

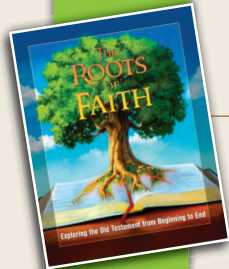
# Twelve Old Testament Eras, Plus One – Hooks for Hanging the Old Testament Storyline

Creation	Fall	Flood	Babel	Patriarchs	Moses	Joshua	Judges	Monarchy	Division	Exile	Return	Anticipation
Events				People			Kingdoms				Change	
Elohim, the eternal God of the Bible, first created spirit beings that we call “angels.”  Then He created the <b>earth and its heavens</b> ,  <b>plants</b> ,  and <b>animals</b> .  And finally He made <b>human beings</b> in His own image--man and woman, Adam and Eve.	The woman (Eve) was <b>tempted by Satan</b> and <b>disobeyed</b> God’s law, which resulted in <b>death</b> --first spiritual death then eventually physical death.  God promised a coming <b>Satan-conqueror</b> and covered the man and woman with <b>animal skins</b>  God then <b>banished</b> them from their paradise garden.	Because the human race became <b>exceedingly wicked</b> ,  God sent a <b>great flood</b> to destroy the earth and its inhabitants.  But <b>righteous Noah</b> found grace in God’s sight and God instructed him to <b>build an ark</b> to preserve Noah and his family, as well as representatives of the various kinds of animals.	<b>Descendants of Noah</b> eventually migrated and settled in the land of <b>Shinar</b> , near the Euphrates River.  They built a great tower, a “ <b>gateway of the gods</b> ,” that became known as <b>Babel</b> , a center of pagan religions.  But God <b>confused their languages</b> and caused them to be dispersed over the face of the earth.	God called Abram ( <b>Abraham</b> ) from Ur of Chaldea and told him to go to Canaan. God gave some special promises to Abraham.  <b>Isaac</b> was Abram’s special son, to whom those promises were passed.  The promises were passed on to Isaac’s son <b>Jacob (Israel)</b> . Israel’s son Joseph became a great ruler in Egypt where Israel’s family went to live.	<b>God prepared Moses</b> for some leadership tasks he would carry out later in his life.  God called Moses to lead the Israelites in their <b>exodus</b> from Egyptian bondage to their <b>promised land</b> —Canaan.  Through Moses, God gave a <b>special law</b> to the Israelites and taught them how to make <b>substitute offerings</b> for their sins.	When Moses died, the <b>leadership of Israel was passed along to Joshua</b> .  Joshua led the Israelites in crossing the <b>Jordan River</b>  and in <b>defeating the various pagan Canaanite nations</b> that inhabited the land.  Then Joshua <b>divided the land</b> of Canaan among the tribes of Israel.	The era of judges was generally a <b>dark time</b> politically and spiritually for the Israelites.  It was characterized by several major <b>cycles of sin, oppression, cries to God, and deliverance</b> through <b>leaders (“judges”)</b> that God raised up.  But <b>Samuel, Boaz &amp; Ruth</b> , and others were “bright lights” in this dark era.	In response to the plea of the Israelites, God gave them a king— <b>King Saul</b> .  Saul started off well but then became selfish, jealous, and disobedient to God so  God raised up <b>King David</b> and promised him an everlasting dynasty.  David’s son <b>Solomon</b> showed great potential, but failed spiritually.	During the reign of Solomon’s son Rehoboam, the <b>kingdom of Israel was divided</b> .  Ten tribes were first ruled by <b>King Jeroboam</b> and were called the <b>Northern Kingdom or Israel</b> .  <b>King Rehoboam</b> and his descendants ruled two tribes—Judah and Benjamin. This was the <b>Southern Kingdom or Judah</b> .	<b>God punished Israel</b> for its worship of false gods by allowing <b>Assyria</b> to conquer Israel and scatter Israelites in a widespread exile.  Later, God used <b>Babylonians to punish Judah</b> by taking many of its people to Babylon as exiles.  Through <b>prophets</b> , God promised a coming Savior and King.	<b>Zerubbabel</b> led some Jews from Babylon to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem.  Later, <b>Nehemiah</b> returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the city’s walls.  And <b>Ezra</b> , a priest and scribe, returned to Jerusalem to lead the people to recommit to God’s law.  God’s faithful people looked forward to the <b>coming Savior and King</b> .	During the <b>400 years</b> between the close of the OT and the beginning of the NT there were many  <b>political changes</b> ,  <b>cultural changes</b> , and  <b>Jewish religious changes</b>  that <b>affected life in the NT times</b> that followed this era.

 **Notes:**

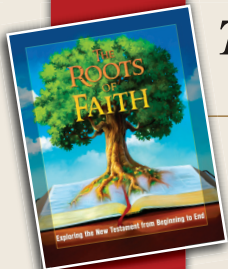


Additional Resources for Mastering the Bible's Big Storyline



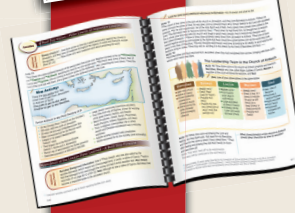
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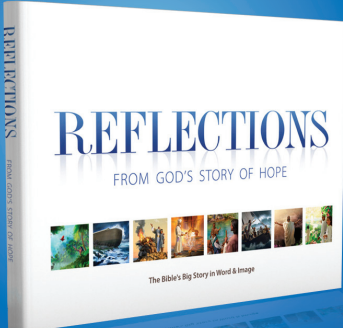
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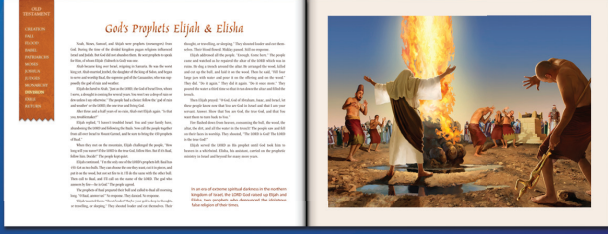


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The Big Story of the Bible in a Coffee Table Book



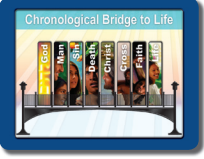
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# HOOKS

for hanging the  
*Old Testament  
Storyline*

