



Introducing the Old Testament

Week I

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Overview of this week

- ❖ Introducing the class
- ❖ A few preliminaries
- ❖ How we got the Old Testament!
- ❖ A brief review
 - The OT story
 - The geography
 - The timelines

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Introducing the Class

- ❖ The syllabus
 - Course description & objectives
 - Managing the class
 - The web-page: www.standrewccl.org (go to Bible Academy page)
 - Weather
 - The class schedule
- ❖ How we'll learn
 - Don't expect immediate application
 - Teaching the head and forming the heart
 - This will be a lecture oriented class; but we'll have plenty of time for Q&A



A Few Preliminaries

- ❖ We approach the Old Testament as Christians!
- ❖ Three big questions
 - How can we make sense of the OT?
 - Is the God of the OT the same as the God of the NT?
 - How can we apply the OT in our lives?
- ❖ Closing the historical/geographical/cultural distance
- ❖ Looking for the story
 - If you have a copy of *The Drama of Scripture* it will be helpful.



How we got the Old Testament

- ❖ Timeline
- ❖ Oral traditions to written documents
- ❖ Multiple authors, editors, scribes, and copyists
- ❖ What is a canon?
 - A tradition of sacred writings
 - A process in a community
- ❖ The Septuagint
 - This is the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures that was completed about 200 years before Jesus. It is very important and was the “Bible” of many early Christians.
- ❖ The Old Testament canon
 - The Bible Jesus read was the same as the books in your Old Testament.



The Gifts of the Jews (Thomas Cahill)

- ❖ Ancient cultures
 - The world of the wheel
 - The vault of heaven
 - God as the “most high”
 - Lives built around many gods
- ❖ The Israelites
 - There is one god only – the Lord God!
 - Inventing history & progress
 - Giving us compassion . . . justice . . . freedom



Looking for Unity

What does this passage/story tell us about . . .

God's

- character
- activity
- will

or

The story of Israel

(which is the story of
the people of God!)

**Keeping these two simple questions in mind
will pay BIG dividends!!**



A brief look at where we are going

- ❖ The Old Testament story/narrative
 - The five-act play
 - Creation & Covenant & Community
- ❖ The geography
- ❖ The timelines



The Bible as a six act play!

Act One *Act Two* *Act Three*

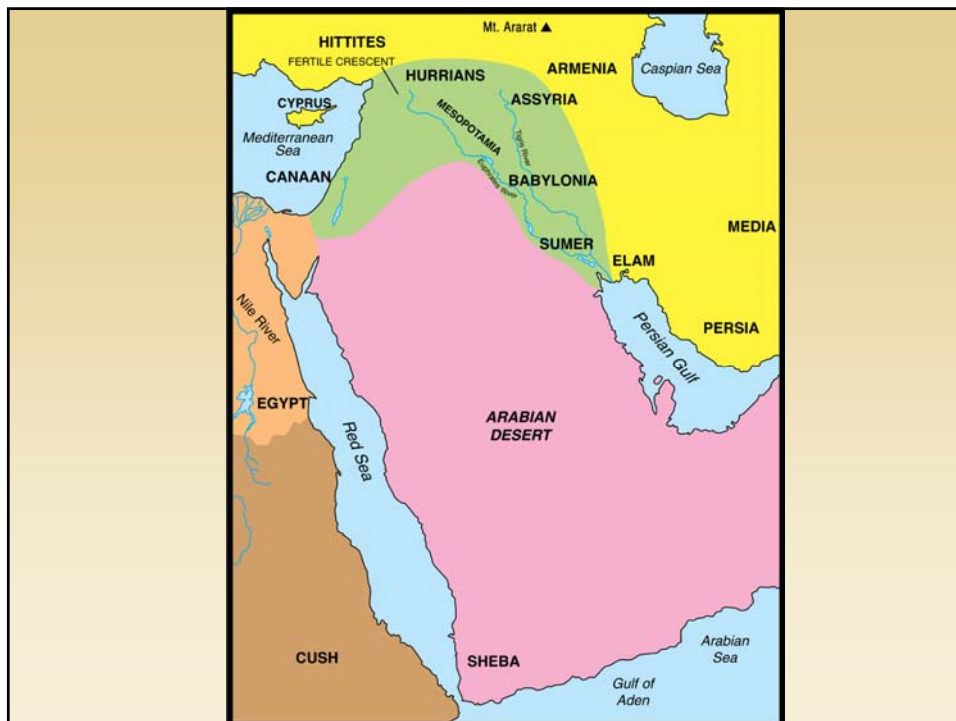
Creation → Fall → Israel →

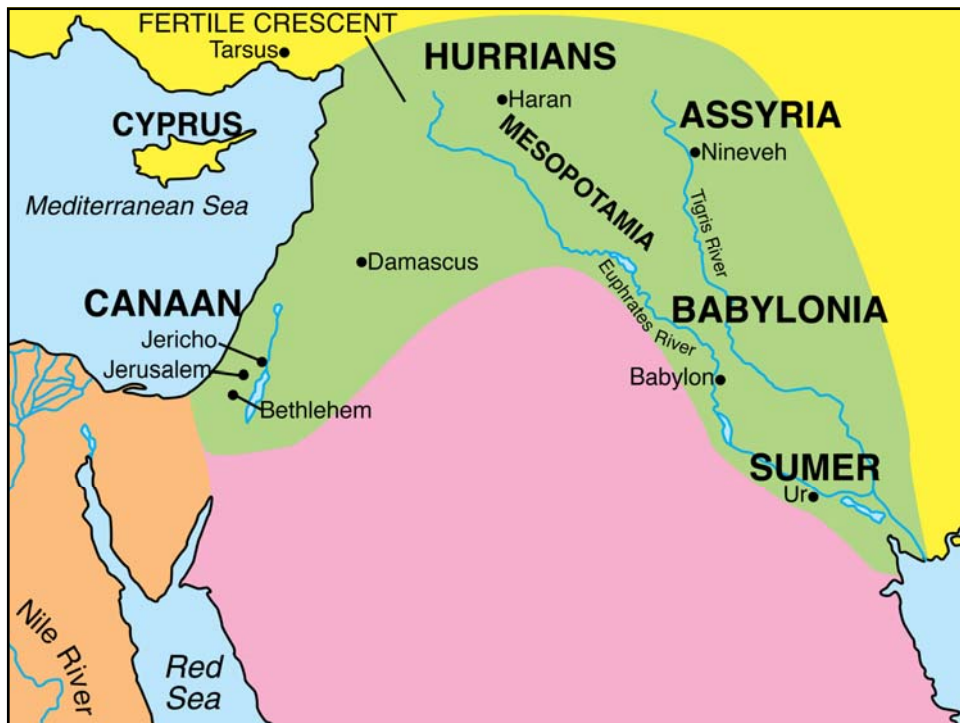
Act Four *Act Five* *Act Six*

Jesus → The church → Renewal of creation

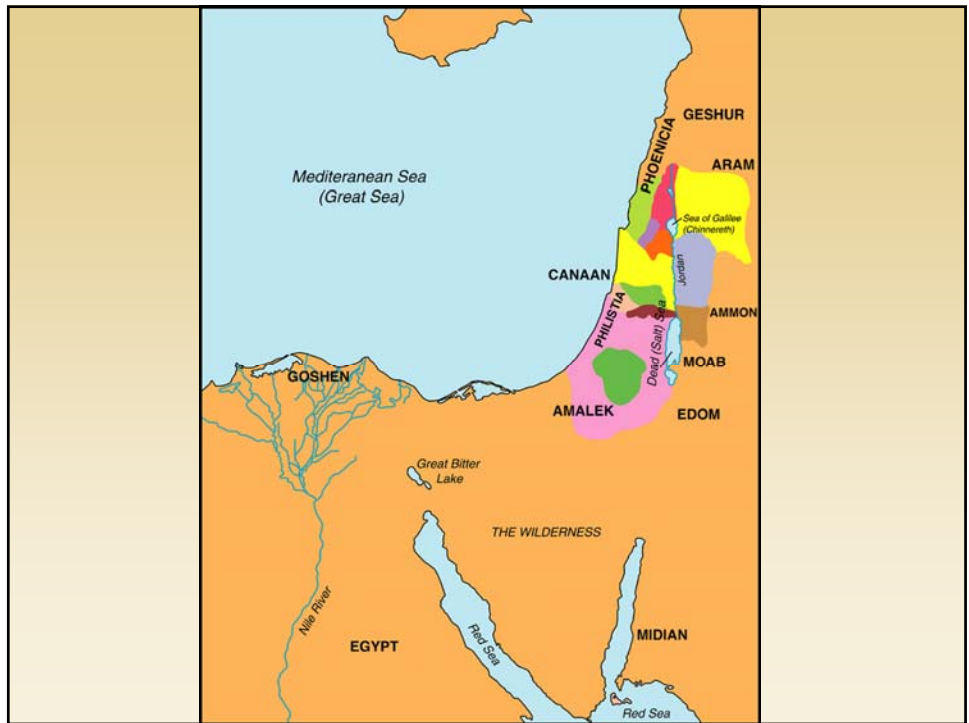
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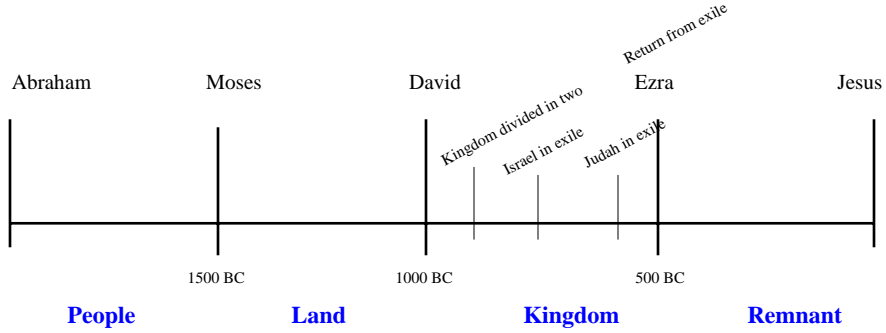








Old Testament Timeline 2



This is a simplified timeline – all the dates are approximate!



Old Testament Timeline 3

