



# *Power of the Prophets: from Moses to Jesus*

Week 5

*Jeremiah and the Deaths of Judah and Jerusalem*



## *Simplified Old Testament Timeline*

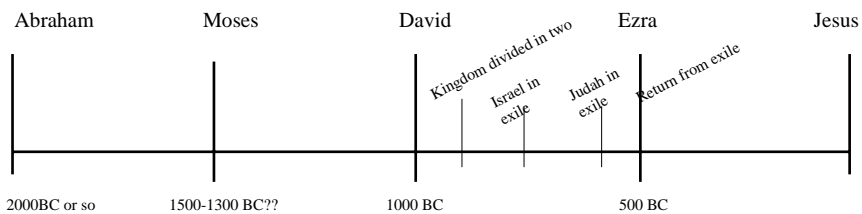
Birth

Life . . . Life . . . Life

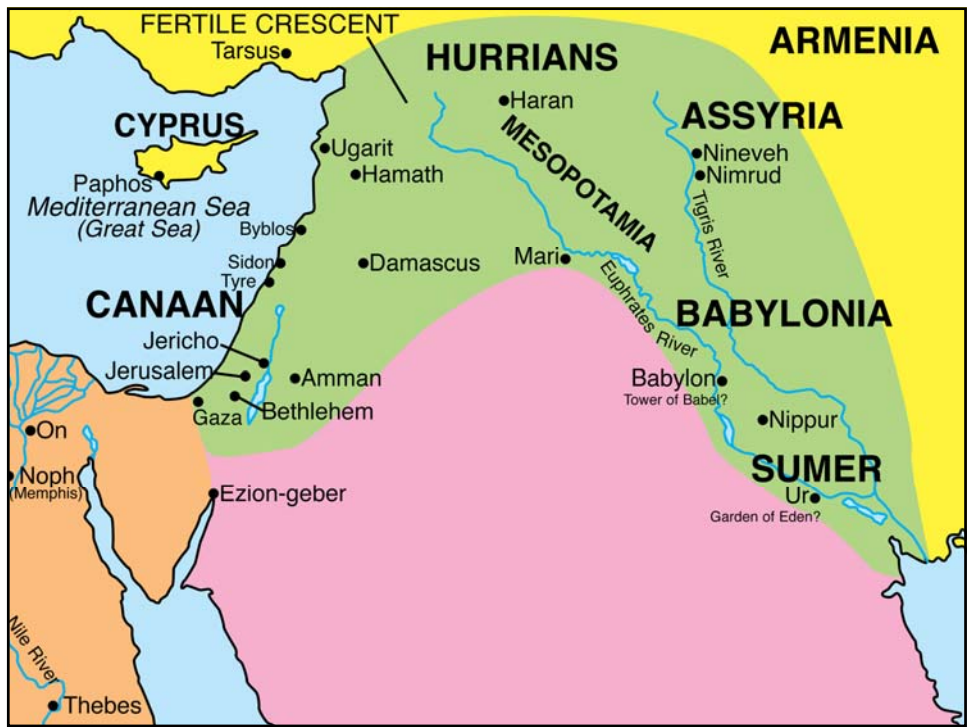
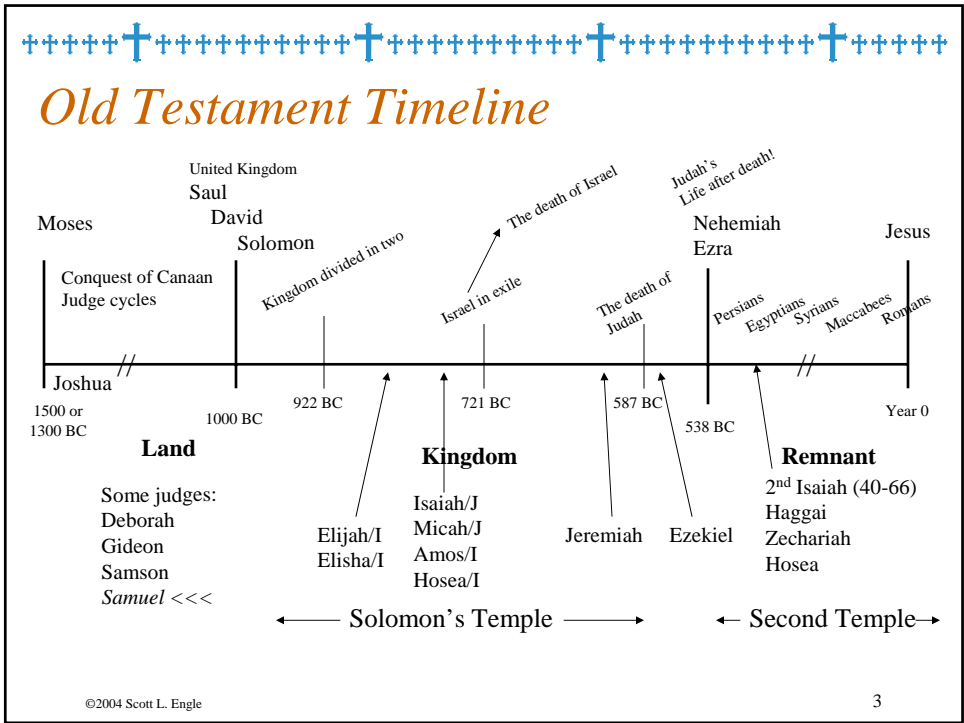
Death

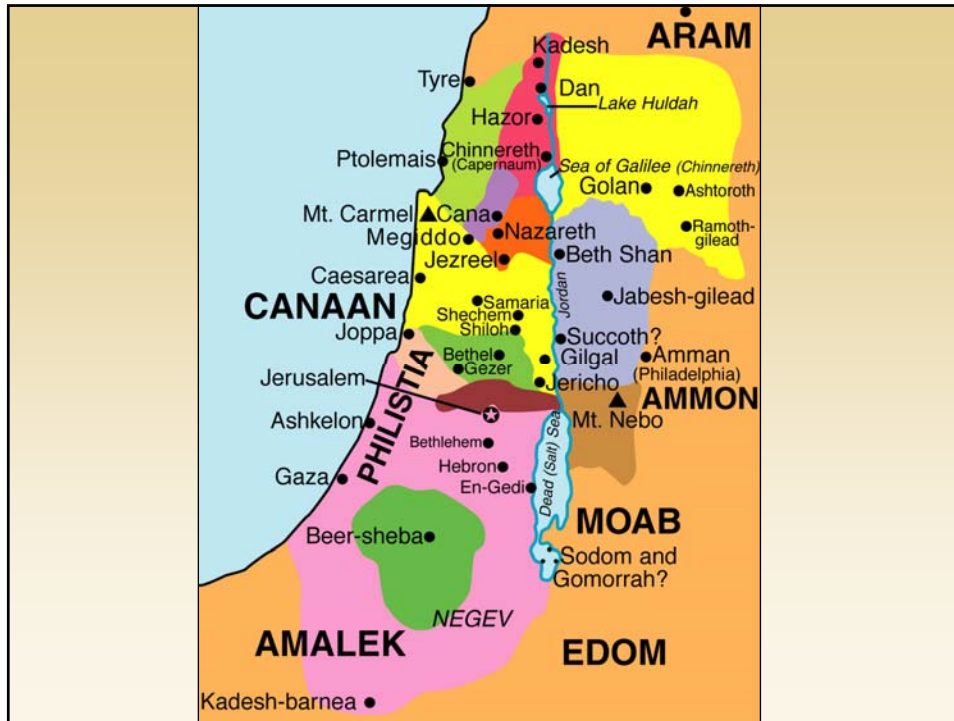
Life  
after  
death

**Resurrection!**



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





## *The Death of Israel*

- ❖ In the end, Israel fell to the Assyrians. Samaria, the capital of Israel was sacked. Nearly 30,000 Israelites were carried off into exile; many ended up near Nineveh.
- ❖ Judah dodged the bullet that killed Israel and would hold out for another 140 years or so.
- ❖ At times, they would enjoy relative independence and prosperity. But, once the Babylonians defeated the Assyrians and built an empire of their own, the pressure on them would build again.



## *God repels the Assyrian Invaders from Judah*

- ❖ Hezekiah was king of Judah (see 2 Kings 18 and after). The Assyrians invaded Judah, but Hezekiah prayed to God (19:14). Isaiah pronounced God's judgment on the Assyrians. An angel of the Lord struck them down in their camp (2 Kings 19:35)
- ❖ Hezekiah's successors, Manasseh and Amon, were disasters.
- ❖ But in 640BC or so, Josiah took the throne and set about reforming Judah. In 621BC, the high priest found the Book of the Law (2 Kings 22:3). Josiah reinstated the celebration of the Passover.
  - Josiah was killed in battle. His successors stood in the ignoble tradition of failed kings!

©2004 Scott L. Engle

7

## Everything but Jerusalem!!





## *Babylonia Rises*

- ❖ Josiah's success came at a time when Assyria was declining and Babylonia was ascending. It was a transition period.
- ❖ By the arrival of the 6<sup>th</sup> century, Nebuchadnezzar ruled a mighty empire, in which Judah was a vassal state (see 2 Kings 24:1). Judah rebelled, but surrendered Jerusalem in 597BC (2 Kings 24:13-17). The exile began!
- ❖ Judah rebelled one last time (those pesky Jews!) and in Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem for two years. In 587/586, Jerusalem fell for the last time. The city and the temple were burned.
- ❖ Judah and Jerusalem were dead.

©2004 Scott L. Engle

9

## Babylonia Rises in the 7<sup>th</sup> Century





## *Habakkuk*

- ❖ We know nothing about Habakkuk the man. Because of his reference to the newly-risen Babylonians (the “Chaldeans”), he is thought to have worked during the final years of Judah’s life.
- ❖ Why won’t God hear his people? *1:2* Why doesn’t God do something about a world turned upside down?
- ❖ Habakkuk will keep watch *2:1*
  - The righteous live by faith, but unrighteousness has within the seeds of destruction. *2:2-5*
- ❖ Yet, even in the midst of trouble there is joy and trust in God. *3:17-19*



## *Jeremiah*

- ❖ Jeremiah worked during the final decades of Judah’s existence. Much of his journey is told in the book of Jeremiah. We’ll look at some of the most ‘famous’ passages.
- ❖ Jeremiah pronounces judgment on the temple *7:1-7*
- ❖ Jeremiah visits a potter *18:1-11*
- ❖ Jeremiah breaks a jug! *19:1-3, 10-11*
- ❖ Israel will return to the land! *31:15-17, 21-22*
- ❖ God will make a new covenant *31:31-34*
- ❖ A concrete demonstration of Israel’s hope -- Jeremiah buys a plot of land. *32:36-44*

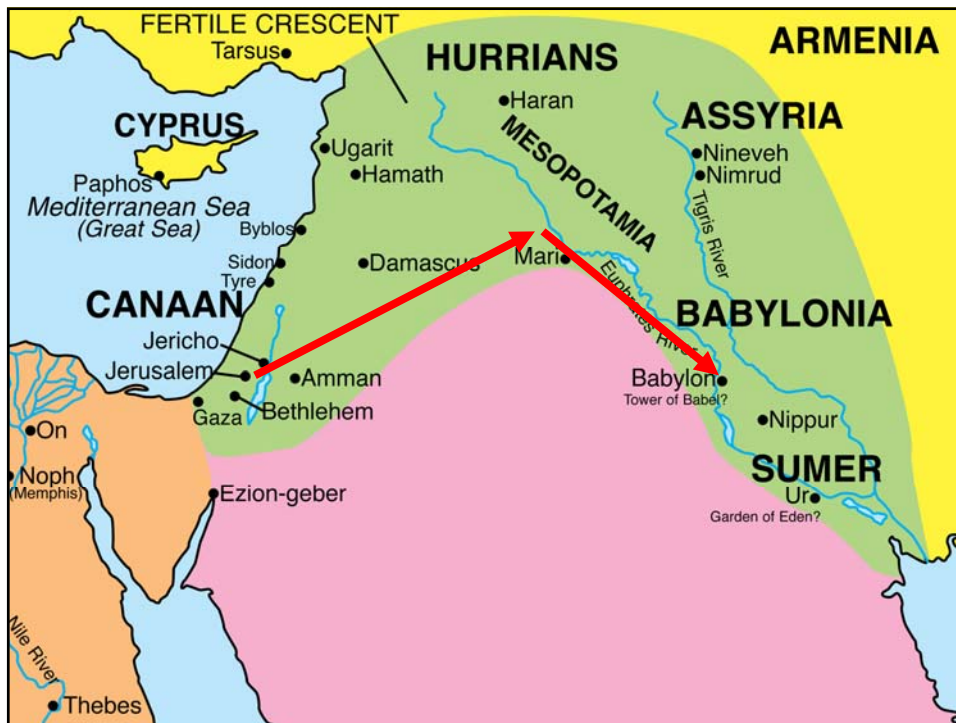


## The Exile

- ❖ The book of Lamentations is a searing book of poetry on the unspeakable suffering of Judah's death and the exile. *1:1-3*
- ❖ Tens of thousands of Jews went into exile in Babylonia. Some headed for Egypt, including Jeremiah. All these communities were the forerunners of the Diaspora.
  - Those who went to Babylon fared better than those left behind! (see Jeremiah 29:4-7)
- ❖ Only the poorest were left in Jerusalem. There was no effort to rebuild the city or the temple.
- ❖ The book of Daniel is set during the exile in Babylonia. He confronts Nebuchanezzar who tries to get Daniel and his friends to abandon God now that they are no longer in Judah.

©2004 Scott L. Engle

13





## *Ezekiel*

- ❖ Ezekiel was deported from Jerusalem in the first exile of 597BC. At the time, he was married, though his wife died before the final destruction of Jerusalem.
  - Ezekiel and his many, often bizarre, visions were delivered to those in exile. He worked there for 20 yrs.
- ❖ Ezekiel's inaugural vision (*Ch. 1*). God comes to Babylon!
- ❖ Yahweh's glory leaves Jerusalem *10:18-19, 11:22-25*
- ❖ Yahweh is Israel's good shepherd *34:11-16*
- ❖ A vision of Israel restored – the dry bones *37:1-10*
- ❖ God's victory, a battle to end all battles! *Chptrs 38-39*
- ❖ The closing chapters are a vision of an all-new, thoroughly improved and universal Israel *Chptrs 40-48*