

**A Visual Approach to Teaching
and
Understanding the Sequence and Stories in the Bible**

Two Approaches to presenting and understanding the Sequence and Stories in the Bible

Religious Education Classes and Other Presentations

- 1. Lineage and Chronology in the Bible – People, Events and Places**
- 2. “God’s Story”**
God telling His Story of Love, Forgiveness, Compassion and Grace

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I. **Forward**

“The Story of God’s Love, Forgiveness, Compassion and Grace”

I found learning and remembering the chronological order of events in the Bible to be a complex and often confusing task. Remembering the chronological order of events, books in the Bible and the people involved was an even bigger challenge. It was when listening to the Bible on CD’s that the stories and chronology of the Bible became clearer while realizing it was ‘God’s Story’ about His ambassadors and servants in their major and minor roles in various events. The stories were teaching me about God’s design and will for the lives of the Children of Israel through events, while learning truths, His laws, moral values, the culture, history and the people of various nations. It was a story from which I had a lot to learn about my life and values.

Listening to the Bible stories, the repetition and the lessons God was teaching the Children of Israel and the nations impacted me deeply, spiritually, intellectually and emotionally. It was overwhelming to listen to what God had to tell through the lives of ‘God inspired’ people that gave details of human nature, values and the lack of listening to Him or His prophets. I realized that God was telling ‘His Story’ of Love, Forgiveness, Compassion and Grace to the people He had created. The stories God was telling included: the good, the bad and the ugly about human nature, their moral values, moral condition and disobedience to His laws and instructions in the Torah (5 Books of Moses), the Tanakh (Scriptures/Old Covenant) and the New Covenant (Testament). God was telling the truth about the consequences of good and evil. God’s continual warnings about not listening to Him before making decisions, actions and subsequent consequences became evident throughout. Yet, God persisted in loving, forgiving, teaching them (and us) while still maintaining compassion and grace for the very human beings He had created.

It was after listening to a session about forgiveness, that new insights were revealed as the big umbrella lesson of the Scriptures. The Bible was about God’s strong emotions, His heart for His creation, about his creation: the heavens and earth and the people He had created to live in a sinless world. Since God made man and woman unique he gave them freedom of choice, a conscience and an inherent knowledge of the difference between good and evil. It struck me that the Bible was really ‘God’s Story of Love, Forgiveness, Compassion and Grace’. The Bible tells us that we are created in God’s image; therefore, we too have similar emotions. This is difficult to fully comprehend. However, because of the emotions and conscience God built into each of us, we know the difference between right and wrong and can learn from the consequences of decisions and behaviours that become our life lessons. I believe each of us has our own story of love, forgiveness, compassion and grace. We know hurts, we know the blessing of being forgiven, the blessings of compassion towards us, and learning to apply grace to others and ourselves – to be gracious.

It was when my husband, Peter, and I were asked to teach a lesson about Judaism to junior high students while also including the roots of the Christian faith in Judaism that I was inspired to create a visual to keep the students attention. The students told the Bible stories as I asked “What happened next” and added more details. The two charts were then developed to deepen, yet simplify the knowledge and sequence of Biblical history and better understand Judaism, Messianic Judaism and Christianity. The focus for classroom session focuses on the lineage and timeline for events and the key people involved in the events.

Indeed, life still is an exciting and an exhilarating process of learning; full of blessings while deepening my love for God and my knowledge about God. It is truly a blessing to share this work with you and for you to share it with others. Enjoy the journey of learning, the process of developing the accordion poster and the love of sharing God’s message of love, forgiveness, compassion and grace. Instructions are provided for creating the

accordion poster as a visual to support recall and further learning as your participants tell God's Story. As participants tell the story, it is less threatening for the individual in the group; because group intelligence kicks in and everyone has an opportunity to contribute. If participants get stuck, the presenter fills in using personal knowledge and the charts provided. It is an amazing opportunity for everyone to leave with a bit more knowledge and wisdom filling in a mental timeline of God's amazing story of love!

I pray abundant blessings upon you and your audiences as you come to understand more about the bigger picture when God tells HIS STORY of Love! GOD sending HIS SON, YESHUA, (JESUS CHRIST), the KING and MESSIAH is the ultimate sacrifice showing His amazing love for us. This sacrifice is an infinite gift of love where God reveals so much about human nature. Viewing the Bible from this perspective adds another dimension of learning, understanding, meaning and purpose of God's Love Story for humanity in His Word. Without a doubt, God reveals the good, the bad, and the ugly in human nature. It truly is a story of love. It is humbling to say the least, convicting us to be the best person we can be and reflect His nature through our behaviour and actions. If we are true believers in Yeshua as our personal Lord and Saviour, we are a new creation and carry him with us wherever we go. Through the Holy Spirit we receive guidance, wisdom and a cloak of righteousness.

God wrote for us a spiritual, emotional and intellectual story of "His" amazing unconditional love, his unending forgiveness, compassion and grace for us ... Can we even comprehend it? The lessons for learning are all there... let's talk about them with others.... Look for various threads that are common in the fabric of the text.

You begin by simply asking the participants "What happened when God created the heavens and earth and Adam and Eve?" You just keep asking "What happened next?" while drawing out information from the audience and adding a little information to keep the conversation going. Ask why did this happen, what did God want to teach the people He was dealing with, what does He want to teach us? How do we apply what we have learned to our own life?

Hebrew words are inserted to draw attention to the roots of the Christian faith. Feel free to share this document and present sessions for students, colleagues, Bible Study groups and friends; where you ask the questions and the participants tell the story. You are invited to send this document free electronically far and wide.

I trust that you will also experience the abundant blessings of knowing God's Word while building a vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ (Yeshua), God's son and Saviour of the world in a deeper and more meaningful way. He is the coming King and Messiah we are waiting for.

Abundant Blessings

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II. **Section 1: Instructions to the Presenter**

Using the Sequence of Events for the Biblical Timeline

1. **To the presenter of a workshop or classroom session:**

The following charts briefly describe major sequential events of God's interaction with his servants in the Bible - in both the Old Covenant or Tanakh (Scriptures) and the New Covenant (Testament). Hebrew words are used on occasion since translations have been made from the original Hebrew Scriptures as well as to give a flavor of the ancient text. Copies of the 4 charts may be printed and handed out to participants at the end of your presentation, otherwise they disrupt the participants recalling and telling details in the story.

2. **Length of presentation:**

Many events and people are not listed because it would take longer than 45 – 60 minutes for the discussion of the content. Add or subtract information to fit the time for the class or session. The presentation can also be conducted in several sessions, depending on the goals of the presenter and the interest of the audience. When editing the Word document, right click on a text box and make changes in the text or size of the text.

3. **For Religious Education Classes:**

This timeline was initially developed for classroom sessions in junior and senior high school classes. It fits nicely into one class period for the introduction and then another class for discussion and questions. In this format the discussion includes the roots of the Christian faith in Judaism. Using this timeline to teach the stories involves the students answering the teacher's questions as the accordion poster is unfolded piece by piece. The visual and answers from their classmates keeps their attention. Group intelligence is used to create knowledge and interest. Students tell the Bible stories as the teacher asks: "What happened next" what else happened, who was the person and what are they known for, then the teacher adds more details. The two charts were developed to deepen, yet simplify the knowledge and sequence of Biblical history and better understand Judaism, Messianic Judaism and Christianity. The focus for a classroom session is on the lineage, timeline for events and the key people involved in the events. This timeline also helps students to understand the parts in the Bible where people get stuck – the books of Judges, Samuel, Kings, Lamentations, Isaiah, Ezekiel and the Minor Prophets. Chronicles is a summary of much of the Old Testament from the time of the Judges to post exile times when the Israelites returned to Jerusalem from 70 years in Babylon.

4. **What you will need to organize the presentation or religious Education Session:**

You will:

- Need to make an accordion poster described in the instructions in section 3 of this document; additionally, the text for this poster is also included in section 3.
- Need to have a wider room to facilitate the use of the horizontal accordion poster that you have made.
- Need to ask a tall person to assist you by holding one end of the poster as you unfold the accordion poster event by event while the story is being told by the audience. You and your assistant will need to stabilize the horizontal poster as it stretches out piece by piece as the story is told. Some sections have a vertical component to illustrate some major details or events that happened during the time of a key Bible character or the time period (i.e. during the time of Moses many things were instated and became the framework for belief systems of the Jewish people.

- You, as the presenter, will need to stand to the right of your assistant holding the poster when you face the participants and as they read from left to right.
- The **four charts** included provide information to the presenter and can be printed and handed out to the audience at the end of the presentation.
 - The **first chart** briefly describing sequential events using some of the major events and God’s interaction with servants in the Bible in both the Old Covenant or Tanakh (Testament) and the New Covenant (Testament).
 - The **second chart** provides more details about the New Covenant (Testament). If you are making copies for the participants, hand it out at the end of the session so that it does not distract from them telling the story as they remember names and events.
 - The **third graph** provides information in a graph about the “Kings of Israel and Judah” on a timeline, the length of their reign, unusual demise, a graph illustrating the spiritual condition of the 10 Northern Tribes (Israel) and the 2 Southern Tribes (Judah) during the time of their kings. Additionally, the prophets are listed. <http://www.britam.org/kings.html>
 - The **fourth chart** provides information about the Genealogy of the Ancient Kings of Israel and Judah; rulers of the united and the divided kingdoms. http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Genealogy_of_the_kings_of_Israel_and_Judah.png

5. **Ending the presentation with a blessing:**

A Blessing for Leaders and Participants

from Numbers 6:24 – 26 and 1 Thessalonians 5:23 – 24

²⁴ *“The LORD bless you and keep you;*

²⁵ *The LORD make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;*

²⁶ *The LORD turn toward you,
And give you peace(Shalom).*

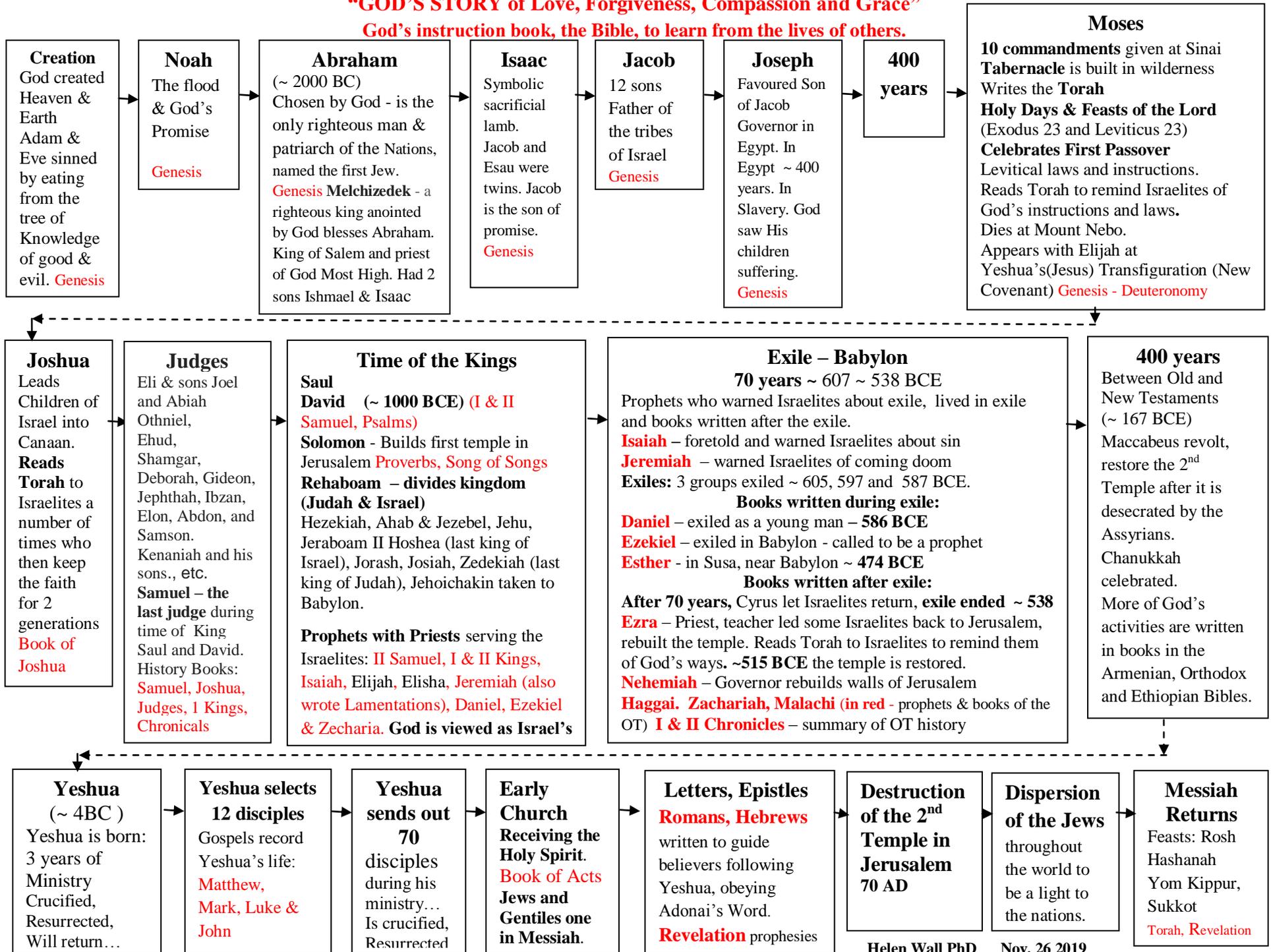
²³ *May God himself, the God of peace sanctify you through and through;
May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of the Lord
Jesus Christ.*

²⁴ *The one who has called you is faithful.
And He will do it.
Amen*

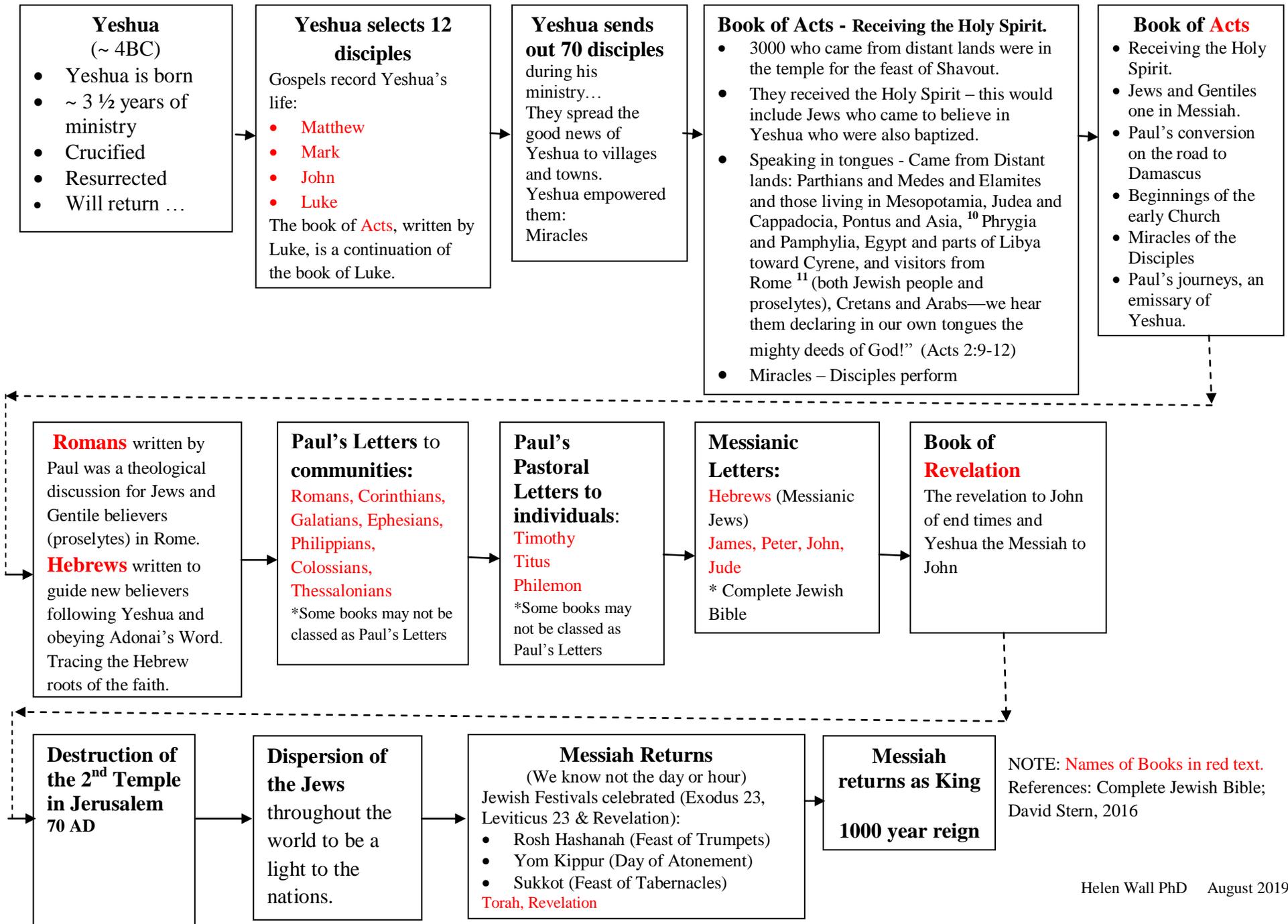
*Aaronic (Priestly) blessing in the Old Testament – Numbers 6:24 – 26
Blessing in New Testament – 1 Thessalonians 5:23 – 24*

“GOD’S STORY of Love, Forgiveness, Compassion and Grace”

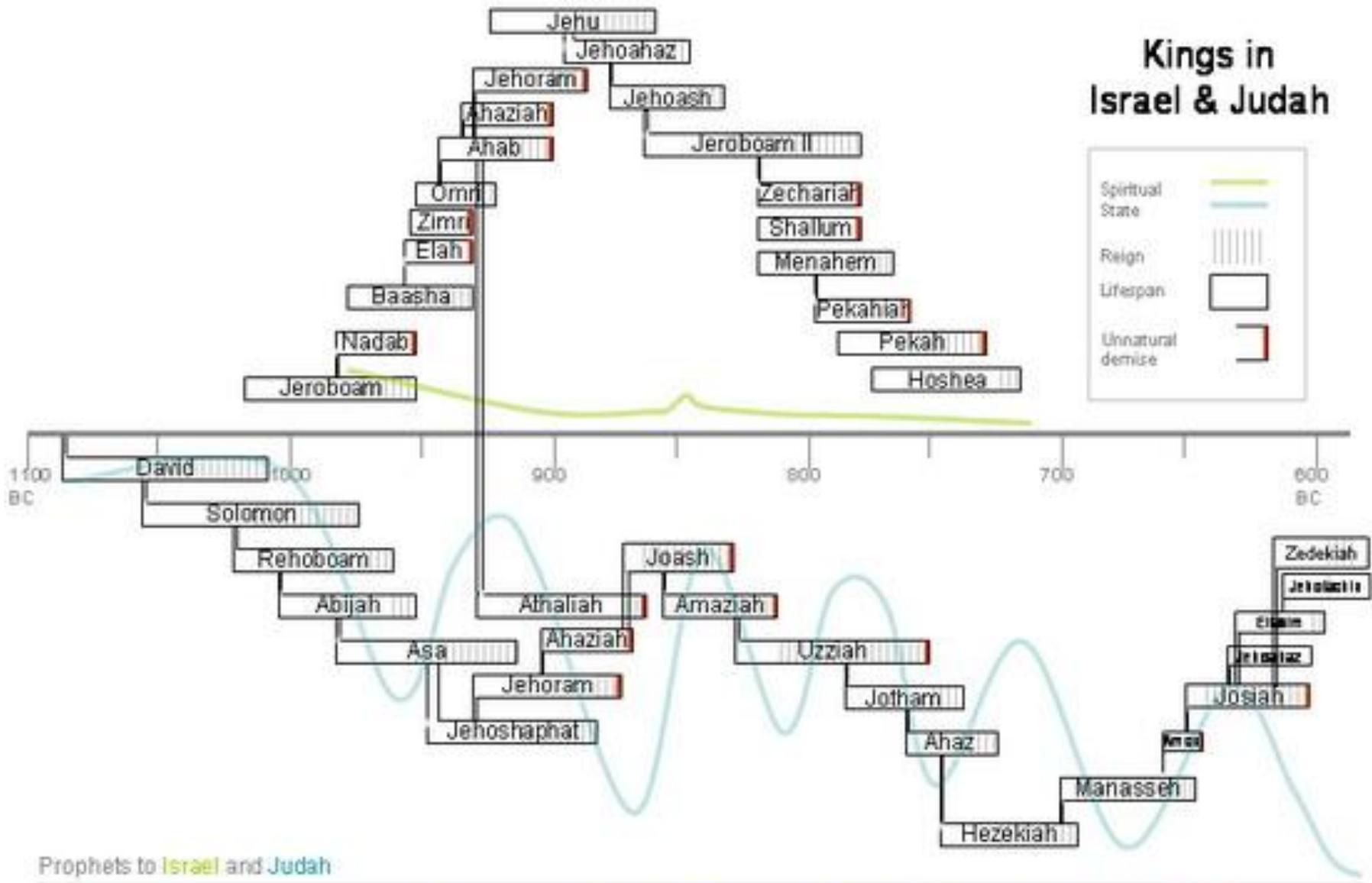
God’s instruction book, the Bible, to learn from the lives of others.



New Testament details about “God’s Story of Love, Forgiveness and Grace



Kings in Israel & Judah



| | |
|------------------|--|
| Spiritual State | |
| Reign | |
| Lifespan | |
| Unnatural demise | |

Prophets to Israel and Judah

Samuel Nathan

Elijah
Micalah
Jehu

Elisha
Jonah
Zechariah

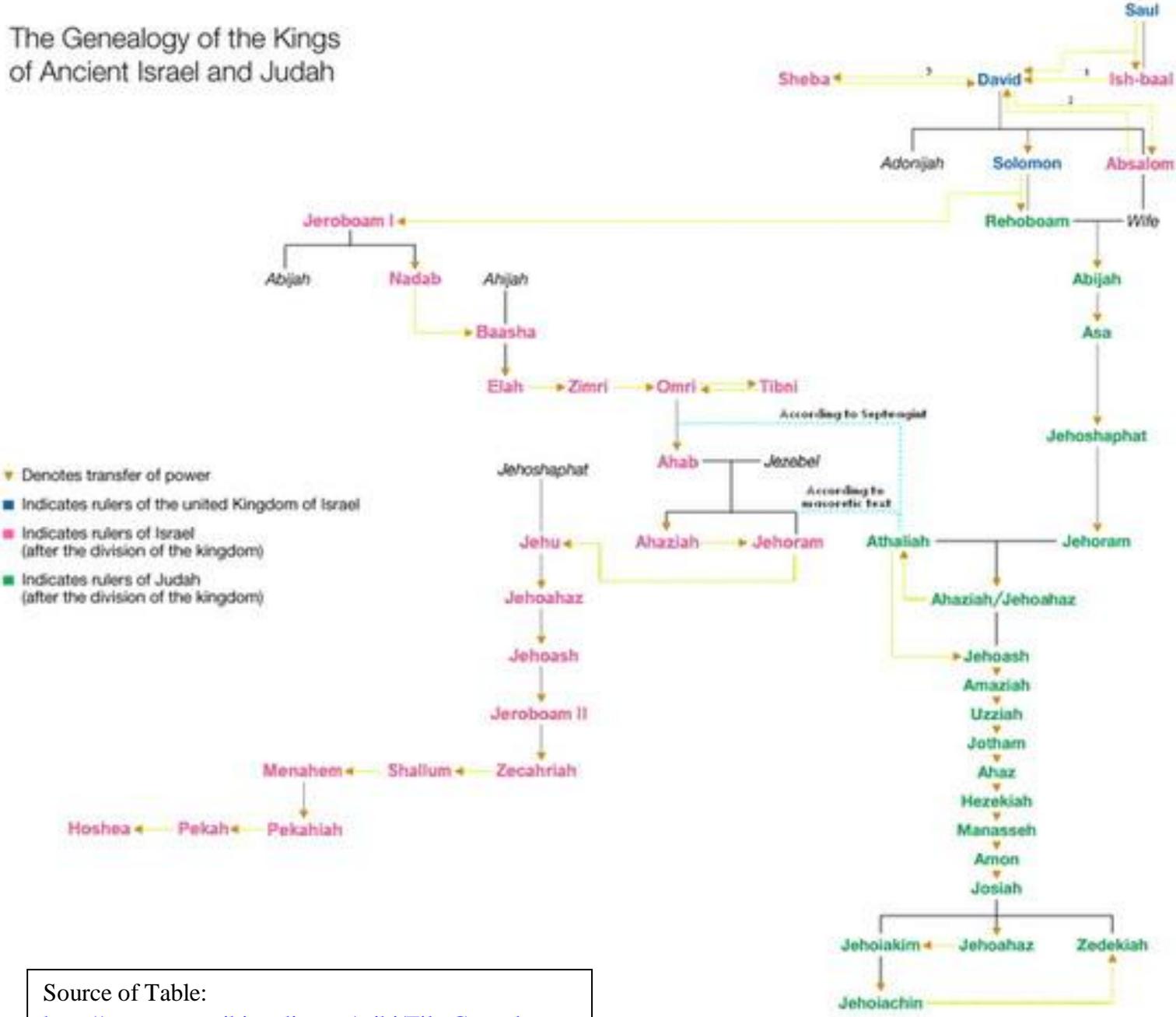
Amos
Joel
Isiah
Micah

Oded
Nahum
Habakuk
Zephaniah

Jeremiah

Ezekiel
Daniel
Obadiah

The Genealogy of the Kings of Ancient Israel and Judah



Source of Table:
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Genealogy_of_the_kings_of_Israel_and_Judah.png

III. **Section 2: Teaching Concepts When Using the Accordion Poster Timeline**

Suggestions for Teaching Religious Education Classes:

1. Focus on the lineage (chronological order of events) and the people involved, who they were, their children, what they are known for and possibly how they influenced future events.
2. It is important to ask students to be involved in the discussion because this is what makes it interesting. Students will then also see where the holes are in their learning. Using group intelligence students piece together the history. It is also a good way to teach details in terms of the context to create an entire picture.
3. As a teacher it becomes evident who has a good grasp of the Bible and specific knowledge, and where to focus teaching.
4. Having symbols representing Judaism (Torah Scroll, Menorah, Shofar, Mezuzah, Tallit, Kippah etc.) available or pictures will make it more interesting when the details are discussed at the time of Moses. Explaining the roots of Judaism illustrates how the Torah (the Books of Moses) are central to understanding the entire Bible and especially the New Covenant/Testament. Many important things happened at this time.
5. Inviting a Rabbi in to the class also adds context, knowledge and interesting discussions.
6. The roots of Judaism begin at the time of Abraham. Christianity also has its roots in Judaism.

Focus for presentations to special interest groups or church groups:

“GOD’S STORY of Love, Forgiveness, Compassion and Grace”

Using God’s book of Instruction, The Bible, while learning from the lives of others

1. **Goals of the session**
(45 minutes to 1 hour):
 - a. God’s amazing love for us as described in the Bible (Tanakh/Scriptures/Old covenant/Testament and New Covenant/Testament)
 - b. God’s love and forgiveness
 - Do we have our own story of – Love, Forgiveness, Compassion and Grace?
 - God tells it all – it is truth.
 - Would we want to tell it all?
 - Why? Or why not?
 - c. God’s compassion and mercy
 - The Sacrifice of His only son Yeshua/Jesus Christ

- d. God's grace is sufficient
- e. Lessons to learn and apply.

God wrote for us a spiritual, emotional and intellectual story of "His" amazing unconditional love, his unending forgiveness and compassion and grace for us, His creation.

Can we even comprehend it? The lessons for learning are all there... let's talk about them....

2. **Reoccurring themes to consider in "GOD'S STORY**

NOTE: Select some of these questions to teach concepts.

- 1. Why is 'God's Story' such an amazing story?
- 2. Spiritual lessons to us expressed in God's Story...
- 3. God's emotions expressed in 'His Story'.
 - a. What are they? Why?
 - b. Can we identify with God's emotions?
 - c. What is relevant to us today?

3. **Lessons to learn and apply.**

- d. What messages are in 'God's Story' that we can apply to our life?
- e. Lessons to learn from God's dealing with His Chosen People – the Israelites
 - i. The biggest challenges to the Israelites: (look for repetition in the stories)
 - 1. Idolatry – wanting to be like other nations.
 - 2. Wanting to be like everyone else (having or worshiping idols) or having what everyone else had (kings).
 - 3. Making choices that harmed them and were in opposition to the will of God, and were not in their best interest.
 - f. **God uses a variety of strategies to get people's attention** including to **LOVE** and '**REMEMBER**' their creator. God is a jealous god and does not want to have others alongside Him. What are these strategies?
 - i. **Calamities** (plagues, prophesies – in the sky, etc...)
 - ii. **Plagues** worse than those in Egypt (Book of Revelation, stories of the 10 virgins, Yeshua's miracles).
 - iii. God will **bless** those who love, honour him and keep His commandments.
 - iv. God used the enemies of Israel to punish His Chosen People.
 - v. **Reading and reciting the Oral Torah.** Prophets and priests **re-establishing the important values** of the Torah – for example Moses, Joshua, Jeremiah, Ezra (See the attached chart describing the spiritual state of the nation of Israel).
 - g. There are **consequences for behaviours** – it is a serious matter –

- i. **Negative consequences:** calamities, poverty, war, poor rulers, exile to Babylon, ruled by other nations, destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, dispersion etc.
- ii. **Positive promises** of following God's instructions:
 - Peace in the land
 - Bountiful crops
 - Blessings
 - God's Favour
 - A long life (honouring our parents)

4. **Key concepts to apply:**

- Fear the Lord
- Look for Him while He may be found
- Read the Scriptures to guide, to encourage. Psalms and Proverbs provide many short meaningful life lessons for success.
- **It was the peoples *sin* that brought judgment from God – What were the sins and reoccurring sins?**
 - **Not Following Torah and the 10 commandments.** Note: there are over a thousand commandments in the New Covenant and only 613 in the Old Covenant (many of which pertained to sacrifices in the temple and are no longer applicable today.)
- How is this learning relevant to us today? How can the concepts be applied.

5. **Outcomes of our learning:**

- a. To think about the Bible as “GOD’S STORY of unconditional Love, unending Forgiveness, Compassion and Grace!” as it is told by the author and sustainer of life.
- b. To better understand the chronological order of the Bible stories
- c. To realize the immense responsibility and commitment of His servants and ambassadors – ordinary people, priests, prophets and kings.

6. **Strategy for telling the story using the Accordion Timeline**

After opening in prayer asking for God's guidance; briefly outline the goals for your session and the need for their participation in telling the story in chronological order of events. It should not be intimidating to individuals since everyone will be able to contribute pieces to the timeline like creating a puzzle

This is additional information to what is presented in the charts “God’s Story of Love, Forgiveness, Compassion and Grace.”

1. **Creation**

When God created heaven and earth and it was good. (Show this frame of the accordion poster).

- a. **God created man and woman.**
- b. **What happened here? (Participants answer this question. Keep in mind the time you have. Tailor the discussion to the time for your session so that you do not get bogged down)**
 - **God gave them the ability to choose!** – Think about the result of choices - over and over again?
 - What is the **result when choices** are made that are not in the best interest of what God wants for his children.
 - God has our best interests in mind. **He has a plan for each of us ...**
 - What must **God's emotions, celebrations and disappointments** have been for mankind?
 - We are **made in the image of God...**
 - **What emotions does God express** that he has also given us?

What happened next? (Participants answer this question and presenter reveals the name in the timeline.) Who was involved, who were the children, what is the person known for? Etc.

2. Noah and the flood

- Participants provide brief information about the key elements of the person, their story and then presenter may ask...

What happened next? (Participants answer this question and presenter reveals the name in the timeline and moves on.) It is very important to keep the story moving in order to hold the attention of the audience..

3. Abraham

- A righteous man, the father of a new nation (Patriarch), God's promises to him, first Jew etc.
Who was his son? And what was Abraham to do to his so? Why?
This was a foreshadowing of Yeshua/Jesus as the sacrificial lamb to save believers in him from their sin Etc.
Abram formed a new nation and was the first Jew – God's Chosen People.
NOTE: This is where Christianity and Judaism intersect. The roots of Christianity are found in Judaism. Both worship the same God and use the Old Testament as basic scriptures for their faith.
Many Jewish people have come to faith in Yeshua (Hebrew name for Jesus) and use the old and New Covenant New Covenant as their book of scriptures. Jewish believers in Jesus are known as Messianic Jews – Jews who accept Jesus as their Saviour and believe in Jesus the Messiah and coming King. They continue to celebrate the feasts celebrated in Leviticus 23 and Exodus 23 as their ancestors did. These are God's Holy Days and are understood as an appointed time to meet with God.

(Participants answer and you reveal this frame of the timeline.)

4. Isaac

Key points that happened in Isaacs story?

Who were his sons? Jacob and Esau –

Two blood lines – one through Hagar and her son Ishmael, another through Rebecca and her son Jacob.

Jacob is the son of promise. Provide brief information about the key elements of the story and then presenter asks about the sons of Isaac....

(Continue this process throughout the presentation... Participants answer and you reveal this frame of the timeline.)

What happened in this story? Key points...

5. Jacob also renamed as Israel

What happened in this story? Key points... etc...

Follow the same pattern for the remaining frames in the poster.

6. Joseph

Participants relate story of Joseph and that God's plan was to use him to bring His chosen people to Egypt when the famine occurred in Canaan. Joseph was governor in the pharaoh's palace. They lived in peace for many years and multiplied in numbers. This was in preparation to build them into a nation and take them through the Red Sea, and into the Wilderness. Here they received the Torah and Instructions for living as a nation and group of people with the 10 commandments and laws in the Torah to guide them. The plagues and the Red Sea crossing were miracles to show other nations the power of their God.

7. Approximately 400 years of living in Egypt

It is a time of silence when God did not reveal other things until he saw the struggle of His Chosen People. During this time God does not reveal things other than the Children of Israel were in Egypt for approximately 400 years, they prospered however, some of the time was spent in slavery under Pharaoh. The plagues were the miracle to prove the power of the God of Israel.

8. Moses – his life - forming a nation of God's Chosen People

- his birth in Egypt, fleeing Egypt at the age of 40, Moses and God's discourse in the desert in Midian, returning to Egypt, at age 80 leading the Children of Israel out of Egypt into the wilderness etc....
- If time permits list some of the many miracles during the wilderness journey.
- All of the things that God instituted during the wilderness journey – the Torah, the 10 commandments, instructions about how to live, health and hygiene laws,
- At age 80 Moses bargains with God not to destroy the Israelites (in the wilderness). Moses blames God for the difficult people he needs to guide. There are many conversations between the two.
- At age 120 Moses meets God at Mt. Nebo, he bargains with God to live longer to enter the Promised Land...
 - But there are consequences for previous decisions and actions...
- God role models His love, His forgiveness, compassion and grace toward Moses and others. Provide examples as time allows.
- Many important things happened during the time of Moses that influence the Jewish and Christian faith.

The plagues – to show God's power

10 commandments given at Sinai as boundaries for living

- **Tabernacle** is built in wilderness
- Writes the **Torah**
- **God determines times that He wants His Chosen People to meet with Him in worship and fellowship with other.**
 - **Holy Days & Feasts of the Lord** (Exodus 23 and Leviticus 23)
 - **The Sabbath** – every Friday evening at sundown until Saturday at Sundown,
 - **Passover** - leaving Egypt for the wilderness (8 day celebration)
 - **Pentecost** (50 days after Passover and at the end of the counting of the omer (or feast weeks) 40 days)
 - **Festival of Trumpets (Rosh Shoshanah** – 1 Thessalonians 4: 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and he dead in Christ will rise first. (NIV)

i. Day of Atonement – Yom Kippur - 2 Timothy 4:1-3 (NIV)

I charge you ^[a]therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead ^[b]at His appearing and His kingdom: ² Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. ⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Revelation 20:11-25 – The Great White Throne Judgment

- **Feast of Tabernacles:** Revelation 15:5 - After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the **tabernacle** of the testimony in heaven was opened.
- Revelation 21:1- 3

21 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. ² Then I, ^[a]John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ ***And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.*** ⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said ^[b]to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.”

⁶ And He said to me, “It^[c] is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. ⁷ He who overcomes ^[d]shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

- Levitical laws and instructions. 613 laws – many pertain to sacrificing in the Tabernacle and Temple
- Reads Torah to remind Israelites of God’s instructions and laws.
- Dies at Mount Nebo.
- Appears with Elijah at Yeshua’s Transfiguration (New Covenant)

Genesis - Deuteronomy

- **NOTE:** Moses and Elijah meet Yeshua on the mount of Transfiguration in Canaan.
- **God uses a variety of strategies to get people’s attention and to REMEMBER their creator...** What are the strategies?
 - **Calamities** (plagues, prophesy – in sky, Book of Revelation, stories of the 10 virgins, Yeshua’s miracles,
 - God will **ble**ss those who honour him and keep his commandments.
 - God **used the enemies** of Israel to punish the Israelites...
 - **Reading and reciting the Oral Torah.** Prophets and priests **re-establishing important values** of the Torah – Moses, Joshua, Jeremiah, Ezra (See the attached document that describes the spiritual state of the nation of Israel).

There are **consequences for behaviours** – it is a serious matter –

- **Negative consequences:** calamities, poverty, war, poor rulers, exile to Babylon, ruled by other nations, dispersion etc.
- **Positive results** of following God’s instructions:
 - Peace in the land
 - Bountiful crops
 - Blessings
 - God’s Favour

9. Joshua

Joshua was a youth when he left Egypt and was Moses assistant throughout the wilderness journey. He led the troops of Israel to victory over the battle of the Amalekites (Ex. 17:8-13. He was a courageous God fearing leader and led the Children of Israel into Canaan. Before Joshua led the Israelites across the Jordan into Canaan he distributed the land among the tribes, read the Torah emphasizing obedience to Adonai. When they arrived at Gilgal, Canaan, he read the Israelites the Torah again and celebrated the Passover. For two generations, they were faithful to God. Joshua had

numerous roles when he took over from Moses and fought many battles to claim the land. Victory was contingent on courage and faith in God (1:6-7-9) and obedience to the Torah (1:7). He alone was allowed to accompany Moses up the mountain when the tablets were received (Exodus 23:14:13-14).

10. Judges

The period of the Judges lasted 300 to 400 years from the death of Joshua to the time of Samuel. Priests served in the Tabernacle.

During this time the children of Israel did what was evil from Adonai's perspective. (Judges 2:11; 3:7, 12; 4:1; 6:1; 10:6; 13:1). They departed from their former holiness. There is a cycle of provoking God's wrath. As a result, God allows their enemies to attack; then the people call out to God. God raises up a faithful judge to rule the people – military leader and counselor to lead them against their enemies. After the victory, they begin the cycle of sin again. Although God is faithful, there are consequences to sin.

“The primary message of Judges is that God will not allow sin to go unpunished. As Exodus established, Israel was God's people— He was their King. They had forsaken the covenant established at Mount Sinai. In Judges, He disciplined them for following other gods, disobeying His sacrificial laws, engaging in blatant immorality, and descending into anarchy at times. Yet because they were His people, He listened to their cries for mercy and raised up leaders to deliver them. Unfortunately, even these godly individuals did not wield sufficient influence to change the nation's direction. The people's inability to resist sinful Canaanite influences eventually revealed their desire for a centralized monarchy, led by a righteous king whom God would choose as His intermediary.

The biblical narrative of the judges appears to depict successive individuals, each from a different tribe of Israel, portrayed as chosen by God to redeem the people from their enemies (and their own sinful ways) then again secure justice and reverence in society

The period of the judges began after the death of Joshua in the early fourteenth century BC ([Joshua 24:29](#)) and continued until Saul was crowned king of Israel by the prophet Samuel in 1051 BC ([1 Samuel 10:24](#)). The book of Judges acts as the sequel to the book of Joshua, linked by comparable accounts of Joshua's death ([Joshua 24:29–31](#); [Judges 2:6–9](#)). Events within the book of Judges span the geographical breadth of the nation, happening in a variety of cities, towns, and battlefields. Scholars believe some of the judges ruled simultaneously in separate geographical regions. Attempts to calculate the exact amount of time covered in Judges are inconclusive, but generally, the book begins soon after the death of Joshua and ends in the years just before the entrance of Samuel onto the scene, a period of about three hundred years.

Samuel was the last of the judges, one of the special leaders whom God raised up during this time period to rescue His people. **The judges did not oversee merely legal matters, as in our sense of the role; their tasks often included military and administrative authority as well.**

Clues within Judges suggest it was written before David established his throne in Jerusalem (1004 BC), yet after Saul was anointed king (1051 BC) (compare [Judges 1:21](#) with [2 Samuel 5:6–7](#) and [Judges 1:29](#) with [1 Kings 9:16](#)). Also, Samuel was known to write on occasion ([1 Samuel 10:25](#)).

<https://www.insight.org/resources/bible/the-historical-books/judges>

11. Kings

The Children of Israel wanted to be like other nations with Kings. God relented and sent prophets to advise kings, priests served in the Tabernacle. Elijah was one of these prophets to advise the king. God's intent was to establish a kingship (Deut. 17:14-20) but not in the way Israel imagined (1Samuel 8:5, 7) God knew that providing Kings would not heal Israel's problems (1Samuel 12:12-25.). God was seen as Israel's ultimate king (1Samuel 8:7). The books of I & II Samuel relate stories about Saul's and David reign as kings.

David was the apple of God's eye. He repented of his sin. God promises David an eternal covenant and right to rule, but David falls into sin which results in severe punishment from God. The promise is eventually fulfilled in a descendent of David – Yeshua, who will reign forever.

Solomon becomes king and asks God for wisdom instead of wealth and builds the Temple in Jerusalem. He constructs a beautiful temple, but sin takes him down a path of destruction. God gives him wisdom and he is attributed to writing the book of Proverbs, but unfortunately he does not heed his own advice.

12. Divided Kingdom

Israel - 10 Northern Tribes

Judah - 2 Southern Tribes

After Solomon's death, the kingdom is divided by his 2 sons - into Israel and Judah. These tribes then fought each other and other nations. Many kings are named during this time (see the chart – Genealogy of Israel & Judah). The books of Kings chronicle the kingdoms of Israel and Judah until the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem which is approximately 400 years. Eventually the Northern Kingdom falls to Assyria and the people are taken into exile. The Southern Kingdom, Judah, is exiled to Babylon for 70 years. The tribe of Judah lived a spiritual roller coaster with bad kings after good kings. The tribe of Israel's spiritual condition was consistently low without Godly kings. The Prophets attempted to direct the tribes on God's path of righteousness. Moral decline and Baal worship brought turmoil to these kingdoms; even though God spoke through the Prophets. Elisha, Hosea, Amos speak to the Northern Kingdom. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Joel, Micah, Habakkuk and Zephaniah speak to the Southern Kingdom. Elijah and others) warning of impending doom.

13. Exiled to Babylon

70 years ~ 607 ~ 538 BCE

This section provides information about the Prophets who warned Israelites about the coming exile. The following prophets forewarned the tribe of Judah about the exile to Babylon.

Isaiah – foretold and warned Israelites about sin. He also prophesies about the days of Israel as a nation when they will be in exile.

Jeremiah – warned Israelites of coming doom (in the books of Jeremiah and Lamentations)

Exiles: Nebuchadnessar took 3 groups into exile in Babylon from Jerusalem ~ 605, 597 and 587 BCE. Approximately 50,000 people in total.

Books written during exile:

Daniel – exiled as a young man – **586 BCE**

Ezekiel – exiled in Babylon - called to be a prophet after being in Babylon for 3 years

Esther - in Susa, near Babylon ~ **474 BCE**

Books written after exile:

After **70 years**, Cyrus let Israelites return, **exile ended ~ 538**

Ezra – Priest, teacher led some Israelites back to Jerusalem, rebuilt the temple. Reads Torah to Israelites to remind them of God’s ways.

~ **515 BCE** the temple is restored.

Nehemiah – Governor rebuilds walls of Jerusalem

Haggai. Zachariah, Malachi (in red - prophets & books of the OT) **I & II Chronicles** – summary of OT history

14. There were 400 Years

- Between Old and New Testaments
- (~ 167 BCE) Maccabeus revolt, restore the 2nd Temple after it is desecrated by the Assyrians. Chanukkah (Hanukkah) is celebrated. The story behind Chanukka is that after the temple was desecrated there was only enough oil to burn for one day, but the oil burned in the lamp for 8 days. Therefore, in the Jewish tradition, the celebration of Hanukkah is celebrated for 8 days. The Messianic Jews (those who believe in Yeshua/Jesus) celebrate it as the festival of lights when Jesus went to the temple to declare that he was the light of the world.

NOTE: More of God’s activities are written in books in the Armenian, Orthodox and Ethiopian Bibles.

15. New Covenant (Testament)

Please use the information on the Chart. There should be sufficient information for an overview.

IV. Section 3 – Application: Lessons to Learn

Select a few to review – adjust to time and purpose of your presentation.

- Fear the Lord and you will be blessed and prosper. This is a reoccurring theme in the bible.
- Look for Him while He may be found

- Read the Scriptures to guide, to encourage. Psalms and Proverbs provide many short meaningful life lessons for success.

It was the peoples *sin* that brought judgment from God – What were the sins and reoccurring sins?

i. **Not Following Torah and 10 commandments**

- How is this relevant to us today?

ii. **Grumbling in the wilderness** after miracles of the Red Sea, Manna, water etc.

Consequences:

- Miriam had leprosy; Aaron's sons burned with Holy Fire; Moses hitting the rock rather than talking to it and the result that he could not enter the Promised Land. Did God relent? NO..
- **When they worshiped and honoured God**, things went well, no sickness and they were blessed.

Two generations after Joshua God's Chosen People worshipped God. After that they again forgot their Creator and fell into sinful patterns.

i. **Worshiping idols** – Was God was not 'enough' for them?

ii. **Women having fertility god's** (Rachel etc.). Some could not wait for God but took things into their own hands (Sarah etc.).

iii. **Sacrificing their children** to idols, Baal and others.

iv. **Wanting to be like other nations** – Demanding kings who then created other problems. Kings created other problems.

v. **Intermarrying** when God had instructed them differently...

vi. **Being exiled to Babylon** was a punishment with far reaching consequences.

vii. **Using the enemies** of Judah to punish them.

viii. **Not listening to Prophets who were God's messengers.**

ix. **Not acknowledging** their Creator and their God.

2. Sending judgment, consequences - punishment to get the attention of the Israelites – or our attention?

i. Crop failure

ii. Wars

iii. Divided kingdom (Northern and Southern Kingdom who also fought against each other.)

iv. Exiled to Babylon – *God uses Assyria and Babylon as instruments of judgment* and bringing the remnant back to him.

Think about “How God has corrected us, forgiven us, had and compassion and brought us back to him...”

3. God's amazing love for his people:

i. **Continual forgiveness** – giving another chance... Examples:

ii. **Yeshua the ultimate sacrifice** for the sins of the people...

iii. **The Holy Spirit** to guide us

iv. **David a man after God's own heart** even though he sinned (all have sinned and none are perfect – only God is perfect.)

- v. **List others** who were faithful to God: Joshua, David, Ezra, Nehemiah, crucifixion of Yeshua, Paul etc.

4. God's compassion: Examples:

- i. Moses dies at Mt. Nebo, but then meets Yeshua and Elijah at the Mt. of Transfiguration ...
- ii. David a man after God's own heart even though he sinned
- iii. II Chronicles 36: 15: ADONAI, the God of their fathers, sent word to them through His messengers again and again, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place – Jerusalem (Zion).
- iv. Forgiveness of sin by **offering his own son Yeshua**, as the ultimate sacrifice that we may reign with him one day.
- v. Apostle Paul – the road to Damascus from persecutor to apostle
- vi. **God told it all** ... the good, the bad, and the ugly.

5. Applications for us today: What have we learned today?

a. **God gave an instruction manual and laws for us to follow for our own best interest...**

b. **'Do we use God's instruction manual** to learn from the lives of others'?

c. **Are we awe struck by God's amazing love and patience (long suffering) for his people, for us?**

- i. Do we feel worthy of His love and Grace? How and Why?
- ii. How does God still perform miracles today? ...
- iii. How God/Yeshua/Holy Spirit are always approachable and available...
- iv. **God's incredible heart** of compassion and grace for his people and his amazing compassion for ALL humanity ... "that none should perish? But all come to repentance and know him as a personal Lord and Saviour"....

Verses of encouragement ...

Jeremiah 33:3 "Call to Me, and I will answer you— I will tell you great and hidden things, which you do not know." **1**

Corinthians 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God ordained before the ages for our glory.

Joel 2:13 Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. ¹⁴Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing—grain offerings and drink offerings, for the LORD your God.

Ezra 10: 30 **People make a commitment to God:** all join their brothers the nobles, and enter into a curse and an oath to walk in the *Torah* of God given through Moses the servant of God, and to keep and do all the *mitzvot* of ADONAI our Lord, along with His ordinances and His statutes.

II Chronicles 36: 15: ADONAI, the God of their fathers, sent word to them through His messengers again and again, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place.

Jonah 4: 2 b So he prayed to ADONAI and said, "Please, Lord, was not this what I said when I was still in my own country? That's what I anticipated, fleeing to Tarshish—for I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and full

of kindness, and relenting over calamity. (God is by nature compassionate toward all people, wanting all to repent in order to avoid judgment.)

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has taken hold of you except what is common to mankind. But God is faithful—He will **not** allow you to be tempted beyond what you can handle. But with the temptation He will also provide a way of escape, so you will be **able** to endure it.

NOTE: Prophecies in the Old Testament

Isaiah: Chapters 60 – 61; 65:17 – 25 (a New Creation)

Isaiah 66 For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me," says the LORD, "So shall your descendants and your name remain. ²³And it shall come to pass *that* from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me," says the LORD.

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/resources/guide-to-bible-study/post-exilic-books.html>

Malachi-- then rebukes the priests for treating with contempt the law of sacrifices, a corruption which grew out of their avarice ([Malachi 1:6-11,14](#)). He next predicts the coming of the Messiah to the temple, and the work of purification and separation which he will execute ([Malachi 2:17-3:6](#)). Turning back to his own time he rebukes the people severely for withholding their tithes and offerings, and for pretending that there was no profit in serving the Lord ([Malachi 3:7-15](#)). He predicts the final blessedness of those that feared the Lord, and the destruction of those who feared him not ([Malachi 3:16-4:3](#)).

As a most fitting close of the Old Testament, he looks back and says to the people, "Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, even statutes and judgments" ([Malachi 4:4](#)); and then he looks forward to the work of John the Baptist, and says, "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of the Lord come. And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers; lest I come and smite the earth with a curse" ([Malachi 4:5,6](#)).

V. **Section 4: Instructions for constructing the timeline**

How to make and use the following text to tell the story of the Bible Timeline as illustrated in the first 2 pages of this document.

- This accordion poster is designed to be the **visual aid that unfolds as the participants tell the story** for the frame that is being shown. The suggested length of presentation is approximately 45 to 60 minutes to hold attention as well as give a quick overview of the chronological order of events in the Bible. The intent is for the participants to tell the story of the Bible as the leader and an assistant unfold the accordion poster. **The leader asks the participants “What happens next?” Details are also be provided by the leader to keep the conversation going and point out reoccurring themes.** *The presentation should move quickly in order to keep the attention and engagement of the participants.*
- The **large text in the next section** is for you to print the text for the poster. The large text is a learning tool (learning through association) to help participants read and visually remember the chronological order of biblical events, their grouping and associating books of the Bible with the events. The attached charts, presented earlier in this document, provides a quick reference of information for the leader as the story unfolds. The charts can be printed and given to the participants for their reference as they continue to study their Bible.
- The timeline forms a horizontal accordion style poster that is taped together with clear packing tape. A space of ¼ inch must be left between each individual sheet so that it can easily be folded into an accordion. Under Moses and other topical frames a number of events are added to form a vertical accordion poster. Frames in the poster can be left out or more added depending upon the goals of the leader in their presentation.
 - a. The **page layout** of the text is Horizontal
 - b. **Two topics are printed on each page** and need to be cut apart
 - c. You will see **duplicate names or frames** for some of the topics because they are used twice: for example: 400 years, Festival of Trumpets, Festival of Tabernacles and Day of Atonement. (The festivals are used to explain where they were instituted during the time of Moses and then in the end times as well as how they are still celebrated in Judaism to commemorate the feasts of the Lord, or Holy Days.)
 - d. **Cut the topics** apart
 - e. Either **laminates** the topic frames **or use clear packing tape** to cover the frame on the front and the back. This will make it stronger and water proof.
 - f. Then using clear packing tape, place the frame in the correct sequence and **tape the frames together** as shown in the pictures below. More topics can be added or some left out depending upon the purpose of the presentation.
 - g. **Leave at least ¼ inch** between each frame when taping them together so that it will fold easily into an accordion. Tape frames together in sections for the presentation, otherwise the poster will twist with it’s weight.

NOTE: Suggestions for colour arrangement in the poster

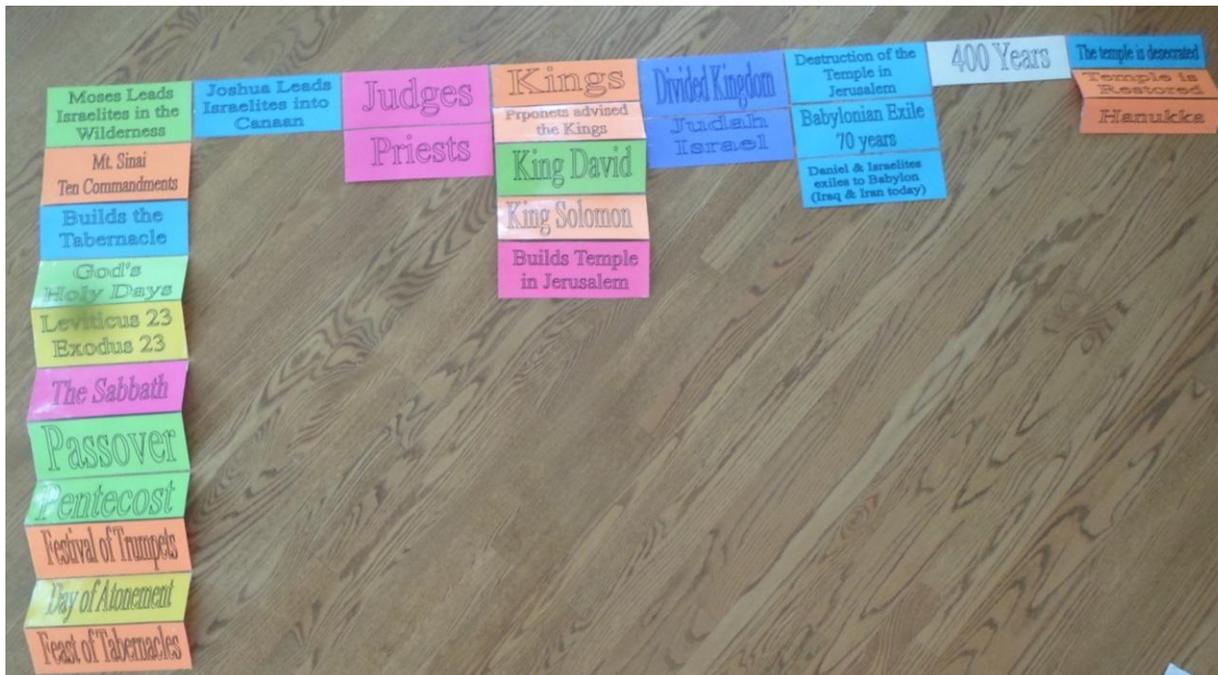
- The text size and style can be changed by using the right mouse button to click on the word in the text box and then edit it.
- When placing the coloured cardstock in the printer the colours can be mixed up to give the definition of events in the poster. The words are also not in chronological order so as to create a poster with random colours. This may help people to remember through association.

POSTER: Section 1 of sequence of frames



At least ¼ inch between each frame for both the vertical and horizontal topics

POSTER: Section 2 sequence of frames



POSTER: Section 2 sequence of frames

Note Instead of having the Caption of David at the top of the Poster, the caption Exiled in Babylon could be above it.

If desired, the names of those exiled to Babylon could be added here in this chart or a separate chart.

The value of a separate chart for the exile is that it explains the times of many of the Minor Prophets while assisting us in grouping them for better understanding what they are telling us.

It can also be noted that the time of the Judges was 400 years and the time of the Kings lasted 400 years.

There is an interesting sequence of 400 years used in the Bible:

400 years in Egypt were also silent years; 400 years of Judges, 400 years of Kings and 400 years after the exile.

The Scriptures often tell us the age of important people and when they died but not when they were born. For example: the ages of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, King David etc. How long they reigned or were prophets or priests.

Current and continuing research has unveiled a vast amount of information that helps in dating and developing a chronology.

POSTER: Section 3 sequence of frames



VI Section 5: Text created for printing timeline

The rationale for mixing up the words is to use a variety of colours as seen in the pictures.

Isaac

Creation

Adam & Eve

Noah & the

Flood

Jacob &

12 Sons

God chose

Abraham

Father of a

new nation

The first Israelite
or Jew

Roots of the
Christian Faith
are in Judaism

Joseph in Egypt

Slavery

The Sabbath

400 Years

400 Years

Moses Leads
Israelites in the
Wilderness

King David

Joshua Leads
Israelites into
Canaan

Builds the
Tabernacle

King Solomon

Mt. Sinai

Ten Commandments

God's Holy Days

Exodus 23

Leviticus 23

Festivals of the Lord:

Daniel & Israelites
exiled in Babylon
(Iraq & Iran today)

God's Appointed
times to meet with him.

Day of Atonement
(Yom Kippur)

God's Appointed
Times Leviticus 23

The Sabbath

Day of the Lamb / Palm Sunday

Pasach / Passover

First Fruits / Ressurrection

Shavout / Pentecost

Rosh HaShanah / Trumpets

Yom Kippur / Day of Atonement

Sukkot / Tabernacles

Temple is Destroyed
Jews dispersed
throughout the world.

Yeshua sends out
70 Disciples

Judges

Priests

Kings

Prophets advised
the Kings

Gospels

Matthew, Mark, John, Luke

Yeshua is

born!

is a Jew!

Is the solution
to man's sin.

Yeshua returns
to dwell with us!

Day of Atonement

is Crucified
for our sins.

Festival of Trumpets

Builds Temple
in Jerusalem

End Times
Return of
Yeshua

Jews return
to Jerusalem.

1000 Year Reign
with Yeshua!

Temple is Restored

Hanukka

(Festival of Dedication)

Festival of Tabernacles

Pentecost

Passover

Babylonian Exile

70 years

Festival of Tabernacles

The temple is desecrated

Hanukka

Yeshua selects

12 Disciples

Revelation

Book of Acts

"The Way"

believers receive
the Holy Spirit

Divided Kingdom

Letters, Epistles,
Romans,
Hebrews

Jews are dispersed
Worldwide

Destruction of the
Temple in
Jerusalem
Judah
Israel

Divided Kingdom

Messiah

returns as

King

Festival of Trumpets

Exiles in Babylon

Exiled in Babylon

70 years ~ 607 ~ 538 BCE

Prophets who warned Israelites about exile lived in exile and books written after the exile.

Isaiah – foretold and warned Israelites about sin

Jeremiah – warned Israelites of coming doom

Exiles: 3 groups exiled ~ 605, 597 and 587 BCE.

Books written during exile:

Daniel – exiled as a young man – 586 BCE

Ezekiel – exiled in Babylon - called to be a prophet

Esther - in Susa, near Babylon ~ 474 BCE

Books written after exile:

After 70 years, Cyrus let Israelites return, exile ended ~ 538

Ezra – Priest, teacher led some Israelites back to Jerusalem, rebuilt the temple. Reads Torah to Israelites to remind them of God's ways. ~515 BCE the temple is restored.

Nehemiah – Governor rebuilds walls of Jerusalem

Haggai, Zachariah, Malachi (in red - prophets & books of the OT) I & II Chronicles – summary of OT history

Daniel

Ezekiel

Esther

Ezra

Nehemiah

Haggai

Zachariah

Malachi