

THE **3** CYCLE APPROACH

The Second Cycle: Contents of the Periods

EXCURSUS

- Though it can be difficult to remember all the names of the kinds of Israel and Judah, it is possible and beneficial.
- The kings of the northern kingdom of Israel are Jeroboam, Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri, Omri, Ahab, Ahaziah, Jehoram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, Joash, Jeroboam II, Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah, and Hoshea.



EXCURSUS

- The kings (and queen) of the southern kingdom of Judah are Rehoboam, Abijah, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, Ahaziah, Athaliah, Joash, Amaziah, Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon, Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah.



1. Before the Flood
2. The Flood and the Scattering
3. The Patriarchs
4. Egyptian Bondage
5. The Wilderness Wandering
6. The Conquest of Canaan
7. The Judges
8. The United Kingdom
9. The Divided Kingdom
10. **The Exile**
11. Return and Independence
12. Christ and the Church

THE EXILE

- The Exile is that of Judah (606-536 BC), not Israel who was taken captive by the Assyrians about 150 years beforehand (722 BC).
- During this period, the Neo-Babylonian Empire, led by Nebuchadnezzar, conquered the kingdom of Judah and took its people captive.
- Written prophets of the period include Jeremiah-Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel, with each prophet located in a different place.

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RETURN

- There are actually three phases of the return of Judah from Babylonian captivity:
 - The first return is under Zerubbabel (governor) and Jeshua (priest) in 536 BC (50,000 Jews).
 - The second return is under Ezra (priest and scribe) in 458 BC (40,000 Jews).
 - The third return is under Nehemiah in 445 BC.
- During the time of the first return, Haggai and Zechariah prophesy (520 BC).

RETURN

- Between the periods of the first and second returns, Esther becomes queen of Persia in Susa (485 BC).
- The final OT prophet Malachi prophesies after the third return, urging the people to return to the Law and wait for the Messiah (432 BC).

INDEPENDENCE

- The Old Testament finishes while the Persian Empire is still in control; however, later the Grecian (Hellenistic) Empire superseded it.
- Alexander the Great leads a mighty conquest of the known world, yet after his death, the Empire divides into several warring regions.
- The people of God in Judea are most affected by the Syrian (Seleucid) and Egyptian (Ptolemaic) kingdoms.

INDEPENDENCE

- The Syrian eventually take control and then expect the Jewish people to conform and worship the Greek god, Zeus.
- An important Jewish family (Mattathias) refuses and begins guerilla warfare against the Greeks, resulting in the Maccabean revolt.
- During the period of independence, the Jewish parties of the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Essenes begin and develop.

INDEPENDENCE

- The Grecian Empire eventually ends when the Roman Empire gains power and conquers the eastern Mediterranean.
- Following the rise of the Romans, Herod the Great is made king of Judea, which at the time includes virtually all of Palestine.
- With all of the conflict and oppression, the Jews are looking for the Messiah, and it is now time for him to come.

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CHRIST AND CHURCH

- The word “Christ” means “anointed” and comes from the Greek word “christos” and translates the Hebrew “messiah.”
- The title “Christ” is applied to Jesus the Son of God, and His earthly life can be divided into seven major sections:
 - The Years of Preparation
 - The Beginning of Ministry
 - The Galilean Ministry

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 - The Periods of Retirement
 - The Close of Ministry
 - The Final Week

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 - The Post-Resurrection Days

CHRIST AND CHURCH

- The book of Acts provides about a 30-year history of the church following Jesus' ascension to heaven.
- The book of Acts focuses on the ministries of Peter in Palestine (chs. 1-12) and Paul throughout the Roman Empire (chs. 13-28).
- During and following Acts, various letters (epistles) are written to Christians and churches (Romans-Revelation).

CHRIST AND CHURCH

- The period of the church continues to the present, but the Bible promises a final period (“eternity”) when Christians will live with God.

EXCURSUS

- It is vital that we memorize the books of the Old and New Testaments, especially as we move into the third cycle.

EXCURSUS

- Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
- Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
- Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon
- Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel

EXCURSUS

- Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

EXCURSUS

- Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
- Acts
- Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
- Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude
- Revelation