

Understanding the Bible

Unit 7 GOD CLEANSSES THE NATION

Approximate Time-scale

Year Zero	The Creation	6,000 yrs. pre. 2,000 AD
Year 1,650	The Flood	4,350 yrs. pre. 2,000 AD
Year 2,080	Call of Abraham	3,920 yrs. pre. 2,000 AD
Year 2,280	Joseph in Office	3,720 yrs. pre. 2,000 AD
Year 2,480	Job [very approx.]	3,520 yrs. pre. 2,000 AD
Year 2,510	The Exodus	3,490 yrs. pre. 2,000 AD
Year 2,570	The Occupation	3,430 yrs. pre. 2,000 AD
Year 2,680	Ruth	3,320 yrs. pre. 2,000 AD
Year 2,900	Saul crowned king	3,100 yrs. pre. 2,000 AD
Year 2,950	David anointed king	3,050 yrs. pre. 2,000 AD
Year 2,990	Solomon - King	3,010 yrs. pre. 2,000 AD
Year 3,000	Temple dedicated	3,000 yrs. pre. 2,000 AD
Year 3,015	The kingdom Divided	2,975 yrs. pre. 2,000 AD
Year 3,280	Israel's Captivity	2,720 yrs. pre. 2,000 AD
Year 3,395	Daniel taken captive	2,605 yrs. pre. 2,000 AD
Year 3,415	Judah's Captivity	2,585 yrs. pre. 2,000 AD

Daniel's "70 years desolations" from year 3,395 to 3,465
Compare - Jeremiah 25:11,12 and 29:10

Year 3,465	First Return	2,535 yrs. pre. 2,000 AD
Year 3,485	Temple Restored	2,515 yrs. pre. 2,000 AD

Year 3,545	Artaxerxes' decree	2,455 yrs. pre. 2,000 AD
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Year 3,605	Malachi	2,395 yrs. pre. 2,000 AD
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Year 3,670	Alexander's conquest	2,330 yrs. pre. 2,000 AD
Year 3,820	Antiochus Epiphanies	2,180 yrs. pre. 2,000 AD
Year 3,830	Temple polluted	2,170 yrs. pre. 2,000 AD

EZEKIEL'S VISION OF DRY BONES

That vision of a valley full of jumbled dry bones, illustrated how outwardly hopeless the state of Jerusalem and the exiles was. No wonder they wept as they sat by the rivers of Babylon.

How could God's promised son of David arise to establish for them His idyllic everlasting kingdom? This is behind the question posed to Ezekiel. "Can these bones live ?"

THE 300 SILENT/GOLDEN YEARS

Dan.9:24-27 predicts 69 x 7 years from a decree to rebuild Jerusalem (that by Artaxerxes. Neh.2 etc.) to the coming of an anointed one (Messiah). There is little on record about the Jewish nation from the time of Ezra and Nehemiah up to the revolt under Antiochus Epiphanies. That is why they are termed "The Silent Years". Tranquillity, being "uneventful", does not hit the headlines.

The rebellion that Antiochus Epiphanies provoked, is recorded in the historical books of the Maccabees. These are found in Roman Catholic bibles and in the Greek Septuagint, but not in the Hebrew scriptures. The Jews considered Malachi (circa BC 400) to be the last prophet ("the seal of the prophets"). No writings since his were included in the Hebrew scriptures.

Before Antiochus Epiphanies, whilst under the protection of Persia and Greece, the Jews lived in tranquillity. They did not even need their own defence force (Zechariah 2:4-5). There was no oppression or interference in their culture or religion. They were not affected by wars or internal strife. Aramaic was their mother tongue and Greek the international language. Scholars translated the scriptures into Greek and Aramaic paraphrases, called Targums, were written. Synagogue worship was developed bringing knowledge of the scriptures to the whole population. Regrettably rabbis (Jewish religious teachers) added many traditions of their own.

UNIT 7 CHARTS

Understanding the Bible

Unit 7

GOD CLEANSSES THE NATION [The Captivity to the Golden Years]

Charts

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O.T. TIME CHART		Dates are approximate.		May 2,000
SERIES 1	SERIES 2	After Creation	Before 2000 AD	Events
ISRAEL	JUDAH / JEWS	ZERO	6,000	[Books shown in bold letters]
GENESIS				The Creation
to 2,310 / 3,690		1,650	4,350	The Flood
		2,080	3,920	Call of Abraham
		2,280	3,720	Joseph in office
EXODUS		2,295	3,705	
to 2,510 / 3,490		2,310	3,690	
		2,480	3,520	Job
LEVITICUS		2,510	3,490	The exodus from Egypt.
NUMBERS	1st. Chronicles			
DEUTERONOMY	first lists			
JOSHUA	geneologies from	2,550	3,450	
to 2,575 / 3,425	Adam then	2,570	3,430	The occupation of Canaan
JUDGES	starts with David	2,575	3,425	
	being enthroned	2,595	3,405	
	after Saul's death	2,680	3,320	Ruth
RUTH		2,690	3,310	[* In the Hebrew canon
1 SAMUEL (1 Kings)		2,830	3,170	Ruth is placed in the "Writings"]
		2,900	3,100	Saul crowned king
2 SAMUEL (2 Kings)	1 CHRONICLES	2,945	3,055	
		2,950	3,050	David anointed king
1 KINGS (3 Kings)	2 CHRONICLES	2,985	3,015	
		2,990	3,010	Solomon - king
		3,000	3,000	Temple dedicated
		3,025	2,975	The kingdom divided
2 KINGS (4 Kings)		3,100	2,900	
		3,140	2,860	Jonah
		3,200	2,800	Joel
SERIES 1	SERIES 2	3,215	2,785	Amos - Hosea begins
		3,240	2,760	Isaiah begins
<i>From the creation to</i>	<i>From David to the</i>	3,250	2,750	Micah begins
<i>the captivites of</i>	<i>restored remnant</i>	3,275	2,725	Hosea ends
<i>the northern and</i>	<i>under the banner</i>	3,280	2,720	Israel's Captivity [the northern tribes]
<i>southern nations.</i>	<i>of Judah.</i>	3,285	2,715	Nahum
		3,290	2,710	Micah ends
		3,300	2,700	Isaiah ends
		3,370	2,630	Zephaniah - Jeremiah begins
		3,375	2,625	Habakkuk
		3,390	2,610	Daniel begins
		3,395	2,605	Daniel taken captive
	2 Chronicles leaps	3,400	2,600	Jeremiah ends
	forward to Cyrus'	3,405	2,595	Ezekiel begins
	decree to rebuild	3,410	2,590	Lamentations
	the temple	3,415	2,585	Obadiah
	in Jerusalem			Judah's Captivity [the southern tribes]
		3,425	2,575	Ezekiel ends
	EZRA (1 Esdras)	3,465	2,535	First. return
	NEHEMIAH (2 Esdras)			Daniel ends
	The twelve tribes now	3,480	2,520	Haggai - Esther and Zechariah begin
	re-united as one nation	3,485	2,515	Temple restored
	called Jews after Judah	3,505	2,495	Esther ends
	Ezra ends	3,515	2,485	Zechariah ends
	Nehemiah ends	3,545	2,455	Artaxerxes' decree to rebuild Jerusalem
3,560 / 2,440	MALACHI 4:5	3,555	2,445	
THE NATION'S	The nation awaits "Elijah"	3,605	2,395	Malachi - "the seal of the prophets"
GOLDEN YEARS	who had to come before	3,670	2,330	Alexander's conquest
3,820 / 2,180	"the day of the Lord"	3,835	2,165	Maccabean revolt
		3,935	2,065	Roman conquest
		6,000	ZERO	NOW [2000 AD]