

Christian Story I

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1st September, 2015

Contents

I	First Half	3
1	25 August, 2015	3
2	27 August, 2015	3
3	1 September, 2015	4

Part I

First Half

1 25 August, 2015

Overview of and orientation of the Bible. Focus on content, character, role in Christian faith, and the covenant themes of creation, fall, redemption, and new creation.

The following textbooks are required for the course:

- Sumney
- Anderson
- NOAB

Course Requirements:

- Exams: Two unit exams, one comprehensive final
- Quizzes: 6 (on readings)
- Biblical Message Assignment (oral presentation)
- Biblical Story Paper

Homework:

- Read Sumney Ch. 1

2 27 August, 2015

History and Geography of the Bible

Israel and Mesopotamia are very important land bridges that connects 3 different continents between the deserts of the Middle East as well as the land-masses separated by the Mediterranean Sea.

Under David and Solomon during the United Kingdom age from **1020** to **922**, the borders of Israel extended the furthest they ever had and ever have since. This is Israel's Golden Age where it was the most powerful and wealthy time of its history.

In **722**, the country separated into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah ruled by different groups. They did not always get along despite being related ethnically.

Around **722**, Assyria wiped out Israel. The kingdom of Judah pays money to Assyria to avoid being destroyed.

In succession, several large powers would take over each other. During the time of the Babylonian rule around **586** causing the exile and destruction of the Temple of Solomon. Those exiled were serving as slaves in Babylon. Around **536**, the Persian empire ruled. The difference of the Persian rule was that the exiles were allowed to return home. They were released to return to their life in Israel, but they were taxed heavily by the Persian empire. Around **333**, the Hellenistic period took over the Persian period until around **63** through the intertestamental stretch of time when Alexander the Great marched across the giant Persian empire until his death at age **33** due to sickness. The Maccabean family does resist the Hellenistic rule, but did not fight back.

The Herodian family worked with the Roman family that would rule on behalf of the Romans in that region.

The Second Temple Period refers to the period after the exile until **70 C.E.** when the temple was destroyed and replaced with the Dome of the Rock, a mosque.

The Diaspora took place beginning at the start of the exile. Diaspora literally means something like “**scattering**.”

3 1 September, 2015

Hebrew Bible: Contents & Organization

Aka Tanak = Torah (The Law), Neviim (Prophets), Kethuvim (Writings)

The Law: 5 Books

Prophets: 8 Books

- Former prophets (4 books)
- Latter prophets (4 books)

Writings: 11 books

24 Total (OT is 39 total)

(Old Testament) Apocrypha

New Testament: Contents & Organization

Gospels (4 books)

Acts (1 book) – Actually several books titled the Acts of the Apostles like Peter.

Pauline Epistles (13 books)

Catholic Epistles (8 books)

Apocalypse (1 book)

27 total

The Other “Biblical History”

1. Oral Tradition
2. Written Documents
3. Collection

4. Canonization
5. Translation
6. Publication
7. Textual Criticism

Canonization

Hebrew Bible
3 groupings = 3 stages
Solidified by ca. 100 CE