

BASIC OUTLINE OF OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY

NOTE: this is a basic overview of the Old Testament story at face value, but without theological interpretation; i.e., the events presented as historical facts are assumed to be correct, but no explanation of why they occurred is included

I. PATRIARCHS

- A. One man (**Abraham**) and his family journey from Mesopotamia to Canaan
- B. Patriarchs (4 generations = Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Jacob's 12 sons) live as pastoral nomads

II. SOJOURN IN EGYPT

- A. Jacob (Israel) and sons move into Egypt
- B. Their descendants are eventually enslaved

III. EXODUS

- A. A deliverer (**Moses**) leads the descendants of Israel out of Egypt
- B. They wander as nomads in the wilderness for a generation

IV. CONQUEST: Under Joshua, Israel invades the land of Canaan, which is divided among the 12 tribes

V. JUDGES

- A. Israel exists as a loose confederation of tribes, united by worship of one God
- B. They struggle with other nations, especially the Philistines, and eventually demand a king to unite them

VI. UNITED MONARCHY

- A. The first king over the united tribes (Saul) has success against the Philistines but is eventually killed
- B. The 2nd king (**David**), from the tribe of Judah, is more successful and establishes Jerusalem as his capital
- C. David is followed by his son (Solomon), who builds the Temple

VII. DIVIDED MONARCHY: Israel and Judah

- A. After Solomon's death, the kingdom splits
- B. The northern tribes, Israel, break away from Judah and establish their own nation
- C. The southern nation, Judah, continues under the dynasty of David
- D. After 200 years, the northern nation of Israel is destroyed by the Assyrian Empire

VIII. JUDAH: Southern nation continues alone, but a century later (587 BC), is ended by the Babylonian Empire

IX. EXILE: Judeans (Jews) are taken into Exile by Babylon, but retained their cultural identity

X. POST-EXILIC

- A. Persian conquerors of Babylon allow Jews to return to Jerusalem, rebuild Temple
- B. Judah continues to the end of the OT period as a sub-province of the Persian Empire