

OK Prayer: People & Places

Who's Who?

Antipas: (b. ca 20 BC; reign: 4¹ BC – AD 39) Son of Herod “the Great,” tetrarch [ruler of Roman client state] over the regions of Galilee and Perea. Built multiple cities including Sepphoris and Tiberias. Had John the Baptizer arrested and beheaded (Mt 4:12, 14:3-12).

Capernaum: Small city on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee where Jesus lived after the arrest of His cousin, John the Baptizer (Mt. 4:13). Scholars presume the location of the Mount of the Beatitudes is nearby.

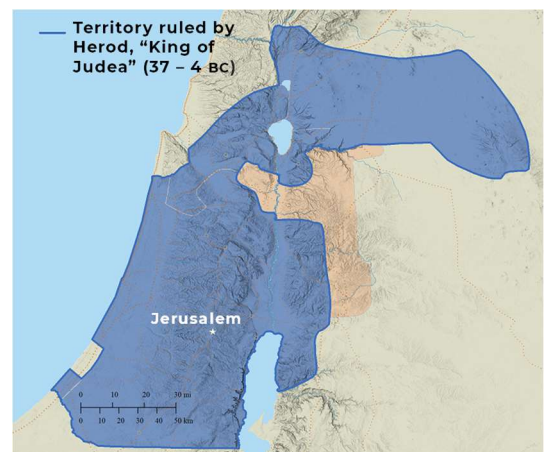
David: (b. ca. 1040 BC; reign: 1010 – 970 BC) Born in Bethlehem, was a shepherd then military leader and 2nd king of Israel. All tribes were united under his rule. Made Israel a great political power and expanded territory with multiple vassal nations paying him tribute. About halfway through his reign, he committed adultery with Bathsheba and had her husband killed (2 Sam. 11). Over 70 psalms are attributed to David.

Elijah: (ministry: 860s-850s BC) Prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel during reigns of Ahab and Ahaziah. Performed miracles and opposed Baal worship on Mt. Carmel (1 Ki. 17 – 18). God worked miracles through him including raising a boy from dead (1 Ki 17:17-24) and praying for rain. Wore a leather belt and cloak of animal hair (2 Ki 1:8), appeared on the Mount of Transfiguration with Moses and Jesus (Mt 17:3-8).

Ephraim: (18th century BC) Son of Joseph, received inheritance of his father (along with his brother, Manasseh) including the area of Jacob’s well near Mt. Gerizim and Mt. Ebal, where Joseph’s bones were brought (Gen. 48:5, 22; Josh. 24:32). God designated Ephraim’s descendant, Jeroboam, as the first king of the northern kingdom of Israel (1 Ki. 11:26-39).

Habakkuk: (ministry: ca. 610-589 BC) Prophet who questioned God in prayer about injustice and learned of destruction from Babylon. The apostle Paul cited Habakkuk’s declaration “the righteous will live by faith” as central (Hab. 2:4; Rom. 1:17, Gal. 3:11).

Herod “the Great”: (b. ca. 72 BC; reign 38ish – 4 BC) an Idumean (Edomite descendant), appointed Governor of Galilee at 25 and later king over almost all the area of Roman Palestine (see map). Built many cities, and dedicated monuments and temples to the Roman emperor. Began rebuilding the Temple in Jerusalem (ca. 20 BC), doubling the size of the Temple Mount and including a massive retaining wall (part of which remains today). Learned of the birth of the “King of the Jews” from eastern Magi and sought to have Jesus killed (Mt 2:1-8, 13).



¹ The date of Herod’s death is uncertain. Many scholars say 4 BC; however, a date of 1 BC is highly likely. Augustus Caesar divided the territory after his death, thus Antipas’ reign began either 4 or 1 BC. Similarly, John & Jesus were born approximately a year before Herod’s death. See: Andrew E. Steinmann, *From Abraham to Paul: A Biblical Chronology* (2011).

Isaiah: (ministry: ca. 740-690 BC) Prophet in Jerusalem, served as counselor to king and court record-keeper (2 Chr 26:22). Prophesied the eventual return from Babylon and the coming of the Messiah to rule God's kingdom (Is. 11:1-11). Frequently quoted in New Testament writings.

Jeremiah: (ministry: 620s-580s) Prophet, son of a priest, lived near Jerusalem. Prophesied and lived through the destruction of Jerusalem, then went with some of the remnant (who were not sent into exile) to Egypt. Suffered threats and persecution, wrote the book of Lamentations, and is sometimes called the "weeping prophet."

Jerusalem: After all the tribes were consolidated under David as king, Jerusalem became the capital of the united kingdom. When the kingdom was divided, Jerusalem remained the capital of the southern kingdom of Judah. From AD 6, the capital of the region was moved to Caesarea to be politically ruled by Roman prefects, who came to Jerusalem only for major festivals. The Sanhedrin and Rome-appointed High Priest continued to run the government of Jerusalem under the authority of the Roman governor.

John the Baptizer: (b. ca. 5 BC-29 AD) Prophet whose ministry range was in the wilderness, wore camel hair clothes with a leather belt (Mk 1:6). Proclaimed, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near" (Mt. 3:2). Offended religious leaders and Antipas, who had him arrested and beheaded (Mk 6:19-29). Baptized people who repented of their sins. Also baptized Jesus in fulfillment of "all righteousness" (Mt 3:15). Son of a priest and relative (cousin) of Jesus.

John the Disciple: (died ca. 100 AD) One of Jesus's first disciples, called to follow while on his father's boat on the Sea of Galilee. One of the three disciples at the Transfiguration. Wrote the Gospel of John, the letters 1, 2, and 3 John, and Revelation. According to early church leaders, John lived the longest and wrote the gospel from Ephesus.

Judah (person): (19th/18th century BC) Fourth son of Jacob/Israel by Leah (Gen. 29:35). Ancestor of King David and Jesus (through his daughter-in-law, Tamar).

Judah/Judea (place): Territory assigned to tribe descended from Judah (Josh. 15:1-63). After Solomon died and the nation was divided, the southern kingdom following the line of David became known as the *kingdom of Judah*. During the Babylonian exile people from the region were called *Jews*. From the Persian Empire, the "land of the Jews" was known as *Judea* (Ez. 5:8); in Roman era, Herod's territory as "king of Judea" included all of western Palestine, but strictly speaking, Judea is only the southern district.

Moses: (b. ca. 1526-1406 BC) Prophet; led Israelites out of Egypt to Sinai and to the edge of the Promised Land; received the covenantal law. Wrote the first five books (the "Pentateuch") of the Bible. Appeared with Elijah on Mount of Transfiguration (Mt. 17:3-8).

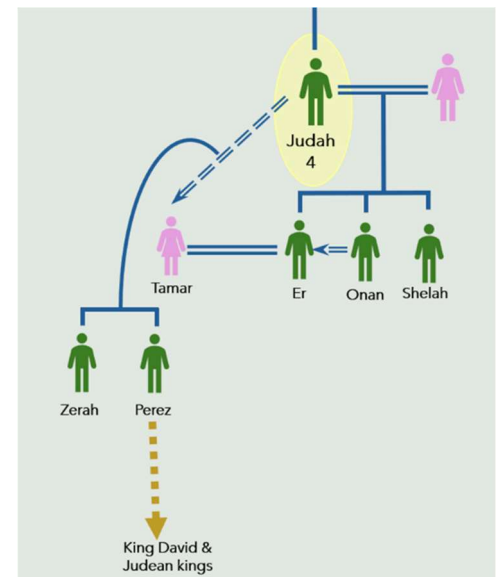
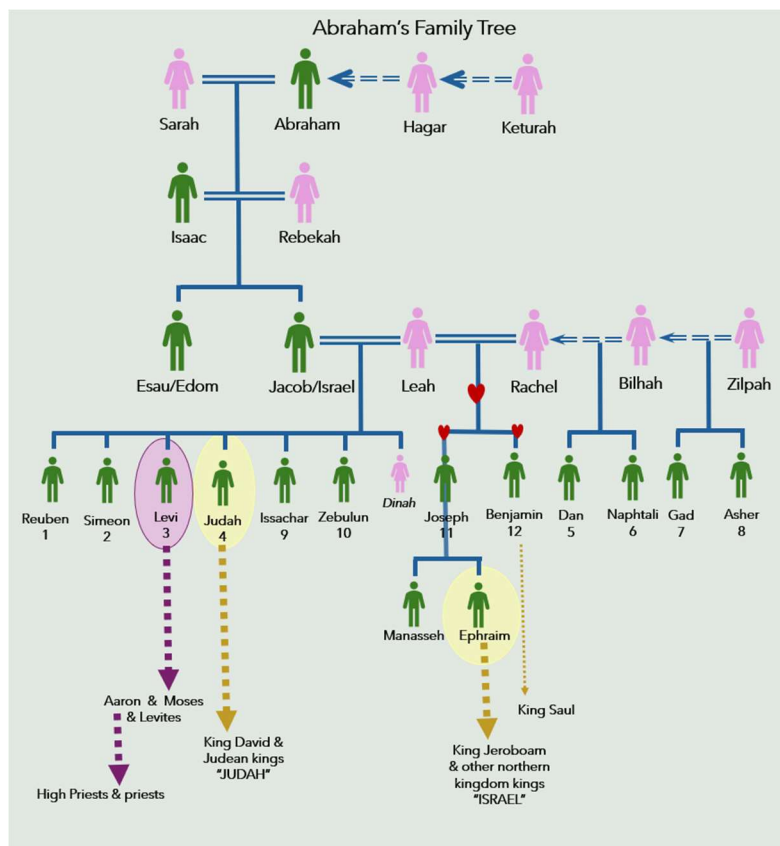
Samaria: City established by King Omri (ca. 875 BC) as capital of northern kingdom of Israel (1 Ki. 16:24), conquered by Assyrians in 722 BC. By connection to the capital, the Assyrians named the entire province *Samaria*. Before Assyrian domination, including the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Hosea, the area was referred to as *Ephraim*, related to the tribe of the first kings of the northern kingdom. During the Roman era, Herod rebuilt and renamed the city of Samaria as *Sebaste* in honor of Caesar Augustus, while the surrounding region (much smaller than previous area) was called *Samaria*.

Samaritans: (1) A group of people geographically associated in 1st century Palestine with the region of Samaria north of Judea and south of Galilee. (2) In the Old Testament, the Hebrew noun (*haššōmrônîm*) translated as either *Samaritan* or *Samaritan*, means “inhabitants of Samaria” from the proper noun (*šōmrôn*), “Samaria”, and is used only once. (3) A group of people, centered around Mt. Gerizim and Mt. Ebal, who claim descent from the lines of Joseph (Ephraim and Manasseh) and Levi, who worship the one God (Yahweh), adhere only to the Pentateuch of Moses, continue to offer Passover sacrifices every year on Mt. Gerizim, and are waiting for the return of the “prophet like Moses” (Dt. 18:18). Their name derives from the Hebrew verb (*šāmar*), “to keep, observe, guard” and consider themselves as the “Keepers of the Law.”

Sepphoris: Large city in Galilee, 4 miles northwest of Nazareth; fortified and rebuilt by Antipas as his capital (until AD 18) including a Roman theater and aqueduct. Means “bird” because the city “perched on a hill like a bird” (*b. Talmud, Meg. 6a*).

Solomon: (reign: ca. 969-932 BC) King, son of David, ruled over united kingdom; built temple for Yahweh in Jerusalem but did not follow God wholeheartedly and, at the end of his life, abandoned God and did evil (1 Ki. 11:1-13). After him, the kingdom was divided.

Tamar: (19th/18th century BC) Widow of Er (firstborn son of Judah), given in levirate marriage to Onan (second born son of Judah who also died), betrothed to Shelah (third born son of Judah) but Judah refused to allow the marriage (Gen. 38). In order to preserve her husband’s line (and her own future), she disguised herself and became pregnant by her father-in-law, Judah, then gave birth to twins, Perez and Zerah. Perez is the ancestor of King David and Jesus (Mt. 1:3).

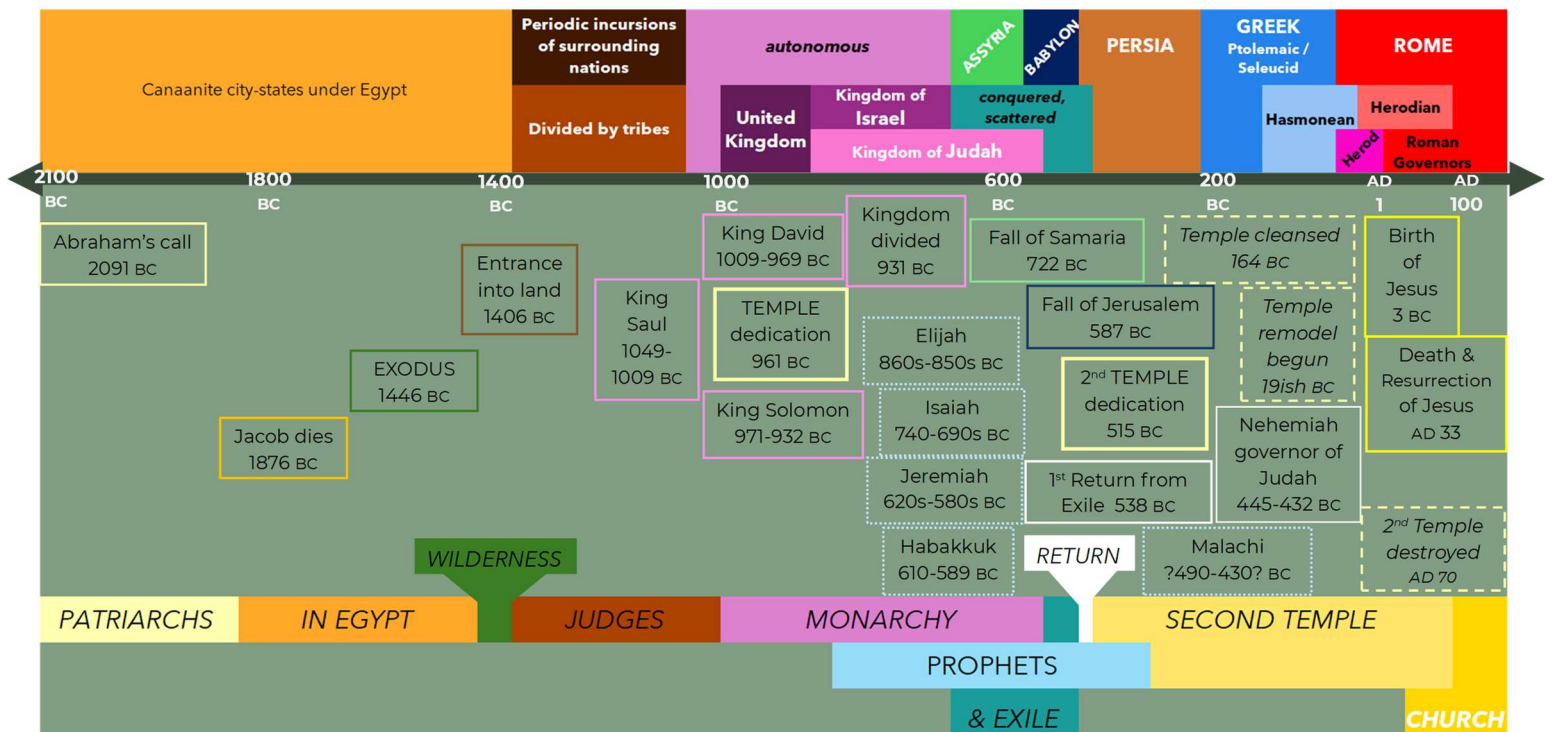


What's Where?



Maps made using Bible Mapper © David P. Barrett.

When Was That?



*Please note: all dates are approximate and based on conservative Biblical scholars using early Exodus date.