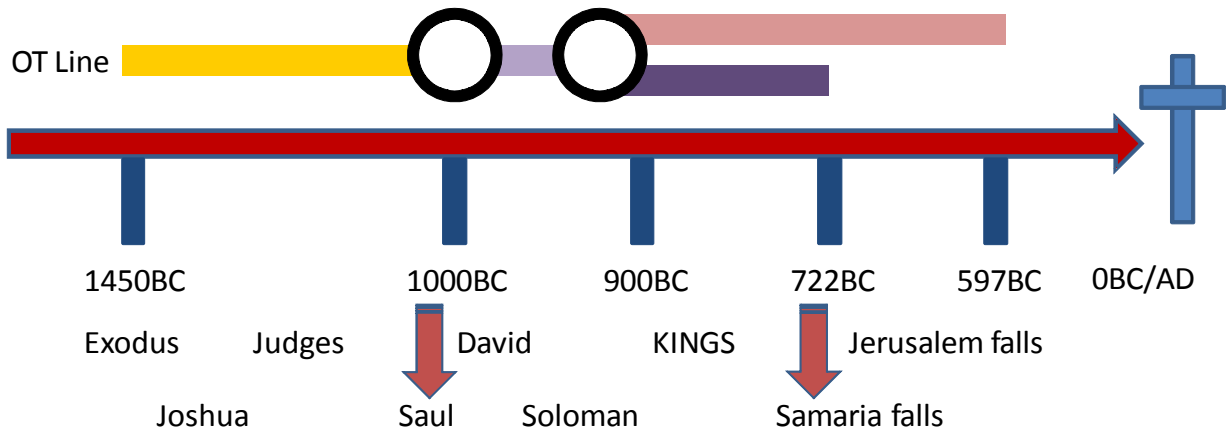


## Session 2: A Kingdom belonging to God

(Exodus, Lev, Num, Deut, Joshua, 1+2 Sam, 1+2 Kings, 1+2 Chronicles, Ruth, etc!)



The books of the Bible that tell us about this period of time are a mix of history and narrative – story and fact – all rolled together. They were written down in different periods and told as tradition, both during the times and after events.

This section starts in the book of Exodus with the people of God as prisoners in Egypt. But God has a plan to save them.

- **Read Ex 3:16-17** – does this relate to anything we covered in the last session? What does this tell us about God? (Hint: Gen 12:1-3)

Go, gather the elders of Israel together [the mature teachers and tribal leaders], and say to them, The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, I have surely visited you and seen that which is done to you in Egypt; And I have declared that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite, to a land flowing with milk and honey.

**salvation** – being saved from a serious and real danger

**redemption** – saving or delivering by paying a price – like a slave or a hostage

**judgement** – a law court, when the guilty are separated out

Exodus 12 tell us how God goes about the deliverance he promises (The Passover). This is sometimes called redemption (or salvation) by substitution.

- **Read Ex 12:12** – what is God's plan? Why is it like this?

For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment [proving their helplessness]. I am the Lord.

- **Read Ex 12:13** – how will God's plan be worked out? What is the significance of blood? (Heb 9:22)

The blood shall be for a token or sign to you upon [the doorposts of] the houses where you are, [that] when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall be upon you to destroy you when I smite the land of Egypt.

- **Read Ex 12:26-27** – what will be the result of God's plan?

When your children shall say to you, What do you mean by this service? You shall say, It is the sacrifice of the Lord's Passover, for He passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt when He slew the Egyptians but spared our houses. And the people bowed their heads and worshipped.

- **Read 1 Cor 5:7** – after what we have just read in Exodus, what similarities are there with this verse? What is the significance?

Purge (clean out) the old leaven that you may be fresh (new) dough, still uncontaminated [as you are], for Christ, our Passover [Lamb], has been sacrificed.

After the escape from Egypt, God's people make their way, led by God, to Mount Sinai.

- **Read Ex 9:1-6** – what does this tell us about what God wants? How does he want to relate to people? (See also Deut 6:20-25)

IN THE third month after the Israelites left the land of Egypt, the same day, they came into the Wilderness of Sinai. When they had departed from Rephidim and had come to the Wilderness of Sinai, they encamped there before the mountain. And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him out of the mountain, Say this to the house of Jacob and tell the Israelites: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will obey My voice in truth and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own peculiar possession and treasure from among and above all peoples; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation [consecrated, set apart to the worship of God]. These are the words you shall speak to the Israelites.

- **Read Ex 19:10-13; 16-19, 23; Lev 11:45** – what is the image of God here? Is this an approachable God? What does it tell us about God?

And the Lord said to Moses, Go and sanctify the people [set them apart for God] today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes. And be ready by the third day, for the third day the Lord will come down upon Mount Sinai [in the cloud] in the sight of all the people. And you shall set bounds for the people round about, saying, Take heed that you go not up into the mountain or touch the border of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death. No hand shall touch it [or the offender], but he shall surely be stoned or shot [with arrows]; whether beast or man, he shall not live. When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain. The third morning there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. Then Moses brought the people from the camp to meet God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke, for the Lord descended upon it in fire; its smoke ascended like that of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. As the trumpet blast grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him with a voice. And Moses said to the Lord, The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for You Yourself charged us, saying, Set bounds about the mountain and sanctify it [set it apart for God]. For I am the Lord Who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God; therefore you shall be holy, for I am holy.

➤ **Read Ex 20:1-20** – what must the people do to meet God's standard? Is this possible?

THEN GOD spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, Who has brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before or besides Me. You shall not make yourself any graven image [to worship it] or any likeness of anything that is in the heavens above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; You shall not bow down yourself to them or serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, But showing mercy and steadfast love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments. You shall not use or repeat the name of the Lord your God in vain [that is, lightly or frivolously, in false affirmations or profanely]; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. [Earnestly] remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy (withdrawn from common employment and dedicated to God). Six days you shall labour and do all your work, But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the

## Memorize the Ten Commandments

Memorize the Ten Commandments using these special picture figures. Then test your memory, and grade yourself. Put each picture in your mind, and it will remind you of each commandment.

<p><b>1. "You shall have no other gods before Me"</b> (God should be Number One)</p>		<p><b>2. "You shall not make yourself any graven image"</b> (Don't bow down to anything but God)</p>	
<p><b>3. "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain"</b> (Don't use your lips to dishonor God)</p>		<p><b>4. "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy"</b> (Don't neglect the things of God)</p>	
<p><b>5. "Honor your Father and your Mother"</b></p>		<p><b>6. "You shall not kill"</b></p>	
<p><b>7. "You shall not commit adultery"</b> (Adultery leaves a heart broken)</p>		<p><b>8. "You shall not steal"</b></p>	
<p><b>9. "You shall not lie"</b> (a "lying" nine)</p>		<p><b>10. "You shall not covet"</b> (want what others have)</p>	

Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, your daughter, your manservant, your maidservant, your domestic animals, or the sojourner within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it [set it apart for His purposes]. Regard (treat with honour, due obedience, and courtesy) your father and mother, that your days may be long in the land the Lord your God gives you. You shall not commit murder. You shall not commit [a]adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not witness falsely against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house, your neighbor's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's. Now all the people perceived the thunderings and the lightnings and the noise of the trumpet and the smoking mountain, and as [they] looked they trembled with fear and fell back and stood afar off. And they said to Moses, You speak to us and we will listen, but let not God speak to us, lest we die. And Moses said to the people, Fear not; for God has come to prove you, so that the [reverential] fear of Him may be before you, that you may not sin.

[a] Not only is adultery forbidden here, but also fornication and all kinds of mental and sensual uncleanness. All impure books, songs, pictures, etc., which tend to inflame and debauch the mind are against this law.

“The trouble with people, who are not seeking for a Saviour, and for salvation, is that they do not understand the nature of sin. It is the peculiar function of the Law to bring such an understanding to a man's mind and conscience. That is why the great evangelical preachers 300 years ago in the time of the Puritans, and 300 years ago in the time of Whitfield and others, always engaged in what they called a preliminary Law work.”

– Dr Martin Lloyd Jones, 1899-1981, Minister, Westminster Chapel London.

What commandments would you say are vertical (directly impact our relationship with God) and those that are horizontal (socially orientated)?

Consider Mark 10:18: do you find that people prefer to consider 'sin' as a social problem (fixable by themselves) rather than a spiritual one?

God's standard (The Law) highlights a problem. God instituted the Tabernacle (or Dwelling Place) to deal with this.

What did the Tabernacle look like, then?

It consisted of a rectangular enclosure, hung with curtains supported on poles, some 145 feet (44 m.) long, 72 feet (22 m.) wide, and 7 feet (2.2 m.) high (Exod. 27:18). Within this, there was another building, also curtained, divided in two by a veil, behind which was the Holy of Holies containing the Ark; before the veil stood the altar of incense, the seven-branched lampstand, and the table for the bread of the Presence (Exod. 25:30). In the courtyard outside this building stood the altar of burnt offering and the laver (Exod. 30:18). When the Israelites moved about during their wilderness wanderings, the whole tabernacle was dismantled by the Levites and re-erected by them wherever the tribes pitched.

- **Read Ex 25:1-8** (and flick through ch25, ch26 & 27!)– what does this tell us about approaching and worshipping God? Where is God?...

AND THE Lord said to Moses, Speak to the Israelites, that they take for Me an offering. From every man who gives it willingly and ungrudgingly with his heart you shall take My offering. This is the offering you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, blue, purple, and scarlet [stuff] and fine twined linen and goats' hair, rams' skins tanned red, goatskins, dolphin or porpoise skins, acacia wood, oil for the light, spices for anointing oil and for sweet incense, onyx stones, and stones for setting in the ephod and in the breastplate. Let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.

- **Read Lev 16:29-33** – what does this tell us about the state of people? What is the role of a priest?

It shall be a statute to you forever that in the seventh month [nearly October] on the tenth day of the month you shall afflict yourselves [by fasting with penitence and humiliation] and do no work at all, either the native-born or the stranger who dwells temporarily among you. For on this day atonement shall be made for you, to cleanse you; from all your sins you shall be clean before the Lord. It is a sabbath of [solemn] rest to you, and you shall afflict yourselves [by fasting with penitence and humiliation]; it is a statute forever. And the priest who shall be anointed and consecrated to minister in the priest's office in his father's stead shall make atonement, wearing the holy linen garments; He shall make atonement for the Holy Sanctuary, for the Tent of Meeting, and for the altar [of burnt offering in the court], and shall make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly.

**atonement** – making right for a wrong or injury, covering up wrong: “making atonement for one's behaviour”

- **Read Heb 10:11-14** – after what we have just read in Exodus and Leviticus, what similarities are there with this verse? What is the significance?

Furthermore, every [human] priest stands [at his altar of service] ministering daily, offering the same sacrifices over and over again, which never are able to strip [from every side of us] the sins [that envelop us] and take them away – Whereas this One [Christ], after He had offered a single sacrifice for our sins [that shall avail] for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, Then to wait until His enemies should be made a stool beneath His feet. For by a single offering He has forever completely cleansed and perfected those who are consecrated and made holy.

Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, and 1 & 2 Chronicles chart the history of the nation of Israel when they come into the land promised by the Covenant with God. This history is one of ups and downs, obedience and disobedience to the Law. This starts with entry into the Promised Land in Joshua and continues with the period of leadership by the Judges.

- **Read Josh 21:43-44, 23:14** – what does this tell us, based on the readings in Exodus and Genesis earlier? What does this indicate about God?

And the Lord gave to Israel all the land which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they possessed it and dwelt in it. The Lord gave them rest round about, just as He had sworn to their fathers. Not one of all their enemies withstood them; the Lord delivered all their enemies into their hands. And behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth. Know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the Lord your God promised concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one thing of them has failed.

- **Read Judges 17:6, (21:25)** – what was the period of the Judges like?

In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.

After the period of the Judges, and the leaders who appeared for a time, the period of the Kingdom of Israel comes.

- **Read 1 Sam 8:6-8; 2 Sam 7:1-13** – what do these readings tell us about the people of Israel and what is indicated about the future?

But it displeased Samuel when they said, Give us a king to govern us. And Samuel prayed to the Lord. And the Lord said to Samuel, Hearken to the voice of the people in all they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not be King over them. According to all the works which they have done since I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, forsaking Me and serving other gods, so they also do to you. WHEN KING David dwelt in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, The king said to Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells within curtains. And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you. WHEN KING David dwelt in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, The king said to Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells within curtains. And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you. That night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying, Go and tell My servant David, Thus says the Lord: Shall you build Me a house in which to dwell? For I have not dwelt in a house since I brought the Israelites out of Egypt to this day, but have moved about with a tent for My dwelling. In all the places where I have moved with all the Israelites, did I speak a word to any from the tribes of Israel whom I commanded to be shepherd of My people Israel, asking, Why do you not build Me a house of cedar? So now say this to My servant David, Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be prince over My people Israel. And I was with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like [that] of the great men of the earth. And I will

appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and be moved no more. And wicked men shall afflict them no more, as formerly and as from the time that I appointed judges over My people Israel; and I will cause you to rest from all your enemies. Also the Lord declares to you that He will make for you a house: And when your days are fulfilled and you sleep with your fathers, I will set up after you your offspring who shall be born to you, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My [a]Name [and My Presence], and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

[a] 2 Samuel 7:13 "Name" is equivalent to "Me" in 2 Samuel 7:5.

This has been a very short tour of the history of the Bible and Israel. In the next session we will look more closely at the life of the Kingdom of Israel.

*For the Bible students...*

Consider: animal sacrifices as types of Christ

- Psa. 40:6-8 → Heb. 10:1-14.
- Isa. 53:11, 12 → Lev. 16:21.
- John 1:29.
- 1 Cor. 5:7.
- 2 Cor. 5:21.
- Eph. 5:2.
- Heb. 9:19-28; 10:1, 11, 12; 13:11-13.
- Rev. 5:6.

Consider: who were the Judges?

There is great value in looking at the lives of Bible men and women. What do we look for?

We observe their **experiences**:

- How do these mirror our own experiences?
- What errors did they make we can avoid?
- What positive choices can we imitate?

We look at their **character**:

- What traits do we want to see developed in our own lives?
- How did that person grow and mature?

We look at their **relationship with God**:

- What lessons can we learn?
- How did their faith find expression?
- What difficulties helped develop their trust in God?
- How was love for the Lord displayed?

Verify the statements below to learn more about each Judge.

1. Othniel (3:7-11)

- brother of Caleb
- defeated the Arameans; the spirit of the Lord was on him

2. Ehud (3:12-30)

- ❑ left-handed
- ❑ killed Eglon, king of Moab, by trickery

3. Shamgar (3:31, 5:6)

- ❑ fought against the Philistines

4. Deborah (4-5)

- ❑ woman tribal leader, both military and legal
- ❑ campaigned against Sisera, Canaanite general under Jabin, the King of Hazor
- ❑ Barak was military leader under Deborah
- ❑ Jael, a Kenite woman, killed Sisera as he fled

5. Gideon (6-8)

- ❑ came from a family of Baal worshippers
- ❑ afraid to trust God, portrayed as an arrogant coward
- ❑ God gave him a plan to defeat the Midianites
- ❑ ended up worshipping Baal

6. Abimelech (9)

- ❑ not a judge, attempted to make himself king but failed

7. Minor Judges: Tola and Jair (10:1-5)

8. Jephthah (10:6-12:7)

- ❑ illegitimate child and an outcast
- ❑ fought against the Ammonites
- ❑ made a rash vow that led to the sacrifice of his only child

9. Minor Judges: Ibzan, Elon, Abdon (12:8-15)

10. Samson (13-16)

- ❑ born to a barren woman by promise
- ❑ was a Nazarite, but broke his vows
- ❑ was a womaniser and a drunk
- ❑ God helped him bring relief from the Philistines
- ❑ his fatal attraction to Delilah