

Introduction to the Old Testament



The Message of the Bible

“Scriptures contain the word of God to man.”



“The word search means to inquire into, study, and examine for the purpose of discovering the meaning of. Searching implies more than just reading or even memorizing.”



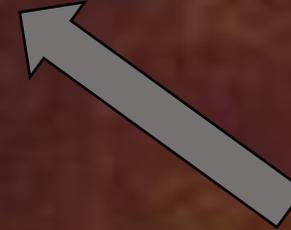
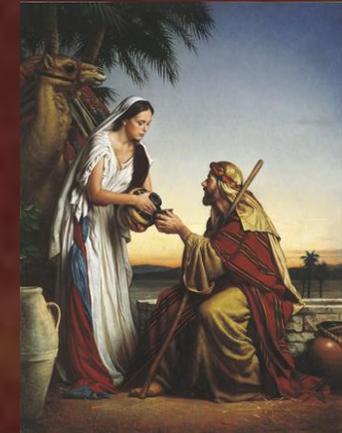
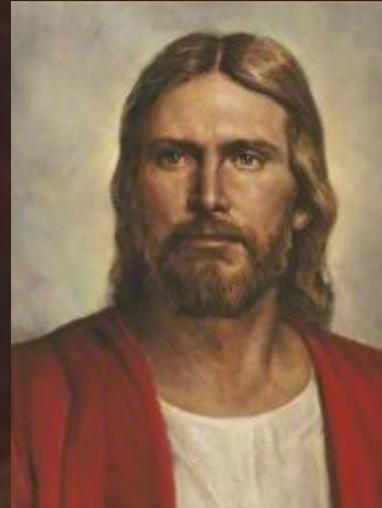
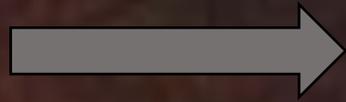
“Latter-day Saints accept as scriptures, in addition to the Bible (held by most Christians to be the only scripture), the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price.”



“In all dispensations holy men have been taught and instructed from heaven with respect to the gospel of Jesus Christ.”



The Bible Testifies of Christ



Learn of Jesus Christ



And many signs, and wonders,
and types, and shadows showed he
unto them, concerning his coming; and
also holy prophets spake unto them
concerning his coming; and yet
they hardened their hearts, and
understood not that the law of Moses
availeth nothing except it were through
the atonement of his blood.

Mosiah 3:5



*We are the focus of Heavenly
Father's plan and the reason for
the Savior's mission.*



And behold, all things have their likeness, and all
things are created and made to bear record of me, both
things which are temporal, and things which are
spiritual; things which are in the heavens above, and
things which are on the earth, and things which are in
the earth, and things which are under the earth, both
above and beneath: all things bear record of me.

Moses 6:63

Symbols



Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

Exodus 12:5

One of the early commandments given to Adam and Eve was to sacrifice the firstborn males of their flocks of sheep as an offering to the Lord.

*“without
blemish”
Free of flaws or
imperfections*



This symbol is meant to teach about Jesus Christ and the Atonement.

...let him offer a male without blemish...And he shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him.

Leviticus 1:3-4

The Law of Moses

*Behold, my soul delighteth
in proving unto my people the truth of
the coming of Christ; for, for this end
hath the law of Moses been given; and
all things which have been given of God
from the beginning of the world, unto
man, are the typifying of him.
2 Nephi 11:4*

The offerings and sacrifices explained in the book of Leviticus are part of what was known as the law of Moses



*“typifying”
to symbolize
or represent*

Jehovah

*For I know that my redeemer liveth,
and that he shall stand at the
latter day upon the earth:*

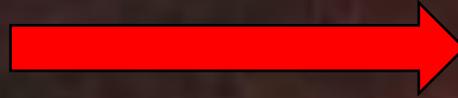
Job 19:25



Redeemer

*For thou wilt
not leave my soul in hell; neither
wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to
see corruption.*

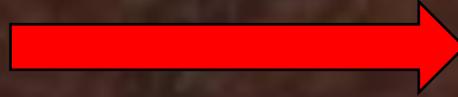
Psalms 16:10



Holy One

Therefore the Lord himself shall give
you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall
conceive, and bear a son, and shall
call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14



Immanuel

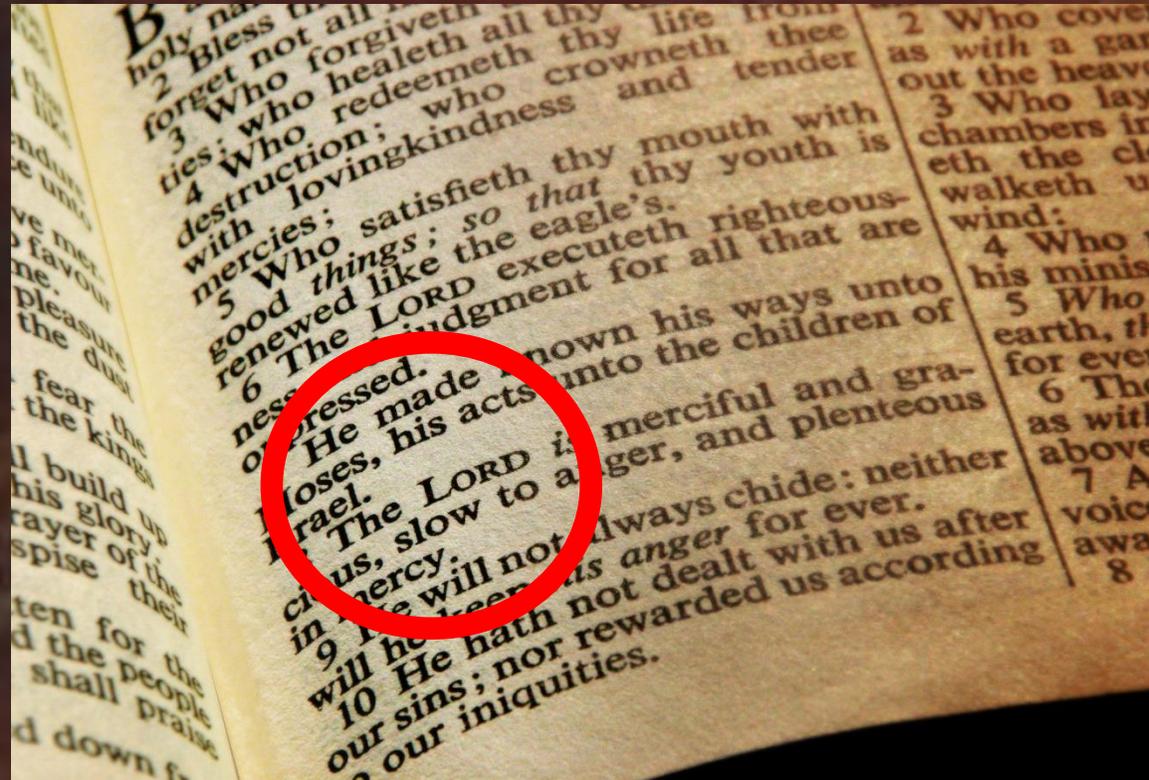


Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God,
The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Saviour and
thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.

Isaiah 9:6; Isaiah 49:26

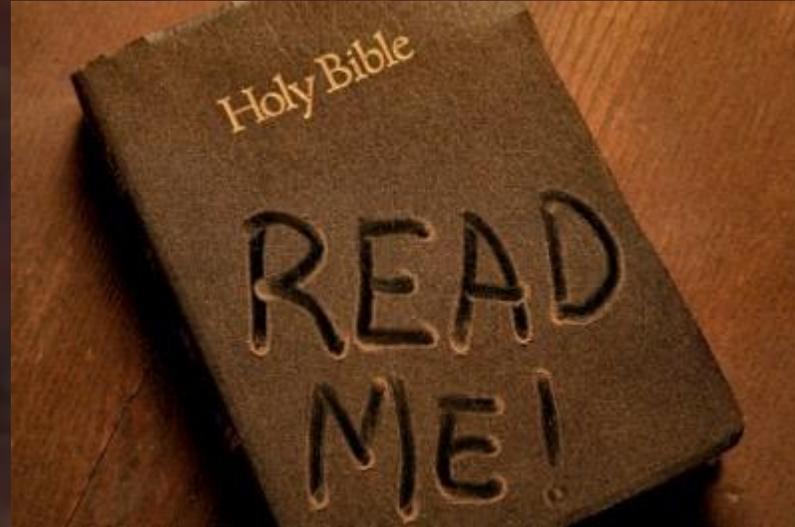
LORD God

This title implies supreme authority and that “when the word [LORD] appears in the Old Testament, it [usually] means Jehovah”

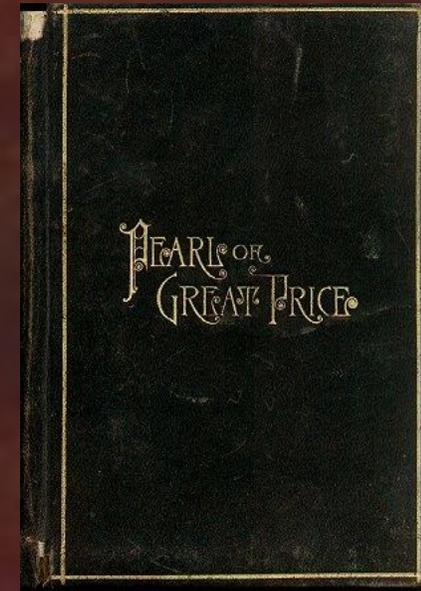


Reading the Bible

Set a time every day
to read the Bible



Start by reading Moses 1
which is part of Joseph
Smith's translation of the
book of Genesis

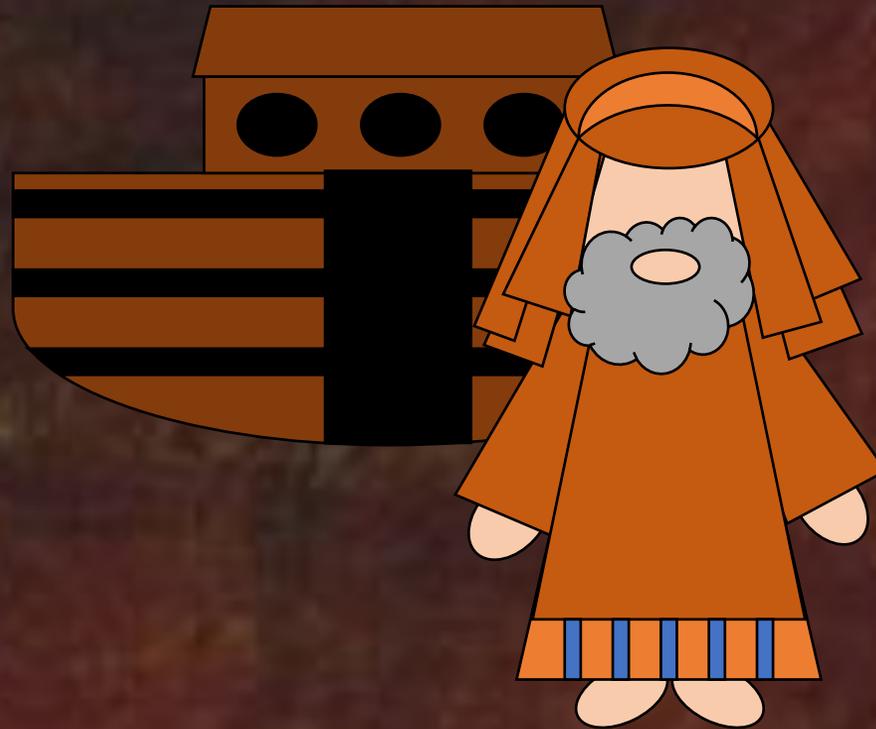


Other Themes in the Old Testament

Adam and Eve were cast out from the Garden of Eden



Noah and the Flood



Moses rescues the Israelites from Egypt

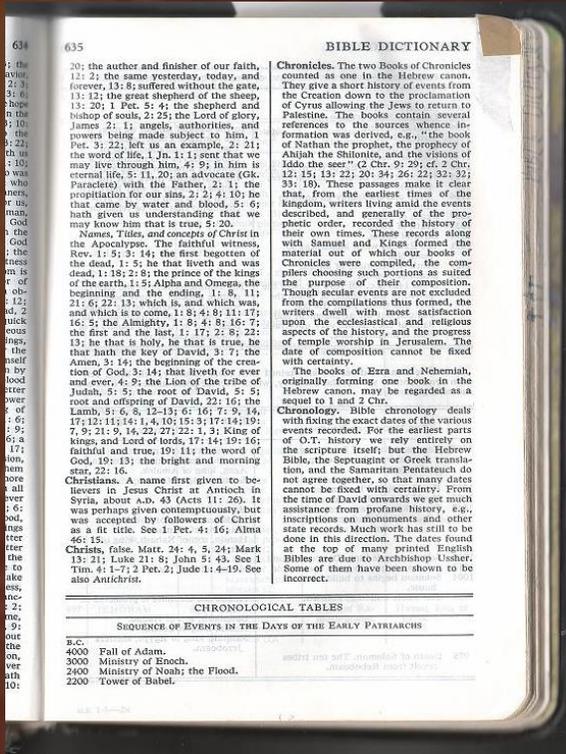


Prophets

In the lessons you will receive information about Basic Doctrines

God calls prophets to preach the gospel and administer His covenants and ordinances.

To help better understand the scripture the Bible offers a Bible Dictionary and a Bible Guide to the scriptures



TOPICAL GUIDE

Banner

Ps. 20: 5 in the name of our God we will set up our b.; 60: 4 Thou hast given a b. to them that fear thee; Isa. 13: 2 Lift ye up a b. upon the high mountain.

Baptism (see also Baptism, Essential; Baptism, Immersion; Baptism, Qualifications for; Baptism for the Dead; Covenants; Jesus Christ, Baptism of; Jesus Christ, Taking the Name of; Jesus Christ, Types of, in Memory; Salvation for the Dead; Dictionary: Baptism)

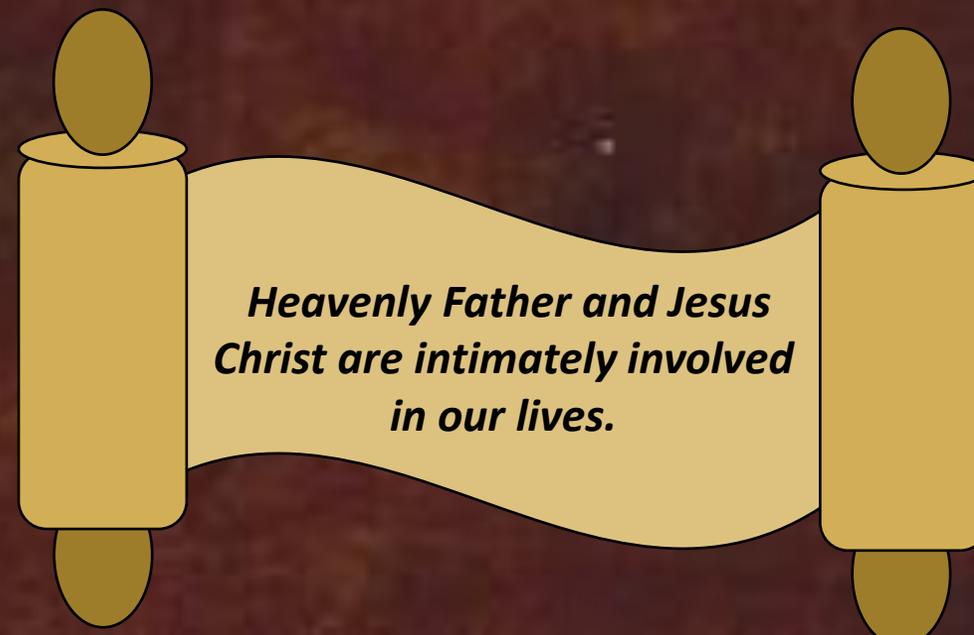
Matt. 3: 16 Jesus, when he was b.; 28: 19 b. them in the name of the Father; Mark 1: 4 John...did preach the b. of repentance for the remission of sins; 1: 9 (Luke 3: 3) b. of John in Jordan; 16: 16 John also was b.; Acts 2: 38 Repent, and be b.; 8: 38 into the water...and he b.; 22: 16 be b. and wash away thy sins; Rom. 6: 4 buried with him by b.; 1 Cor. 10: 2

b. shall be saved; Luke 3: 21 Jesus also being b.; 7: 30 rejected the counsel of God...being not b.; John 3: 5 Except a man be born of water...he cannot enter into the kingdom of God; Acts 2: 38 Repent, and be b. every one of you; 10: 48 commanded them to be b.; 22: 16 be b., and wash away thy sins; Titus 3: 5 saved us, by the washing of regeneration; 1 Pet. 3: 21 b. both also now save us; 2 Ne. 9: 23 (3 Ne. 27: 20) commandeth all men that they must...be b.; 31: 5 need have we, being unholty, to be b.; 3 Ne. 11: 33 whoso believeth in me, and is b.,...shall be saved; 27: 20 the commandment: Repent...and be b.; D&C 18: 22 as many as repent and are b.,...and endure...shall be saved; 55: 1 atter...b....a remission of your sins; 76: 51 They are they who...were b....according to the commandment; 84: 74 not b.... shall be damned; Moses 6: 52 turn unto me...repent...and be b.; 6: 59 ye must be born again...of water. See also Matt. 7: 13-14; Acts 8: 12; 1 Cor. 15: 29; Eph. 4: 5; Heb. 6: 2; 3 Ne. 11: 21; D&C 22: 4; 39: 20; Moses 7: 11; 8: 24; A of F 4.

“Heavenly Father has always helped his children by offering them covenants and empowering his servants to offer ordinances. ...”

“... Every covenant with God is an opportunity to draw closer to him.”

President Henry B. Eyring



Entering Into A Covenant

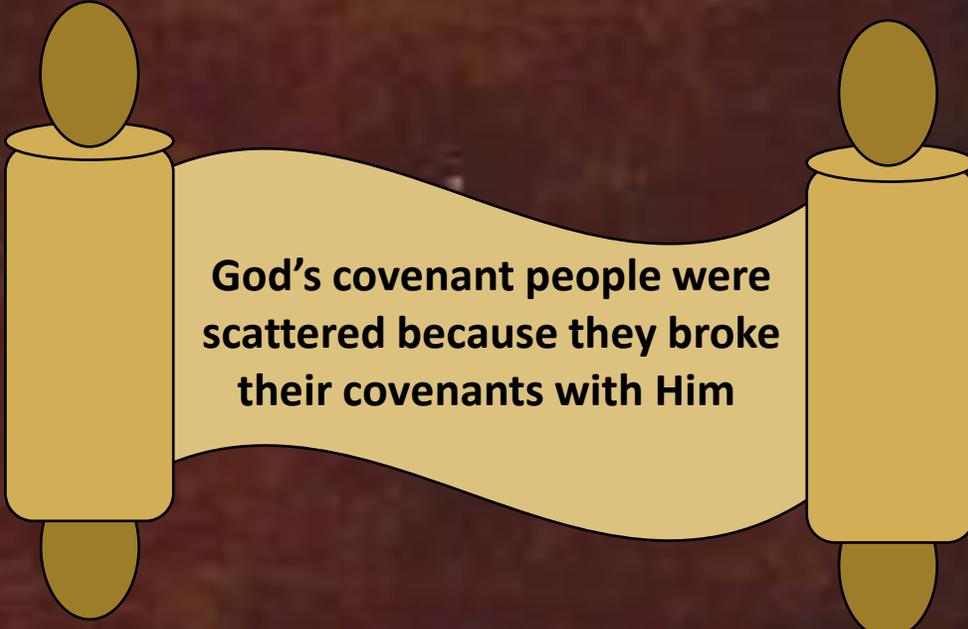
The prophet Abraham entered into a covenant with God that would help him “walk before [God]” and become perfect.



When people in Old Testament times kept their covenants with God they were blessed and preserved.

And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

*And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.
Genesis 17:1-2*



God's covenant people were scattered because they broke their covenants with Him

Blessings of Repentance

The prophet Abraham entered into a covenant with God that would help him “walk before [God]” and become perfect.



“gather” not only to a physical but also to the spiritual condition of being gathered to the Lord

God has promised to gather His covenant people.

Sources:

Suggested Hymn: #277 *As I Search the Holy Scriptures*



Video:

A Marking System that Works (1:57)

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media/video/2013-02-1520-231-a-marking-system-that-works-for-you?lang=eng>

The Blessings of Scripture (3:03)

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media/video/2011-08-0015-the-blessings-of-scripture>

Marion G. Romney *The Message of the Old Testament* August 1979

President Henry B. Eyring (“Making Covenants with God” [Brigham Young University fireside, Sept. 8, 1996], 2, 3; speeches.byu.edu).

<https://www.lds.org/media-library/video/2013-02-1520-231-a-marking-system-that-works-for-you?lang=eng>

Prophets and Revelation

A prophet is a person who has been called by God to speak for Him. Prophets testify of Jesus Christ and teach His gospel. They make known God’s will and true character. They denounce sin and warn of its consequences. At times, they prophesy of future event. Many teachings of prophets are found in the scriptures. As we study the words of prophets, we can learn truth and receive guidance.

We sustain the President of the Church as a prophet, seer, and revelator and the only person on the earth who receives revelation to guide the entire Church. We also sustain the counselors in the First Presidency and the members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles as prophets, seers, and revelators.

Revelation is communication from God to His children. When the Lord reveals His will to the Church, He speaks through His prophet. The scriptures—the Bible, Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price—contain revelations given through ancient and latter-day prophets. The President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is God’s prophet on the earth today.

Individuals can receive revelation to help them with their specific needs, responsibilities, and questions and to help strengthen their testimonies. Most revelations to leaders and members of the Church come through impressions and thoughts from the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost speaks to our minds and hearts in a still, small voice. Revelation can also come through visions, dreams, and visitations by angels.

Basic Doctrines

Basic Doctrines, (2012), 1–3

Lds.org

Elder Russell M. Nelson taught:

“The Old Testament has many references to *atonement*, which called for animal sacrifice. Not any animal would do. Special considerations included:

- “• the selection of a firstling of the flock, without blemish [see Leviticus 5:18; 27:26],
- “• the sacrifice of the animal’s life by the shedding of its blood [see Leviticus 9:18],
- “• death of the animal without breaking a bone [see Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12], and
- “• one animal could be sacrificed as a vicarious act for another [see Leviticus 16:10].

“The Atonement of Christ fulfilled these prototypes of the Old Testament. He was the firstborn Lamb of God, without blemish. His sacrifice occurred by the shedding of blood. No bones of His body were broken—noteworthy in that both malefactors crucified with the Lord had their legs broken [see John 19:31–33]. And His was a vicarious sacrifice for others” (“The Atonement,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1996, 35).

What is the Old Testament?

“In the Old Testament the word *testament* represents a Hebrew word meaning ‘covenant’” (Guide to the Scriptures, “Bible”; scriptures.lds.org).

The Old Testament contains “writings of ancient prophets who acted under the influence of the Holy Spirit and who over many centuries testified of Christ and his future ministry. It also contains a record of the history of Abraham and his descendants, beginning with Abraham, and the covenant, or *testament*, the Lord made with Abraham and his posterity” (Guide to the Scriptures, “Old Testament”; scriptures.lds.org).

Daily Scripture Study:

President Ezra Taft Benson emphasized the importance of daily scripture study:

“Let us not treat lightly the great things we have received from the hand of the Lord! His word is one of the most valuable gifts he has given us. I urge you to recommit yourselves to a study of the scriptures. Immerse yourselves in them daily so you will have the power of the Spirit to attend you” (“The Power of the Word,” *Ensign*, May 1986, 82).

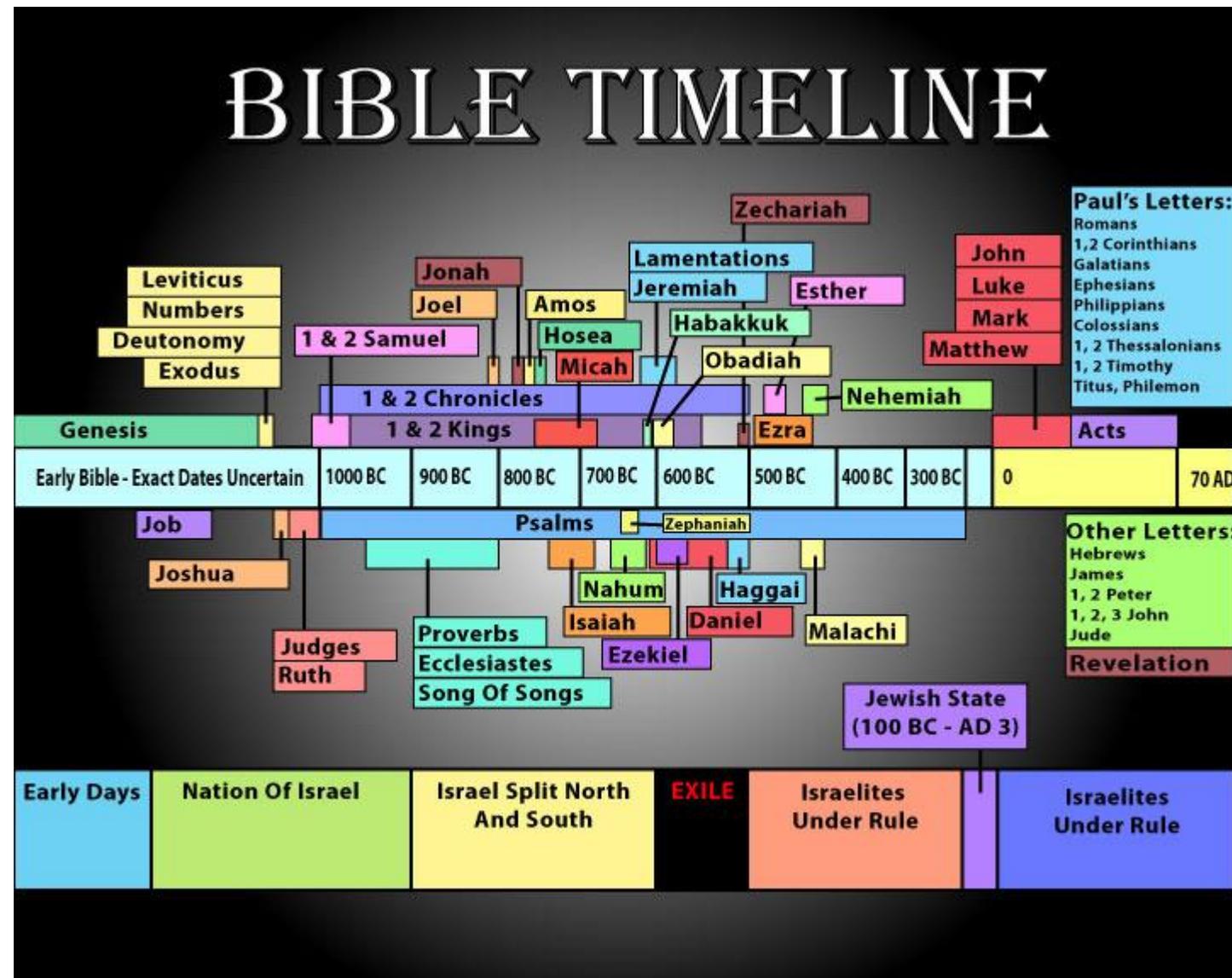
The name Jehovah is “the covenant or proper name of the God of Israel. It denotes ‘the eternal I AM’ (Ex. 3:14; John 8:58). Jehovah is the premortal Jesus Christ and came to earth as a son of Mary (Mosiah 3:8; 15:1; 3 Ne. 15:1–5). Usually, when the word *Lord* appears in the Old Testament, it means ‘Jehovah.’ Elder Bruce R. McConkie of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles explained, “In general, in the King James version of the Bible, the name Jehovah has been translated *Lord*” (*Mormon Doctrine*, 2nd ed. [1966], 392).

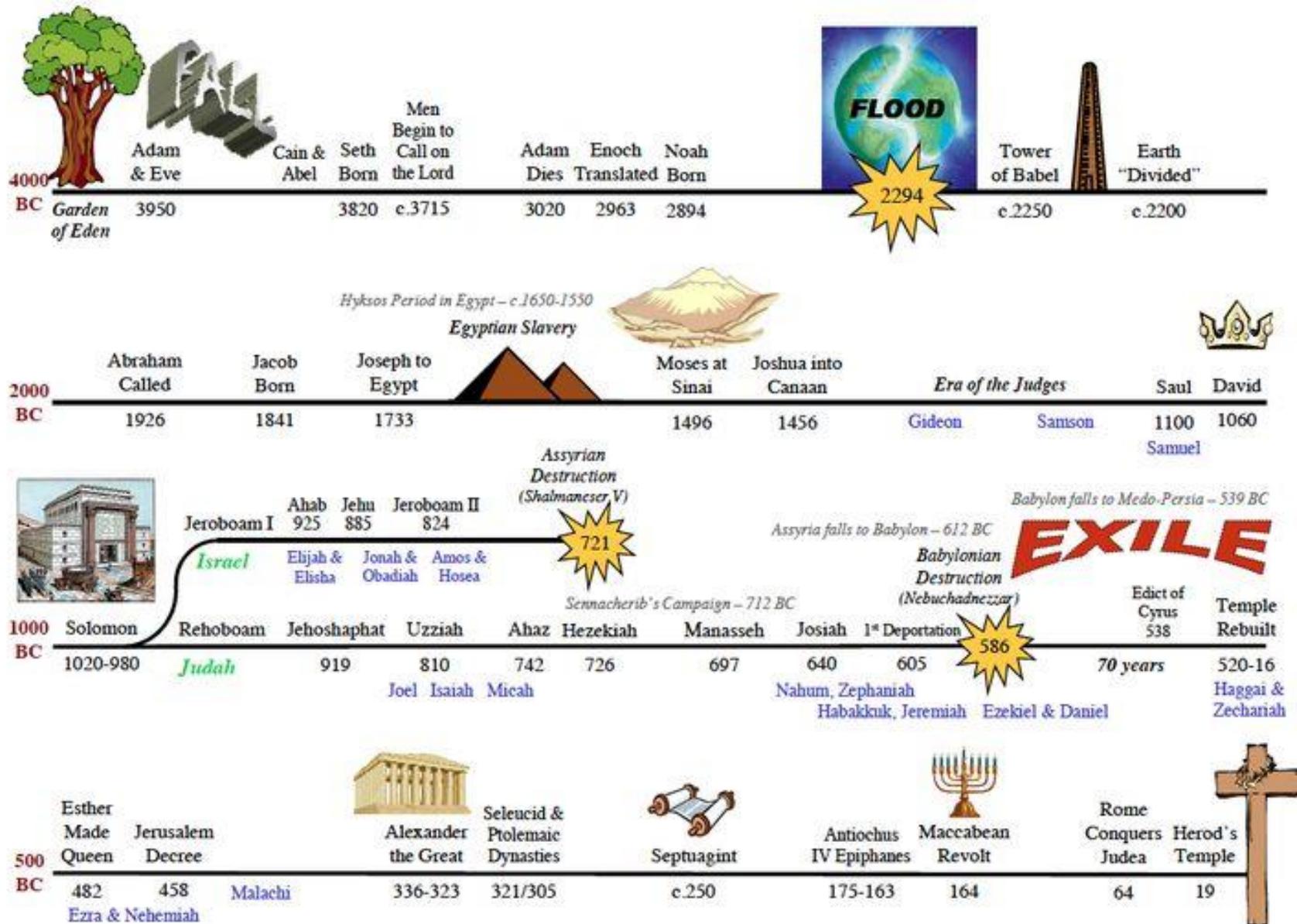
“Jehovah is Christ: Jehovah was known to the ancient prophets (Ex. 6:3; Abr. 1:16). The Apostle Paul taught that Christ was the Jehovah of the Old Testament (Ex. 17:6; 1 Cor. 10:1–4). The brother of Jared in the Book of Mormon saw the premortal Christ and worshiped Him (Ether 3:13–15). Moroni also called Christ ‘Jehovah’ (Moro. 10:34). At the Kirtland Temple, Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery saw the resurrected Jehovah (D&C 110:3–4)” (Guide to the Scriptures, “Jehovah”).

In the King James Version of the Bible, the word *LORD* in small capital letters was used in place of the Hebrew letters that represented the name of Jehovah in the Hebrew Bible. Those letters are called the tetragrammaton and are represented in English by the letters YHWH, pronounced “Yahweh” by some and “Jehovah” by most members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

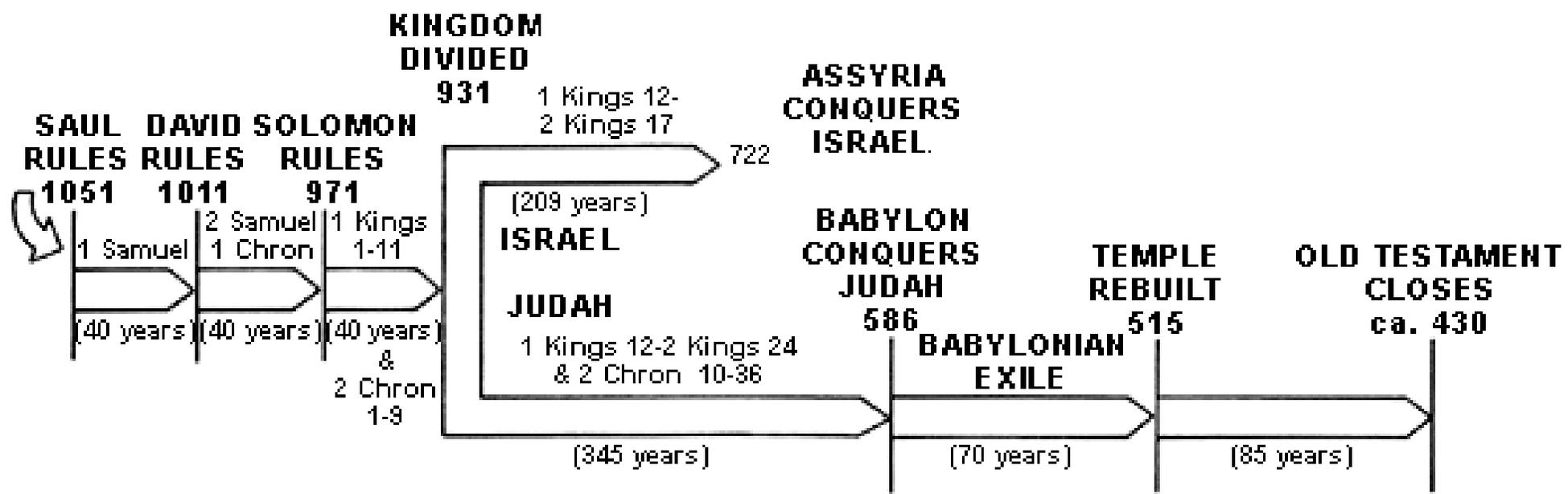
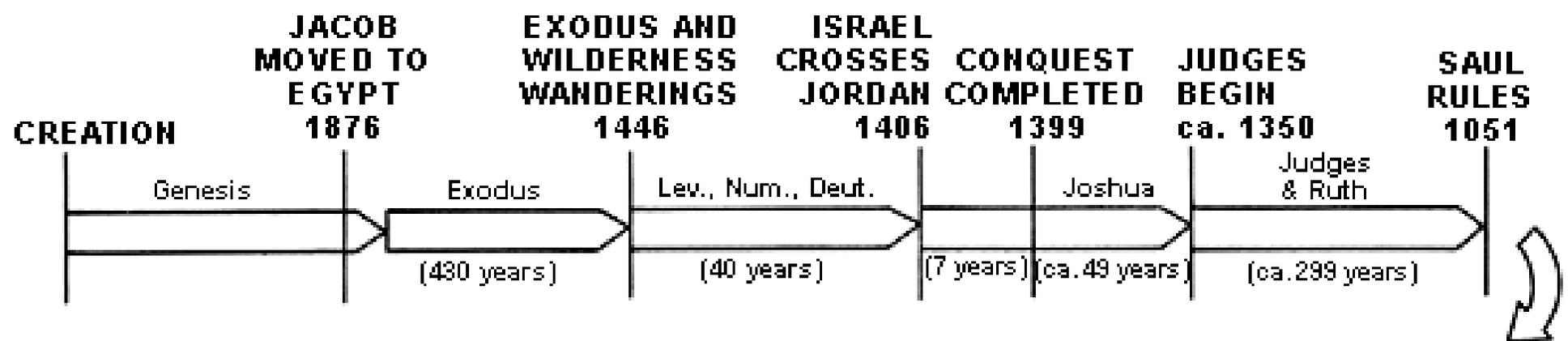
Other names for Jesus Christ:

Anointed One
Creator
Deliverer
Bread of Life
Cornerstone
God Creator
God the Father
Jehovah
Advocate
Divine Redeemer
Firstborn
Good Shepherd
Descendant of David
Exemplar
King
Judge
Light of the World
Lord
Mediator
Messenger of the Covenant
Messiah
Only Begotten Son
Rock
Comforter
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Joseph





An Overview of Old Testament History



OLD TESTAMENT TIMELINE

