I. THE ERA OF BEGINNINGS | Genesis 1 - 11:26

A. The Creation account - Genesis 1-2
   1. The Genesis account of creation (1:1-25)
   2. The creation of Man and his responsibilities (1:26-2:17)
   3. The formation of Eve (2:18-25)

B. The fall of man and the consequences - Genesis 3:1-6:8
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   2. The fall of mankind judgment and the curse (3:8-24)
   3. The first account of Christ, our “Kinsman Redeemer” (3:15)
   4. Covered by the blood, the hope of redemption (3:21)
   5. Expulsion from Eden (3:22-24)
   6. The first murder (4:1-16)
   7. Descendants of Cain and Seth (4:17-26)
   8. The genealogy from Adam to Noah (5:1-32)

C. The flood: God’s judgment upon a corrupted mankind - Genesis 6:9-8:19
   1. Noah, his Divine commission and obedience (6:9-22)
   2. The Ark is finished and filled (7:1-10)
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D. New beginnings for the human race - Genesis 8:20-11:32
   1. Noah’s altar and sacrifice to the LORD (8:20-22)
   2. God’s Covenant with Noah and all mankind (9:1-17)
   3. The sons of Noah, their blessing and cursing (9:18-27)
   4. The nations who descended from Shem, Ham and Japheth (10:1-32)
   5. The Tower of Babel and the scattering of all the people (11:1-9)
   6. The Messianic line of Shem to Abraham (11:10-26)
II. THE PATRIARCHAL ERA | Genesis 11:27 – 50:26

A. Abraham, the father of our faith - Genesis 11:27-25:11
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2. The call of Abram and his journey from Haran to Shechem (12:1-6)
3. God’s appearance and promise to Abram (12:7)
4. Abram’s altars to the LORD (12:7-8)
5. Abram’s journey to Egypt and deceit (12:10-20)
6. Abram separates with his nephew, Lot (13:1-11)
7. Lot’s move to Sodom (13:12-13)
8. God reaffirms His promise to Abram and builds another altar (13:14-18)
9. Abram rescues Lot from the five kings with 318 of his own men (14:1-16)
10. After the victory Abram tithes to Melchizedek, king of Salem (14:17-20)
11. God’s Covenant with Abram and the promise of a son and inheritance (15:1-21)
12. Sarai’s plan to fulfill God’s promise through Hagar, her servant (16:1-2)
13. Hagar conceives Abram’s child, flees and encounters the Angel of the LORD (16:3-14)
14. Hagar bears Ishmael (16:15-16)
15. Abram’s name changed to Abraham and the Covenant of Circumcision (17:1-27)
16. The Angelic visit and promise of a son to Abraham and Sarah (18:1-15)
17. Abraham intercedes for Sodom (18:16-33)
18. Lot and his family flee as Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed (19:1-29)
19. Lot’s daughters conceive sons, fathers of the Moabites and Ammonites (19:30-38)
20. Abraham’s deception and deliverance from Abimelech (20:1-18)
21. Isaac is born, Hagar and Ishmael are sent away (21:1-21)
22. The Covenant confirmed: Abraham’s test of offering Isaac to God (22:1-19)
23. The death of Sarah and the acquisition of a burial plot (23:1-20)
24. Rebekah, a bride for Isaac, the son of God’s promise (24:1-67)

B. Isaac, the seed of Abraham - Genesis 25:19-28:9
1. Rebekah, the mother of twins, Jacob and Esau (25:19-26)
2. Esau rejects his birthright and gives it to Jacob for a meal (25:27-34)
3. Isaac and Abimelech (26:1-16)
4. Isaac reopens the wells of his father, Abraham (26:17-22)
5. The Covenant confirmed to Isaac (26:23-25)
6. God’s blessing to Isaac and Abimelech (26:26-33)
7. Jacob steals Esau’s Patriarchal blessing (27:1-40)
8. Esau’s plan to kill Jacob (27:41-46)
9. Isaac blesses Jacob and sends him to Laban (28:1-5)
10. Esau marries a relative of Ishmael (28:6-9)

C. Jacob’s adventures - Genesis 28:10-36:43
1. Jacob’s dream and God’s Promise at Bethel (28:10-22)
2. Jacob works for his uncle Laban (29:1-14)
3. Laban deceives Jacob who marries Leah and Rachel (29:15-30)
4. Jacob’s children (29:31-24)
5. Jacob’s flocks increase through deceit (30:25-43)
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7. Jacob prepares to meet his brother Esau (32:1-21)
8. Jacob wrestles with an Angel (32:22-32)
9. Esau and Jacob reconciled (33:1-17)
11. Rachael buried in Bethlehem (35:16-20)
12. Jacob’s twelve sons (35:21-26)
13. The death of Isaac, Jacob and Esau bury their father (35:27-29)
14. The family of Esau in Edom (36:1-43)

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2. Hated by his brothers and sold into slavery (37:12-36)
4. Joseph, a slave in Egypt (39:1-20)
5. Joseph blessed in prison (39:20-23)
6. Interpreting the prisoners’ dreams (40:1-23)
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8. Joseph exalted (41:39-57)
9. Joseph meets his brothers (42:1-45.28)
10. Jacob’s journey to Egypt (46:1-11)
11. Jacob settles in Goshen (46:11-12)
12. Joseph’s handling of the famine (47:13-31)
13. Jacob blesses Joseph’s sons (48:1-22)
14. Jacob’s last words to his twelve sons (49:1-28)
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17. The death of Joseph and his instructions concerning his bones (50:22-26)

III. THE EXODUS FROM EGYPT | Exodus

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3. Israel’s oppressed and the killing of Hebrew baby boys (1:11-16)
4. The Godly fear of the midwives in sparing many of the children (1:17-22)

B. Israel freed from slavery - Exodus 2:1-12:42
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2. Moses at the burning bush (3:1-4:17)
3. Moses returns to Egypt (4:18-31)
4. The encounter with Pharaoh (5:1-23)
5. The ten plagues (6:1-11:10)
   The plague of blood
The plague of frogs
The plague of gnats
The plague of flies
The plague upon the livestock
The plague of boils
The plague of hail
The plague of locusts
The plague of darkness
The plague on the firstborn
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7. The Exodus from Egypt (12:31-42)

C. From Egypt to Mount Sinai - Exodus 13:1-19:2
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   2. The Red Sea crossing and the destruction of the Egyptian army (13:17-14:31)
   3. The song of Moses and Miriam (15:1-21)
   4. The wilderness way and the water of Marah (15:22-27)
   5. The provision of Manna and quail (16:1-31)
   6. Some of the Manna preserved and in a jar (16:32-36)
   7. Moses struck the rock and water flowed (17:1-7)
   8. Joshua, Moses, Aaron and Hur gain victory over the Amalekites (17:8-16)

D. Israel at Mount Sinai - Exodus 19:3-40:38
   1. Israel at Mount Sinai (19:1-25)
   2. Ten Commandments, Decalogue (20:1-21)
   3. Ordinances for Israel (20:22-)
   4. The Covenant confirmed with Moses and the leaders (24:1-18)
   5. Moses on Mount Sinai, receives instructions from The LORD (25:1-31:18)
   6. Idolatry (the golden calf) and God's severe judgment (32:1-30)
   7. Moses intercedes for Israel (32:31-35)
   8. Moses and the Glory of God (33:1-23)
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   2. Murmurings and judgments(11:1-35)
   3. Miriam and Aaron, Moses' sister and brother, oppose Moses (12:1-16)

B. The crisis at Kadesh - Numbers 13:1-14:45
   1. The spies and the report on the exploration of Canaan (13:1-33)
   2. Rebellion and God's judgment upon Israel that the current generation would not enter the Promised Land (14:1-38)
3. Israel's sorrow and presumption leads to defeat (14:39-45)

C. The years of wandering - Numbers 15:1-19:22
   2. Korah's great rebellion and the fire of God's judgment (16:1-50)
   3. The budding of Aaron's staff (17:1-13)
   4. The vindication of appointed leaders (18:1-19:22)

D. From Kadesh to the plains of Moab - Numbers 20:1-22:1
   1. The death of Miriam, Moses' sister (20:1)
   2. The opposition against Moses and Aaron because of lack of water (20:2-8)
   3. Moses' anger and sin in striking the rock (20:9-13)
   4. The King of Edom refuses Israel passage (20:14-21)
   5. The death of Aaron (20:22-29)
   6. Israel's victory over the Canaanites (21:1-3)
   7. The rebellion, judgment of serpents and the bronze snake on the pole (21:4-9)
   8. March around Moab (21:10-20)
   9. The defeat of Sihon, King Amorites and Og, King of Bashan (21:21-35)
   10. Israel arrives on the plains of Moab near the Jordan and across from Jericho (22:1)

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   2. Rahab and the two spies sent into Jericho (2:1-24)
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   3. Israel defeated before a minor foe, Ai (7:1-14)
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X. THE EXILE AND RESTORATION | Ezra and Nehemiah

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   2. Cyrus proclaims Israel’s return 1:1–4
   3. The people prepare to return 1:5–11
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   9. Enemies discourage the temple project 4:1–5
  10. Bishlam and his associates complain to King Artaxerxes 4:6–16
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  12. Tattenai attempts to stop the temple project 5:1–17
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THE INTERTESTAMENTAL PERIOD | The 400 “Silent Years”

Between the last writings of the Old Testament and the appearance of Christ, several major developments set the stage for the Gospel story. The political, religious, and social atmosphere of Palestine changed significantly during what some refer to as the “400 silent years”. Much of what happened was predicted by the prophet Daniel (chapters 2, 7, 8, and 11) and compare to historical events.

This period begins when the book of Malachi was completed (397 B.C.) until the angel’s announcement of the birth of John the Baptist. During this time there were no prophets and no inspired writers of divine revelation. Six historical divisions are observable.

1. The Persian Era (397-336 B.C.)
   The Persians were the dominating power in the Middle East as far back as 586 B.C. when Nebuchadnezzar overcame the Southern Kingdom of Judah and destroyed Jerusalem. God had already used the Persians to deliver Israel from Babylonian captivity (Daniel 5:30, 31). Yet in the book of Malachi, we see a people who were lukewarm and argumentative with God. Idolatry and corruption were prominent. During this time, the rise of the synagogue as the local center of worship was an important detail as it led to the building of the temple. This event encouraged the ultimate social and religious separation between Jew and Samaritan.

2. The Greek Era (336 - 323 B.C.) where Alexander the Great was the central figure.
   He conquered Persia, Babylon, Palestine, Syria, Egypt and western India, dying at the age of thirty-three. His aim was to found a world-wide empire united by language, custom and civilization. His prestige was key to the spreading of the gospel many years later because he influenced the world to speak and study Greek. This process is called Hellenization and caused many struggles with the Jews as it affected their culture and religion. Because of Alexander the Great, the Greek language was widespread by 270 B.C. to bring about the Greek translation of the Old Testament known as the Septuagint.

3. The death of Alexander the Great led to the Egyptian Era (323 - 198 B.C.)
   The Greek empire was divided into four segments: Ptolemy - Egypt and Africa, Lysimachus - Asia Minor, Cassander - Europe, and Selenus - Syria. Conflicts between Egypt and Syria arose and Israel was caught in the middle. During this time the Septuagint was authorized and two religious parties emerged: the Hellenizing party, which was pro-Syrian, and the orthodox Jews, in particular the Hasidim or ‘Pious Ones’ (predecessors of the Pharisees). The two struggled for power and this conflict bought about the attack of Antiochus the Great in 168 B.C.

4. The Syrian Era (198 - 165 B.C.)
Antiochus the Great set about destroying every distinctive characteristic of the Jewish faith. He mutilated the scriptures and forced Jews to eat pork and make sacrifices to idols. A few years later, Antiochus Epiphanes (son of Antiochus the Great) became one of the most vicious and violent persecutors the Jews ever knew. He invaded Egypt and then returned to Jerusalem (surprising many Jews who thought he was dead) to overturn the city. His most vile act was in the contamination of the Holy of Holies by sprinkling the blood of an unclean animal all over the sanctuary making it defiled and violated. One cannot grasp how horrifying this must have been to the Jews.

5. The Maccabean Era (165 - 63 B.C.)
   In accordance with a prophecy in Daniel 8:14, the temple was not cleansed (1 Maccabbes 1:39-41) until six and a half years later under the leadership of Judas Maccabaeus hence the Maccabean Era. During this time, Jerusalem was retaken and worship in the temple was thus restored. Many futile attempts were made to defeat the Maccabees by Syria but finally the Jews received their independence in 142 B.C. This ended in 63 B.C. when Pompey of Rome took Syria and entered Israel.

6. The Roman Era (63 - 4 B.C.)
   It seems as though Israel’s hopes of freedom from oppression were lost during this time. Herod the Great became King of Israel around 40 B.C. and he planned and carried out the building of the new temple in Jerusalem. However, he was a devoted Hellenist and mercilessly killed anyone who opposed him, even his own family. This was the man on the throne when Jesus was born in Bethlehem - what a dark and desperate situation for God’s people! It seems that God allows a desperate situation to arise before presenting His message or providing deliverance.

During the 400 years between the Testaments, God was silent in terms of speaking through a prophet, but He was clearly at work! He was preparing the way for His Son. This period of history is of vital importance to the establishment of God’s complete written revelation to man.

The God of Israel then shattered this silence with the announcement of His only Son - Jesus Christ, the King of the Jews!