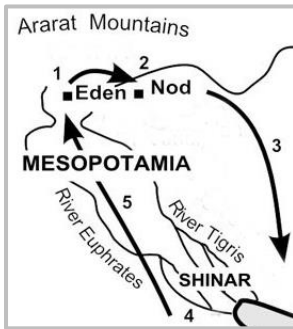


Adventure Club

A weekly lesson for children, young people, parents and grandparents, from the GCI Watford Church.
Number 42, 8th January 2021

Learning from Some Old Testament Journeys



Map is speculative.

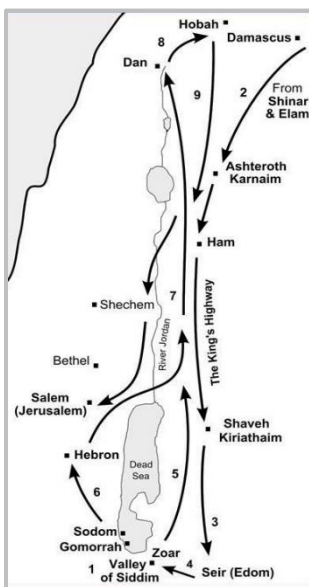
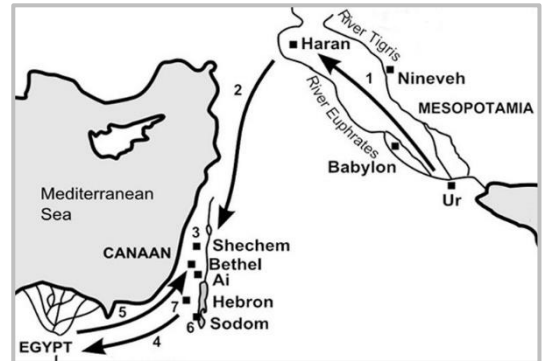
Eden to Ararat

1. Adam and Eve live an ideal existence in the earthly paradise of Eden – until they are banished from the garden Genesis 3:1-24. 2. Cain kills his brother Abel so he is sent away to live in the land of Nod, east of Eden Genesis 4:1-16. 3. Settlements are gradually developed, maybe in the general area of the river Tigris and the river Euphrates. 4. God's heart is grieved at the wickedness of mankind, consequently He sends a flood. He decides to save Noah and his family and instructs them to build an ark Genesis 6:1-22. 5. The floating ark eventually comes to rest on the Ararat mountain range Genesis 7:4-8:4.



Abram's Journey to Canaan

1. Terah and his family (including Abram, Nahor and Lot) live in Ur in Mesopotamia. They move from Ur and follow the river Euphrates upstream to Haran Genesis 11:27-32. 2. God had said to Abram: 'leave your country . . . and go to the land that I will show you'. God establishes an amazing covenant with Abram in which 'all the families of the earth shall be blessed'. Genesis 12:1-5, CEV. 3. Abram arrives in Canaan and builds an altar at Shechem Genesis 12:6-7. 4. Abram moves to the hill country between Bethel and Ai, then moves south towards the Negev Desert. Driven by drought, Abram and Sarai, his wife, journey to the well-watered lands of the Nile Delta Genesis 12:8-20. 5. Later Abram and Sarai are forced to flee from Egypt back to Bethel Genesis 13:1-9. 6. Abram and Lot decide to separate. Lot chooses to live near Sodom in the Plain of Jordan. Genesis 13:10-13. 7. Abram moves to the plain of Mamre near Hebron Genesis 13:18.



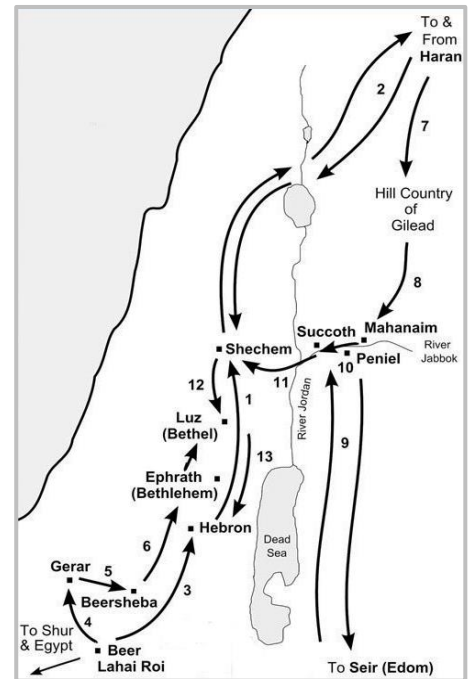
Abram Rescues Lot

1. Five local Kings in the Valley of Siddim rebel against their four distant overlords Genesis 14:1-4. 2. The four overlords march south defeating the inhabitants of Ashteroth Karnaim, Ham and Shaveh Kiriathaim Genesis 14:5. 3. They then raid the hill country of Seir (Edom) Genesis 14:6-7. 4. The overlords defeat the five rebel Kings in the Valley of Siddim Genesis 14:8-10. 5. They march north towards home, carrying off goods and prisoners from Sodom, including Lot, Abram's nephew Genesis 14:11-12. 6. The news of Lot's capture is taken to Abram at Hebron Genesis 14:13. 7. Abram, with 318 men, pursues the four kings along the King's Highway north to Dan Genesis 14:14. 8. Abram's men attack at night and pursue the four kings to Hobah, north of Damascus. Lot and his family are rescued Genesis 14:15-16. 9. On the return journey south, Abram is met by the King of Sodom. Also, Abram is blessed by Melchizedek, the priestly King of Salem (Jerusalem) Genesis 14:17-24.



Wives for Isaac and Jacob

1. Abraham arranges for his steward to go back to Haran to seek a wife for Isaac Genesis 24:1-9. **2.** The steward meets Rebekah, the daughter of Abraham's nephew Bethuel, at a well. Rebekah's brother Laban and Bethuel agree to let Rebekah marry Isaac. Rebekah returns to Hebron with the steward Genesis 24:10-61. **3.** When Rebekah arrives, Isaac has just returned with his flocks from Beer Lahai Roi. Isaac falls in love with Rebekah and, as planned, marries her Genesis 24:62-67. **4.** Famine strikes southern Canaan, so Isaac moves to the more fertile coastal plain and settles in the Philistine city of Gerar Genesis 26:1-17. **5.** Isaac is forced by the Philistines to move to Beersheba Genesis 26:18-25. **6.** Jacob deceives his elderly father Isaac to get the blessing of the first-born, Jacob then flees to Haran. He rests for the night at Luz (Bethel) and has an amazing dream Genesis 27:1-28:19. **7.** In Haran, Jacob marries his cousins Leah and Rachel and works for their father, Laban, for fourteen years. Jacob then heads towards the hill country of Gilead Genesis 29:1-31:21. **8.** Jacob is met by angels. Jacob calls the place *Mahanaim* (meaning 'two camps') Genesis 32:1-2. **9.** Jacob remembers that, twenty years earlier, his brother Esau had threatened to kill him for stealing his birth-right. So

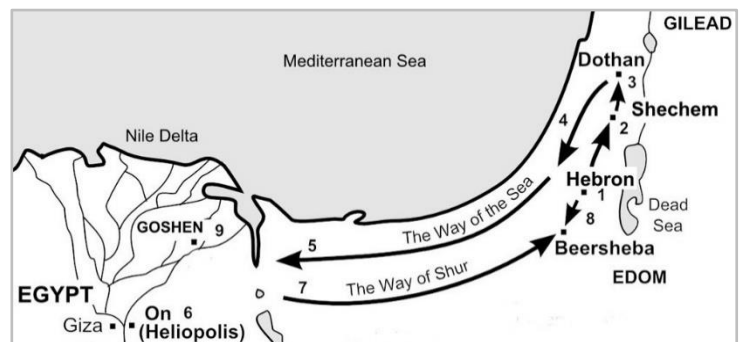


Traditional 'Beehive' homes preserved in modern Harran, Turkey (formerly Haran).

Jacob sends messengers to Esau in the land of Seir (Edom), and prepares gifts to pacify him Genesis 32:3-21. **10.** Jacob crosses the river Jabbok. He wrestles all night with God, seeking His blessing. God gives Jacob the name *Israel*, (meaning 'God rules'). Jacob calls the place *Peniel* (meaning 'face of God') as he has seen God face to face Genesis 32:22-30. **11.** After making peace with Esau, Jacob erects shelters for his cattle at Succoth, and arrives at Shechem Genesis 33:1-20. **12.** God sends Jacob to Bethel, where he builds an altar to God Genesis 35:1-7. **13.** Jacob then returns to Hebron Genesis 35:27.

Relocation to Egypt

1. Jacob lives at Hebron in Canaan. He gives his favourite son Joseph an expensive multi-coloured coat which makes his brothers jealous Genesis 37:1-11. **2.** Joseph's brothers take their flocks towards the hill country near Shechem Gen. 37:12-14. **3.** Joseph finds them grazing the flocks near Dothan Genesis 37:15-17. **4.** The brothers conspire against Joseph and throw him into a dry well. They see a group of Ishmaelite traders travelling from Gilead to Egypt. Reuben, who is the eldest, persuades the brothers not to kill Joseph, but to sell him to the Ishmaelites as a slave Genesis 37:18-27. **5.** Joseph is taken to Egypt, where he is sold to Potiphar, captain of Pharaoh's guard Genesis 37:28-36. **6.** Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams as a warning of severe famine. He is put in charge of Egypt's agriculture and builds storehouses to prepare for the seven years of famine. He is given fine robes, a gold chain and a wife – the daughter of a pagan priest at On (Heliopolis) Genesis 39:1-41:52. **7.** After seven years of plenty, famine arrives in Egypt. Jacob (Israel) and Joseph's eleven brothers are also suffering from the famine in Canaan. Ten of the brothers come to Egypt to buy grain. After keeping his identity a secret for months, Joseph makes himself known to his brothers. He forgives them, and sends them back to Canaan to bring his father Jacob to Egypt Genesis 41:53-45:28. **8.** The following year, Jacob sets out from Hebron with seventy members of his family. At Beersheba God appears to him Genesis 46:1-27. **9.** Joseph meets his father Jacob in Goshen (pictures below) in an emotional reunion Genesis 46:28-30.



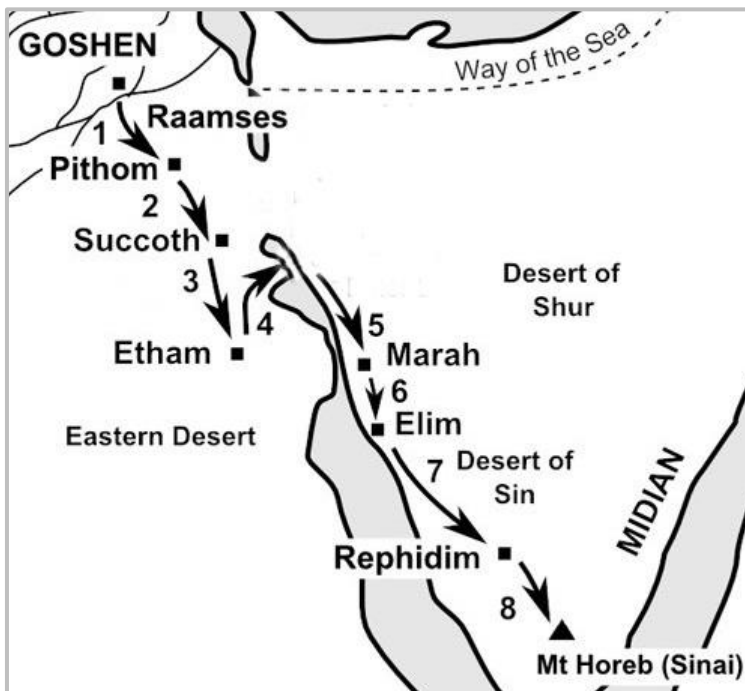
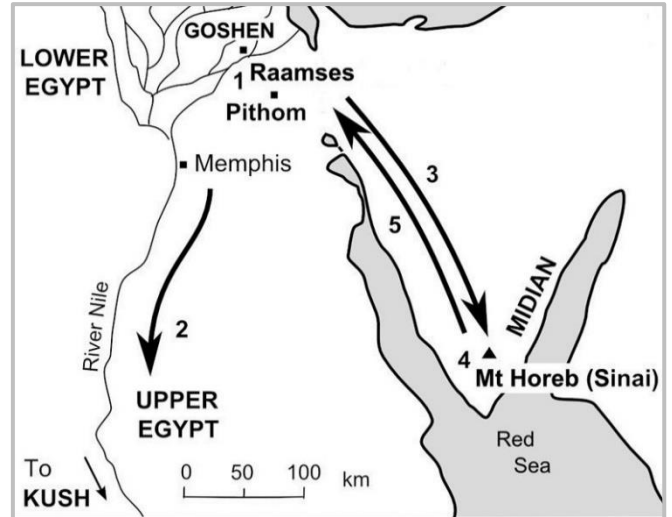


The Early Life of Moses

1. The Israelites are forced to build store cities for the Egyptians at Pithom and Raamses. The Egyptians are fearful of the increasing number of Israelites, so they drown baby boys in the river Nile. Moses is put in a basket and floated in the shallows in an attempt to save his life. The baby is discovered



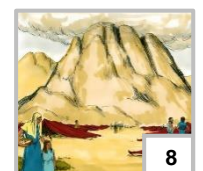
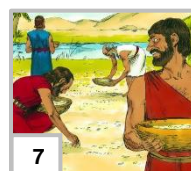
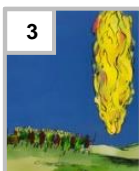
by Pharaoh's daughter, who adopts him and brings him up in the Egyptian palace Exodus 1:1-2:10. 2. Moses is raised in Pharaoh's household and is trained to lead his armies. According to the Jewish historian Josephus, Moses sees active service defeating the Kushites who invaded from the south. 3. As a young man, Moses sees a Hebrew slave being beaten by an Egyptian overseer. In anger, Moses kills the Egyptian. Fearing retribution from Pharaoh, Moses flees to Midian Exodus 2:11-15. 4. One day Moses is leading his flocks across the semi-arid desert to Mt Horeb. God speaks to Moses from a burning bush and calls him to rescue His people from Egypt and lead them back to Canaan Exodus 3:1-22. 5. God gives Moses signs to demonstrate His authority and God appoints Aaron to be their spokesman. Together they return to Egypt Exodus 4:1-31.



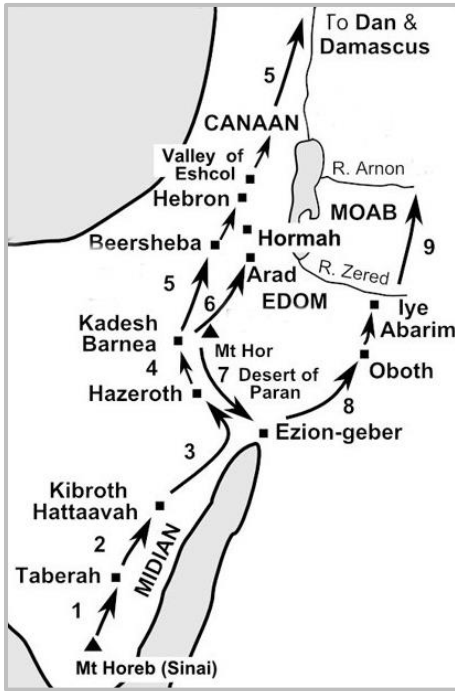
The Israelites Journey from Egypt to Sinai

1. After the ten plagues Pharaoh summons Moses and Aaron and gives permission for them to take the Israelites out of Egypt. Consequently, the Israelites leave Goshen. They meet up with fellow Hebrews escaping from Pithom Exodus 1:11, 12:31-51. 2. God leads the Israelites along the desert road towards Succoth Exodus 12:37. 3. The Israelites move further south and camp at Etham near the Eastern Desert. The Lord goes ahead of them as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night Exodus 13:20-22. 4. The Israelites travel north and camp next to the sea. Moses raises his staff and stretches out one of his hands to divide the sea and the Lord causes the water to go back with a 'strong east wind'. The Israelites cross the sea on dry ground. The Egyptians pursue in their chariots, but the waters return

and they are drowned Exodus 14:1-31. (The crossing point is guessed as it is not known.) 5. The Israelites then journey through the Wilderness of Shur. At Marah the water is too bitter to drink until Moses throws in a tree branch to miraculously sweeten it Exodus 15:22-26. 6. They reach Elim, a desert oasis with 12 wells and 70 palm trees Exodus 15:27. 7. Crossing the arid Desert of Sin, God feeds the Israelites with *manna* (meaning in Hebrew 'what is that?'). When they move on to Rephidim, there is no water. Moses strikes the rock and water flows from it Exodus 16:1-17:7. 8. About three months after leaving Egypt, the Israelites spend two days preparing for God to come down onto Mt Sinai which He does on the third day Exodus 19:1-11.

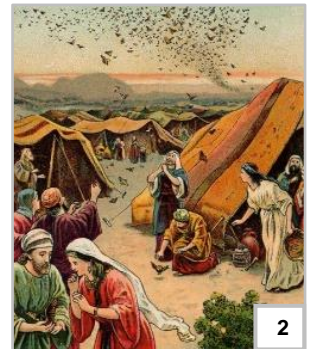


The Israelites Journey from Sinai to Moab



1. About fourteen months after leaving Egypt, the Israelites turn north and travel from Mt Sinai towards the Desert of Paran. At Taberah, the people complain and the Lord sends a fire which destroys part of their camp Numbers 10:11-11:3. 2. God feeds the grumbling Israelites with a huge flock of quail near Kibroth Hattaavah Numbers 11:31-34. 3. They move on and reach Hazeroth. Miriam, Moses' sister, criticises Moses and her skin becomes leprous. Numbers 11:35-12:16. 4. The Israelites camp at Kadesh Numbers 13:26. 5. Moses selects a man from each of the twelve tribes to go and explore Canaan. The twelve spies report back that the land is fertile and flows with milk and honey, but the cities are well fortified and the inhabitants are strong. On hearing the report, the people want to return to Egypt. The Israelites are condemned by the Lord to forty years in the desert Numbers 13:1-14:38. 6. The first attempt to invade the

'promised land' fails because the Israelites attack against God's wishes. The Amalekites and Canaanites pursue the defeated Israelites as far as Hormah Numbers 14:39-45. 7. The Israelites turn south from Mt Hor and retrace their steps in order to skirt around Edom Numbers 21:4. 8. The Israelites move north and camp at Oboth and later at Iye Abarim. They cross the river Zered to enter Moab Numbers 21:10-12. 9. They travel through the Mountains of Moab to the north side of the river Arnon Numbers 21:13.

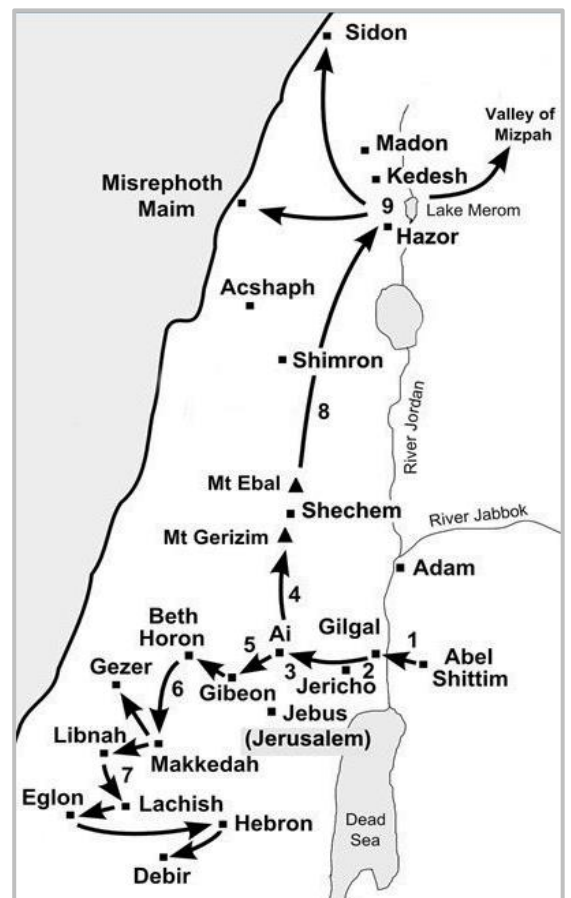


Joshua's Campaigns

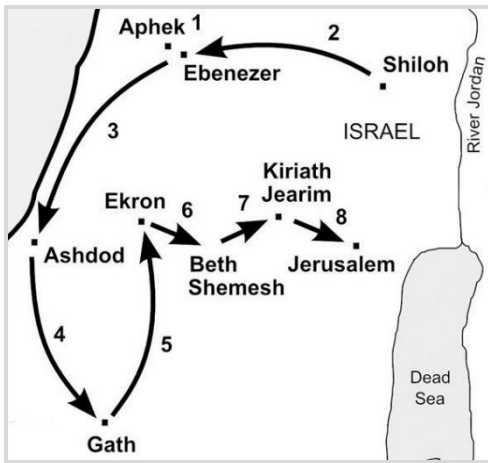


1. Joshua sends two spies from the camp at Abel Shittim to explore Canaan. Miraculously the river Jordan 'upstream stood still and rose in a heap far away at Adam'. The Israelites then cross over the riverbed on dry ground. The Israelites take twelve large stones to set up as a memorial to the wondrous crossing Joshua 1:1-4:24. 2. Shortly afterwards, the Israelites approach the Canaanite city of Jericho. The Israelites march round the city once each day for six

days, on the seventh day they march round seven times and Jericho falls Joshua 6:1-27. 3. The city of Ai is the next Canaanite city to be conquered. Joshua 7:1-8:29. 4. Joshua then leads the Israelites to Mt Ebal to read aloud the Law of Moses Joshua 8:30-35. 5. Joshua is deceived into making a peace treaty with the Hivites – the people of Gibeon. Then five Amorite Kings (from Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon) attack Gibeon. Joshua marches from Gilgal to Gibeon, makes a surprise attack on the Amorite Kings, and pursues them through the mountain pass at Beth Horon Joshua 9:1-10:15. 6. The five Amorite Kings are found hiding in a cave at Makkedah. Joshua 10:16-17. 7. Joshua defeats the southern cities of Libnah, Lachish, Gezer, Eglon, Hebron and Debir Joshua 10:29-39. 8. The Kings of the north then join forces to attack the Israelites. They include King Jabin of Hazor, King Jobab of Madon, and the Kings of Shimron and Acshaph. Joshua approaches their camp at the waters of Merom and launches a surprise attack Joshua 11:1-9. 9. The Israelites win a resounding victory and pursue the enemy as far as Misrephoth Maim, Sidon and the Valley of Mizpah. Joshua captures Hazor and burns it Joshua 11:10-11.



The Ark of the Covenant is Captured!



Ancient Gath



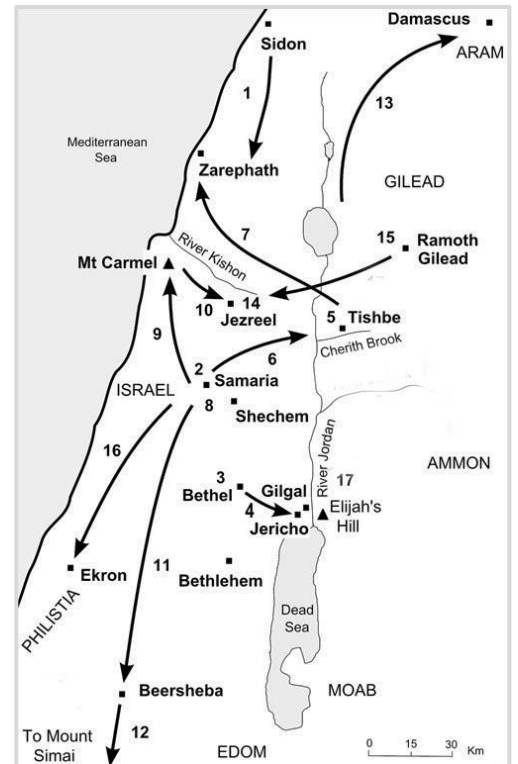
Ancient Beth Shemesh



1. The Israelites set up camp at Ebenezer near the Philistines who are assembled at Aphek 1 Samuel 4:1. 2. The Philistines attack and the Israelites suffer a heavy setback, so the Ark of the Covenant is brought from Shiloh to the battlefield near Ebenezer in the expectation that the presence of God will save the Israelites from their enemies. However, the Philistines defeat the Israelites and capture the Ark 1 Samuel 4:2-10. 3. The Ark is taken to Ashdod, to the temple of the fish-god Dagon. As a result Dagon falls on its face and the people of Ashdod are covered in tumours 1 Samuel 4:11-5:7. 4. Fearing that the downfall of Dagon and the onset of disease is the result of divine retribution, the people of Ashdod send the Ark to Gath. But the inhabitants of Gath also get tumours 1 Sam. 5:8-9. 5. The Ark is moved again to Ekron, but the plague spreads there too 1 Samuel 5:10-12. 6. After seven months of horrible disease, the Ark is put on a new cart drawn by two milk cows. They arrive at Beth Shemesh where the Israelites are overjoyed to welcome the Ark back 1 Samuel 6:1-18. 7. Some of the Israelites disobey the religious laws by looking inside the Ark of the Covenant. As a result, many Israelites die. The Ark is moved to Kiriath Jearim where it stays for twenty years 1 Samuel 6:19-7:2. 8. Later the Ark is moved to Jerusalem by King David 2 Samuel 6:12-16.

Journeys of Elijah (and others in 1 Kings and 2 Kings)

1. King Ahab of Israel marries the Phoenician princess Jezebel of Sidon 1 Kings 16:29-31. 2. Jezebel introduces Baal worship into the royal court. Ahab builds a Baal temple 1 Kings 16:32-33. 3. Hiel is from Bethel. 4. Hiel builds a new settlement on the ruins of Jericho 1 Kings 16:34. 5. Elijah (from Tishbe) tells Ahab that there will be a long drought 1 Kings 17:1. 6. Ahab is furious, so Elijah leaves Samaria and hides near the Cherith brook. Ravens bring Elijah food 1 Kings 17:2-6. 7. When the brook dries up, Elijah goes to Zarephath and stays with a widow and her son. Miraculously, the widow's flour and oil don't run out during the drought 1 Kings 17:7-16. 8. Towards the end of the drought, Elijah goes to Samaria to see Ahab 1 Kings 18:1-16. 9. Elijah rebukes Ahab for abandoning the Lord. He tells Ahab to assemble the people and the prophets of Baal on Mt Carmel. Elijah builds an altar and then soaks it with water. The Lord sends down fire on it. 1 Kings 18:17-40. 10. Elijah's servant sees a small cloud out at sea, dark clouds soon follow with heavy rain. The drought is ended. Elijah runs ahead of Ahab's chariot to Jezreel 1 Kings 18:41-46. 11. Elijah flees from Jezebel by going to Beersheba 1 Kings 19:1-3. 12. Elijah walks to Mt Sinai where he experiences a wind, an earthquake, a fire and the sound of stillness 1 Kings 19:5-12. 13. Elijah is then told to return to Damascus where he anoints some people 1 Kings 19:15-16. 14. In Jezreel Elijah tells Ahab that he will die because of Naboth's death 1 Kings 21:1-29. 15. Ahab is killed in the battle for Ramoth Gilead. Dogs lick up his blood – just as Elijah had informed him 1 Kings 22:29-38. 16. Ahab's son Ahaziah falls from a window. He sends messengers to consult Baal-zebub the Philistine god of Ekron, to see if he will recover 2 Kings 1:1-16. 17. Elijah finds Elisha ploughing and throws his cloak over him. Later they visit the prophets at Bethel and Jericho. Elisha is present when Elijah is taken up into heaven by a whirlwind 1 Kings 19:19; 2 Kings 2:1-11.



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Israel Goes into Exile



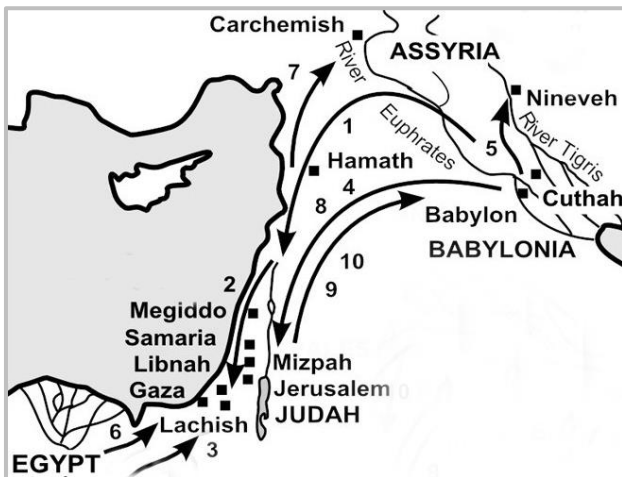
1. King Pul of Assyria invades Israel. He is paid off by King Menahem of Israel and withdraws 2 Kings 15:19-20. 2. Later King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria (thought to be the same as King Pul) captures several northern Israelite towns. He deports the conquered Israelites to Assyria 2 Kings 15:29. 3. King Rezin of Syria besieges Jerusalem.

King Ahaz of Judah contacts Tiglath-pileser, asking for his help and offering to be subservient to him. Tiglath-pileser responds by capturing Damascus and killing King Rezin 2 Kings 16:1-9. 4. King Hoshea of Israel conspires against Assyria by forging a treaty with King So of Egypt. Consequently, King Shalmaneser of Assyria puts Hoshea in prison and besieges Samaria for three years. Eventually, Samaria and the whole northern kingdom of Israel are conquered and are led into exile to Assyria. They are taken to such places as Gozan and to the towns of Media

2 Kings 17:1-6, 23. (The photograph, top left, is of a stone carving of Tiglath-pileser which was originally on the walls of his palace, it is now in the *British Museum*. The stone statue photograph is of Shalmaneser. It is in the *Istanbul Museum*.)



Judah Goes into Exile



1. After most of the people of the northern kingdom of Israel had gone into exile, people from other parts of the Assyrian empire are brought to settle in Samaria to replace the Israelites 2 Kings 17:24. 2. Sennacherib, the King of Assyria, attacks Judah, and captures many towns 2 Kings 18:13.

3. The people are terrified by Sennacherib's threat to destroy Jerusalem, but the prophet Isaiah tells King Hezekiah that the Assyrians will be defeated. The Ethiopians send an army to help fight the Assyrians 2 Kings 19:1-19. 4. Envoys arrive in Jerusalem from

Prince Berodach of Babylon; Hezekiah shows them his wealth 2 Kings 20:12-21. 5. The Assyrians and the Babylonians have been at war for many years, eventually the Babylonians conquer Nineveh, the capital of Assyria. 6. Pharaoh Necho of Egypt supports Assyria, which leads to the death of King Josiah of Judah at the battle of Megiddo 2 Kings 23:29-30. 7. The Babylonians are determined to get their revenge on Egypt, consequently, Pharaoh Necho is defeated by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon at the battle of Carchemish. 8. The following year, Nebuchadnezzar

invades Judah and King Jehoiakim is forced to become a vassal King 2 Kings 24:1. 9. Nebuchadnezzar besieges Jerusalem. King Jehoiachin surrenders and thousands of Judaeans are taken captive to Babylonia. Jehoiachin is taken to Babylon and Zedekiah is installed in his place as a puppet King 2 Kings 24:10-17. (Jehoiachin is Jehoiakim's son.) 10. King Zedekiah of Judah rebels and Jerusalem is besieged by Nebuchadnezzar. Eventually the walls are breached and Zedekiah and the people of Judah are led into exile in Babylonia 2 Kings 24:18-25:21. (The photograph, above left, is of the *Adad Gate* which was one of the gates that led into ancient Nineveh, it is partially reconstructed to show the original size. The photograph, above right, is of the *Ishtar Gate*, one of Babylon's eight city gates. They were constructed by Nebuchadnezzar. The *Ishtar Gate* is exhibited in the *Pergamon Museum*, Berlin.)



See if you can memorise some, or all, of the following:

'Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him.' Genesis 12:1-4, NKJV

Word Search

EDEN JERUSALEM
ARARAT DAMASCUS
CANAAN SHECHEM
HARAN BEERSHEBA
HARRAN JUDAH
NOD EKRON
NINEVEH ASHDOD
BABYLON MOAB
SODOM EDOM
HEBRON GATH
EGYPT JERICHO
GILEAD HAZOR
GOSHEN ISRAEL
SINAI ZARAPHATH

H	I	A	N	I	S	M	O	M	O	A	E	I	E	X
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Bible abbreviations: NKJV: New King James Version

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Any questions, etc, please contact the UK GCI Watford Church Council or Geoff Sole, 01707 880782 or geoff@geoffsole.co.uk.