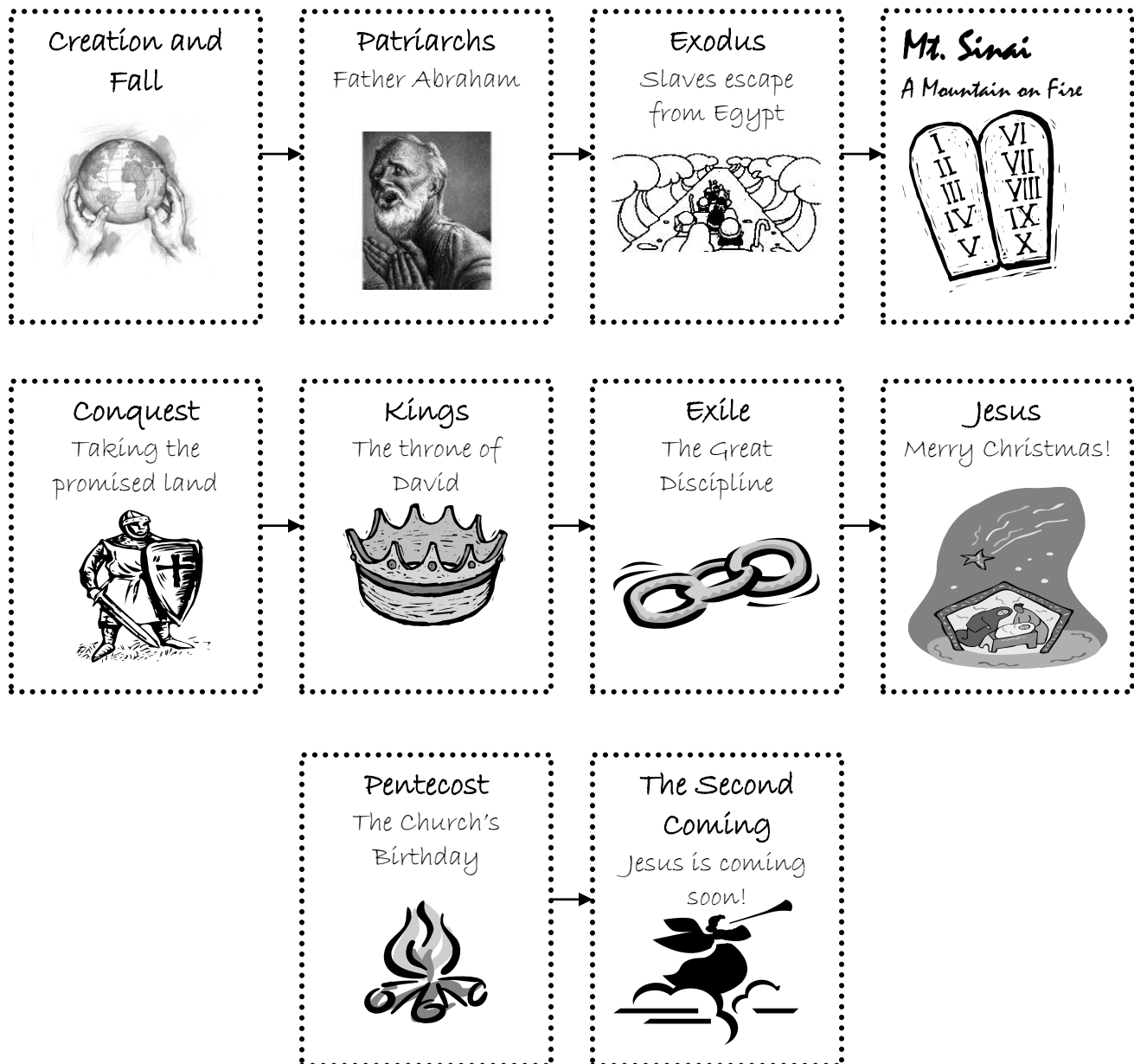


## The Divine Drama

In this Lesson we consider the basic “timeline” of the Bible. The “Divine Drama” is an overview of the principal events and characters in the Bible narrative, divided into 10 “scenes.” Memorizing these ten points, we can grasp the basic outline of the Biblical narrative.

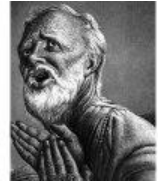


# The Divine Drama



**1. Creation and Fall** *Let there be light!* God creates the universe and humanity. Adam and Eve are tempted in the Garden of Eden, and rebel against God.

**2. Patriarchs** *Father Abraham!* Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are the fathers of the nation of Israel. This family-nation takes refuge in Egypt with their brother Joseph during a great famine. They eventually become enslaved there.



**3. Exodus** *Slaves escape from Egypt!* With Moses in the lead, they escape through the miraculous parting of the Red Sea.

**4. Sinai** *A Mountain on Fire!* Moses receives the Ten Commandments and blueprints for the Tabernacle (a mobile Temple).



**5. Conquest** *Taking the Promised Land!* After 40 years of wandering in the desert, they conquer the land of Palestine under the leadership of Joshua.



**6. Kings** *The Throne of David!* After the rule of the Judges, Kings reign over Israel, beginning with Saul, David and Solomon.



**7. Exile** *The Great Discipline!* God punishes the Israelites for worshipping idols. Her enemies conquer the nation and take the Israelites as prisoners for 70 years.

**8. Jesus** *Merry Christmas!* God becomes flesh to save humanity.

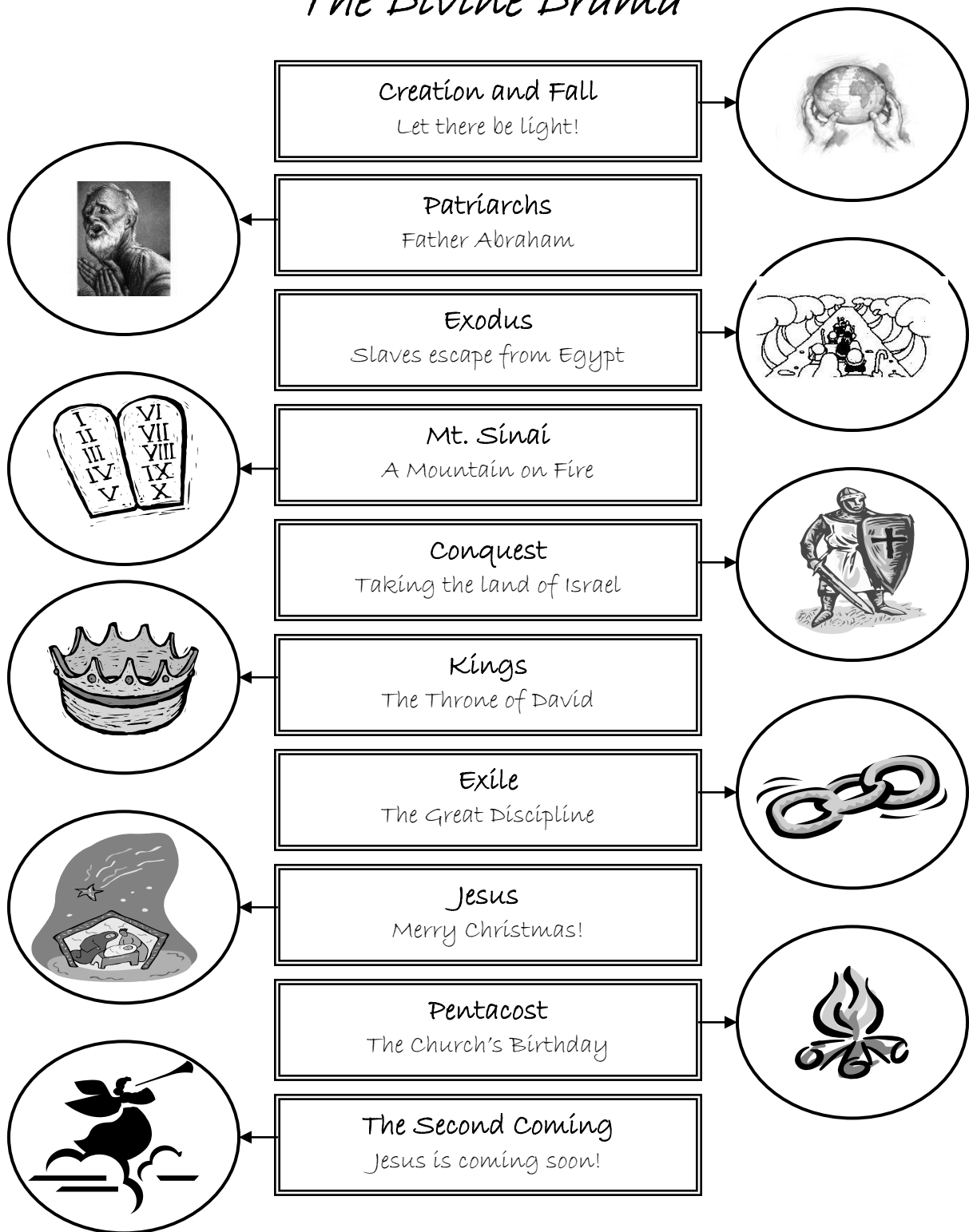


**9. Pentecost** *The Church's Birthday!* God pours out His Holy Spirit upon the first believers. The church is born!

**10. Second Coming** *Jesus is coming soon!*



# The Divine Drama



# Important People and Events

*Following the Timeline – “The Divine Drama” – we here review and summarize the principal events and Characters in the Bible narrative. **Please read the texts and use your imagination!*** History is a great drama. Try to visualize the scenes – as if it were a majestic film!

## 1. The Epoch of the Creation and Fall

Visualize the wonders of nature – green meadows, a radiant, translucent sea, majestic mountains, a leafy forest, and countless millions of stars in the night sky. God saw “everything he had made, and it was very good.” He made the first human couple, and gave them authority over the splendor of this new world.



But as we all know, they used their free will to rebel against God’s benevolent rule and ally themselves to their mortal enemy—Satan. We read in Genesis 3:1-13 about the beginning of this tragic beginning to human existence.

**Read Genesis 3:1-13**

Mention some of Satan’s lies (or “half-truths”) (3:4-5)

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## Principal Characters and Events of the Creation Era



**Adam and Eve** The first human couple.

**The Fall** The Serpent tempts Eve, and both eat of the forbidden tree. They are cast out from the Garden of Eden and condemned to suffer and eventually die.

**Cain and Abel** The sons of Adam and Eve. The first murder.

**The Flood** God punishes humanity with a catastrophic flood.

**Noah** Survives the flood with his family in a giant ark.

**Tower of Babel** In prideful ambition, humanity builds a tower to reach heaven itself. They are punished and dispersed through the multiplication of languages.



## 2. The Era of the Patriarchs

### *God calls Abraham – the Father of Israel*

Visualize an extremely old man, with a grisly white beard, and a face wrinkled by his many years and the strong desert winds. A voice calls and commands him to leave all in order to follow the Creator of the Universe. If he dares to obey, without knowing his precise destination, he will be the ancestor of a host of descendents, as numerous as the stars of heaven. They would have their own land and eventually spawn a descendent through whom all the nations on earth would find blessing. What did Abraham say? What would you have said?



### *Read Genesis 12:1-7*

What are three of the promises to Abraham?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

What is meant by the phrase, “*all peoples on earth will be blessed through you?*” (12:3)

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### *Principal Events and Characters of the Patriarchal Era*

**Abraham** The first patriarch, and the “father” of the nation of Israel.



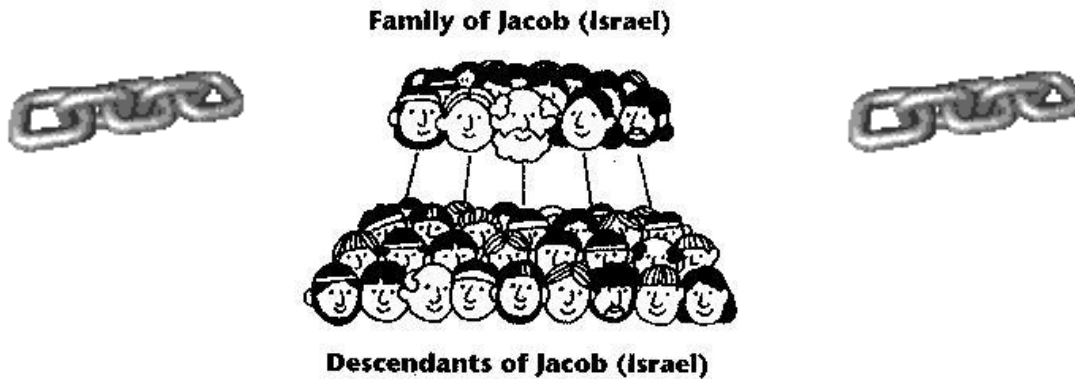
**Isaac** Son of Abraham. Almost sacrificed!

**Jacob** The son of Isaac. A scoundrel as a young man. Struggles with an angel and is given the new name, “*Israel*” --- “*The one who struggles with God.*”

**Joseph** Son of Jacob; sold into slavery by his jealous brothers. Becomes a great leader in Egypt and eventually saves his family from starvation!

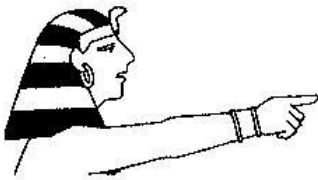


**Move to Egypt** Jacob and his sons move to Egypt to survive a great famine. They become slaves in Egypt.



### ***3. Era of the Exodus (Departure) - Israelites escape from Egypt!***

#### ***Spiritual Warfare against Egypt – Plagues – the first Passover***



Using the staff of his authority, Moses waged an epic spiritual war against Pharo and the Egyptians, inflicting terrible plagues upon the oppressive nation. The last and most horrific was “The Plague on the First Born.” An Angel of Death passed throughout the land, putting to death the eldest male of each family.

The Israelites were instructed to butcher a lamb, however, and to smear the blood on the upper doorframe of the house. The Angel would recognize this sign, and pass such houses without killing the first born. And thus it happened. The morning air was pierced with the anguished cries of grief throughout the nation, and Pharo finally cast the Israelites from Egypt. The Jews still celebrate the Passover in memory of this event with a solemn meal, which finds fulfillment in Jesus’ “Last Supper” and the Sacrament of Holy Communion.



#### ***The Exodus – God Separates the Waters of the Red Sea***



Visualize a ragged multitude of poor men, women and children, with their tunics and sandals, illuminated in the night by a column of other-worldly fire, moving steadily before them. They run as quickly as possible to escape the land of their bondage and suffering. When the sun rises, the fire transforms into a gigantic cloud which provides much needed shade from the scorching sun. In the distance, on the horizon, an immense

army comes into view, rapidly overtaking the vulnerable multitude with terrifying speed. The crowd comes to the shores of the Red Sea, and freeze there, trapped without any apparent escape. They would never forget what would then occur....



**Read Exodus 13:20 – 14:31**

How do the people respond when they find themselves trapped? (v.10-12) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

What is the dialog between Moses and the Lord at this time? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

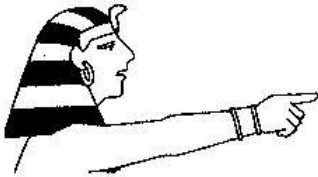
### ***Principal Events and Characters of the Exodus Era***

**Moses** Born in Egypt. Called to deliver his people from slavery. Receives the ten commandments and blueprints to the tabernacle atop Mt. Sinai.

**The Burning Bush** God appears to Moses from within a bush in a theophany of divine fire.



**Pharoe** The Egyptian leader who resists freeing the Israelites from slavery.



**The Passover** God punishes Egypt, putting to death the first born of each family. The Israelites are saved by eating a sacrificial lamb and identifying their homes by smearing the blood on the doorpost. This “passover meal” comes to be the precursor for the “Lord’s Supper” or “Comunion” for Christians.



**The Exodus** God opens the waters of the Red Sea, allowing the Israelites to escape.



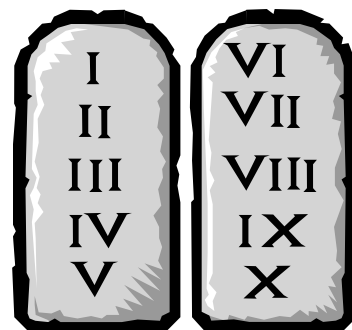


#### 4. The Era of Mt. Sinai



Visualize the same multitude of men, women and children camped out in the desert at the foot of a mountain. The earth trembles at the blast of awesome thunderclaps and the terrifying blast of a trumpet, piercing the air. All are gazing upwards, stunned and speechless at a sight never before witnessed on

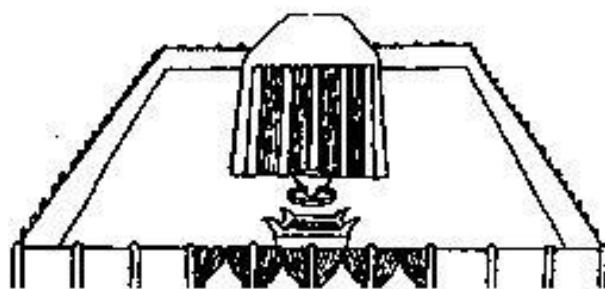
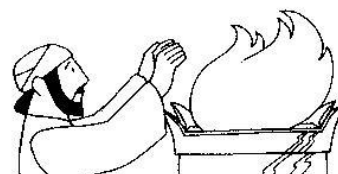
planet earth. They see atop the mountain the spectacle of burning smoke and fire, as if billowing from a live furnace. Moses ascends this mountain and enters the jaws of this other-worldly manifestation of the Divine Presence. He receives laws from God and the blueprint for a tabernacle, which will become the basis for a covenant relationship between Yahweh and the people of Israel.



**Read Exodus 19:16 – 20:21**

Please list the “Ten Commandments.”

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_



**The Tabernacle** – A moveable temple for sacrifices and worship.

**Rebellion and Punishment** - Because of their rebellion against God and Moses, the Israelites are condemned to wander in the desert for 40 years before conquering the promised land.



## 5. Era of the Conquest of Caanan



Visualize a city in the desert, encircled by an extremely high wall of stone and bronze. You hear the shrill sound of the shofars and see an army marching behind, following the priests who carry a chest with long poles. What could these crazy people be doing?



*Joshua 5:13 – 6:5 y 6:15-20 – Conquest of Jericho*

Who appears to Joshua before the great battle for Jericho?

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Why do you think the Lord commands them to march around the city as they do?

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**Joshua** The leader of Isreal after Moses. Leads them to conquer the land of Canaan. (Israel)

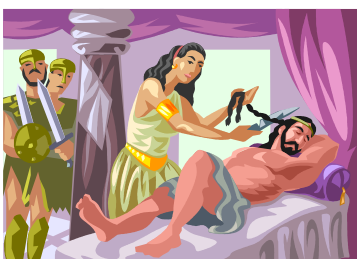
**The Conquest**

Israel conquers the land of Canaan. (Jericho and other cities)



**Judges** Leaders of Israel after the conquest of Canaan.

**Gideon** A famous judge.



**Deborah** A famous female judge.

**Samson and Delilah** Another famous judge and his lover.

## 6. The Era of the Kings

**Ruth** The Great Grandmother of King David.

**Saul** - The first King of Israel. He was unfaithful and ultimately rejected by the Lord.



**David** –The most important King of Israel. He wrote many Psalms; sinned with Bathsheba and was ultimately restored. He was promised a descendant to rule over Israel forever.

**Solomon**–The most rich and powerful King of Israel. Wrote many proverbs. Built the temple. Married over 1,000 wives, many pagan, and ultimately fell into idolatry.

**Read 1 Kings 3:3-15**

What is the primary request Solomon makes of the Lord?

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Jerusalem** Capital of Israel.

**The Temple** Replaces the tabernacle. Place of sacrifices and prayer.



**Divided Kingdom** - Because of the sins of Solomon, a civil war brought division between Israel in the north and Judah in the south during the rest of the era of the kings.

ISRAEL



JUDA



**Elijah** A great prophet who challenged the people and kings of Israel for their idolatry.

## 7. The Era of the Exile -- Israel conquered and taken prisoner



they lay waste to buildings and the temple. The nation is being punished for its idolatry, and for 70 years, "Israel," as a nation, ceases to exist.

Visualize a city in flames. As on the day the towers fell in NY City, there is fire, smoke, and people running in terror. Soldiers from Babylon have entered the city of Jerusalem, killing men, women and children as



**2 Chronicles 36:15-21**

What happened to Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_



**Idolatry** The principal sin of the Isrealites. They worship demons and statues of stone.

**Prophets** Messengers from God, sent to proclaim His words of warning against the sin of idolatry. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel are the "Major Prophets."



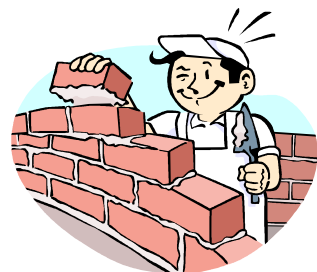
**The Exile** Punishment of Isreal and Judah for their idolatry. They are conquered and taken as prisoners to Assyria and Babylon.

**Esther** An Israelite woman in exile who comes to be the queen of Persia and saves the Jews from extermination.



**Nehemiah** A leader after the exile who rebuilds the walls of Jerusalem.

**Ezra** A leader after exile who rebuilds he temple in Jerusalem.



**The exiled Israelites return to Israel after 70 years**

There is always hope! A pagan King, Cyrus, gives permission to the Israelites to return to their land. God raises up Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of Jerusale, and Ezra to initiate the rebuilding of the temple. Thank God! A new beginning!!

## 8. The Era of Jesus



**Birth – Joseph and Mary** Jesus is born to a poor and insignificant family in Bethelhem.

**John the Baptist** – A cousin of Jesus. He preaches repentance and baptizes contrite Israelites in the desert. He baptizes Jesus also. Not the same as John the apostle, who wrote the gospel. Decapitated in prison.



**Pharisees** – Religious Jewish leaders. Very strict. Jesus accused many of hypocrisy. The majority were enemies of Jesus.

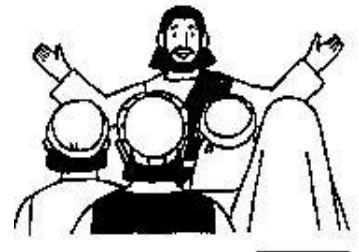


**The 12 Disciples (The three)** – Followers of Jesus who were selected for intensive training, and would eventually become apostles. Among them, Peter, James and John constituted the inner circle of intimate disciples.

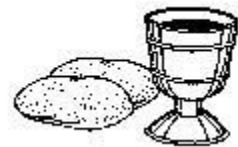
**Parables** – Stories and comparisons that Jesus utilized to teach.



**Miracles** –Miraculous signs to demonstrate the divinity and authority of Jesus.



**The Last Supper** –The Passover supper which Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion.

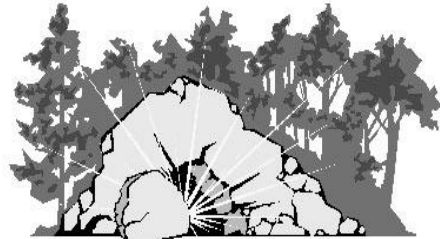


**Pilate** – The Roman governor of Judea who condemned Jesus to be crucified.



**Crucifixion** – A Roman torture, causing death by asphyxiation after several hours of being suspended from a cross-like structure. This death of Jesus served as the sacrifice for the sins of humanity.

**Resurrection** – After three days, Jesus was raised physically from the grave and appeared to his followers on multiple occasions.



**Ascension** – After forty days, Jesus was taken physically to heaven in the presence of his followers.

## 9. The Era of Pentecost

**Pentecost** – The Jewish feast of the Harvest ingathering. The Holy Spirit fell upon the disciples on this day in the form of fire and wind. Peter preached and 3,000 people put their faith in Christ.



**Paul** - Previously called “Saul,” he was a Pharisee who persecuted Christians. God knocked him to the ground and appeared to him on the road to Damascus. He came to be a great Apostle who planted churches among the Gentiles (non-Jews) and wrote many letters, preserved in the New Testament.

## 10. The Era of the Second Coming

*Jesus is coming back soon!*



What are the “10 Scenes” of the Bible Timeline presented in this lesson? (p.96-98)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

Who committed the first murder? (p.99) \_\_\_\_\_

Who were the first three patriarchs? (p.100)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Who was sold to Egypt and came to be a great leader? (p.100) \_\_\_\_\_

“Exodus” means \_\_\_\_\_. (p.101)

God appeared to Moses in a \_\_\_\_\_. (p.102)

The Egyptian King was called the \_\_\_\_\_. (p.102)

The Israelites escaped through the \_\_\_\_\_. (p.102)

On Mt. Sinai God gave Moses... (p.103)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

What was the punishment upon Israel for their rebellion against God and Moses? (p.103)

\_\_\_\_\_.

The Leader after Moses was \_\_\_\_\_. (p.104)

Two famous judges are (p.104)\_\_\_\_\_ y \_\_\_\_\_.

David's great grandmother was \_\_\_\_\_. (p.105)

The first three kings of Israel.. (p.105)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_.

The kingdom was divided between \_\_\_\_\_ in the north

And \_\_\_\_\_ in the south. (p.105)

What is the "Exile?" \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. (p.106)

The sin that caused the exile: \_\_\_\_\_. (p.106)

The Israelite who came to be queen of Persia: \_\_\_\_\_. (p.106)

The Israelite leader who rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem  
(p.106)\_\_\_\_\_.

They returned to Israel after \_\_\_\_\_ years of exile. (p.106)

Who baptized Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_. (p. 107)

Religious leaders who were enemies of Jesus: \_\_\_\_\_.(p.107)

What is a "parable"? (p.107) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

The Roman governor who condemned Jesus: (p.107)\_\_\_\_\_.

What happened on Pentecost? (p.108)\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.