 m) high. The 60 wooden pillars were overlaid with bronze, stood in copper sockets, and had capitals overlaid with silver (Ex. 27:9-19; 38:9-17).

- **Rules for Worship and Holy Living [Leviticus].** The Levites were God's priests and the book of Leviticus contains many rules they needed in order to do their work which included worshipping God, making sacrifices and other daily issues concerning cleanliness. Through the Levites, God was also giving instructions concerning how people should live as his holy people! The message of this entire book can be summarized in Leviticus 19:2, "...Be holy because I, the LORD your God am holy."
- **Wilderness Wandering [Numbers].** The Israelites proceeded from Mt. Sinai to city called Kadesh Barnea [just south of Canaan] from where they sent 12 spies into the Promised Land, Canaan. While 2 of the 12 [namely Joshua and Caleb] encouraged the people to cross over, the remaining 10 gave a very discouraging report [Num 13].

The people refused to trust God in proceeding forward. As a result, God punished them by having them wander in the wilderness for 40 years [Num 14:26-35]. All people that were 20 years of age and over died in the wilderness [except Moses who died at the edge of the promised land, and Joshua, Caleb who went into the promised land].



- **Reminders Before Entering Promised Land [Deuteronomy].** Also known as the "Second Law", this book contains God reminders to the people just as they were entering the Promised Land about their history and what God did for them [Deut 2:7] and what they needed to do as God's chosen people [Deut 4:1-2, 40, 5:29].