

## ASSYRIAN RULE (850-610 B.C.) (these dates are 'rounded off')

After Solomon's son caused a split in the Kingdom of Israel around 930 B.C., the 2 kingdoms fought until the Northern Kingdom fell to Assyria in 722 B.C. **Jonah, Joel, Amos, Hosea, Micah & Isaiah** prophesied during that time.

## BABYLONIAN RULE (610-540 B.C.)

**586 B.C. - God's House (Solomon's Temple) destroyed by Babylon**

**Zephaniah, Nahum, Jeremiah, Habakkuk, Obadiah, Ezekiel & Daniel** prophesied before and during this 70 year period.

Daniel was taken to Babylon but he prayed for the restoration of Jerusalem (*Daniel 9:2*) and believed the prophecy of **Jeremiah** (*Jeremiah 25:11-12*) that the desolation would only last **70 years** in order for the land to keep its sabbaths (*Leviticus 26:34, 2 Chronicles 36:20-21*).

## PERSIAN RULE (540-510 B.C. Cyrus, Darius II, Xerxes - Ezra 6:14)

Cyrus conquered Babylon and issued a **DECREE** allowing Jews to **RETURN to Jerusalem in 536**, (*Ezra 1:1-4, 2 Chron. 36:22-23*). And, after **70 years** (*Zechariah 1:12*), Zerubbabel, along with Joshua, **Haggai & Zechariah** led the **first group** of exiles back to rebuild the foundation of **God's House**.

**516 B.C. - God's House rebuilt 70 years** after it was destroyed

### "And this HOUSE was finished..." **Ezra 6:15**

After about 50 more years, in 486 B.C., Darius II found Cyrus's decree and helped further the work of restoration (*Ezra 6:7-8*). His son, King Xerxes (*Ahasuerus*) married **Esther** in 478 B.C. He issued a **DECREE** to **REBUILD the wall of Jerusalem in 456 B.C.** Esther procured for the Jews the **legal right to defend themselves against their enemies**. Her courage and **petitions** led to Mordecai, (*a 'type' of Christ*), being highly exalted (*Esther 8:15, 10:3*). **However, Jerusalem's wall was not yet restored.**

Esther was probably the Queen who sat next to the King when he gave **Nehemiah** permission to go and rebuild Jerusalem's walls (*Nehemiah 2:6*) since Mordecai accompanied Nehemiah to Jerusalem (*Ezra 2:2*).

Nehemiah became the Governor and **Ezra**, a Levite priest already there, became the scribe (*recording what was done and by whom*).

**446 B.C. - Wall of Jerusalem rebuilt 70 years later**

### "So the WALL was finished..." **Nehemiah 6:15**

**Malachi** (*meaning 'my messenger'*) wrote 'the burden of the Lord to Israel' -- the last book of the Old Testament about 40 years later condemning the 'putting away' of wives (*Malachi 2:14*).

Intermarriage was NOT forbidden by God--except with Canaanite idolaters (*Deuteronomy 7:1-7*) The religious zeal of the exiles returning from captivity caused them to embrace a 'pure race' theology--which brought 400 years of silence from God. The silence was broken with the book of Matthew's genealogy of Jesus that included 5 women. 4 of whom were Gentiles (*not Hebrews*): Tamar (*who committed incest-Genesis 38*), Rahab (*a harlot-Joshua 2*), Ruth (*a Moabite-Ruth 4:17-22*), Bathsheba (*Hittite who committed adultery-2 Samuel 11*) and Mary (*who was called a fornicator all her life-John 8:41*)

Note: historians are not in agreement about all these dates.

# Times of the Prophets

In the **6th century** before Christ (B.C.)

**4 MEN** were in charge of restoring the foundation of God's house (*Solomon's Temple*) that had been destroyed

**2 PROPHETS:** both prophesied in the 2nd yr. of Darius (see 1st verses)

**Haggai** mentioned **7 times** in the book of Haggai

**Zechariah** mentioned **7 times** in the book of Nehemiah

**1 POLITICAL LEADER**

**Zerubbabel** (*meaning 'born in Babylon'*) the **Governor's son\*** mentioned **7 times** in Haggai

*Zerubbabel laid the foundation & finished it (Zechariah 4:9)*

**1 RELIGIOUS LEADER**

**Joshua** (*'Jeshua' in Ezra & Zechariah*) the **High Priest's son\*** mentioned **7 times** in Haggai

*Joshua's daughters-in-law & grandchildren were among those divorced & 'cast away.' (Ezra 10:18.)*

\*The significance that these were **sons of leaders** means that the Scripture **not only** relates to the **FIRST** time God's house would be restored, but also to a restoration event **in a future generation** (*Zechariah's focus*).

Below is a menorah pattern made of **repetitions** in Haggai--emphasizing the role of both rulers & priests (*1 Peter 2:5,9*) in restoring God's House.

Haggai 1:1

Zerubbabel the SON of Shealtiel,  
**GOVERNOR** of Judah,  
and to \*Yahshua the SON of Yahsedech,  
the high **PRIEST**

Haggai 1:12

Zerubbabel the SON of Shealtiel,  
**GOVERNOR** of Judah,  
and to \*Yahshua the SON of Yahsedech,  
the high **PRIEST**

Haggai 2:2

Zerubbabel the SON of Shealtiel,  
**GOVERNOR** of Judah,  
and to \*Yahshua the SON of Yahsedech,  
the high **PRIEST**

Haggai 1:14

Zerubbabel the SON of Shealtiel,  
**GOVERNOR** of Judah,  
and to \*Yahshua the SON of Yahsedech,  
the high **PRIEST**

Haggai 1:13

**"... I am with you..."**

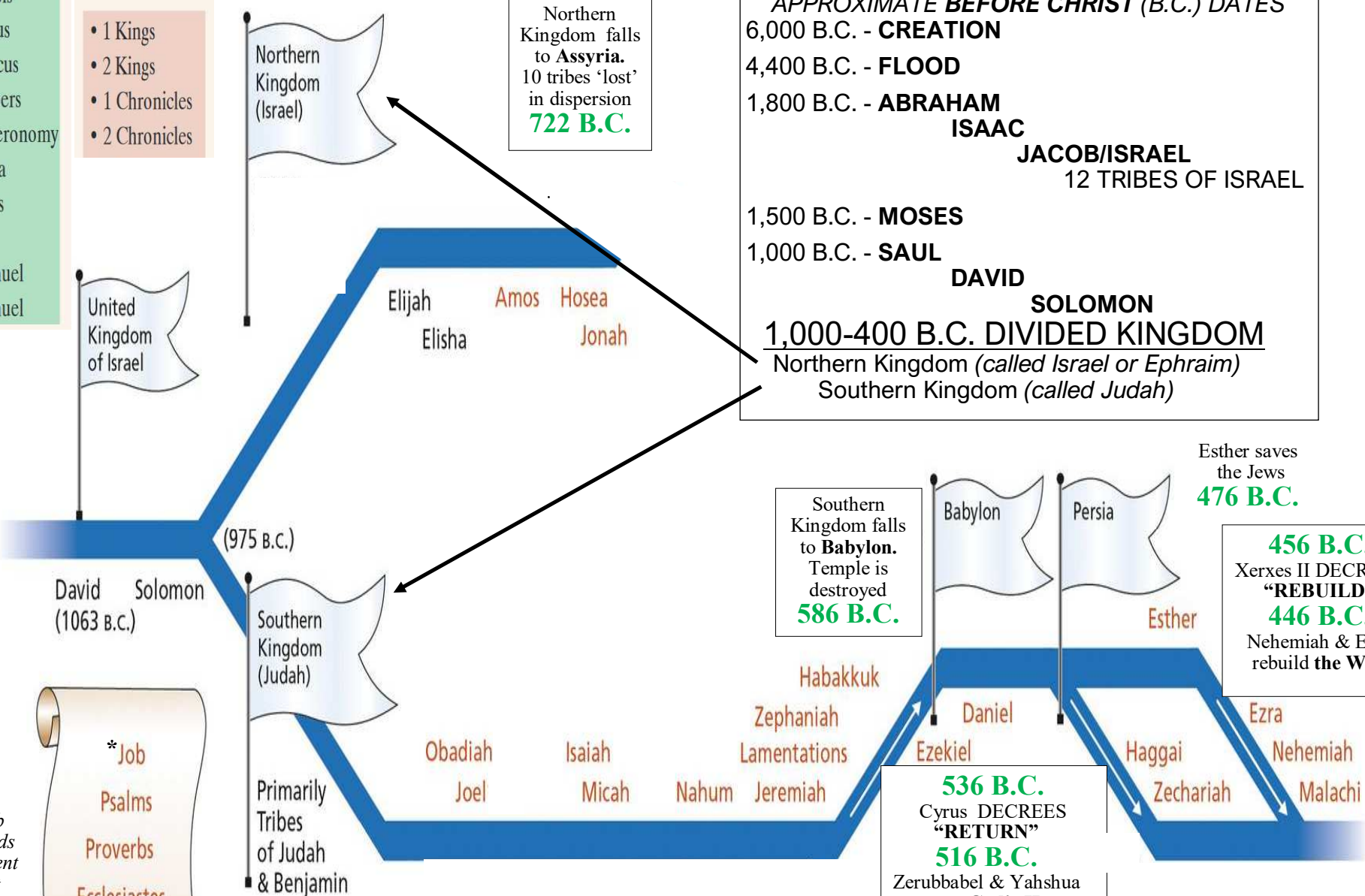
\*God's names are embedded in these names. In Hebrew, **Joshua is Yahshua & Jozadach is Yahzedek**. (*There are no 'J's or vowels in Hebrew.*) **Yah** is short for Yahweh (*Psalms 68:4*). **El** is the singular form of Elohim and is the first of God's names (*Genesis 1:1*) A third word used for God is **Adon** or Adonai (*Lord-Gen. 15:2*). Note: Haggai 2:4 repeats the above phrase, **omitting** "the SON of Shealtiel, **GOVERNOR** of Judah," saying **'be strong'** 3 times and repeating **'I am with you.'** (*Jeremiah 42:11, Matt. 28:20, John 13:33*)

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy
- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth
- 1 Samuel
- 2 Samuel

- 1 Kings
- 2 Kings
- 1 Chronicles
- 2 Chronicles

Northern Kingdom falls to **Assyria**. 10 tribes 'lost' in dispersion  
**722 B.C.**

**APPROXIMATE BEFORE CHRIST (B.C.) DATES**  
 6,000 B.C. - **CREATION**  
 4,400 B.C. - **FLOOD**  
 1,800 B.C. - **ABRAHAM**  
                   **ISAAC**  
                   **JACOB/ISRAEL**  
                   12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL  
 1,500 B.C. - **MOSES**  
 1,000 B.C. - **SAUL**  
                   **DAVID**  
                   **SOLOMON**  
 1,000-400 B.C. **DIVIDED KINGDOM**  
 Northern Kingdom (called *Israel or Ephraim*)  
 Southern Kingdom (called *Judah*)



\*Job  
Psalms  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Song of Solomon

\*Job records an event that predates all the other books except Genesis

# BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Scholars do NOT agree on the **exact years** of these events--but they agree they DID happen. Bear in mind that the Old Testament Jews used a **lunar** calendar, not a modern **solar** calendar. Please send corrections to <ginger@2-acres.com>