

UNITED KINGDOM

Map 5: KINGDOM OF DAVID AND SOLOMON



DIVIDED KINGDOM

Map 6: KINGDOMS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH



- **Kingdom Divided.** Due to Solomon’s spiritual drifting, upon his death, a civil war erupted and the united kingdom was divided into two; Northern and Southern kingdoms [1 Kings 12].
- **Northern Kingdom, Israel.** This kingdom consisted of 10 tribes and retained the name “Israel” [also called “Samaria”]. The **first king of the Northern kingdom was Jeroboam** [soldier in Solomon’s army]. This kingdom **existed for a little over 200 years** during which it was ruled by **approximately 19 kings who were all unrighteous.**

This kingdom was conquered by Assyria whose capital city was Nineveh [2 Kings 17:1-6] in 722 B.C. Some were taken away as slaves to Assyria [modern day Iraq] and others were scattered to all parts of the world. The Assyrians brought many of their people [non-Jews] to live in Samaria. This led to inter-marriage between the Jews and non-Jews living in Samaria. The resulting race of people were called “**Samaritans.**”

The Jews and Samaritans were in conflict because the Samaritans were prohibited from participating in the temple rebuilding project [Neh 4:1–6]. This led to the Samaritans having their own temple at Shechem and instituting a system of worship similar to the one in Jerusalem [John 4:20–22]. They only viewed the first five books of the Old Testament [Pentateuch] as authoritative. The bitter enmity between the Jews and Samaritans continued even in the time of Christ. The Jews had no association with the Samaritans [John 4:9]. The Pharisees in contempt called the Lord “a Samaritan” [John 8:48]. However, many of the Samaritans embraced the gospel in its early stages [John 4:5–42; Acts 8:25; 15:3].

Kings of the Northern Kingdom - Israel



	KING	LENGTH OF REIGN	YEARS OF REIGN	CHARACTER	REFERENCE
1	Jeroboam	22 years	933 - 911 B.C.	Bad	1 Kings 13-14
2	Nadab	2 years	911 - 910 B.C.	Bad	1 Kings 15:25-32
3	Baasha	24 years	910 - 887 B.C.	Bad	1 Kings 15:33 - 16:7
4	Elah	2 years	887 - 886 B.C.	Bad	1 Kings 16:8-14
5	Zimri	7 days	886 B.C.	Bad	1 Kings 16:15-20
6	Omri	12 years	886 - 875 B.C.	Extra Bad	1 Kings 16:21-28
7	Ahab	22 years	875 - 854 B.C.	Worst of all	1 Kings 16:29 - 22:40
8	Ahaziah	2 years	855 - 854 B.C.	Bad	2 Kings 1
9	Jehoram (Joram)	12 years	854 - 843 B.C.	Mostly Bad	2 Kings 3-9
10	Jehu	28 years	843 - 816 B.C.	Mostly Bad	2 Kings 9-10
11	Jehoahaz	17 years	820 - 804 B.C.	Bad	2 Kings 13:1-9
12	Jehoash (Joash)	16 years	806 - 790 B. C.	Bad	2 Kings 13:10-25
13	Jerboam II	41 years	790 - 749 B.C.	Bad	2 Kings 14:23-29
14	Zechariah	6 months	748 B.C.	Bad	2 Kings 15: 8-12
15	Shallum	1 month	748 B.C.	Bad	2 Kings 15:13-15
16	Menaem	10 years	748 - 738 B.C.	Bad	2 Kings 15:16-22
17	Pekahiah	2 years	738 - 736 B.C.	Bad	2 Kings 15:23-26
18	Pekah	20 years	748 - 730 B.C.	Bad	2 Kings 15:27-31
19	Hoshea	9 years	730 - 721 B.C.	Bad	2 Kings 15:30

- **Southern Kingdom, Judah.** This kingdom consisted of two tribes, Judah and Benjamin and kept the name Judah [the largest of the two tribes]. The first king of this kingdom was Rehoboam [son of Solomon]. This kingdom fared a little better than Israel and existed for about **350 years**. About **20 kings out of whom eight were righteous ruled it** [e.g. Jehoshapat, Hezekiah, Josiah].

This kingdom was conquered by Babylon which had conquered Assyria [612 B.C.] and was the world power [2 Kgs 25:1-12; esp. vv. 8-12]. The conquest was in three stages [605 B.C., 597 B.C., and 586 B.C.]. Many of the Jews were exiled and deported to Babylon. Some of the notable deportees were Daniel and his three friends [605 B.C.].

Kings of the Southern Kingdom - Judah



	KING	LENGTH OF REIGN	YEARS OF REIGN	CHARACTER	REFERENCE
1	Rehoboam	17 years	933 - 916 B.C.	Mostly Bad	2 Chronicles 10-12
2	Abijah	3 years	915 - 913 B.C.	Mostly Bad	2 Chronicles 13
3	Asa	41 years	912 - 872 B.C.	Good	2 Chronicles 14-16
4	Jehoshaphat	25 years	874 - 850 B.C.	Good	2 Chronicles 17-20
5	Jehoram	8 years	850 - 843 B.C.	Bad	2 Chronicles 21
6	Ahaziah	1 year	843 B.C.	bad	2 Chronicles 22:1-19
7	Athaliah	6 years	843 - 837 B.C.	Devilish	2 Chronicles 22:10 - 23:21
8	Joash	40 years	843 - 803 B.C.	Mostly Good	2 Chronicles 24
9	Amaziah	29 years	803 - 775 B.C.	Mostly Good	2 Chronicles 25
10	Uzziah	52 years	787 - 735 B.C.	Good	2 Chronicles 26
11	Jotham	16 years	749 - 734 B.C.	Good	2 Chronicles 27
12	Ahaz	16 years	741 - 726 B. C.	Wicked	2 Chronicles 28
13	Hezekiah	29 years	726 - 697 B.C.	Among best	2 Chronicles 29-32
14	Manasseh	55 years	697 - 642 B.C.	Among Worst	2 Chronicles 33:1-20
15	Amon	2 years	641 - 640 B.C.	Among Worst	2 Chronicles 33:21-25
16	Josiah	31 years	639 - 608 B.C.	Among best	2 Chronicles 34-35
17	Jehoahaz	3 months	608 B.C.	Bad	2 Chronicles 36:1-4
18	Jehoiakim	11 years	608 - 597 B.C.	Wicked	2 Chronicles 36:5-8
19	Jehoiachin	3 months	597 B.C.	Bad	2 Chronicles 36:8-10
20	Zedekiah	11 years	597 - 586 B.C.	Bad	2 Chronicles 36

Prophets were active during this period and majority of their letters were written during this period. Messages of Warning about coming judgement from Assyria or Babylon as well as the future worldwide judgment and Message of Comfort related to the return of the nation from exile as well as the coming of the Messiah, and his death for the sins of people and his future everlasting kingdom.

Example of a letter written primarily to Judah:

Isaiah 1:1 “The **vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem** that Isaiah son of Amoz saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah”

Examples of a letter written primarily to Israel:

Amos 1:1 “The words of Amos, one of the shepherds of Tekoa – the vision he saw **concerning Israel** two years before the earthquake...”

Some letters written to Gentile Nations. Examples are: Jonah and Nahum written concerning Nineveh which was the capital of Assyria (which was eventually conquered by Babylon in 612 B.C.); Obadiah was written concerning God's judgment concerning Edom.

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

10. EXILE AND RETURN

[Ezra, Nehemiah, Jeremiah – Daniel, Haggai–Malachi]

- **Babylonian Exile.** The Jews of Judah were captives in Babylon for 70 years as a result of their disobedience [Jer 25:11; Dan 9:2]. Daniel was a key figure during this exile period. The city of Babylon [Greek form of Babel] was the ancient capital of the Babylonian empire and was famous for its hanging gardens. In the New Testament, it is frequently used as a symbol of opposition to God. Presently, this place is located in modern Iraq. The Baghdad to Bassorah railway line passes within a few yards of the mound that was once the most splendid and powerful city in the world.
- **Return of Jews to Jerusalem.** Medo-Persia [i.e. Medes and Persians] conquered Babylon in 539 BC and became the world power. The Jews were allowed to return back to Jerusalem. There were a total of three sequences of return.
 - **First Return [538 B.C.].** Zerubbabel and Joshua led the first group of people to Jerusalem [Ezra 1–6]. The temple was rebuilt in 516 B.C.
 - **Second Return [458 B.C.].** Ezra led the second group of people to Jerusalem [Ezra 7–10]. Focus was given to worship and practicing of the God’s law.
 - **Third Return [445 B.C.].** Nehemiah led the third group of people to Jerusalem. Walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt as recorded in the book of Nehemiah.
- **Synagogues.** After the destruction of the temple in 586 B.C., the Synagogue [means “a place of assembly”] became the place of worship and instruction for the Jews. Even after the temple reconstruction, synagogues continued to exist and were prominent during the New Testament times.

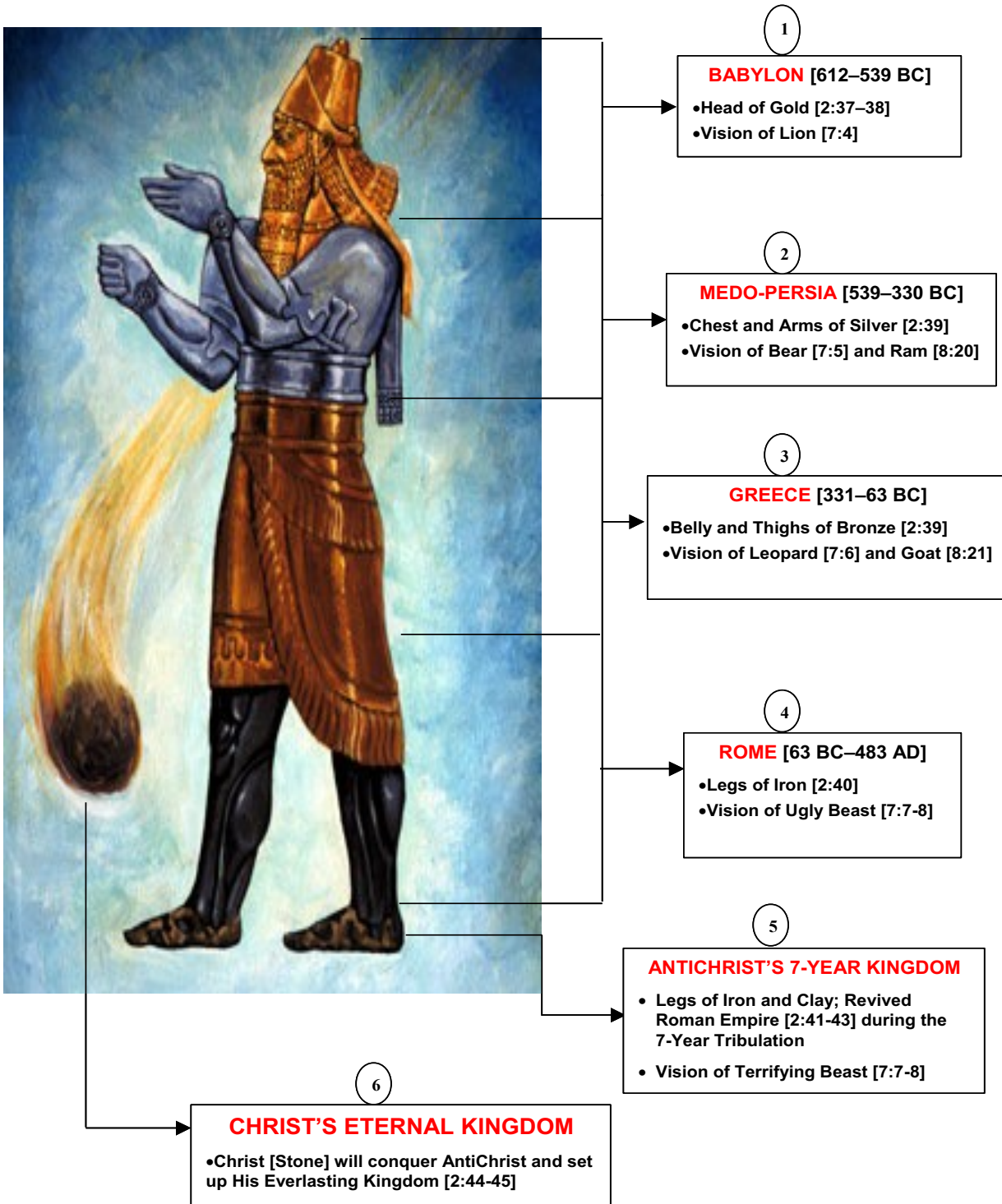
OLD TESTAMENT TIMELINE

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

11. SILENCE

- **Intertestamental Period.** There was a period of silence between the Old Testament and New Testament [i.e. the coming of Jesus]. This period known as the Intertestamental period was a period of silence where God did not speak through any prophets. The Jews returned to their own land, but were not independent. Other kingdoms always ruled them. However, one noteworthy aspect is that Jews from the time of exile and return turned from idolatry. Even to this day, Jews even though they remain opposed to the gospel of Christ, abstain from idolatry.
- **Power Changes.** During the period from Exile and Return and this time of Silence, various world powers came into power as prophesied by the prophet Daniel.

VISIONS OF DANIEL CONCERNING FUTURE KINGDOMS
 [Chapter 2:31–45; Chapters 7 and 8]



Below is a brief description of events during each of the major world powers during the period of exile and silence. [Also see associated pictorial representation of these kingdoms based on the image-prophecies of Daniel].

1. **Babylon [Head of Gold] 612 – 539 BC.** Babylon came to power under Nebuchadnezzar who conquered Assyria in 612 BC, Egypt in 605 BC and then later conquered Judah in three stages [605 BC, 597 BC, 586 BC].

PRESENT DAY BABYLON

[The landscape at Babylon today, where almost nothing of the ancient city remains of that which was once the most splendid and powerful city in the world.]



2. **Medo-Persia [Chest and Arms of Silver] 539 – 330 BC.** Persia along with the Medes came to power and defeated Babylon in 539 BC [Daniel 5]. It was Persia that was ruling Jerusalem when the Old Testament Scriptures were completed.
3. **Greece [Belly and Thighs of Bronze] 331–63 B.C.** Alexander the Great defeated the Persians in 331 B.C. and established the Greek empire. Upon his unexpected death [323 BC] at an early age, his vast kingdom was divided between his four army generals. Of the four, two generals are of importance with reference to the Jewish nation. The general of Egypt was called Ptolemy and the general of Syria was called Seleucid. Both controlled Palestine in succession.

Egypt. Ptolemy I controlled Palestine from 323 to 198 BC. This was a relatively safe period for the Jews. The Jews even translated the Old Testament from its original Hebrew language and some Aramaic into Greek. This translation, called the **Septuagint** [or LXX], was used even during the time of Christ and the apostles.

Syria. Seleucus I, general of Alexander became the ruler of Syria after the death of Alexander. One of the later rulers was a man named as Antiochus III. In 198 B.C., under his leadership, Syria was victorious over the Egyptians and eventually took over Judah, which was under the control of Egypt. Upon his death, his son Antiochus IV [also called as Antiochus Epiphanes] came to power between 175–163 B.C. He desecrated and plundered the temple of Jerusalem in 170 B.C. He offered pigs as sacrifice in the temple altar and forced the Jewish priests to eat the flesh of the pigs. Those that refused were put to death.

An aged Jewish priest Mattathias and his five sons led a rebellion against Syria and a war began. This was known as the Maccabean Revolt because Judas Maccabeus was the first leader among the 5 sons. On December 25, 165 B.C. the Jews reclaimed the temple and restored the sacrifices. This victory was celebrated as the Feast of Lights [even during the time of Jesus] and is even now celebrated by the Jews [called as Hanukkah]. After a 24-year war [166–142 B.C.], the Jews were able to gain independence from the Syrians and founded the Hasmonian dynasty, a name derived from Hashmon who was an ancestor of the Maccabees. The Hasmonean dynasty was in power till Rome conquered them.

- 4. Rome [Legs of Iron] 63 B.C. – 483 A.D.** Rome under Pompey conquered the Jewish nation in 63 B.C. Under Julius Caesar, Rome became very powerful. After his murder in 44 B.C., his nephew Augustus Caesar came to power and was in power when Christ was born. Rome appointed Herod the Great as the king of the Jews. He was a power-hungry evil man who killed his own wife and sons for the fear of losing his throne to them. It was this Herod that ordered the killing of all the baby boys in an attempt to kill Jesus [Matt 2:1–18].

Looking from a positive side, Herod was instrumental in the repairing and modification of the temple. However, this temple was completely destroyed in A.D. 70 [about 40 years after the resurrection of Christ] by the Romans led by General Titus. This temple has not been rebuilt till date.

- 5. Revived Roman Empire [Feet of Clay and Iron Mixed].** This is a future 7–year kingdom that will be a revival of the Roman Empire headed by Antichrist during the time of tribulation.
- 6. Christ’s Eternal Kingdom [Stone].** At the end of Antichrist’s 7-year kingdom, Christ will come and defeat him and set up His 1000-year earthly kingdom followed by His eternal kingdom.

- **Religious Groups.**

1. **Zealots.** The zealots who developed during the Maccabean period were primarily motivated for political than religious reasons. They were primarily guerrilla fighters who made surprise attacks on Roman posts and patrols and then escaped to the hills or mountains. Sometimes they resorted to terrorism and were also called *sicaari* (daggersmen) by Josephus a Jewish historian because of their frequent assassinations. During the time of Christ, Judas (a common Jewish name) was the outstanding Zealot leader. One of the disciples Simon the Zealot was thought to belong to this sect. The zealots fell out of power in AD 72.
2. **Pharisees.** It is believed that this group came out of the Maccabean group. They were orthodox and known for their strict following of the law. They called themselves the “separated ones” and even though few in number, were very influential. They interpreted the law in accordance with a developing oral tradition and sought to make their understanding binding upon the Jews.
3. **Sadducees.** It is not very clear as to when they came into existence as a group. Some date them from the time of the high priest Zadok, appointed by Solomon [1 Kings 2:35]. They were a wealthy and more liberal group than the Pharisees. They denied the resurrection of the dead and the existence of angels. Except the Pentateuch [i.e. the first five books of the Old Testament], they rejected the rest of the Old Testament.
4. **Scribes.** These were the experts of the Old Testament that rose to prominence during the Intertestamental period. They were also known as lawyers or rabbis.
5. **Essenes.** They were a sect of Jews that resisted any type of Greek influence and lived simple lives as monks within their own communities. They were mostly unmarried and did not get involved in any social issues. The Qumran community is thought to have been a part of the Essenes.

- **Septuagint, Old Testament Translation.** Due to Alexander the Great’s influence, Greek language spread to many parts of the world. This led to the Old Testament, which was primarily in the Hebrew language with a little parts of Aramaic [a derivative of Hebrew] to be translated in to the Greek language.

This Greek translation of the Old Testament is called as the “**Septuagint**” [LXX], the Latin word for 70, since 70 [or 72] scholars came together to perform this task. This work lasted over the period 250 B.C. to 125 B.C. in Alexandria, Egypt. This translation was used widely and even quoted by the New Testament writers [e.g. Heb 8:9].

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 BC	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??