

TEN ESSENTIAL DATES

ca. 1270 BCE?? = Exodus

[1208 – FIRST mention of word “Israel,” in an Egyptian Inscription]

1020 BCE – Beginning of Monarchy

Saul

DAVID

Solomon

950's - 920's? Building of Temple in Jerusalem, the “First Temple”

922 BCE – Death of Solomon / Division of Kingdoms

Northern Kingdom = Israel

Southern Kingdom = Judah

722 BCE – Fall of Israel

640-609 BCE – JOSIAH

587 BCE – Fall of Jerusalem

539 BCE – Persian Conquest of Palestine

ca. 20 – 515? Rebuilding of the Jerusalem Temple, thus the “Second Temple”

ca. 450 BCE – Missions of Ezra and Nehemiah

333 BCE – Alexander the Great

Begin Hellenistic/Greek Rule in the Ancient Near East

ca. 63/64 BCE – Roman Rule in Palestine Begins

[Life of Jesus: 4 BCE – ca. 33 CE]

[68-70 CE – Rome Occupies Jerusalem, Destroys 2nd Temple]

Eat At Bill's, Pasadena's Great Restaurant!!
Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome

“BIBLE DATES” vs. HISTORICAL DATES

(by Prof. Daniel Smith-Christopher, Ph.D. – Loyola Marymount University)

Taking Genesis too literally creates some serious problems for serious Christians.

Dr. John Collins, in his *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible* (Fortress, 2007), points to the implied chronology of Genesis:

- Creation – ca. 4000 BCE
- Flood – ca. 2400 BCE
- Abraham – ca. 2100 BCE

Even more specifically:

- Adam to the Flood: 1656 years or “10 generations” (Gen 5)
- Flood to Abraham: 290 years or “10 generations” (Gen 11)
- Abraham to Jacob and his family in Egypt: 290 years, “3 generations”
 - Sojourn in Egypt: 430 years (Exod 12:40)

But consider the HISTORICAL Time Line:

Stone Age (*lithos* = Greek for “STONE”)

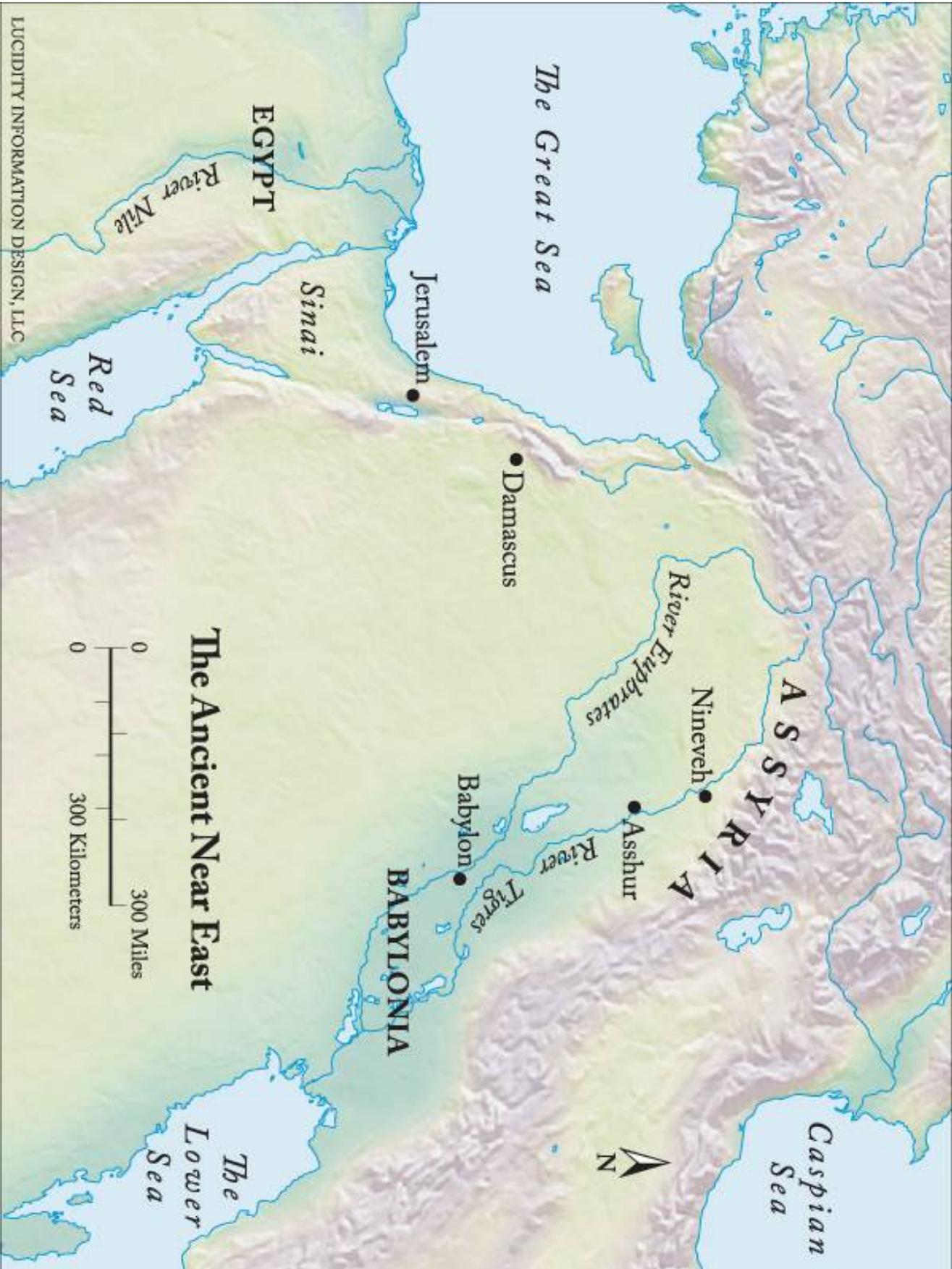
- Paleolithic 2.6 million years BCE (early hominids with stone tools)
- First *Modern* Humans ca. 200,000 BCE? (Neanderthals until 25,500 BCE?)
 - Mesolithic ca. 10,000 – 6000
- Neolithic ca. 7000 – 5000? (Some want to start Neolithic at 9000 BCE)

Chalcolithic Age (*chalkos* = Greek for “Copper”): 5000 – 3300

Bronze Age: ca. 3300 – 1200

Iron Age: begins ca. 1200

Israel is thus largely an IRON AGE civilization
(*rather late in the game!*)



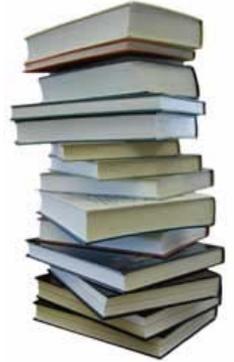
An Introduction to Biblical Genres and Form Criticism

Definitions and Modern Examples:

"GENRE" = a category or type of literature (or of art, music, etc.) characterized by a particular form, style, or content.

There are many possible ways to classify or categorize human communications:

- One could start by distinguishing between *verbal* and *non-verbal* communications:
 - verbal communications (using words) could be *oral* (spoken & heard) or *written* (reading & writing)
 - non-verbal communications could include signs & symbols, body-language, etc.
- The largest division of literary works is between *poetry & prose*;
 - but one could also consider rhetoric, film, drama, comedy, laws, etc. as separate divisions.
- One might also distinguish *how or where* the material is published:
 - such as books, journals, magazines, newspapers, newsletters, flyers, posters, letters, etc.
- There are many different *large literary genres* (whole books):
 - biographies, histories, technical manuals, textbooks, poetic anthologies, legal codes, etc.
- There are also many *smaller genres* or *subgroups* within each of these larger categories:
 - for example, newspapers contain news articles, editorials, sports results, financial reports, obituaries, comics, classified ads, movie reviews, etc.

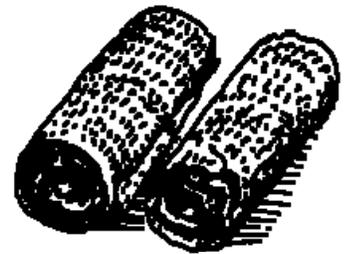


"FORM CRITICISM" = the branch of biblical studies that classifies the various literary genres, studies their features, and considers how and where such forms were actually used in the "life setting" of the religious communities.

- Modern biologists classify plants and animals into different classes, orders, families, genus, and species:
 - they describe each category in detail, and study how one genus or species differs from another
 - they also consider how each genus or species interacts with and is affected by its environment
- Biblical scholars do similar things in classifying each biblical text as part of a certain genre or sub-genre
 - they describe each genre or form, and study the characteristics that distinguish one form from another
 - they also consider when and where ancient Jews and/or Christians first used such materials

Major Genres within the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament):

- **Foundational Myths & Legends** - stories about the origins of the world, the first generations of humans, or the early years of a nation, intended to provide a foundational world-view upon which people base their communal and individual lives (**Gen**, parts of **Exod**, **Num**, **Deut**)
- **Legal Codes** - collections of laws and instructions by which the people are to live (**Lev**, parts of **Exod**, **Num**, **Deut**)
- **Genealogies** - lists of inter-relationships between peoples, either of successive generations or of different nations (parts of **Gen**, much of **Num**)
- **Annals** - semi-historical narrative accounts of select events in a nation's life, focusing especially upon political and military exploits of its leaders, since usually written under royal sponsorship (**Josh**, **Jdg**, **1 & 2 Sam**, **1 & 2 Kings**, etc.)
- **Prophetic Books** - collections of the oracles or words of God spoken to the people through human intermediaries (prophets) and the symbolic actions they perform at God's direction for the people's benefit (**Isa**, **Jer**, **Ezek**, etc.)
- **Psalms/Odes/Songs** - poetic lyrics of songs/hymns intended for communal worship and/or personal prayer (**P**s)
- **Prayers/Laments** - words addressed by people to God, esp. reflecting situations of crisis or lament (**Lam**)
- **Proverbs** - generalized sayings and aphorisms with advice on how to live well: "do good and avoid evil" (**Prov**)
- **Wisdom Literature** - various types of inspirational stories that encourage people to live wisely (**Job**, **Wis**, etc.)
- **Apocalypses** - symbolic narratives that interpret historical crises through God's eyes to provide hope for a better future (**Dan**)



Hebrew and Christian Bibles: A Comparative Chart

HEBREW BIBLE (a.k.a. TaNaK/Tanakh or Mikra)	Orthodox Christian OT (based on longer LXX; various editions)	Catholic Christian OT (Alexandrian LXX, with 7 deutero-can. bks)	Protestant Christian OT (Cath. order, but 7 Apocrypha removed)
<u>Torah / Books of Moses</u> 1) <i>Bereshit</i> / Genesis 2) <i>Shemot</i> / Exodus 3) <i>VaYikra</i> / Leviticus 4) <i>BaMidbar</i> / Numbers 5) <i>Devarim</i> / Deuteronomy	<u>Pentateuch</u> 1) Genesis 2) Exodus 3) Leviticus 4) Numbers 5) Deuteronomy	<u>Pentateuch (Law)</u> 1) Genesis 2) Exodus 3) Leviticus 4) Numbers 5) Deuteronomy	<u>Law (Pentateuch)</u> 1) Genesis 2) Exodus 3) Leviticus 4) Numbers 5) Deuteronomy
<u>Nevi'im / Former Prophets</u> 6) Joshua 7) Judges 8) Samuel (1&2) 9) Kings (1&2)	<u>Historical Books</u> 6) Joshua 7) Judges 8) Ruth 9) 1 Kingdoms (= 1 Sam) 10) 2 Kingdoms (= 2 Sam) 11) 3 Kingdoms (= 1 Kings) 12) 4 Kingdoms (= 2 Kings) 13) 1 Chronicles 14) 2 Chronicles 15) <i>1 Esdras</i> 16) 2 Esdras (= Erza + Nehemiah) 17) Esther (longer version) 18) JUDITH 19) TOBIT 20) 1 MACCABEES 21) 2 MACCABEES 22) <i>3 Maccabees</i> 23) <i>4 Maccabees</i>	<u>Historical Books</u> 6) Joshua 7) Judges 8) Ruth 9) 1 Samuel 10) 2 Samuel 11) 1 Kings 12) 2 Kings 13) 1 Chronicles 14) 2 Chronicles 15) Ezra 16) Nehemiah 17) TOBIT 18) JUDITH 19) Esther (longer version) 20) 1 MACCABEES 21) 2 MACCABEES	<u>Historical Books</u> 6) Joshua 7) Judges 8) Ruth 9) 1 Samuel 10) 2 Samuel 11) 1 Kings 12) 2 Kings 13) 1 Chronicles 14) 2 Chronicles 15) Ezra 16) Nehemiah 17) Esther (shorter version)
<u>Nevi'im / Latter Prophets</u> 10) Isaiah 11) Jeremiah 12) Ezekiel 13) The Book of the Twelve: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi	<u>Poetic Books</u> 24) Psalms (<i>151</i>) 25) <i>Odes</i> (w/ <i>Prayer of Manasseh</i>) 26) Proverbs 27) Ecclesiastes 28) Song of Solomon 29) Job 30) WISDOM of Solomon 31) SIRACH, a.k.a. Ecclesiasticus 32) <i>Psalms of Solomon</i>	<u>Wisdom Books</u> 22) Job 23) Psalms (150) 24) Proverbs 25) Ecclesiastes 26) Song of Solomon 27) WISDOM of Solomon 28) SIRACH, a.k.a. Ecclesiasticus	<u>Wisdom Books</u> 18) Job 19) Psalms (150) 20) Proverbs 21) Ecclesiastes 22) Song of Solomon
<u>Khetuvim / Writings</u> 14) Psalms (150) 15) Proverbs 16) Job 17) Song of Solomon 18) Ruth 19) Lamentations 20) Ecclesiastes 21) Esther (shorter version) 22) Daniel (12 chapters) 23) Ezra-Nehemiah 24) Chronicles (1&2)	<u>Prophets</u> 33) Hosea 34) Amos 35) Micah 36) Joel 37) Obadiah 38) Jonah 39) Nahum 40) Habakkuk 41) Zephaniah 42) Haggai 43) Zechariah 44) Malachi 45) Isaiah 46) Jeremiah 47) BARUCH 48) Lamentations 49) LETTER of JEREMIAH 50) Ezekiel 51) Daniel (2 extra chapters separate): 52) SUSANNA 53) BEL and the DRAGON	<u>Prophets</u> 29) Isaiah 30) Jeremiah 31) Lamentations 32) BARUCH (w/ LETTER of JER.) 33) Ezekiel 34) Daniel (14 chapters) 35) Hosea 36) Joel 37) Amos 38) Obadiah 39) Jonah 40) Micah 41) Nahum 42) Habakkuk 43) Zephaniah 44) Haggai 45) Zechariah 46) Malachi	<u>Prophets</u> 23) Isaiah 24) Jeremiah 25) Lamentations 26) Ezekiel 27) Daniel (12 chapters) 28) Hosea 29) Joel 30) Amos 31) Obadiah 32) Jonah 33) Micah 34) Nahum 35) Habakkuk 36) Zephaniah 37) Haggai 38) Zechariah 39) Malachi