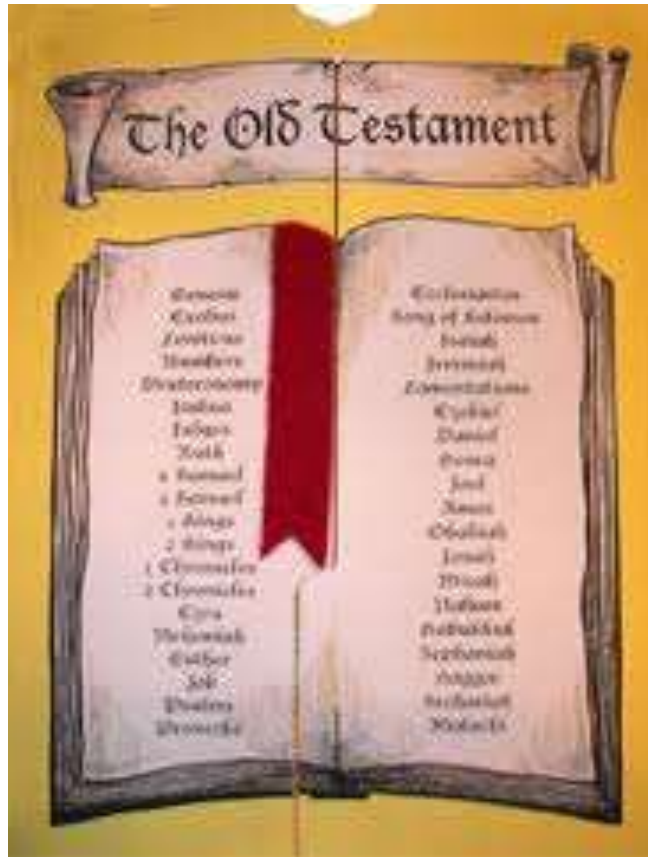


The Old Testament

What is the “Old Testament” and why does it matter?



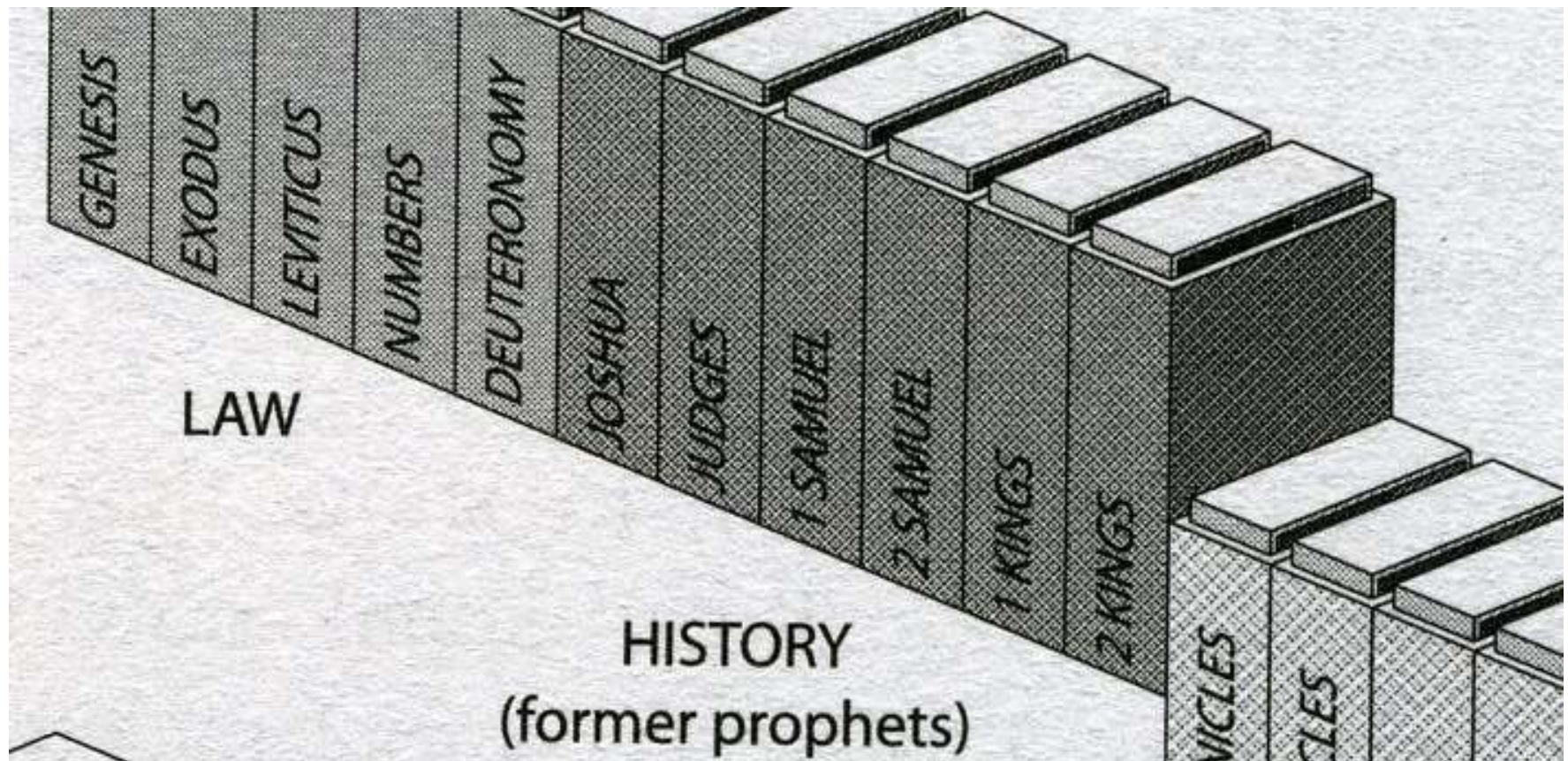
Three Questions

- What do we call the “Old Testament”?
- How do we read the Old Testament?
- What history/story does the Old Testament tell?

What do we call the “Old Testament”?

- Old Testament
- First Testament
- Bible
- Hebrew Bible
- Tanakh

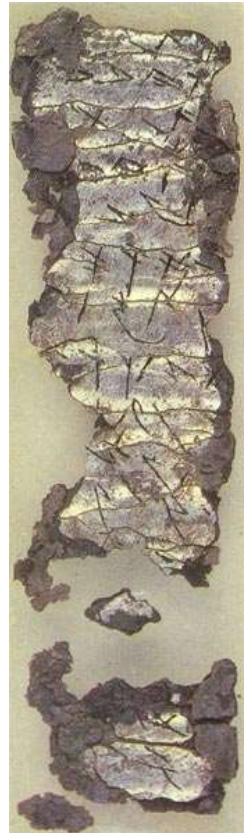
THE BOOKS OF THE “OLD TESTAMENT”



What makes up the Old Testament?



- Collection of documents handed down over several centuries
- First complete manuscript: Leningrad Codex 1008 CE
- Earliest manuscript: fragment of Deut 6:24–26 from Ketef Hinnom close to Jerusalem (7th–6th c. BCE)

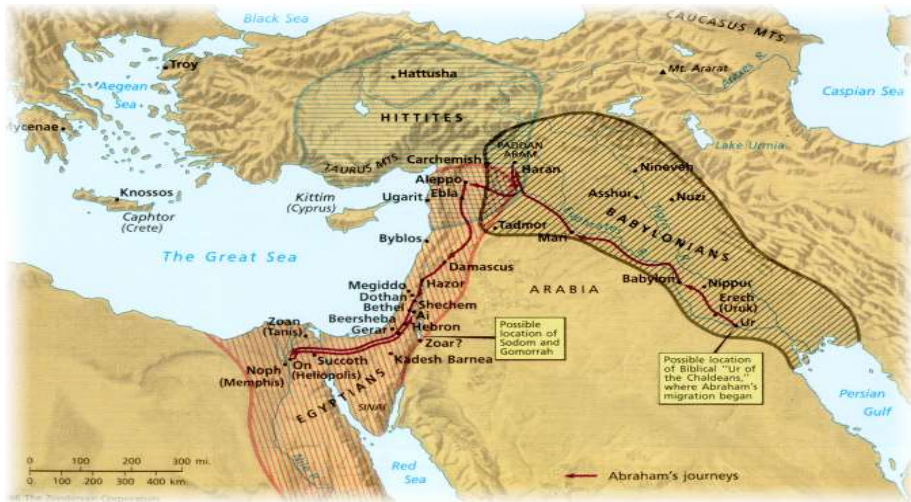


How do we read the Old Testament?

- As the “Word of God”
 - “All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness” (2 Tim 3:16)
 - “Like any other book” (Benjamin Jowett, 1860)

What history/story does the Old Testament tell?

- Primeval History (Gen 1–11)
- The Patriarchs (Gen 12–50)



Provan, Long & Longman, *A Biblical History of Israel*, 2003

Primeval Hist.

Patriarchs

Exile

BC ?

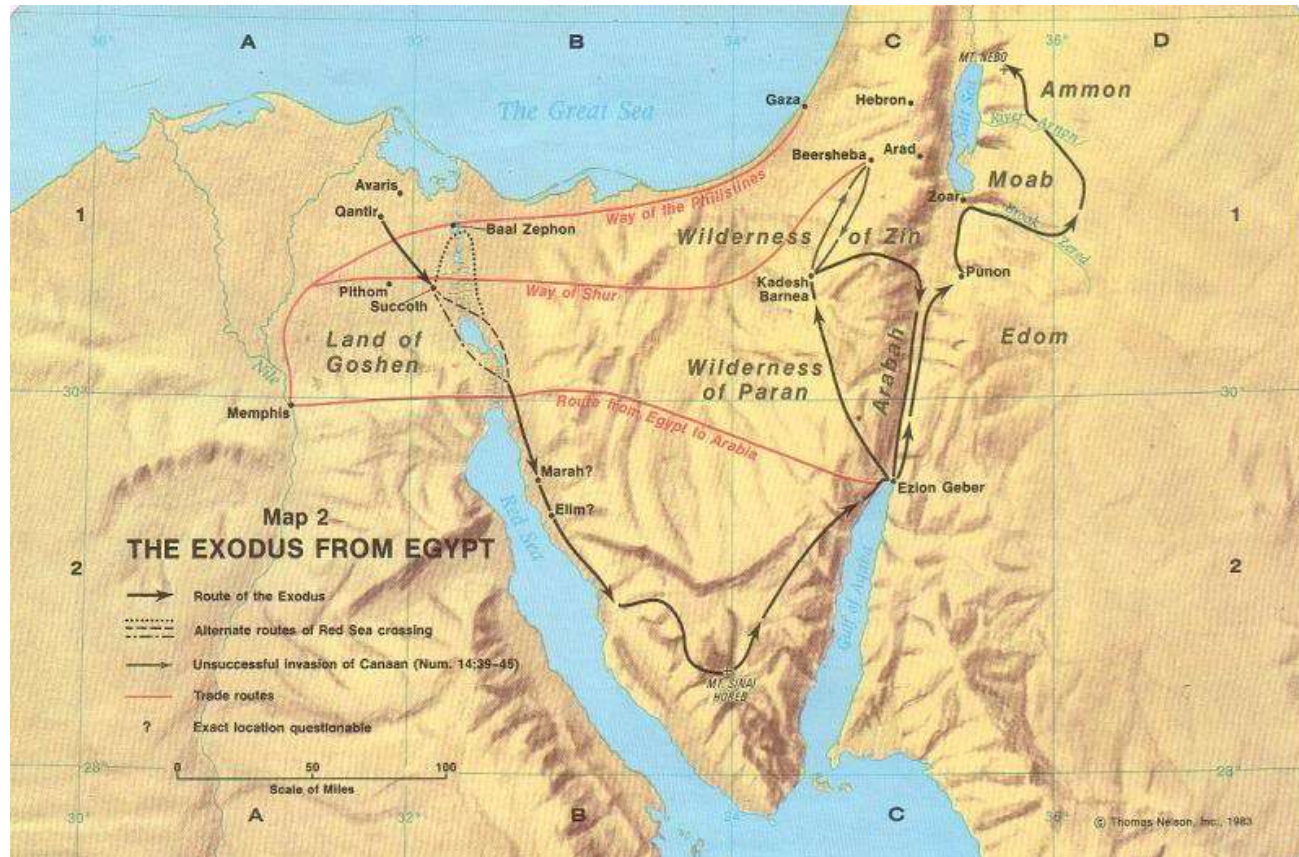
ca. 2100–1500

1000

586

515

Biblical History: Exodus and Wandering



The Exodus

David

Exile

BC

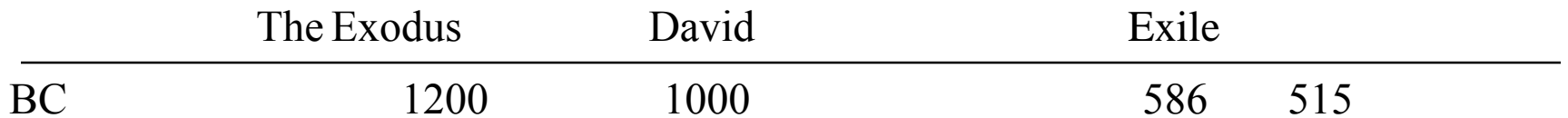
ca. 1500–1200

1000

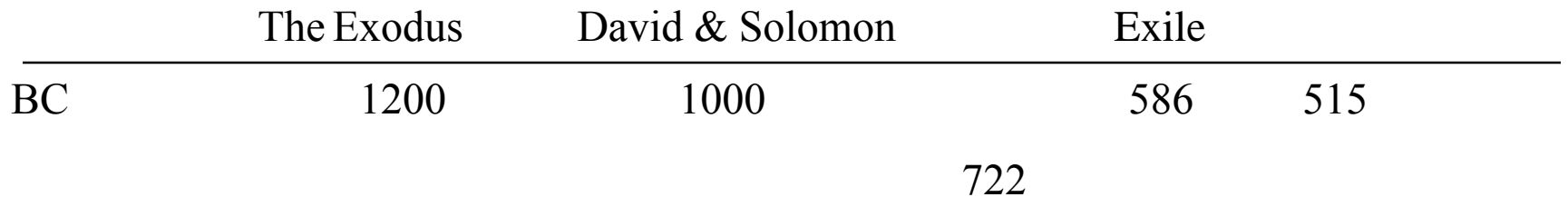
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Biblical History: Settlement and Judges



Biblical History: United Monarchy



Biblical History: Divided Monarchy



The Exodus

Rehoboam / Jeroboam Exile

BC

1200

1000

586

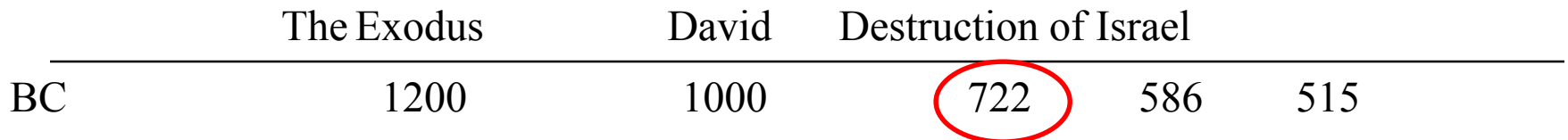
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Biblical History: The Northern

Kingdom

- 880 Omri
- 874 Ahab
- 841 Jehu
- ca. 735 Syro-Ephraimite War
- 722 Israel rebels against the Assyrians
Reaction: Samaria destroyed and king exiled.

The Northern Kingdom ceases to exist.



Biblical History: The Southern Kingdom



- 701 Hezekiah of Judah rebels against Sennacherib; Jerusalem narrowly escapes destruction.
- 621 Josiah finds Book of the Law
- 609 Josiah dies in battle near Megiddo against Egyptians. Egyptians imprison Jehoahaz, Josiah's son. Egyptians appoint Jehoiachin as their vassal-king.
- 605 Babylonians win against Egyptians: Jehoiachin switches over to their side.
- 601 Babylonians fail to conquer Egypt. Judah switches over to the Egyptians again.
- 597 Babylonians punish Judah; they besiege and conquer Jerusalem. They take Jehoiachin, Jehoiachin's son, prisoner and install Zedekiah, Jehoiachin's uncle as king
- 587 Zedekiah rebels – Nebuchadnezzar conquers and completely destroys Jerusalem. Exile to Babylon.

The southern kingdom ceases to exist.

	The Exodus	David	Fall of Samaria	Exile	
BC	1200	1000	722	586	515

Biblical History: The Return



- 539 Cyrus the Great (king of Persia) conquers Babylon and the Jews go back to Israel (Judah) to rebuild the temple.
- 515 Second Temple completed

	The Exodus	David	Fall of Samaria	Exile	End of Exile
BC	1200	1000	722	586	515

Katharine Dell

