

# **"THE BIBLE...BASICALLY"®**

**A Discipleship Seminar in Biblical Literacy**

## ***SEMINAR HANDBOOK***

***Section One: "The Quick Chronology"***

***Section Two: Study Helps Collection***

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This publication has been realized only through the continuing encouragement and support of my precious wife, Sarah. There are no words adequate to express my love, devotion, and gratitude to this one whose life reflects in all ways the dimensions of her faith in Our Lord, His Gospel and the wonder of His Word.

*The Quick Chronology*, the core content of the overarching project, **THE BIBLE...BASICALLY®**, joins a larger body of works by others through this and the last century that have attested to the enduring value of a biblical knowledge base built upon a foundation of the chronological flow of Scripture. We are grateful for each effort that has preceded ours and pray that this work will be equally welcomed and useful toward advancement of the Kingdom.

To the family of Thomas R. (Bob) Sivley of Fort Worth, Texas, and Artesia, New Mexico, I am indebted for friendship and support across many years and for an enduring belief in the vision that gave birth to *The Bible...Basically®* concept and its international applications.

Enormous gratitude is also due Jack and Nell Brown, H. Andrew Read and to Tim and Terri Dunn for their belief in and early support of this ministry.

\* \* \* \* \*

*The Bible...Basically Ministries International endures toward the goal of providing innovative tools for multiplying Biblical literacy throughout the Body of Christ -- both for the local church and for the domestic and international mission fields.*

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# CONTENTS

## **SECTION ONE: THE QUICK CHRONOLOGY**

A Note to Begin	4
About Using This Book	5
The Quick Chronology	6

### ***Part One:***

Opening Up "The Bible File"	8
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### ***Part Two:***

Dressing the Stage:	
Making a Map of the Ancient Near East	14

### ***Part Three:***

Indexing The Files	17
CREATION	17
ABRAHAM	19
JOSEPH	24
<i>First Review</i>	25
MOSES	26
JOSHUA	29
ANARCHY	31
ROYALTY	32
<i>Second Review</i>	37
CAPTIVITY	39
SILENCE	40
JESUS	41

### ***Part Four:***

The Bible Story in Quick Time	44
Summing Up	48
The Bible File Indexed	50
Some Final Words	51
References	54

## **SECTION TWO: STUDENT HELPS COLLECTION**

A Note to Students	55
Study Helps Collection Introduction	57
Study Helps Collection Index	59

## *A Note to Begin...*

Christian belief is built upon *personal* faith. It is also built upon solid fact! Not to know the *facts* of our faith is to walk upon thin ice in its defense before others or when challenged within our own minds and hearts.

The Word of God is an *organized* record of the facts of the faith. The reality of Scripture as an authoritative, personal, mentally accessible resource of historic dependability is to increase immeasurably its value and message to every human life and spirit.

Much research and personal experience demonstrates that most people do not regard God's Word as a "user-friendly" document. It is true that most believers know the main characters and the most popular stories. But to pull all of it together into a meaningful wholeness...for many Bible readers the task appears beyond personal capability.

Thus, far too many believers and occasional Bible readers leave it to others to interpret Biblical meanings for application in their personal daily lives; i.e., pastors, teachers, writers in the prolific Christian publishing marketplace, and all the varied and well-known names in Christian radio and television.

With the Bible as a mostly closed book for many, the sense of wonder at its magnificent message and organization and the hopeful, faith-filled story it tells is known only in scattered bits and pieces. Closed to such readers, believers and nonbelievers alike, is the deeper meaning of the *entire, complete, interwoven* story contained in Genesis through Revelation.

The glorious wholeness of God's Plan of Redemption – stretching from Abraham across 2,000 years, culminating in the appearance and ministry of the Savior in ancient Israel and progressing to our own time – is often unfamiliar territory.

It is our prayer that this publication, part of a much larger learning system for mentally organizing God's Word, will cause unusual things to happen between you and Scripture. Such has happened to others who have been exposed to it.

Our prayers are lifted for each reader who acquires the ideas presented here in order to reveal ever more clearly the glory of the Father as revealed in His Word and the Gospel of His Son.

*J.E.F.*

## *About Using This Book...*

The design of a tool is foundational to its effective use. With that in mind, *The Quick Chronology* is a self-contained learning experience. Its plan is based upon the proven value of simple mnemonic tools and visual learning devices. Its single objective: to bring together from a disorganized array of facts, stories, characters and ideas an *organized, user-friendly* view of Scripture.

*That objective can be accomplished in only three to six hours of concentrated reading with attention to and review of the accompanying progressive graphic materials.*

**About Typefaces and Page Layout.** The design of the book itself is a part of its teaching strategy. Page layout provides a wide column of printed text. A narrow column on the side of each page, labeled **Progress Points**, provides graphic illustrations to support the text, Scripture citations to enhance it, and other notes and learning helps to assist in mastery of the material.

Liberal use of **boldface**, *italic*, and ALL-CAPS typefaces is made for emphasis in much the same way a live teacher would emphasize details in a body of learning through firsthand live teaching styles.

On page 48 and in the study helps collection at the back of the book you are provided complete graphic presentations of **The Bible File** idea for study assistance during a live TBB seminar. and for carrying about as reference.

**Mastering the "System."** The quicker the *system* is mentally incorporated, the more quickly the *system* can be mentally discarded as the *organized facts* of Scripture become clearly known and interrelated, resulting in a confident recall.

**Using the Progress Points.** On the outer side of each page the **Progress Points** provide progressive illustrations of **The Bible File** as you work through it and learn to expand it. **Progress Points** also provide the necessary resources for personal review and for use as outline notes when teaching the *The Quick Chronology* to others.

**Additional Study Helps.** The last one-third of this book contains student copies of all study helps to accompany THE BIBLE...BASICALLY® seminars in their complete presentation. Several of them also are used in connection with the text of *The Quick Chronology*.

**Finally...** by developing your mastery of THE BIBLE...BASICALLY®, your use of Scripture itself as a tool for personal spiritual growth and for witnessing to others will be greatly enhanced. Your confidence in your *personal access* to the Word of God will be enormously increased.

*The  
foundational  
importance of  
understanding the  
Bible's  
"Big Picture"*

*A  
"Bible File" in  
our heads*

## THE QUICK CHRONOLOGY

### ***Seeing the Bible's "Big Picture"***

**H**enrietta Mears was one of the great Bible teachers of the Twentieth Century. Dr. Mears once wrote that most people's Bible knowledge is like a necklace of fine pearls – but with one singular problem. The string holding the pearls together has been broken. The pearls individually lie about on the floor, being of little use to us except for appreciating the separate beauty of each individual gem. Appreciation of the beauty of the assembled necklace is impossible. In this picture, there is a direct application to the way many people make use of their Bibles.

The Creator designed our thinking as an organized processor of information. Our minds operate very much like a filing system or a computer. Family things go into one part of our thinking organization, finances into another, spiritual thoughts still somewhere else. *Organization* is there. Some people organize their thinking better than others. Those who do it really well often have *learned* how to do it through long years of practice and improvement.

### ***Mentally: How's Your "Bible File?"***

So then, what's the condition of your mental **Bible File**, that Biblical filing system in your own head? You open it up every time you turn your thinking toward Our Lord and the priceless Book He has written for us. You open it and go into it every time you think about God's Word, hear a sermon, or talk or think about spiritual matters. It is your primary reference point for spiritual growth.

For many people their individual mental **Bible Files** are often not in very good shape: disorganized collections of stories and facts (some right and some wrong), with the order of events in much disarray. Facts, dates, people and places...all out of order.

"But," you might ask, "is it all *that* important to have our thinking about God's Word really orderly?" Yes, indeed! Here's an example to illustrate that idea.

## **Lost at the Family Picnic**

Think how you would respond at a family gathering if suddenly you suffered a temporary loss of memory. No longer would you have any idea of how any family member relates to any other. The "bonding" feeling among the family members would be unknown to you. Yes, you might well have a fine time socially. But the deeper meanings of *relationships* within the family unit would be unknown to you. With memory returned, however, new *interrelationships* among everyone at the event would suddenly be revealed and accessible, altering the meaning of everything!

The same idea is true in our relationship to God's Word. For many believers the Bible is a jungle of assorted people, facts, strange happenings, and distant and unknown place names. For many Bible readers few things relate to other things with meaning.

*But it doesn't have to be that way.* All that information, all that vast and marvelous story can be straightened out and mentally organized very quickly, with just a little thoughtful study.

## **Bringing Your "Bible File" Into Good Order**

You are about to learn a *system* that will bring your own **Bible File** into good order...and very quickly! Remember that, after a while, you will discard the *system* because you will know your way around the *facts* that the system has allowed you to remember, and all in their proper interrelated Biblical sequence.

That's what *The Quick Chronology* is all about. Within a very short time, and with some review on your own, you can learn this system for remembering the basic outline of the Biblical narrative. After that you can tell it to anyone in about twenty minutes, with all the power that comes from using God's Own Word as your primary witnessing tool.

Not you, you say? Just try it. You'll see how it works, providing you follow along systematically, page by page, through *The Quick Chronology* handbook. The available audiocassette version of the book, played alongside, would speed up your learning.

Ready to begin?

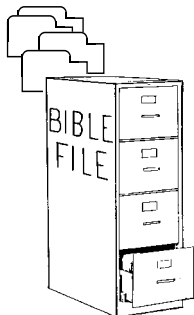
Let's do it.

*The importance of a base of **interconnected facts** to deepen understanding and to perceive implications*

*From here on, the **Progress Points** column on each page will provide an outline of every step in **The Bible File** learning process. Use it for your own review and as notes when teaching it to others.*

*Progress  
Points*

*The importance of  
Biblical  
“chronology”*



**ATTENTION!**  
**PLEASE REFER TO STUDY HELPS NUMBERS 01 AND 02 FOR ASSISTANCE IN MASTERING THIS SECTION**

*Beginning with:*  
**C 7 S J**

*Into:*

$$7 = 4 + 3$$

**Part One:  
Opening Up “The Bible File”**

**A** well-proven way to get the Bible organized mentally is to learn its “*chronology*” — that systematic order of the events that hold together both the Old and the New Testaments. We call this approach to the concept:

**THE QUICK CHRONOLOGY**

As a starting point, begin thinking about file folders in a filing cabinet. You are going to organize your **Bible File** into a collection of **ten mental file folders**. Their specific order should be learned so that *their* order is imbedded as deeply in your thinking as the name of the place where you live or your own telephone number.

**STEP  
1**

We begin with *three alphabet letters and one number*. Set them firmly in place in your mind:

**C 7 S J**

Repeat the letter group aloud several times as you imbed in your mind this very core of the Bible’s organization and time-line flow:

**"C 7 S J ... C 7 S J ... C 7 S J ... etc."**

**STEP  
2**

Did you notice that European style ‘7’ with the dash through its stem? That’s an important reminder — a mind clue. Please keep it mentally handy. That small dash divides the length of the 7’s stem into two parts. So, ask yourself this question: "What two numbers does 7 easily split into?" One possible answer (and the right one) is:

**4 and 3.**



So, in **C 7 S J**, by *changing the 7 to a 4 and a 3*, we have

**C 4 3 S J.**

As before, please repeat the changed sequence aloud several times to help it stick tightly in your mind for easy recall.

**STEP  
3**

Now, based on **C 4 3 S J**, we enlarge that idea into **five key words or phrases**. They will become the foundation of your mental **Bible File**. Here they are:

**C = CREATION**  
**4 = 4 PEOPLE**  
**3 = 3 SOCIETIES**  
**S = SILENCE**  
**J = JESUS.**

That's the organizational plan for the entire Bible! (At least, that's one way of looking at it.) Those five words and phrases create an abbreviated outline map of the Bible's basic design. We will now go back through the phrases, *expanding them still further*.

**STEP  
4**

**CREATION,**

of course, remains at the top of the list. We then take the next phrase from the list:

**4 PEOPLE.**

Let's break apart **4 PEOPLE** into **4 specific people**, in this order:

**ABRAHAM**  
**JOSEPH**  
**MOSES**  
**JOSHUA.**

*Progress  
Points*

*Recall:*  
**C 7 S J**

*Then into:*  
**C 4 3 S J**

*Into:*  
**CREATION**  
**4 PEOPLE**  
**3 SOCIETIES**  
**SILENCE**  
**JESUS**

*Then:*  
**CREATION**  
**√4 PEOPLE**  
**3 SOCIETIES**  
**SILENCE**  
**JESUS**

*From which*  
**4 PEOPLE**  
*becomes:*  
**ABRAHAM**  
**JOSEPH**  
**MOSES**  
**JOSHUA**

Progress  
Points

A way to  
remember the  
first letters of  
each word in  
order is:

"**A Judge Must  
Judge.**"

The list is now:

**CREATION  
ABRAHAM  
JOSEPH  
MOSES  
JOSHUA**

Recall:

**CREATION  
4 PEOPLE  
√3 SOCIETIES  
SILENCE  
JESUS**

It's helpful to remember the word order by repeating several times the *first-letter order* of the words:

**"A-J-M-J ... A-J-M-J ... etc."**

Repeat the four names aloud to yourself several times until you feel the rhythm of the words:

**"ABRAHAM, JOSEPH,  
MOSES and JOSHUA."**

So, from the top of the list we now can say:

	<b>CREATION</b>
	<b>ABRAHAM</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>JOSEPH</b>
<b>PEOPLE</b>	<b>MOSES</b>
	<b>JOSHUA</b>

This step completes the main **FOUR PEOPLE** of your new **Bible File**. Of course, there are dozens of other Biblical characters, but these are the only ones we are using to build the **Bible File** right now. Repeat the four names vocally several times until they are firmly set mentally.

**STEP  
5**

The next phrase of **the beginning basic group** from Step 3 is:

**3 SOCIETIES.**

---

A memory tool again: what do we call a section of the perimeter of a circle? It's called an "arc," spelled **A-R-C**. Those letters, then, will remind you of the first letters of **3 KINDS OF SOCIETIES**, which are to be:

**ANARCHY  
ROYALTY  
CAPTIVITY.**

As before, please repeat that word order several times.

Now we add the **3 SOCIETIES** group to the others, and we have:

**CREATION  
ABRAHAM  
JOSEPH  
MOSES  
JOSHUA  
ANARCHY  
ROYALTY  
CAPTIVITY**

**TIME OUT  
FOR A  
PROGRESS  
REVIEW**

Now to review the entire sequence so far.

**C 7 S J...**

which becomes

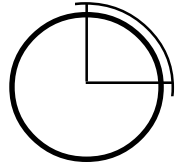
**C 4 3 S J.**

These numbers and letters are then used to develop a mental list of **TEN WORDS** that will form a dependable mental outline of the entirety of Scripture.

*Progress  
Points*

---

*In GEOMETRY:  
an ARC:*



*3 Societies  
are:  
ANARCHY  
ROYALTY  
CAPTIVITY*

**REVIEW**

*Recall:  
C 7 S J*

*Split into:  
C 4 3 S J*

*Progress  
Points*

**C 4 3 S J** is then expanded into:

**CREATION  
4 PEOPLE  
3 SOCIETIES  
SILENCE  
JESUS**

*Then into:*  
**CREATION  
4 PEOPLE  
3 SOCIETIES  
SILENCE  
JESUS**

Then further expanded into:

**CREATION  
ABRAHAM  
JOSEPH  
MOSES  
JOSHUA  
ANARCHY  
ROYALTY  
CAPTIVITY**

*Finally, into:*  
**CREATION  
ABRAHAM  
JOSEPH  
MOSES  
JOSHUA  
ANARCHY  
ROYALTY  
CAPTIVITY  
SILENCE  
JESUS**

**STEP  
6** Finally, now, we add:  
and

**SILENCE  
  
JESUS.**

**THE  
COMPLETED  
BIBLE  
FILE** Here, then, is the complete expanded list, from:

**C 7 S J**  
into:  
**CREATION  
4 PEOPLE  
3 SOCIETIES  
SILENCE  
JESUS**

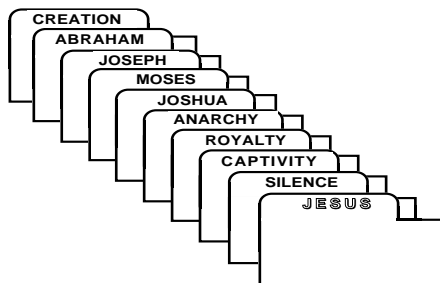
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...expanded into the ten basic file folder “labels” for building your personal mental **Bible File**:

**CREATION**  
**ABRAHAM**  
**JOSEPH**  
**MOSES**  
**JOSHUA**  
**ANARCHY**  
**ROYALTY**  
**CAPTIVITY**  
**SILENCE**  
**JESUS**

---

Now it's time *mentally* to apply those ten words as **labels to ten mental folders of The Bible File** in your head. That mental picture might look something like this:



*Neat, Orderly, and Ready for Recall and Use As Needed:  
Your New Mental **Bible File***

This illustration of **The Bible File** is the beginning of a new mental view of the Bible, its reasonable, dependable organization. Review those ten files and their names in exact order until they are firmly set in mind. Once you “input” them, you will have taken the first steps toward sorting out and building a dependable, enormously expanded map of the *entire* Biblical landscape, one that could affect your view of every part of Scripture for the rest of your life.

---

***Progress  
Points***

---

*The  
Bible File  
label list is  
completed  
and stored  
in your  
memory.*

***APPLICA-  
TION!***

*Time now to  
apply the  
label list to  
your  
10 mental  
Bible File  
folders.*

*The folders  
are now  
ready to be  
filled in with  
increasing  
detail...  
orderly,  
in sequence,  
building a  
systematic  
mental  
biblical  
resource.*

*Building an  
outline map  
of the Bible's  
structure --  
a framework  
in which to  
organize all  
future Bible  
knowledge.*

## **After the Bible Files Are Labeled: What's Next?**

Remember, first, that we're building a mental structure. Therefore, we use the ten **Bible Files** as basic building blocks for what eventually can become a very large structure in our own minds!

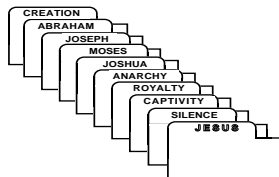
However, we are only building **the outline map** of the Author's enormous literary work. We won't be learning the details! We will be dealing only with *the big picture*...the Bible's general outline.

Based on the ten **labeled Bible Files** we are now going to learn Scripture's **basic chronology**, its foundational **story and time line**. Keep in mind our main concern: *learning only the most outstanding Biblical milestone events, along with only the most well-known Biblical characters*. Many events and characters that you might expect to find will not be mentioned. But their places are certainly reserved.

As we move through *The Quick Chronology* you'll be able to tie in each part with one of those **ten key words now on ten mental file folders** — in the chronological order you learned them.

While working through the next section, please keep handy and refer to the completed file-folder illustration provided on a detachable card on the back cover of this handbook. At the back of the book there is also provided a version of the file folder collection and its memory tools with mostly blank lines for your personal study.

Now let's move on to **Part Two**, learning to draw a map of the Ancient Near East *out of your memory!* **Part Three** follows that with a fascinating expansion of the Bible files, continuing to fill them with more detail, *building on that which has gone before*, while still maintaining that high, outline view of the overall story line contained in Scripture. That story line brings a sense of continuity and purpose to the Bible's great message: communicating the Glory of God, culminating in the gospel ministry of Jesus Christ!



**INSERT POWERPOINT  
PAGE 15  
ILLUSTRATING  
THE FIRST HALF OF  
MAKING THE MAP.**

**INSERT POWERPOINT  
PAGE 16  
ILLUSTRATING  
THE SECOND HALF OF  
MAKING THE MAP.**



---

## Part Three: Indexing The Files

*Progress  
Points*

### **Filling In The Details**

The ten words and phrases are now labels on 10 individual mental file folders. The shape of each file folder will be printed in the *Progress Points* with lines for filling in with key words and phrases to assist in learning the progressive story. As we "open up" each folder, we will be presenting a major part of *The Quick Chronology*, beginning with the beginning, of course!

---

*Genesis 1-11*



*TIME LINE:  
Encompassing  
all time prior to  
the time of  
Abraham*

In **The Bible File**, "the beginning" is the **CREATION** file folder. Before being filled in, the file looks like that on the right. As with every file in this **Bible File** system, we will move quickly through the **CREATION** folder.

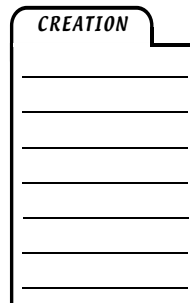
Indeed, the Bible also moves quickly through it. In the first eleven chapters of the book of Genesis, the Author speeds us through an immeasurably long era of the history of the world and the universe, in fact, *all time* prior to 2000 B.C. No one can possibly know the duration of time included there.

The entire story of **CREATION** and the course of the world up through the development of the first known civilizations is contained in Genesis, chapters 1 through 11.

In spite of the brevity of those first eleven Biblical chapters, however, these are priceless pages that teach us many important "first things." While not an *exhaustive* record, be assured that that which is given can be depended upon as reliable and inerrant in the original writings.

Note the outline words as they are placed in the **CREATION** Bible File folder.

**PLEASE  
NOTE:  
PUBLIC  
SEMINAR  
TEACHING  
REFERS TO  
STUDY  
HELPS  
NUMBERS 04  
THROUGH 09  
AND 31 FOR  
ASSISTANCE  
IN MASTER-  
ING THIS  
SECTION. A  
COMPLETE  
STUDY  
HELPS  
COLLECTION  
IS LOCATED  
AT THE  
BACK OF  
THIS HAND-  
BOOK.**



Progress  
Points

\*ALLCAPS  
typefaces are  
used to  
indicate terms  
and words  
found in Bible  
File folders.

CREATION
1st Man & Woman
1st Sin
1st Gospel
1st Family

CREATION
1st Man & Woman
1st Sin
1st Gospel
1st Family
1st Murder
Flood/Rainbow
Tower

## The List of Genesis "Firsts"

- **The FIRST MAN and WOMAN\***

Man appears on earth in a perfect form and is placed in the sinless environment of God's created perfection.

- **The FIRST SIN**

Man is given a test of his gift of free will. He is tempted by Satan and falls from his created state of perfection into a sinful condition, having "missed the mark" for which he was created.

- **The FIRST GOSPEL**

The Creator provides the first announcement that He will send a Redeemer to provide for man a way back to that original state of created perfection, innocence and holiness.

- **The FIRST FAMILY**

Adam and Eve have children and provide the basis for future development of a race of men who must contend with Satanic efforts to keep them from a restored relationship with the loving Father and Creator.

- **The FIRST MURDER**

Sin is committed in its most abusive and abject form, the destruction *by man* of God's ultimate gift, life itself.

- **The GREAT FLOOD and RAINBOW**

God determines to wipe out His creation and begin it again. All mankind perishes except eight people who, under the leadership of righteous Noah, have remained true to God, who provides His rainbow promise as the waters recede.

- **The TOWER OF BABEL**

Man attempts to climb to an elevation equal to God Himself. God intervenes with a confusion of languages in order to disperse the races.

So here, in these first eleven chapters of the Bible's first book, we see Man being created and placed upon the earth. God provides him a setting of great beauty and sinless perfection. *That* is the place from which man fell! His need to be restored to that position — and his inability to do it for himself — is one of the central messages of God's Word.

In summary: the **CREATION** file is the story of God's creation of Man and his subsequent fall. It contains the declaration of the Father's eternal plan for Man's return to that original sinless state of close and intimate relationship with Him. The story of that return is the substance of the Bible story, the core of the Gospel.

Think of these first eleven chapters of Genesis as a brief glance at broad epochs of early human and earth history, a record of titanic events squeezed into a few pages presented in a very few words. Our first **Bible File** folder is now filled in.

We move now beyond **CREATION** to that **group of four great Biblical people**, the first of whom is...

*Genesis 12-25*

The Bible File

**#2**

**Abraham**

*TIME LINE:*  
*circa 2000 B.C.*

*(First in the Group of Four People)*

First in the Group appears that friend of God, **ABRAHAM**. To outline his life we begin at the **12th chapter of Genesis**, the place in Scripture where the Author comes to a quick narrowing of the Biblical view. He moves us away from that wide-angle perspective of viewing *the entire human race* in the **first 11 Genesis chapters**. The story focuses down to the story of **one man and his people: ABRAHAM and his descendants**, a family of Hebrews who are destined to become God's chosen people, **the Jews**.

It is also through this one man, **ABRAHAM**, that God begins a **program** to provide for Man *the way back* to that original close relationship that existed in the beginning. Through **ABRAHAM**

Progress Points

<b>CREATION</b>
1st Man & Woman
1st Sin
1st Gospel
1st Family
1st Murder
Flood/Rainbow
Tower

THE TEN FILES:

- Creation
- √**ABRAHAM**
- Joseph
- Moses
- Joshua
- Anarchy
- Royalty
- Captivity
- Silence
- Jesus

**ABRAHAM**

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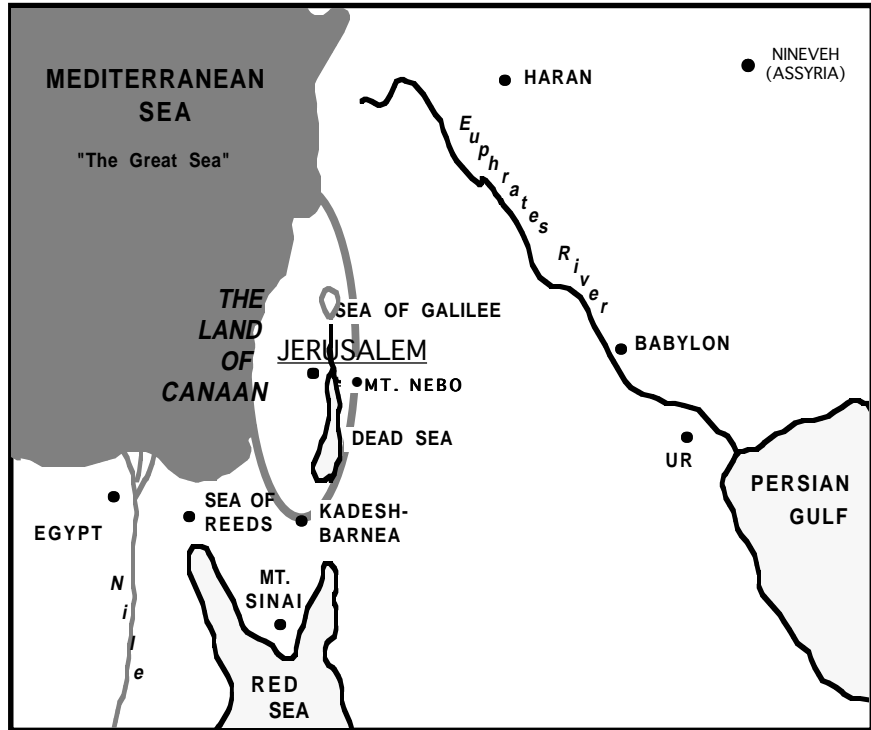


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unfolds all the rest of the Bible, until we see in the book of Revelation, once again, the broad view of the world and the universe.

In both early Genesis and Revelation we see a telescoped view of enormous spans of time. The effect here is quite similar to viewing mountain ranges from a great distance. We can see the peaks lined up one after another into the far distance. But we can't begin to estimate the distance across the valleys that we know lie between the peaks.

*The Ancient  
Near East:  
The Stage  
of the  
Biblical  
Action*



**The Ancient Near East: The Stage of the Biblical Action**

### ***Abraham's Story Begins***

In Chapter 12 of Genesis, **The Quick Chronology** of the Bible really begins. Its setting is in the rich Fertile Crescent of the Middle East, on the same lands occupied by modern-day Iraq and Iran.

The date on the Biblical time-line: about **2000 B.C.** Throughout our study, most dates will be presented in large, rounded

*Abraham's  
Time:  
2000 B.C.*

groupings of 500 years each. More precise dating is not needed.

The stage of this great drama stretches from the Euphrates Valley all the way over to the Mediterranean Sea, as in the outline map on page 20. In between we find some familiar place names.

There are Canaan (today's state of Israel), the Sea of Galilee, and the Dead Sea. There lie Egypt and the Nile River. The Sinai Peninsula appears, a region so prominent in recent world events.

This region has been called *the very navel of the earth*. Through this great hinge of history most of the great world powers of the past have marched in conquest, with Canaan/Palestine/Israel being pulled and stretched by enormous international pressures.

It is a vast land area. And, of course, it is also the center stage for the final great drama which the Bible says will be played out in the last days of life on planet Earth.

The story of **ABRAHAM** begins at the head of the Persian Gulf, in an ancient city called **Ur of the Chaldees**. In our day, much of the current strife among the Arab peoples is focused right there. In 2000 B.C., Ur was a great city, an international center of learning, culture, commerce and idolatrous darkness.

The Biblical narrative tells us about an older man named **Terah** living with his family in ancient **Ur of the Chaldees**.

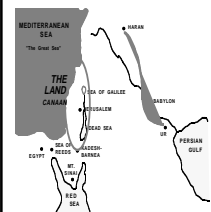
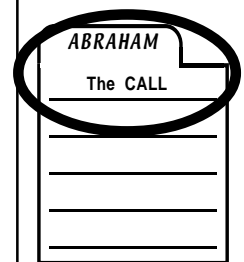
One of his sons is named **ABRAHAM** (although he is originally called **Abram**). His wife's name is **Sarah** (originally named **Sarai**). Also in the family group is **ABRAHAM**'s nephew, **Lot**. **ABRAHAM** receives **God's CALL**, telling him to leave **Ur** and to go toward a land that will be shown to him in due time.

The entire family leaves to follow the Lord's direction. They move toward the northwest with all their flocks and their possessions, probably a large congregation of people, animals and tents. Biblical evidence shows **ABRAHAM**'s family was quite wealthy.

The main point here: **ABRAHAM** and his family are moving toward a land *that God will show them in due time* — but they do not know their destination as they depart **Ur of the Chaldees**. Their obedience is a profound demonstration of their faith in God's provision and His total protection. At the head of the group are these four people: **ABRAHAM**; his wife, **Sarah**; his father, **Terah**; and his nephew, **Lot**.

## Progress Points

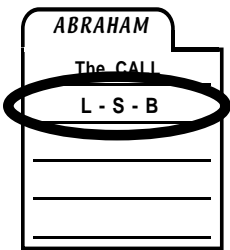
*Through history, the strategic location of "The Holy Land": Canaan/Palestine/Israel*



*Abraham Heeds God's Call*



Genesis 12: 1-3  
Genesis 13: 14-16  
Genesis 15: 9-18



Parts of  
the  
Abrahamic  
Covenant:

- Land
- Seed
- Blessing

They move northwestward, finally arriving at ancient **Haran**. While settled temporarily in **Haran**, **ABRAHAM**'s father, **Terah**, dies.

Once again, God speaks to **ABRAHAM**, instructing him to leave Haran and to proceed onward to **The Land** which He had promised to show him. That land is to be **Canaan**, or the land we call **Israel** today.

### **Abraham Receives God's Covenant Promises**

Printed near the **ABRAHAM** file folder you'll see the shape of a small parchment scroll labeled "**AC**" representing:

#### **"ABRAHAMIC COVENANT."**

This is a reminder of the most crucial Biblical event in the life of the old patriarch and the beginning point in the revelation of God's new Program with Man.

God makes an *unconditional covenant* with **ABRAHAM**. The order of the covenant promises is an important key to Biblical order: a **LAND**, a **SEED** and a **BLESSING**, represented by "**L-S-B**" on the **ABRAHAM** file folder.

#### **THE ABRAHAMIC PROMISES : A COVENANT IN 3 PARTS**

- **PROMISE #1: A LAND** — real estate, a geographic inheritance that the Jewish people respect politically to this present day.
- **PROMISE #2: A SEED** — a long line of descendants. This is especially interesting in that at the time the Promise is given, **ABRAHAM** and **SARAH** are approaching old age and yet remain childless.
- **PROMISE #3: A BLESSING** — promised to Abraham personally and to his descendants. Furthermore, God promises that, through His blessing to **ABRAHAM**, *all* the families of the earth will be blessed.

As we move farther through this story, we will come to see how the entire Bible is built on that unconditional and foundational **ABRAHAMIC COVENANT**.

Now the great stage is set!

When **ABRAHAM** enters **The Land**, he is already 75 years old and his wife, **Sarah**, is 65. And yet, God has promised them children? At that age?

Yes, and **ABRAHAM** believes God. Because of his simple unquestioning *belief* God counts it as righteousness on **ABRAHAM's** part. Just simple belief! This is the first step in the new program of redemption God will introduce to the earth through His old friend.\*

The years pass. **ABRAHAM** and **Sarah** become impatient for the children God had promised would be coming. In her impatience, **Sarah** suggests that **ABRAHAM** go in to her Egyptian servant girl, **Hagar**, hoping that through that union the promised child might be born.

Indeed, **ABRAHAM** does father a son through **Hagar**. The boy is named **ISHMAEL**. But, God says, the infant is not the intended **son of God's covenant Promise**.

By this time, **ABRAHAM** is 85; **Sarah**, 75.

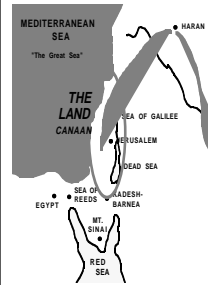
Another 15 years pass. Then the son of God's promise to **ABRAHAM** is finally born. He is named **ISAAC**, a word that traces its meaning to the Hebrew root term indicating laughter. Yes, **ABRAHAM** thinks it hilarious that he and **Sarah** are to become parents at such advanced ages.

**ISAAC** is indeed the long-awaited son through whom God's promise to **ABRAHAM** is to be passed through the family line.

From these two sons of Abraham — **ISHMAEL** and **ISAAC** ("**I - I**" on the **ABRAHAM** folder) — the contemporary Jewish-Arab conflict begins 4,000 years ago. **ISHMAEL** is recognized today as the father of the Arab nations, while **ISAAC**, of course, is revered as one of the founding patriarchs of the Jews.

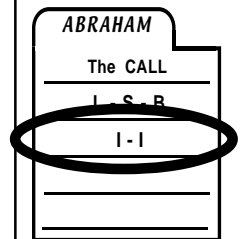
There is much conflict between the two half-brothers and their mothers. To this day, that age-old turmoil in **ABRAHAM's** tent continues. Remember that both the Jews and the Arabs claim **ABRAHAM** as the beginning point of their respective peoples!

## Progress Points



### Abraham: Haran to Canaan

\*Genesis 15:6  
James 2:23



Progress  
Points

ABRAHAM
The CALL
L - S - B
I - J
J - E
12

THE  
TEN FILES:

- Creation
- Abraham
- ✓ **JOSEPH**
- Moses
- Joshua
- Anarchy
- Royalty
- Captivity
- Silence
- Jesus

JOSEPH



*Joseph's Family  
Moves to Egypt*

The story now begins to move a bit faster.

**ISAAC, ABRAHAM's** son through **Sarah**, is the son of God's promise, who then has two sons: **JACOB** and **ESAU** (**J** and **E** on the **ABRAHAM** File Folder).

**JACOB** is the son through whom the **unconditional Promise** now passes on.

**JACOB** then has **12 sons and one daughter** (**12 on the folder**). From these **12** sons emerge the **12** tribes of Israel. The two youngest sons are familiar: **JOSEPH** and **Benjamin**.

Time now to move forward to **Bible File folder #3**, and the second in the *group of four great Old Testament characters*. His name is...

*Genesis 37-50*



*(Second in the Group of Four People)*

**JOSEPH** is well-loved by his father, **JACOB** — so deeply and obviously, in fact, that the relationship arouses the envy of most of his brothers. The brothers plot against **JOSEPH**, selling him into slavery to a passing caravan on the way to Egypt.

Once in Egypt, **JOSEPH** is soon discovered to be a brilliant young man. He learns quickly while remaining faithful and obedient to God's authority and leading in his life. In time **JOSEPH** rises in Egyptian civil authority, second only to the Pharaoh himself. **JOSEPH** becomes governor of Egypt.

At this same time, back in **Canaan**, famine strikes **The Land**. In order to survive the crisis, **JOSEPH's** father, old **JACOB** (now called **Israel**), and all the family up in **Canaan** eventually move south to Egypt.

Through a series of interesting events, they learn that their brother, **JOSEPH**, is governor of Egypt. The family decides to



settle in Egypt permanently. There, as a *family of Hebrews*, they begin to multiply into a *nation*, to be known through later history as the **Israelites**.

For a while, they remain in good favor with the Egyptian people and the current government administration. After all, they are the family of their respected Governor!

As time passes, however, the throne of Egypt undergoes a change of attitude toward the alien Hebrews (or Israelites). After **JOSEPH**'s death they are made **SLAVES** of the Egyptians. **JOSEPH** and his long service to Egypt are soon forgotten.

The **Israelites** are in Egypt for some **430 years**. Much of that time is lived out under the terrible bondage of Egyptian slave masters. As a population, the Israelites multiply rapidly, soon becoming an enormous social problem and popular threat to their Egyptian overlords.

TIME OUT  
FOR A  
PROGRESS  
REVIEW

Let's take a moment out to review the progress of **The Quick Chronology** in **The Bible File** up to this point. This is a brief review. Try to "fill in the blanks" from details that are already in your mental **Bible File**.

The Bible File  
#1  
Creation

This is our earliest view of the universe, the earth and man's sinless original relationship to his Creator, the list of many "**first things**" including his tragic "missing the mark."

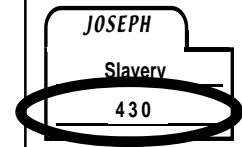
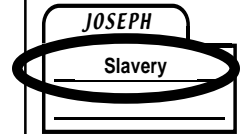
Then follows that group of **four files named after PEOPLE**, beginning with the "friend of God."

The Bible File  
#2  
Abraham

God calls **ABRAHAM** out of **Ur of the Chaldees**. He unconditionally promises **ABRAHAM** a **LAND**, a **SEED**, and a **BLESSING: THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT**. **ABRAHAM** has two sons (**I and D**), **ISHMAEL** and **ISAAC**. **ISAAC** has two sons, **JACOB & ESAU (J and E)**. **JACOB** has **12 sons**...

Progress Points

*A family becomes a nation.*



**REVIEW**

*The completed "Bible File" so far:*

CREATION
1st Man & Woman
1st Sin
1st Gospel
1st Family
1st Murder
Flood/Rainbow
Tower

ABRAHAM
The CALL
L - S - B
I - I
J - E
12



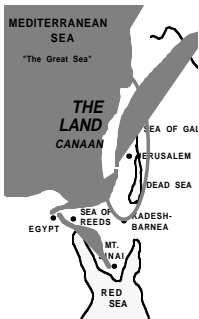
*Progress  
Points*

<b>JOSEPH</b>
Slavery
430

***THE  
TEN FILES:***

- Creation
- Abraham
- Joseph
- ✓ **MOSES**
- Joshua
- Anarchy
- Royalty
- Captivity
- Silence
- Jesus

<b>MOSES</b>
Exodus



*Moses: From  
Exodus to Sinai*

The Bible File  
**#3  
Joseph**

... one of whom is **JOSEPH**. His jealous brothers sell **JOSEPH** into Egyptian bondage. **JOSEPH** becomes governor of Egypt. **JACOB** and the family move to Egypt where the “*family*” of **Hebrews** multiplies into a “*nation*” of **Israelites**. **JOSEPH** dies. Centuries of **SLAVERY** for the Israelites follow, with a total Egyptian sojourn of some 430 years.

On to further indexing of **The Bible File**, coming now to...

*Exodus  
through  
Deuteronomy*

The Bible File  
**#4  
Moses**

*TIME LINE:  
circa 1500 B.C.*

*(Third in the Group of Four People)*

In His time, God raises up a **deliverer** to take the people out of Egyptian bondage. The deliverer is **MOSES**, the *third name in the group of four people* in **The Bible File**. Date: about **1500 B.C.**

After centuries of Israelite bondage, **MOSES** moves to center stage. Repeatedly he approaches the Pharaoh to “let his people go.” Only after **MOSES** calls down on Egypt a series of devastating plagues does the Pharaoh finally release the Israelites. Under **MOSES’** direction those masses of Israelite slaves and their families, perhaps as many as two million people, are permitted to leave Egypt. That’s the well-known **EXODUS**. Led by **MOSES**, the Israelites cross what is called by some, the Red Sea, more correctly, the **Sea Of Reeds**, a large body of water on the border between Egypt and the Sinai Peninsula.

God allows **MOSES** to lead the people through those waters on dry land. Egyptian forces, whom the Pharaoh had dispatched to recapture them, are in hot pursuit. They are drowned as the waters return to normal following the Israelites’ crossing.

Safely on the other side, **MOSES** makes a right-hand turn, leading the Children of Israel toward the south. Eventually they arrive at **MOUNT SINAI**, deep in the Sinai Peninsula.

Here God speaks to the people through his *first* prophet, **MOSES**. He gives to them **The Law**, the **Torah** as it's known in Hebrew.

God issues **His Law** to **MOSES** in **three parts**: the **Moral**, the **Civil** and the **Ceremonial**. Remember that order with these letters in the **MOSES** folder: **M-C-C**.

The **MORAL** part of the Law we know as **the Ten Commandments**. Much of our present legal system is based upon it.

The **CIVIL** part spells out exactly how the people are to live with each other both in the future desert wanderings and later when they arrive in the Promised Land and its more complex life-style. At this point, they do not know that the **40** years of wilderness wandering lie ahead of them. God is preparing them for it with a set of civil rules that will insure their survival across the difficult times that lie ahead.

In the **CEREMONIAL** part of the Law God instructs His people how to go about worshiping him in the new desert Tabernacle and later in the great Temple to be built in Jerusalem. The complex rituals required in the new form of worship also prefigure future relationships between men and the coming Messiah.

After God gives them the new **Law**, **MOSES** organizes the tribes, leading them northward toward a resting place at **KADESH BARNEA**, in the middle of today's Negev Desert in Israel.

Finally, the people are on their way *back* into the **Promised Land** of their forefathers, **The Land of ABRAHAM, ISAAC, and JACOB**.

To prepare for this great event, **MOSES**, their commander, needs *information* about what lies ahead. Any good planner must have dependable intelligence. What is the land like? The people? Rivers and springs? Hills? Forests? Farmland? Is there food available?

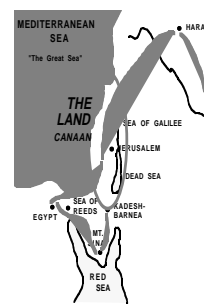
So, while camping at **KADESH BARNEA**, **MOSES** asks for a representative from each of the **12** tribes. He instructs the men to go over into Canaan to "spy out the land." They travel northward as far as today's Lebanon, then return to report their findings to **MOSES** at **KADESH BARNEA**. And they have sharply differing reports following that intelligence mission for their commanding general.

### Progress Points

<b>MOSES</b>
Exodus
<del>Sinai</del>
<b>M - C - C</b>

**PLEASE REFER TO STUDY HELP NUMBER 15 FOR ADDITIONAL INFO ON THE MOSAIC COVENANT**

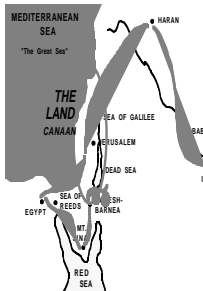
<b>MOSES</b>
Exodus
Sinai
<del>M - C - C</del>
<b>Kadesh Barnea</b>



*Moses: From Sinai to Kadesh Barnea*

Progress  
Points

<b>MOSES</b>
Exodus
Sinai
M - C - C
Kadesh Barnea
<b>40</b>



*Moses:  
The Wilderness  
Wanderings  
to Mt. Nebo*

<b>MOSES</b>
Exodus
Sinai
M - C - C
Kadesh Barnea
40
<b>5 Sermons</b>

There is a **majority report**: ten spies or scouts report having found **The Land** filled with “milk and honey.” But it is also filled with a tall population, such that, in their sight, the children of Israel are but mere grasshoppers. These **10 spies do not believe** they can go in and subdue **The Land** as God has instructed — and live to tell about it.

However, two remaining scouts (their names are **JOSHUA** and **CALEB**) give a **minority report**: the facts of the case are true, indeed. But, yet, they declare, with God’s help, **The Land** can be subdued!

But do the people believe God for His protection and provision? No, they do not. The people believe the spies with the **majority report**. They too are fearful and, therefore, in disobedience to God’s specific plan and promise. In response, **MOSES** does not give the command to enter Canaan and subdue it.

As a result of that disobedience, God sends all of them into the desert wilderness to wander for **40** years — until every grumbling, disobedient Israelite above the age of 20 years dies off. Everyone, that is, except **JOSHUA**, **Caleb** and **MOSES** and, apparently, their families.

Here is an important point to remember: the Israelites were sentenced by God to wander in the desert wilderness for **40** years because *they disobeyed Him in showing no faith in his providence and protection*.

After those **40** years wandering in the desert near the Dead Sea, **MOSES**, the old prophet and deliverer of Israel, nears the end of his life. Because of his own earlier disobedience, even he is not destined finally to enter the Promised Land.

At the end of **40** years of the wilderness wanderings, God instructs **MOSES** that it is now time for the Israelites to go into the land of Canaan, to subdue it, and to claim it as their own rightful inheritance.

Just before he dies, **MOSES** delivers a series of **5 SERMONS** near Mt. Nebo, east of Jericho. He reminds the Israelites of their **Law** and the unusual heritage of their people. He instructs them, a new and younger generation, about their God, about who they are, their precious heritage, and how they should live as they move into

their Promised Land. These **5 SERMONS** make up **the book of Deuteronomy** (which means “Second Law”).

At the end of his teaching, **MOSES** issues what is known as **THE LAND (PALESTINIAN) COVENANT**, God’s unconditional promise to Israel that **The Land** is to be her inheritance in perpetuity. Thus this promise becomes *an amplification of the "Land" portion* of the **ABRAHAMIC COVENANT** between God and Abraham. **MOSES** now passes from the scene. Note the “**PC**” scroll at the end of the **MOSES** file.

We now arrive at the **last File Folder of the four Great People**. His name is...

*Joshua 1-24*



*(Fourth and last in the Group of Four People)*

**MOSES** is succeeded in leadership by the great Israeli general, **JOSHUA**. Recall that **JOSHUA** was one of the two spies who gave the minority (but faithful) report to **MOSES** 40 years earlier after the 12 spies' inspection trip through Canaan.

As **JOSHUA** assumes command, he organizes the Children of Israel for battle, for they are now on their way to reclaim the Land unconditionally promised to **ABRAHAM** centuries earlier in **THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT**. **JOSHUA** leads the Israelites across the Jordan River near today’s ancient city of Jericho. Once again, God holds back the waters of the Jordan for their crossing on dry land just as he had done for **MOSES** during the **Exodus** from Egypt.

The Israelites then enter the land of Canaan, today’s Israel, both to subdue it and to take possession of it in fulfillment of God’s promise to their patriarch, **ABRAHAM**.

At first, they conquer two principal cities, **JERICHO**, then **AI**. However, they do not totally wipe out the Canaanites as God had

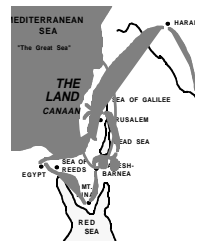
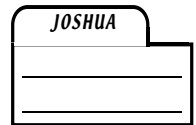
Progress Points



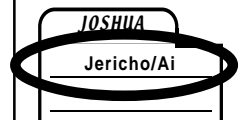
*Deut. 30: 1-10*

THE TEN FILES:

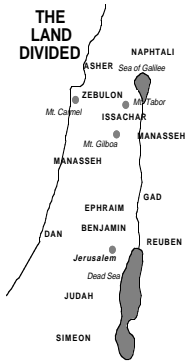
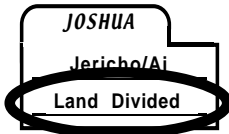
- Creation
- Abraham
- Joseph
- Moses
- √ **JOSHUA**
- Anarchy
- Royalty
- Captivity
- Silence
- Jesus



*Joshua:  
Subduing  
The Land*



**Progress  
Points**



*You'll remember  
the beginning  
words and  
phrases:*

CREATION  
4 PEOPLE  
**3 SOCIETIES**  
SILENCE  
JESUS

**3 Societies**  
*are:*  
**Anarchy**  
**Royalty**  
**Captivity**

*\*Judges 17:6*

instructed. This failure to completely obey God’s instruction later proves to be a great mistake.

Seven years of **JOSHUA's** military campaigns follow. The land is finally subdued as a result of many military successes. **The land is then divided** among the Israelite tribes in each assigned region, each tribal unit settling down, learning to live in the fertile new **Land of ABRAHAM's** inheritance.

\*\*\*\*\*

Now we have finished with **the group of Four People.**

Keep in mind the *approximate* dates for these lives and associated events. The dates are easy to remember in broad groups of roughly **500 years for each major period:**

- **ABRAHAM & JOSEPH:** around **2000 B.C.**
- **MOSES & JOSHUA:** around **1500 B.C.**

Now it’s time to shift **The Bible File** from **4 PEOPLE** to the **3 KINDS OF SOCIETIES.** Remember them from “**A-R-C**”:

**ANARCHY**  
**ROYALTY**  
**CAPTIVITY.**

The scene now is this: **The Land subdued...The Land divided...the people are settled in.** At last, they are in their **Promised Land.** When General **JOSHUA** dies, Israel arrives at a significant turning point in her history.

*First,* no longer is there a great solitary leader of the people to arise and take command. Every tribe and its people are doing that which seems right in their own hearts.\*

*Second,* many other social and religious problems develop. Reason: under **JOSHUA's** command the Israelites had not totally cleansed the land of the Canaanite tribes and their pagan, idolatrous practices, as God had commanded. From time to time

Canaanites invade the Israelite tribal areas. Many turn away from God, preferring the idolatrous ways of their pagan neighbors.

This, then, leads to **the first of the three kinds of societies.**

*Judges, Ruth*

The Bible File  
**#6**  
**Anarchy**

*(The First of Three Kinds of Societies)*

The first of these three Israeli societies to develop in **The Land** is the one we call **ANARCHY**. During this time no tribe recognizes a central governing authority as they had back in Israel's earlier days, the times of **MOSES** and **JOSHUA**.

During this era, from time to time, God raises up a series of **JUDGES** to set the people back on the right track and to bring them again in line toward the righteous life-style required by **The Law**.

The time of the **JUDGES** is a period of great *apostasy*. Circumstances go from bad to worse to good to bad to worse and on and on. But every time events seem to be at their worst, God calls out a new **JUDGE** for His people. In all, Israel has **13 JUDGES** during the **ANARCHY** period. You'll recognize the names of some of them, such as **Samson**, **Gideon**, and the one judge who was a woman, **Deborah**.

The last **JUDGE** is **Samuel**. Except for **MOSES**, **Samuel** is the first of the long line of Israel's great writing and nonwriting prophets. His life marks the beginning of the **Time of the Prophets**. Their work is contained in a relatively short duration of time, not across thousands of years as is wrongly supposed by many believers and Bible readers.

At a time of great national strife, the people come to **Samuel**, their **JUDGE**, requesting a king so that Israel can be more like the other nations around her. Through **Samuel**, God tells them that *He* is their only king, that they need no other. But the people are not

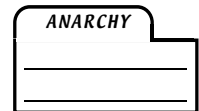
*Progress  
Points*

**THE  
TEN FILES:**

Creation  
Abraham  
Joseph  
Moses  
Joshua

**√ANARCHY**

Royalty  
Captivity  
Silence  
Jesus



**The greatest and  
the last of the  
Israelite  
judges:**

**SAMUEL**

*Progress  
Points*

ANARCHY  
Judges  
350

**THE  
TEN FILES:**

- Creation
- Abraham
- Joseph
- Moses
- Joshua
- Anarchy
- √ **ROYALTY**
- Captivity
- Silence
- JESUS

ROYALTY  
S - D - S

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*The ISRAEL of  
King Solomon &  
King David*

satisfied. God then tells **Samuel** to anoint a king for them so they will learn the difficult lessons in answering to an *earthly* sovereign instead of their *heavenly* authority.

After some **350 years** of **ANARCHY**, **Samuel** serves as the hinge character in moving Israel into the period of its **second kind of society**, quite different from **ANARCHY**. We call it...

*The History:*  
1 & 2 Samuel  
1 & 2 Kings  
1 & 2 Chronicles  
*The Writings:*  
Psalms, Proverbs  
Song of Solomon

The Bible File  
**#7**  
**Royalty**

*TIME LINE:*  
circa 1000 B.C.

*The Prophets:*  
Jeremiah, Isaiah,  
Jonah, Amos, Hosea,  
Joel, Micah, Nahum,  
Habakkuk, Zephaniah

*(The Second of Three Kinds of Societies)*

The date is now about **1000 B.C.** The period of **ROYALTY** begins as **Samuel** anoints **SAUL**, the first of the three kings of *united* Israel: **SAUL**, **DAVID** and **SOLOMON**. You can remember the order of Israel's first three kings this way:

- S-D-S:**
- **SAUL**
  - **DAVID**
  - **SOLOMON**

Once on the throne, **SAUL** becomes a tormented man. Eventually, God deposes **SAUL** for his many failures of character and weakness in national leadership. Then, once again, the old prophet, **Samuel**, is called upon to anoint a king for *united* Israel. **Samuel** searches throughout the country, finally locating the family of **Jesse** near Bethlehem. **Jesse's** young shepherd son, **DAVID**, is identified and anointed as Israel's next eventual king.

In time, **SAUL** is succeeded on the Israeli throne by **King DAVID**, the "man after God's own heart." And it is to **DAVID** that the Lord issues **THE DAVIDIC COVENANT**, His unconditional promise to Israel that she will always have a Son to sit upon the throne of Israel. The coming Messiah is clearly prefigured in this eternal contract between God and His people.



The **DAVIDIC COVENANT** becomes *an amplification of the Seed portion* of the **ABRAHAMIC COVENANT**. Note the parchment scroll “**DC**” as it relates to the **ROYALTY** file folder.

Under **DAVID**'s leadership, *united* Israel's period of **ROYALTY** is truly its Golden Age. **DAVID** moves Israel's national capital to **Jerusalem**. Later the first great Temple to the God of **ABRAHAM** is built on Mt. Moriah, the city's famous Temple Mount, the site of **ABRAHAM**'s offering up of **ISAAC** and the location of today's well-known Islamic Dome of the Rock. **Jerusalem**'s familiar Western Wall is a remnant and reminder of that crucial Temple period. (*See Figs. 1 and 2 following.*)

**DAVID** is succeeded on Israel's throne by one of his many sons, **SOLOMON**, born through **Bathsheba**.

Under **SOLOMON**'s rule, *united* Israel arises as a national power and a center of enormous wealth and international influence. **King SOLOMON** becomes internationally known for his wisdom and for his ambitious building projects, erected at great cost to his kingdom. Who pays for it? The people, of course, through high taxes and forced labor.

In spite of his great wisdom, however, **SOLOMON** spends the country into virtual bankruptcy. Along with many foreign treaties come many foreign wives who move to **Jerusalem** bringing with them their idolatrous religious practices. Even after **SOLOMON** has completed the first Temple to the God of Israel, he also could be seen worshipping pagan gods in other parts of the city.

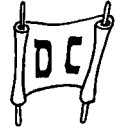
Upon the death of **King SOLOMON** and a vacuum of strong central leadership to follow him in **Jerusalem**, there erupts a **civil war** followed by a **national SPLIT**.

**Thus, the united kingdom of Israel becomes TWO *divided* kingdoms as both descend into increasingly greater sin and distance from God.**

**Ten tribes** join together to become known as the **NORTHERN Kingdom**, called **ISRAEL**, while the **remaining two tribes** (**BENJAMIN** and **JUDAH**) unite to become the **SOUTHERN Kingdom of JUDAH**. Because the *Northern Kingdom* was the larger, it retained the name, **ISRAEL**.

The period of **ROYALTY** continues, but now split nationally

*Progress Points*



2 Samuel 7: 4-16  
1 Chron. 17: 3-15

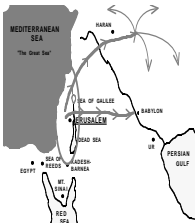
- S-D-S:**
- **SAUL**
  - **DAVID**
  - **SOLOMON**

ROYALTY	
S - D - S	
ooo SPLIT ooo	
North	South
Israel	Judah
10	2
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Progress  
Points**

ROYALTY	
S - D - S	
ooo SPLIT ooo	
North	South
Israel	Judah
10	2
THE PROPHETS	
20-J	20-R

ROYALTY	
S - D - S	
ooo SPLIT ooo	
North	South
Israel	Judah
10	2
THE PROPHETS	
20-J	20-R
200	350
Assyria	Babylon



**Israel & Judah:  
Dispersion  
& Captivity**



*Jeremiah 31:31-33*

between the two kingdoms. Old alliances and ancient tribal relationships come alive as gross sin, idolatry and distancing from God continue to grow and spread through both kingdoms, especially **ISRAEL** in the **North**.

As the nation further disintegrates across some **350 years**, the Bible's great Old Testament **PROPHETS** raise strident voices against the national behavior, both **NORTH** and **SOUTH**. In many writings, in many forms, they repeatedly call the people back to the righteous ways of their Creator as handed down to **MOSES** in **The Law**. At the same time, they write and speak powerfully regarding a future Messiah whose appearance is imminent.

A series of some **20 KINGS** follows in each Kingdom, beginning with **JEROBOAM** in the **NORTH** and **REHOBOAM** in the **SOUTH**. You can remember that order this way: **North above South; J before R**.

The **NORTHERN KINGDOM OF ISRAEL** is, by far, the more wicked, rebellious and idolatrous of the two. The **NORTHERN KINGDOM** exists for about **200 years**. Then from out of the northeast, God sends his judgment in the form of the dreaded **ASSYRIANS** who sweep down to take the **NORTHERN KINGDOM** away. The people are dispersed and absorbed by the Assyrians and other cultures of that day. This becomes the great **Diaspora**, or **Dispersion**, of the Jews.

*The year is 722 B.C.* In all of our study there are only two specific dates that are helpful to remember. The capture of the **NORTHERN KINGDOM** is one of them. Never again do we hear of the **NORTHERN KINGDOM** as a united people. Through the following centuries they are gradually dispersed throughout the world.

The **SOUTHERN KINGDOM OF JUDAH**, however, suffers a different kind of judgment. **JUDAH** lasts for about **150 years** longer. Then **JUDAH** faces an invasion of the **BABYLONIANS** under **King Nebuchadnezzar**.

In the midst of this national depression, however, God speaks through the prophet **Jeremiah**. **THE NEW COVENANT** is announced in which God proclaims unconditionally the imminent beginning of a *new program with His people and with all the*

**INSERT POWERPOINT  
PAGE 35  
ILLUSTRATING  
SOLOMON'S TEMPLE,  
THE "FIRST TEMPLE"**

**INSERT POWERPOINT  
PAGE 36  
ILLUSTRATING THE  
TEMPLE MOUNT'S  
“WESTERN WALL”**

people of the earth. In this way, **JUDAH** learns that a **Messiah** is promised who will deliver them and all people of the earth from the bondage of sin and who will return them to their original created, sinless relationship to their Father.

*This is an amplification of the **BLESSING** portion of **THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT**.* Please note the "NC" scroll symbol relating to the **ROYALTY** period and its file folder.

Jerusalem and **SOLOMON**'s great Temple are completely destroyed in **586 B.C.**, the second important specific date. The **SOUTHERN KINGDOM OF JUDAH** is carried away into the famous **Babylonian CAPTIVITY**, also known as the period of **The Exile**.

# TIME OUT!

TIME OUT  
FOR A  
PROGRESS  
REVIEW

Let's now take another moment to review the progress of **The Quick Chronology** in **The Bible File** so far. Again, try to mentally recall details suggested by these brief words and phrases.

The Bible File

**#1**  
**Creation**

Our earliest view of the universe, the earth and man's original relationship to his Creator, the list of many "**first things**."

Then follows that group of **FOUR FILES NAMED FOR FOUR GREAT PEOPLE**, beginning with **ABRAHAM**.

The Bible File

**#2**  
**Abraham**

God calls **ABRAHAM**, promising him a **LAND**, a **SEED**, and a **BLESSING**, the **unconditional ABRAHAMIC COVENANT**. **ABRAHAM** has two sons **ISHMAEL** and **ISAAC (I and I)**. **ISAAC** has two sons, **JACOB** and **ESAU (J & E)**. **JACOB** has **12 sons**, including **JOSEPH**, whose jealous brothers him into Egyptian slavery.

## Progress Points

Two key dates:

**North:**  
**722 B.C.**  
**South:**  
**586 B.C.**

## REVIEW

*The Bible File*  
*this far:*

### CREATION

1st Man & Woman
1st Sin
1st Gospel
1st Family
1st Murder
Flood/Rainbow
Tower

### ABRAHAM

The CALL
L - S - B
I - I
J - E
12



*Progress  
Points*

**JOSEPH**

Slavery  
430

**MOSES**

Exodus  
Sinai  
M - C - C  
Kadesh Barnea  
40  
5 Sermons



**JOSHUA**

Jericho/Ai  
Land Divided

**ANARCHY**

Judges  
350

The Bible File

**#3  
Joseph**

**JOSEPH** becomes governor of Egypt. **JACOB** and his people move to Egypt where the "family" of Hebrews multiplies into a "nation" of Israelites. **JOSEPH** dies. **SLAVERY** for the Israelites follows, finally totalling over 400 years for their sojourn in Egypt.

The Bible File

**#4  
Moses**

**MOSES** arises as Israel's great **Deliverer**, organizing and leading the Israelites out of Egypt in the great **EXODUS**, traveling through the parted **Sea of Reeds** to **MOUNT SINAI**. There **MOSES** receives **The Law** in three parts, including the **Ten Commandments**. He leads the people on to **KADESH BARNEA**, where he commissions **12** spies to bring information about **The Land** before they go in. Fear causes the Israelites to distrust God's provision. They are turned out into the wilderness for **40 years**. At the end of his life, **MOSES** delivers **5 sermons** to a new generation of Israelites, the book of **Deuteronomy**, including **the unconditional LAND COVENANT**. **MOSES** dies.

The Bible File

**#5  
Joshua**

General **JOSHUA** assumes command of the Israelites, leads them across the Jordan River, and launches **7 years** of military campaigns to subdue **The Land**. Then **The Land** is divided among the tribes as they settle down to take up residence in **The Land** of **ABRAHAM**'s inheritance.

The Bible File

**#6  
Anarchy**

For **350 years** the people live in **The Land**, but with no central leadership. Each tribe is on its own, situations varying good to bad. From time to time God raises up **JUDGES** to set the people back on the righteous path. The last **JUDGE** is also Israel's great prophet, **Samuel**.

God commissions **Samuel** to anoint Israel's first king, **SAUL**, who performs his kingship badly, is deposed by God, and shortly followed on the throne by **DAVID**, also anointed by **SAMUEL**. **DAVID**'s "Golden Age" follows. God announces **the unconditional DAVIDIC COVENANT** through **DAVID**. He is succeeded by his son, **SOLOMON**, whose ambitions also cause him and Israel great difficulty. At the end of **SOLOMON'S** life there is no national figure acceptable to all the people of Israel. Civil war follows, also the period of Israel's *writing prophets*. **United Israel** splits apart into two nations, the **NORTHERN** and the **SOUTHERN Kingdoms**, **ISRAEL** and **JUDAH**, both of which are eventually conquered by invaders. One of the prophets, **JEREMIAH**, announces **the unconditional NEW COVENANT**, making known to Israel that Messiah soon will appear.

Time now to move to the last of **THREE KINDS OF SOCIETIES**, the eighth **Bible File** folder, the one called...

*The History:*  
Ezra, Nehemiah,  
Esther.

The Bible File

#8  
Captivity

**TIME LINE:**

circa 586 B.C.

**The Prophets:**

Obadiah,  
Ezekiel, Daniel,  
Zechariah,  
Haggai, Malachi.

*(The Third of Three Kinds of Societies)*

There is an important difference between the captivities of the **NORTHERN** and the **SOUTHERN Kingdoms**. Recall that the **NORTHERN Kingdom, ISRAEL**, is dispersed and absorbed into other societies. However, **JUDAH, the SOUTHERN KINGDOM**, and its people continue to play a further role in Israel's long history. **Judah's** captivity is only *temporary*.

Why? Because the expected **Messiah** is destined and announced by the prophets to appear through the tribal line of **JUDAH**.

**Progress Points**

**ROYALTY**

S - D - S

ooo SPLIT ooo

North	South
Israel	Judah
10	2

**THE PROPHETS**

20-J	20-R
200	350
Assyria	Babylon

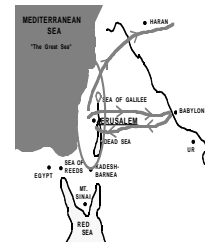


**THE TEN FILES:**

- Creation
- Abraham
- Joseph
- Moses
- Joshua
- Anarchy
- Royalty

√ **CAPTIVITY**

- Silence
- JESUS



**Judah's Return from Captivity**

<b>CAPTIVITY</b>
70 Years
3 Treks
100 Years/50,000
Z - E - N

**Babylon** is the site of **JUDAH's 70 years** of captivity (located at the heart of today's troubled Persian Gulf region in the Middle East). After the **70 years**, the Babylonian rulers then allow the captives from the **SOUTHERN KINGDOM OF JUDAH** to return to **Jerusalem**, and to rebuild their city and their Temple.

**The time is now about 500 B.C.** Many of the captives do return in **three treks** from Babylon back to **The Land** over a period of about **100 years**. Some **50,000** Israelites return. This is the time that the people of the **JUDAH** come to be called **Jews** (from the tribal name of **JUDAH**).

During those difficult journeys back to Israel from Babylon, three famous names move into national leadership. Remember their names by recalling the word:

- Z-E-N:**
- ZERUBBABEL
  - EZRA
  - NEHEMIAH.

Not all the exiled Jews return, of course. Many stay on in Babylon where they are successful in business, living in their own houses. Those Jews are largely responsible for financing the trips back and for the work of the returnees.

With the **Northern Kingdom (ISRAEL) dispersed** and the **Southern Kingdom (JUDAH) back in the Land**, the **CAPTIVITY** period of **The Bible File** comes to an end. At the **ninth file folder in the series of ten** we are at the end of the **Old Testament**.

**THE  
TEN FILES:**

- Creation
- Abraham
- Joseph
- Moses
- Joshua
- Anarchy
- Royalty
- Captivity

√ **SILENCE**  
JESUS

*Between Malachi  
and Matthew*

The Bible File <b>#9</b> <b>Silence</b>
---

**TIME LINE:**  
*circa 500 B.C.  
to Jesus's birth*

<b>SILENCE</b>

A fascinating period of history follows, setting the stage for all that will shortly happen. It is a period of about **400 years** between the **Old and New Testaments** during which the Protestant Bible



records no further event nor any additional revelation from God.

Although this period *between the Testaments* is traditionally called a period of **BIBLICAL SILENCE**, the stage of world history is anything but quiet.

During this time, **ALEXANDER THE GREAT** and his conquering Macedonian armies sweep through most of the known world of the day. In all his conquered lands **ALEXANDER** leaves behind the **Greek language and culture, Hellenism**, which is why we remember him as **ALEX THE GREEK** in **The Bible File**.

When **ALEXANDER** passes from the scene, the **ROMAN EMPIRE** enters world history with its **SYSTEMS** of civil and military administration, law, communication and transportation. Cruel though it may be, Rome's famous **Pax Romana, the Peace of Rome**, provides the most extensive era of *relative* peace the world has known to that time.

With the cultural influence of **ALEXANDER THE GREAT** and the enormous social changes brought on by the **ROMAN EMPIRE**, the stage is now set for **the last of the ten Bible files**. Here we encounter the appearance of that One for Whom the entire glorious story has been revealed and preserved for us.

We arrive at the last of the ten **Bible Files**. All that has gone before reaches its climax through the life and ministry of...

**THE NEW TESTAMENT:**  
*Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, The Acts, The Epistles, Revelation*

The Bible File  
**#10**  
**Jesus**

**TIME LINE:**  
*Duration of His Earthly Life and Ministry—*  
*Winter of 4/5 B.C. to*  
*Spring 33 A.D.*

We arrive at a "fullness of time" determined by the Father as appropriate to bring to the Earth His Own Son to present **the Gospel** to all men. Through this **Good News** all can reclaim for eternity that close, intimate relationship to the Creator lost by our early parents. **Salvation is to be made known to all mankind.**

**The New Testament** opens with the birth of **JESUS, the Saviour**. We see the further development of the unconditional promises of **THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT** 2,000 years earlier.

**Progress Points**

SILENCE  
Alex the Greek

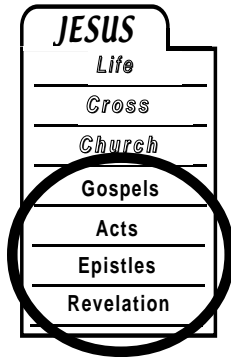
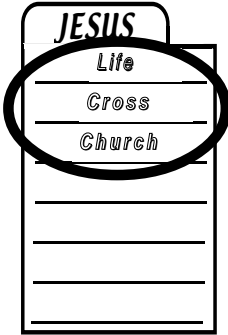
**REFER TO STUDY HELPS 05, 06, 07 FOR ASSISTANCE IN LEARNING THE "SILENCE" BIBLE FILE.**

SILENCE  
Alex the Greek  
Roman Systems

**THE TEN FILES:**

- Creation
- Abraham
- Joseph
- Moses
- Joshua
- Anarchy
- Royalty
- Captivity
- Silence
- √ **JESUS**

**JESUS**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



The **JESUS** file can be divided into three main parts:

- His **LIFE**,
- His experience and the implications of the **CROSS**, and
- The subsequent **CHURCH**.

It is helpful to divide your view of His **LIFE** into

- his **childhood**,
- his early ministry in **Jerusalem**,
- his movements north toward **Galilee**,
- his long **Galilean ministry** centered at **Capernaum**,
- the **Perean** ministry, and finally,
- that last week of His life, the second **Jerusalem** ministry.

The **CROSS** is well summarized by his announcement at the Last Supper of the beginning of **THE NEW COVENANT** and the implications of his statement from the Cross, "**It is finished.**"

In the mental file labeled the **CROSS**, we encounter all the events of the last hours of **JESUS'** ministry — His **death**, His **burial** and His glorious **resurrection**.

Finally, the **CHURCH** file contains all those world-changing events signalled by the formation of the *ecclesia, the called-out ones*, in Jerusalem with James and Peter, and out into the world, with Paul, Luke, Barnabas and the others.

All these titanic events are recounted in the **Gospels** and the **Acts of the Apostles**. Immediately following the **Acts**, the **many Epistles**, or *letters* to the early churches, give us insight and instruction into how the new organism called **THE CHURCH** is to operate in that early time and in our own.

Beloved theologian John Walvoord has written:

*"Lying beyond all the predicted chastisements that are to fall on Israel is the glory which will be hers when her people are regathered into their own land, with unmeasured spiritual blessings under the eternal reign of their Messiah-King. This vision was given to all the prophets. As certainly and literally will she be restored to marvelous blessings in a redeemed and glorified earth.*

*Such is the scenario as the Bible reaches its glorious conclusion in the **Book of the Revelation**. There, in the millennial context, all the many streams of history and God's **unconditional covenants** flow together toward completion. All that was*

*promised has been fulfilled. That ancient understanding between God and his friend, **ABRAHAM**, is accomplished.*

**THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT** culminates with fulfillment of the **LAND**, **SEED**, and **BLESSING** promises:

- **Israel** is seen permanently settled in **The LAND** for all time—completing **THE PALESTINIAN COVENANT**;
- **JESUS CHRIST**, the righteous **SEED** of **DAVID**, is seen reigning permanently on the Throne of **DAVID** in Jerusalem — completing the **DAVIDIC COVENANT**; and
- All men are seen living in the light of the **BLESSING** that emerges from this future time when, once again, Our Lord is living upon the earth — thus completing **THE NEW COVENANT**.

Into your mental **JESUS** file go all things connected with the Christian life, all of your studies, all of your reading, thinking, prayer life, and life's experiences as you grow and mature in your faith.

Here is the organized location for all those great persons of the New Testament, for the incomparable events of the Savior's life, and for the founding and expanding of His **CHURCH**.

In the **CHURCH** file, also, we can see *ourselves*, because the **CHURCH** has progressed no further in its development and fulfillment of its divine mission than at this moment as you read these words. What we do with Our Lord's commission for action as delivered to us personally at the time of His ascension is the substance of each individual Christian's life.

One of the most important realizations from the **JESUS** file is its connectedness and outgrowing from all the other files which have preceded it. *Scripture is a unity*. With a comprehension of that unity there follows a personal and spiritual connection to all that has gone before and all that will come after.

The saving power of Christian belief can now be seen as transcending the millennia, a grace given to every believer in the promise clearly presented in God's precious Word.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Progress Points



## JESUS

Life

Cross

Church

Gospels

Acts

Epistles

Revelation

REVIEW

Recall the ten  
Bible Files:  
**CREATION**  
**ABRAHAM**  
**JOSEPH**  
**MOSES**  
**JOSHUA**  
**ANARCHY**  
**ROYALTY**  
**CAPTIVITY**  
**SILENCE**  
**JESUS**

CREATION

1st Man & Woman

1st Sin

1st Gospel

1st Family

1st Murder

Flood/Rainbow

Tower

ABRAHAM

The CALL

L - S - B

I - I

J - E

12



## Part Four: The Bible Story in Quick Time

Time now for a final review of all that we have learned, beginning with **the 10 key words**, saying them aloud to yourself. We will sprint through this rapid review of **THE QUICK CHRONOLOGY** in a lightning-fast run taking us across *the entire Bible*. As we experience the story in brief one last time, try to recall quickly in passing many of the other details not printed here but which *you know to be there* from earlier pages. They are becoming available for mental recall and for *adding to* as your *organized Bible knowledge* builds in the future. The individual file folders of each Biblical epoch will help you recall the connections and the interrelationships among the **events**, the **people**, and the marvelous **message** to which all our lives must attest.

### THE QUICK CHRONOLOGY!

The Bible File

#1

Creation

After untold millennia following **CREATION** of the Earth, its first family and preservation of human life through the great Flood...

The Bible File

#2

Abraham

**ABRAHAM** is called by God out of **Ur of the Chaldees**. He leaves with his family, including **SARAH, Lot** and **Terah**. They journey to ancient **Haran** where old **Terah, ABRAHAM'S** father, dies. Shortly they move on to **Canaan**. **ABRAHAM** has **two sons: ISHMAEL** and **ISAAC...I and I**. **ISAAC** has **two sons...J and E...JACOB** and **ESAU**. **JACOB** has **12 SONS** who eventually found the **12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL**. Through **ABRAHAM** and his offspring to come passes God's great promise of a **LAND**, a **SEED**, and a **BLESSING**, to be later known as **the unconditional ABRAHAMIC COVENANT**.

The Bible File

**#3  
Joseph**

One of the sons, **JOSEPH**, is sold into slavery by his jealous brothers. He arrives in Egypt and eventually rises to become Governor. The **family of JACOB**, with all **JOSEPH**'s brothers, is driven down to **Egypt** by **famine**. And they stay. And they multiply. Through time, they become **SLAVES** of the Egyptians. They remain in Egypt for **430 years**.

*Progress  
Points*

**JOSEPH**

Slavery

430

The Bible File

**#4  
Moses**

In time, **MOSES** rises from among them, leads them out of Egypt in the **EXODUS** and into the desert of the Sinai Peninsula. At **MT. SINAI**, **MOSES** is given the **LAW, the Torah...in 3 parts ...M-C-C... Moral, Civil and Ceremonial**. **MOSES** leads the Israelites on to the oasis of **KADESH BARNEA** ....where **12 spies** are dispatched on a mission to the north to check out **The Land of Canaan** prior to the Israelites going in to take it as God had commanded.

**MOSES**

Exodus

Sinai

M - C - C

Kadesh Barnea

40

5 Sermons

A **majority report** comes back, saying they cannot take **The Land**: the people are too tall, too powerful; Israelites too small, too weak.

However, **two spies, Joshua and Caleb**, report that with obedience and faithfulness to God, they *can* enter **The Land** and victoriously subdue it.

The people rebel against God, having no faith in His provision. The faithless Israelites follow that majority report.

As a result of their disbelief God banishes them to **wander in the wilderness** until all those above the age of 20 who disobeyed Him have died out. After **40 YEARS** of wandering, just before entering **The Land**, **MOSES** teaches the new generation who they are in God's sight, reminds them of all that God expects of them and defines the promises of **the unconditional LAND COVENANT**. **MOSES** dies, never himself, having set foot in Israel's Promised Land.



*Progress  
Points*

**JOSHUA**

Jericho/Ai  
Land Divided

**ANARCHY**

Judges  
350

**ROYALTY**

S - D - S

ooo SPLIT ooo

North South

Israel Judah

10

2

THE PROPHETS

20-J

20-R

200

350

Assyria Babylon



**CAPTIVITY**

70 Years

3 Treks

100 Years/50,000

Z - E - N

The Bible File

#5

**Joshua**

**Joshua, MOSES'** successor, takes command as a new generation prepares to go into **The Land** and to subdue it. The Israelites enter, partially subdue it and divide it up among the tribes. They settle down to their new way of living.

The Bible File

#6

**Anarchy**

There follows the period of **ANARCHY** and the **JUDGES**, a time of national apostasy. Lasting **350 years**, the period ends with the emergence of **SAMUEL**, whom God commissions to appoint Israel's first king.

The Bible File

#7

**Royalty**

A *united* Israel enters its period of **ROYALTY**. **SAUL, DAVID** and **SOLOMON** are the **three kings of a united Israel**. **SAUL** is deposed, replaced by **DAVID**, through whom God pronounces **the unconditional DAVIDIC COVENANT**. **DAVID** is succeeded by his son **SOLOMON**. Then, **CIVIL WAR...The SPLIT...10 Tribes** to the **NORTH** as a Kingdom: **ISRAEL...2 tribes** to the **SOUTH** as a Kingdom: **JUDAH**. **20 kings follow in each**, beginning with **JEROBOAM** in the **NORTH** and **REHOBAM** in the **SOUTH**. During this time, God issues **the unconditional NEW COVENANT**. After some **200 years**, the **ASSYRIANS** invade and carry off the **NORTHERN KINGDOM, ISRAEL**, never to be heard from again. It is dispersed. Then, after another **150 years** or so, the **BABYLONIANS** invade, destroying **Jerusalem** and carrying off the **SOUTHERN KINGDOM, JUDAH**, into the **Babylonian CAPTIVITY**.

The Bible File

#8

**Captivity**

After **70 Years** captivity in Babylon, the Jews are told that they can return to **The Land** to rebuild the Temple and the city of Jerusalem. Over a **100-year period**, in **3 different Treks**, **3 diplomat-priests** lead

**50,000 people** back into **The Promised Land**. They are: **Z -E-N: ZERUBBABEL, EZRA and NEHEMIAH**. And the **Old Testament** closes.

The Bible File  
**#9**  
**Silence**

The period called **400 years** of **Biblical SILENCE** follows. **ALEXANDER the Great** appears on the scene, spreading the **GREEK culture and language** everywhere, followed by **ROME** and its efficient but difficult **SYSTEMS** for maintaining civil order.

The Bible File  
**#10**  
**Jesus**

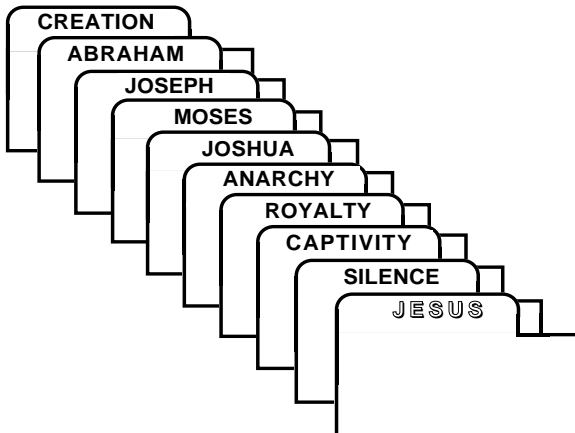
**JESUS** is introduced in the first chapter of Matthew. We are now into the **New Testament** where we experience **JESUS' LIFE**, the **CROSS** — his death, burial and resurrection — and the historic spread of His **CHURCH**. The record is preserved for us in the **Gospels**, the **Acts**, and the **Epistles**.

In the **Revelation, God's Program of the Ages**, originally pronounced unconditionally through **THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT**, is consummated. Here we are given a glimpse of the wonder of the future with **JESUS CHRIST**, the **Seed of David**, seated eternally on his Throne providing the  **blessings** of salvation and redemption for all men of the Earth.

*Progress  
Points*

**SILENCE**  
Alex the Greek  
Roman Systems

**JESUS**  
Life  
Cross  
Church  
Gospels  
Acts  
Epistles  
Revelation



*To sum up:  
Think of...*



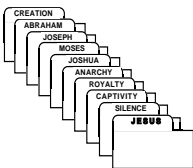
*Beginning with:*

**C 7 S J**

*Expanded into:*

**CREATION  
ABRAHAM  
JOSEPH  
MOSES  
JOSHUA  
ANARCHY  
ROYALTY  
CAPTIVITY  
SILENCE  
JESUS**

*Finally into:*



## *Summing Up...*

**A**nd so the skeleton of your entire Bible is revealed in a digestible form and arranged in a mental filing system awaiting only your own mental application and attention.

**The Bible File** allows you to begin interrelating, piece by piece, everything you *now* know and will ever learn about Scripture, Our Lord and the Christian life.

Recall the beginning point:

**C 7 S J**

...which unlocked the order of the key words...

**CREATION  
ABRAHAM  
JOSEPH  
MOSES  
JOSHUA  
ANARCHY  
ROYALTY  
CAPTIVITY  
SILENCE  
JESUS**

...then applied as labels to **ten mental Bible File folders**, shown on the left below. Here we see all the files coming forward through time as **the Bible's basic chronology** falls into place.

The completed file folder collection appears on page 48 and at the back of the book. We see drawn together a view of the marvelous, redemptive story line of Scripture, a perspective that stretches with continuity from Genesis to Revelation. The events of both the Old and the New Testaments hold together and are shaped by God's great Program of Redemption, beginning with Abraham and culminating in the appearance in Israel of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. Our Lord says to us:

***"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life." (John 5:24, NIV)***



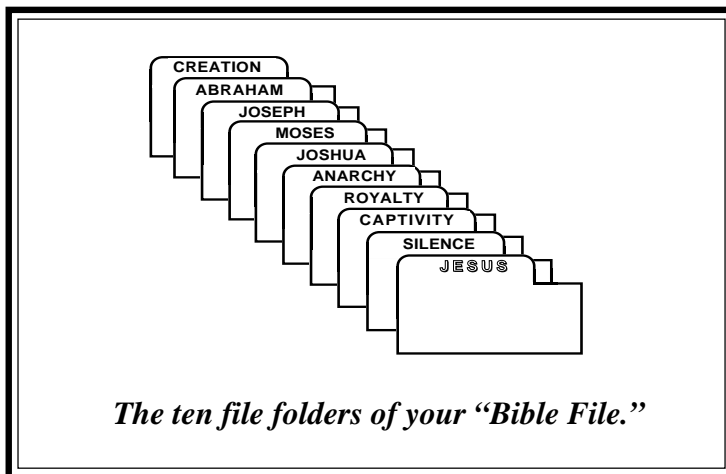
In turn, you will allow the Holy Spirit to minister more directly in your own life as you become steadily more receptive to His direct instructions through the Bible's organized and progressive message, page after precious page.

The Bible has been called "God's love letter to man." All of us are instructed to learn as much about it as we possibly can and to be well-equipped to defend it and its message when circumstances require (2 Timothy 2:15). Meaningful learning to accomplish this task, however, can be founded only on *organized thinking*.

It is our prayer that **The Bible File** will provide you with the beginning of more *organized Biblical thinking*. Our Christian faith is a historic faith built upon the facts of history and the organization of God's Word.

The powerful Christian writer, Miles Stanford, once wrote: ***"...true faith must be based solely on scriptural facts...Unless our faith is established on facts, it is no more than conjecture, superstition, speculations or presumption"***

We pray that this seminar handbook will help you toward a clearer understanding of the *organized* Scripture and its eternal implications for every human life.



***Progress  
Points***

*We must be prepared to give answers for what we believe!*

*True faith is based on the facts of Scripture.*

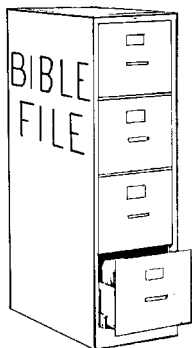
# “THE QUICK CHRONOLOGY”

from “The Bible...Basically”®

## INDEXING “THE BIBLE FILE”



C7SJ C




4 PEOPLE

(All Time Pre-Abraham)

CREATION	
1st Man & Woman	
1st Sin	
1st Gospel	
1st Family	
1st Murder	
Flood/Rainbow	Tower

(2000 B.C.)


ABRAHAM	
The CALL	
L - S - B	
I - I	
J - E	
12	



JOSEPH	
Slavery	
430	

(1500 B.C.)

MOSES	
Exodus	
Sinai	
M - C - C	
Kadesh Barnea	
40	
5 Sermons	





JOSHUA	
Jericho/Ai	
Land Divided	

3 SOCIETIES

ANARCHY	
Judges	
350	

(1000 B.C.)

ROYALTY	
S - D - S	
ooo SPLIT ooo	
North	South
Israel	Judah
10	2
THE PROPHETS	
20-J	20-R
200	350
Assyria	Babylon

CAPTIVITY	
70 Years	
3 Treks	
100 Years/50,000	
Z - E - N	

(500 B.C.)

SILENCE	
Alex the Greek	
Roman Systems	

J

JESUS	
Life	
Cross	
Church	
Gospels	
Acts	
Epistles	
Revelation	

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## Some Final Words

### ***First: to the believer...***

**F**or many Christians, *The Quick Chronology* has been enormously helpful in moving them toward a clearer understanding of God's timeless Word. If this has been your experience, ***we encourage you to teach it to others!*** Not only will you learn it more clearly and permanently for yourself, but the Holy Spirit will also use it to bless and empower you with a new excitement for your own Bible, *because you know it!* And *that* can be life-changing, once the pieces of the biblical puzzle are brought together and seen in their marvelous and interconnected relationships.

By teaching others this organizing view of Scripture you will also allow the Holy Spirit to minister more directly in your own life and the lives of others. You will become increasingly receptive to and energized by His direct instructions to you through the Bible's organized and progressive message, page after timeless page.

Following your study of this material (to your own level of satisfaction), a regular review of it in outline form will be extremely helpful. We suggest that once a month you especially reread **Part Four: "The Bible Story in Quick Time."**

That periodic review will keep the chronology available – at the very front of your mind. The Holy Spirit can then more effectively use it as a tool of insight as He instructs you during times of study or prayer, when attending Bible classes or church services, when you are teaching others, or when reading and thinking in any biblical or spiritual area.

These suggestions come directly from a Scriptural mandate. In his last New Testament letter, Paul in 2 Timothy 2:15 clearly instructs us to learn as much about The Word as we possibly can. Accomplishing that task most effectively depends on accurate biblical thinking. So it is our prayer that **The Bible File** concept will provide a beginning point for a more organized and insightful biblical perspective.

Our Christian faith is a historic faith built upon the facts of history and the progressive revelation of God's Word. The gifted Christian author, Miles Stanford, once wrote:

*"...true faith must be based solely on scriptural facts...Unless our faith is established on facts, it is no more than conjecture, superstition, speculations or presumption."*

We pray that this book will have helped you toward a clearer understanding of the magnificent foundational document of our Christian belief, God's Word, and its eternal implications for every human life.

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***Second: to the one still searching for answers and assurances to life's most difficult questions, please consider this...***

Around the world, millions have studied the Bible as an important contribution to great literature. It *is* the world's greatest literature, incomparable in its significance to mankind's struggle across the centuries.

However, such an intellectual study can completely miss one of the greatest of all objectives of Holy Scripture: the saving of a human soul from *eternal separation* from its Creator.

**Eternity cannot be conceived.** Our human minds can't imagine a time without end! Even the words appear almost meaningless. We also know that nothing in nature ceases to be. It only changes in form. So, then, the question is: at one split second after your human body no longer lives, where will your personality – your very soul – be located? Bodily death is simply an instant's transition from one state of being to another. So, you see, *we are, at this moment, residents of eternity.*

**The core question then emerges: Will you be *with* God eternally, or will you be *separated* from Him eternally?**

The Bible clearly answers the question! Through its remarkable story – its continuity and its uniformity across the millennia – we have witnessed God's boundless love and concern to woo us back to Him, for all eternity!

In our study, we have seen His new Program of Redemption begun with Abraham. We have witnessed the historic demonstration of His lovingkindness through His special people, the Jews. And through the centuries of the Old Testament story, we have watched the repeated failures of His people to live out in full view of the world the extraordinary gifts they had been given. Though they failed, He remained faithful. Though they rebelled against his provision, yet He stood by His promise graciously to provide for them the way back, *unconditionally!*

Through the gift of His own Son, though rejected by His own people, the same Promise has been made to us. Our way back, our way of return, has been provided! Because of that 4,000-year-old “blessing” in God's great Covenant with Abraham, He has made his salvation available to everyone, everywhere.

Having explored the outlines of that continuing story of return, we can now look far more deeply into a single verse in John's New Testament Gospel. From the *Amplified Bible*, study these words of John 3:16. This is the flagship verse of God's invitation to all men to return to Him:

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***“For God so loved and dearly prized the world that he [even] gave up his only-begotten [unique] son, so that whoever believes in (trusts, clings to, relies on) him shall not perish – some to destruction, be lost – but have eternal (everlasting) life.”***

Just as with Abraham in his early day, here John the Apostle assures us that even in *our* late day we, too, are the recipients of that Covenant promise, God’s *unconditional* “blessing to all families of the earth.” And as it was with Abraham, all that is required of us today is *belief* – simple, uncomplicated acceptance of the life, ministry and Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When, with honesty of mind and sincerity of heart, Jesus Christ is invited to enter one’s life, whether in quiet privacy or in a throng of thousands – at that moment – the deed is done! The Holy Spirit quietly descends to begin His work of revolutionizing that new Christian’s mind and heart. Forevermore, that soul is claimed for God, before being surely claimed by those other forces at work throughout the Earth: those of Satan and all who, directly or indirectly, answer to him.

If you are searching for that eternal connection and assurance – which is available only through one’s personal belief in Our Lord – turn to Him now, recognizing that He and only He has successfully bridged the chasm between this life and the world beyond this that awaits us all.

Salvation can be yours simply by (1) confessing your own sin, your own “missing the mark,” (2) admitting into your own heart and mind *your belief in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ*, (3) followed by your humble request that the *person* of the Lord Jesus Christ enter and take charge of your life. Your prayer might be in words similar to these:

***“Lord Jesus, thank you for your work on the Cross in my behalf. I come to you now fully confessing all my shortcomings and my failures. I am incomplete. I am a sinner who has missed the mark. I am seeking your leadership, your direction. At this moment I am reaching up to grab hold of your salvation. Come into my life, fill it, direct it. Help me to learn all over again how to live as You would have me to live. I pray this in your incomparable Name, thanking you for all you have done for me. Amen.”***

And it is done! Your new life in Jesus Christ will have begun as you are joined for eternity to that countless family of all believers who have gone before and all who will come after. You can then be assured that *your* eternity will be spent in the glorious presence of Our Lord. May God richly bless and urge your determination to make that crucial decision.

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