GOD'S BIBLETIMELINE

THE BIG BOOK OF BIBLICAL HISTORY



LINDA FINLAYSON

CREATION TO THE PROMISED LAND

LIVING IN THE PROMISED LAND

FROM ONE KINGDOM TO TWO

EXILE AND RETURN

THE MESSIAH

THE EARLY CHURCH

CF4·K



UNDERSTANDING AND READING THE TIMELINES

The timelines are laid out across two pages, and they all follow the same pattern regardless of the time period. You start in the top left-hand corner and follow the arrows across the page, then down, and finally back across the page. But don't

just follow the arrows! Note the people and the events, and history will unfold right in front of your eyes!



KEY:



Promise of the Messiah



Judah's kings and prophets



Covenants that God made



Israel's kings and prophets Linda Finlayson has given us a real treasure here, and not just for children and youth! As a student and teacher of the Bible, I am always looking for reliable tools to help me explain the Scriptures to people of all ages. Biblical literacy is at a low ebb in our culture, and so bringing people up to speed quickly with a basic understanding of the Bible's background and timeline is very important. I like to have an organizational picture in my head when I'm introducing people to the riches of Scripture. This book helps me with that, and I think it will help you too (whether you are a parent teaching children, a church worker teaching Bible, a children's or youth minister serving students, a pastor preparing to teach and preach to people of all age groups, or a person simply studying the Bible for yourself).

Ligon Duncan, Chancellor and CEO Reformed Theological Seminary, John E. Richards Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology As one who was raised in a liberal church, the Old Testament particularly appeared to me as a series of disconnected stories. Only when I read John Bright's 'History of Israel' did I really obtain a better overview of the flow of history. This is not to endorse all that Bright said, but is an indication of how little I knew. This book looks to be a most suitable help for all wanting to understand the flow of God's salvation history.

Dr Peter Barnes, pastor at Revesby Presbyterian Church, part-time lecturer in Church History at Christ College, and Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia

Everything in the history of God's people from Adam to the Hebrew prophets leads us to Jesus Christ and salvation in him. Therefore, it is crucial for people to understand the flow of biblical history leading up to the coming of Christ. This lovely and well-organized book will be a great help for people young and old to fit together the pieces of the history of God's saving works so that they can see more clearly what God has accomplished in his Son.

Dr. Joel R. Beeke, President, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Here is a 'Big Book' on big stuff. Paul says that God's ways are 'untrackable'—and they are, but he has left some of his 'tracks' in redemptive history and Linda Finlayson has pursued them in this attractive, colourful, vibrant tome, in which she has pulled together the strings of biblical history and in such concise form has placed them in your lap.

Dale Ralph Davis, former Minister-in-Residence FPC, Columbia, South Carolina

Having an overview of the Bible is vital in appreciating the Bible's rich message to us. Linda Finlayson has "gone to town" to make this overview understandable and interesting to children. I dare say, even adults will profit immensely from her efforts. No doubt, this is a book you will go to again and again in answering your children's many questions about God's saving message. Parents, get yourself a copy. You cannot go wrong when you invest in this kind of spiritual instruction for your children. The rewards will outlive you!

Conrad Mbewe, Pastor of Kabwata Baptist Church, in Lusaka, Zambia

It is no small challenge to wrap our minds around the thousands of years of history that fall between Genesis 1 and Revelation 22. Linda Finlayson's God's Bible Timeline is a noble and effective attempt to help us do that very thing. Using text, graphics, and timelines, it seamlessly describes and displays both the great story and the wider context of the Bible.

Tim Challies, www.challies.com

As I look through this book, I find myself thinking of people I know who are either young in their faith or unconvinced they could ever wrap their heads around the whole Bible. This resource is a wonderful tool that has the potential to guide many through God's Word in a way that will help them see the whole picture of God's revelation. The church is once again in Linda's debt.

David Hogg, Senior Pastor, Christ Baptist Church, North Carolina Our Triune God reveals Himself through His mighty deeds in history. This book provides a wonderful series of timelines, maps and other visuals to help us place those events in their historical and geographical context. Along the way we can follow God's redemptive plan in Christ, from Eden right through to the spread of the early church.

Dr Sharon James, The Christian Institute, UK. Author of 'Gender Ideology: What Do Christians Need to Know?' (Christian Focus Publications, 2019)

There is no substitute for reading the Bible firsthand, but this book is a wonderful resource in introducing young people to the message of scripture. It will familiarize them with the major stories of the Bible, and provide the timelines and background to help them put all the pieces together. Linda Finlayson has a great gift for this kind of explanation, and her work, supplemented with delightful color illustrations and charts, makes this an ideal gift for young students of scripture — or for those who have the privilege of guiding children in their exploration of God's Word.

Jonathan L. Master, President, Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

As someone who teaches university students, I am continually amazed at how many young adults raised in Christian homes still don't know the basic storyline of the Scriptures. God's Bible Timeline is a wonderfully illustrated, accessible and clear, and highly valuable resource for increasing the biblical literacy of the next generation.

Timothy Larsen, McManis Professor of Christian Thought, Wheaton College

Linda Finlayson has followed up her very helpful book of church history timelines with one that does the same but with the most important history of all — that contained in the pages of the Bible. Clearly written, with helpful commentary on key people, events, context, and theological significance, and beautifully illustrated, this book will be a great resource for parents and Sunday school teachers as they seek to engage children with the biblical story. And adults too may well find their imaginations stoked by the text and the pictures as the often alien world of the ancient near east is brought alive.

Carl R Trueman, Professor of Biblical and Religious Studies, Grove City College



DEDICATION

In memory of the Rev. Robert W. Redding and the Rev. Donald G. Hamilton, and all those who have so faithfully taught me God's Word.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalm 119:105

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness

2 Timothy 3:16

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INTRODUCTION: IT'S ABOUT TIME

Time matters to us. What time do I need to be at school? What time is my music lesson or sports practice? When do we need to leave for church? Is there enough time for me to go to the shop before dinner?

Today we are surrounded with calendars, phones, computers, and clocks; things that help us stay informed about time and events. We really can't imagine not knowing what will happen in the next hour, day, week, month or even year.

Time matters in history too.

When we think about history we usually think about dates. When things happened in the past is important so we can understand the events in the proper order. They help keep everything tidy, and that is why a monk named Dionysius helped invent dates. Dionysius lived in the 6th century. He was a mathematician and astronomer who dedicated his life to serving God as a monk. Around AD 525 Dionysius introduced the idea of a Christian era calendar that counted the years from the time

of Jesus' birth to the present time. He used the Latin phrase *Anno Domini*, which means 'in the year of our Lord'. We use the short form of that phrase today: AD.

However, there was still a problem about how to record the dates of events before Jesus was born. In the 8th century the Venerable Bede introduced a way to record events Before Christ (BC) to go with Dionysius' *Anno Domini* calendar. Bede, an English monk and historian, designed his dating system to go backwards from Jesus' birth, making Jesus the center or focal point of the calendar. It took another few hundred years before this way of recording history and dates caught on, but by the 15th century it was the accepted form in most of the Christian world.

You will notice as you read the Bible that there are no number dates mentioned for events. It wasn't that Moses or Samuel or Daniel didn't care about when things happened, but they recorded events differently than we do today. They noted when a certain king ruled, or when

a certain war happened to mark when events took place. So it is a challenge to say **exactly** which date Samuel was born, or **exactly** when David became king. We can, by comparing the events with other events happening around the same time, establish an approximate date. Then ca. is added to the date, which means approximately. It comes from the Latin word circa and is shortened to ca. But no-one can say with any certainty when the earliest events happened. That is why we only list them in the order in which we know they occurred, but often leave out the dates.





IN THE BEGINNING

THE BEAUTIFUL SPEECH



he gift of creation comes from God because he is The Creator. But God is different from us. Where we need tools to create something, God does not. When God created the world all

he did was speak. He spoke and the light appeared, and he divided it from the darkness to create Day and Night. He spoke and the dry land rose up and the seas gathered into oceans, lakes and rivers. He spoke and plants and trees grew up. He spoke and the sun, moon and the stars filled the skies. He spoke and the fish and other marine life appeared in the seas. He spoke and birds and animals came to life. And finally God created man, and then woman, in his own image. And all of creation was good.

Actually the creation was better than good. It was perfect. We have trouble imagining what perfect looks like. We might use the word perfect to describe a person we love, a special day or a favorite food. However, while these things are special to us, we know they are not really perfect, mainly because what we really mean is how we *feel* about them. Perfect means something or someone without any faults or defects. That's what God's creation was: perfect, without fault or defect of any kind.

THE DISASTROUS SPEECH

Sadly, God's perfect world didn't last. Satan, disguised as a serpent, slithered into the Garden of Eden one day and spoke to Eve, the first woman. He was very devious about the way he spoke, as if he felt sorry for her, because God wouldn't let her and Adam eat any fruit in the garden. Eve corrected him, saying they could eat all the fruit except from one tree. Then Satan continued with how mean God was to deny them that fruit. If she did eat the fruit, then she would become like God. Eve listened to the serpent, looked at the beautiful tree, and then pulled a piece of fruit off and ate it. She even gave some to her husband Adam.

Before Adam and Eve listened to Satan's disastrous speech, they were happy and content. After they disobeyed God's command, they both realized that they were naked and they were afraid. Satan had lied to them, and God was angry. The beautiful, perfect creation had been ruined, including the people. Now, everything was full of faults and defects, and everything would eventually die. Adam and Eve had to leave the beautiful garden and learn to grow their own food. However, God was merciful. He did not desert them. Instead he promised that a savior would come in the future to set things right again.

TIMELINE: CREATION TO THE FLOOD

CREATION



NAMING THE ANIMALS



Adam's first job was to name all the creatures that God had created.

THE FALL



Satan tempted Eve to disobey God, and she and Adam did.

GOD JUDGES SATAN, ADAM AND EVE, BUT PROMISES A SAVIOR



EXILE FROM THE GARDEN OF EDEN



God made clothing for Adam and Eve, and sent them out of the Garden to become farmers.

Genesis 1

Genesis 2

Genesis 3

Genesis 3:15

Genesis 3:20-24

TOWER OF BABEL

The descendants of Noah decided to build a city and a high tower. They were ignoring God's command

to spread out and populate the whole earth. Instead they became proud and arrogant, so God stopped their building by causing them to suddenly start speaking in many different languages. Now they could no longer work together. As a result, people began to move away to other places, staying with those who spoke the same language.

NIMROD BUILDS GREAT CITIES IN MESOPOTAMIA INCLUDING BABEL



GOD MAKES A COVENANT WITH NOAH



God makes a covenant with Noah

— a rainbow with a promise never
again to send a flood that will cover
the whole earth.

THE FLOOD



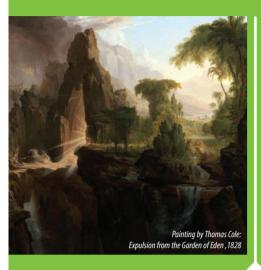
The flood began when Noah was 600 years old. It rained for forty days and nights, and the oceans flooded the land. By the end, the entire earth was covered with water for 150 days. Every person, land animal and bird not in the ark died. After spending over a year in the ark, it was finally safe for Noah, hi

Genesis 11

Genesis 10:8-12

Genesis 9:8-15

Genesis 7-8



THE FIRST CHILDREN



God had told Adam and Eve to have children, and so they did. Cain was

THE FIRST MURDER



Cain murdered his brother, Abel, exiling him to the land of Nod.

EARLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Cain built the first city. His descendants included the first herdsman (Jabal), the first musician (Jubal), and the first blacksmith (Tubal-cain).

BIRTH OF SETH



Abel's murder. His name means he would bless.

Genesis 3:20-24

Genesis 4:1-2

Genesis 4:3-16

Genesis 4:17, 21-23

Genesis 4:25



family and the animals to leave the ark on dry ground. Noah's first action was to build an altar and offer a

NOAH



God saw that Noah was the only one who worshipped him, so he chose to save Noah and his family from judgment. God told Noah to build an ark, or a boat, according to God's specific plan. It was large enough for Noah, his family, and some of each species of land animal and bird.

GREAT EVIL



As the generations passed, the people became more and more wicked, dreaming up every evil thing they could think of. God became very angry with humankind and decided to give

LONG LIVES

ADAM 930, SETH 912, **ENOSH 905, KENAN 910,** MAHALALEL 895, **JARED 962, ENOCH 365,** METHUSELAH 969 ...

People lived very long lives at first. etc., called genealogies, tell the number of years each of them lived.

Genesis 6-7

Genesis 6

Genesis 5







WHO ARE THE PATRIARCHS? WHAT ABOUT JOB?

WHO ARE PATRIARCHS?

The word patriarch means 'father or ruler of a tribe.' When the word is used in the Bible, it refers to fathers of the human race, and the Hebrew people in particular. So who were they?



Adam: the first man and therefore a patriarch over all those who came after him.



Noah: the father of those who survived the Flood, and became the patriarch of the human race.



Abraham was called a patriarch of Israel because of the covenant that God made with him. God promised

that Abraham's descendants would be as numerous as the stars.



Isaac: the son God promised Abraham (not Ishmael his half-brother), and the first of his descendants.



Jacob: was one of Isaac's sons, and the one God chose as the father of Israel. In fact God changed his name

from Jacob to Israel after Jacob wrestled with God, and asked God to bless him.

Twelve sons of Jacob: became the heads, or patriarchs, of each of the 12 tribes of Israel: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Joseph and Benjamin. However, the descendants of Levi became the tribe God set aside to serve in the Tabernacle and then the Temple. To replace that tribe, Joseph's sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, became the 11th and 12th patriarchs of their own tribes.



Moses: was not officially called a patriarch, but he was the ruler over Israel, leading them out of Egypt and

giving them all of God's commands about how to live and worship God. He is mentioned over 35 times in the New Testament by Jesus and the Apostles with honor and respect.



David: The Apostle Peter called King David a patriarch in his sermon on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:29). Like

Moses he was God's chosen leader of his chosen people Israel. David completed God's instruction to his people to conquer all of the Promised Land.

WHAT ABOUT JOB?

You will notice that Job is not mentioned in the timelines. That is because we don't know when he lived. The book of Job is a poem, written about a man who suffered a great deal, but still remained true to God. There are some clues in the story that suggest Job may have lived during the time of the early patriarchs. The flood is mentioned in Job 22:16, as something that happened in the past. Job also sacrificed to God as head of his family, a practice that was usual before God gave Moses instructions to make Aaron a priest. Those two clues could be used to say that Job lived sometime between Noah and Moses. Since that is a large expanse of time, it is difficult to say exactly where to put Job in the timeline. However, even though we don't know when Job lived, we do know that his story belongs in the Bible because of the New Testament reference to him by the Apostle James in James 5:11.

We can learn a great deal about God when we read the book of Job.

CREATION TO THE PROMISED LAND

MAP OF ABRAHAM'S WORLD

AND HIS TRAVELS TO CANAAN INCLUDING MESOPOTAMIA AND EGYPT



TIMELINE: ABRAHAM TO JOSEPH

THE CITY OF UR



The city of Ur had an estimated population of 100,000 people.

GOD TELLS ABRAM TO LEAVE HIS HOME

Abram left the city of Ur with his extended family and settled first in the city of Haran. After Abram's father died, Abram obeyed God and went to Canaan.

ABRAM IN CANAAN

Abram stopped near the cities of Bethel and Ai, where he built an altar to the Lord.

The Lord appeared

to him and told him

this land was his.

ABRAM AND SARAI GO TO EGYPT



Abram took his wife, nephew and all their servants and belongings to Egypt during a famine Abram lied to Pharaoh about Sarai being his wife, but God stopped Pharaoh from marrying Sarai. Pharaoh, afraid of God, gave Abram great wealth and told him to leave Egypt.

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM



(Father of Many) and Sarai to Sarah (Princess).

God promised to make Abraham the father of many nations, including kings. God promised to take care of Abraham's descendants provided they obeyed God. The sign of this covenant was that all males, beginning with Abraham and his household. would be circumcised.

HAGAR AND



Sarah decided Hagar, her servant, should become like a wife to Abraham. Later that year Abraham and Hagar had a son called Ishmael.

BIRTH OF ISAAC

As God promised,
Sarah had a baby boy.
Abraham called his son
Isaac. After a few years
Sarah insisted that
Hagar and Ishmael
leave them. They went
to live in Paran.

ca.2100 BC

Gen. 12:1-5

Gen 12:6-8

Genesis 12:9-12

Genesis 15 & 17

Genesis 16

Gen. 21:1-21

KING HAMMURABI REIGNS IN BABYLON



He wrote one of the earliest codes of law.

ISRAEL (JACOB) BLESSES HIS SONS



Before he died, Israel blessed each of his sons. He gave his son Judah a special blessing that included a promise that his descendants would be kings, and eventually the Messiah would come from his tribe.

FAMINE AND JOSEPH'S FAMILY



When the famine spread to Canaan, Israel (Jacob) sent his sons to Egypt to buy grain. The sons did not recognize Joseph and bowed down to him. Later Joseph told his brothers who he was and they were frightened of him. But Joseph forgave them, and Pharaoh gave permission for the extended family to live in Egypt.

JOSEPH INTERPRETS PHARAOH'S DREAM



God gave Joseph the meaning of Pharaoh's disturbing dream and Joseph told Pharaoh the dreams were about a coming famine. Pharaoh made Joseph governor over Egypt so he could prepare the country for the famine.

ISAAC DIES

Isaac lived to be 180 years old.

JOSEPH IN PRISON

Potiphar's wife falsely accused Joseph of assaulting her, so Potiphar sent Joseph to prison. God blessed Joseph and he was put in charge of all the other prisoners.

1792-1750 вс

Ganacic 40

Genesis 41:53-47

Genesis 41:1-52

Gen. 35:28-29

Gen. 39:7-23

SACRIFICE OF ISAAC



God tested Abraham's faith by asking him to sacrifice his son Isaac. Abraham obeyed. Just as he was about to kill his son, God stopped him.

DEATH OF SARAH



Sarah lived to be 127

ISAAC'S WIFE

Aram where the rest of family still lived. The servant was led by God to ask Rebekah, a cousin of Isaac, to marry

DEATH OF ABRAHAM



Abraham lived to be

JACOB AND ESAU



Rebekah. Before they were born, God told Rebekah one (Esau) would serve the younger one (Jacob). When they were older, Jacob stole a blessing meant for Esau. Esau threatened to kill Jacob, so

GOD'S COVENANT **WITH JACOB**



throughout the earth. God would bless him and take care of him wherever he went.

Genesis 22

Genesis 23

Gen. 25:1-18

Genesis 25:19-34, 27:1-46

Genesis 28:10-22

ca.1900 BC JOSEPH SOLD TO POTIPHAR

KINGDOM EGYPT



MIDDLE **OF ANCIENT**

JOSEPH'S **DREAMS**

When Joseph was seventeen years old, he dreamed that he would rule over his brothers and father one day. His with him and sold him

RACHEL DIES GIVING BIRTH TO BENJAMIN



JACOB WRESTLES WITH GOD



name to Israel. which means "May

JACOB'S WIVES AND CHILDREN



lacob had two wives and two concubines (second-class wives). He had twelve sons and one daughter. Joseph was Jacob's favorite son because his mother was Rachel, whom he loved

JACOB AND LABAN



Jacob loved Laban's daughter, Rachel, and promised to work for Laban seven years so he into marrying Leah, Rachel's older sister, first, and then allowed him to marry Rachel too. Jacob ended up working fourteen years for his wives.

Potiphar, the captain

guard, bought Joseph

and made him steward

over his house.

1975-1640 вс

Gen. 35:16-21

Gen. 32:22-32

Genesis 29:31-30:24

Genesis 29:1-30



KEY: 🔁 Promise of the Messiah 👲 Covenants that God made 💌 Judah's kings & prophets 빽 Israel's kings & prophets



A SLAVE AND A PRINCE

Moses' beginning didn't look very promising. He was born a slave in Egypt at a time when the Pharaoh had declared all baby boy slaves were to be drowned in the Nile River. Moses' parents did put their son in the river, but in a basket where he floated down to where the Pharaoh's daughter found him. She knew he was a slave baby but she wanted to adopt him into her family. Since her new baby needed a nurse, the princess was persuaded by Moses' sister Miriam (who was hiding nearby) to employ a Hebrew woman to look after him. That Hebrew woman was the child's own mother. The princess sent him there to be fed and cared for until he was able to come and live in the palace.

During those early years Moses would have heard all the stories of the Hebrew, or Israelite, people. He learned about God and how he had promised Abraham would become a great nation, and about Isaac and Jacob. He also came to understand how the Hebrew people came to Egypt when Joseph was the prime minister of the land. Moses saw the terrible slavery his people now lived in.

Once Moses was old enough to go to the palace, he left his family and slave quarters behind. Now he had to become a prince, and there was a lot to learn. Living in the palace meant shaving his head, daily baths and wearing a soft, clean

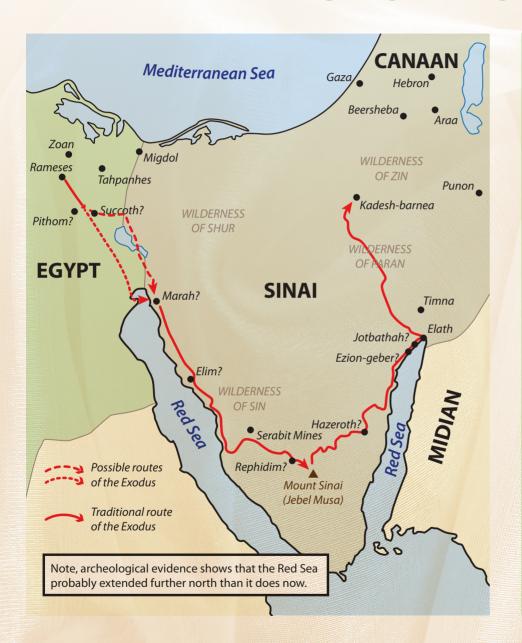
tunic. Moses had to learn the way to behave in the presence of Pharaoh, the Queen, and important officials. There were complicated procedures for coming into the Pharaoh's presence because Egyptians believed he was not just the king, but a god to be worshipped. When Moses was nine, he would have gone to school with other noble boys in the temple. His schooling lasted about five years and included: reading, writing with ink and brush,

arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, physics, music, and art. He would have also been educated about Egyptian gods and goddesses.

By the time Moses was a man, he knew both what it was like to be a slave and to be a prince. God had planned this so Moses would become the leader of the Israelites many years later, and also know how to deal with the Pharaoh when he refused to let the Israelites go. A slave could never enter the palace on behalf of the Israelites, but Moses, the prince, could. An Egyptian prince could never rally the enslaved Israelites to follow him on God's command, but Moses, the former slave, could. What seemed like a very odd beginning to life was really all part of God's plan for Moses and his people.

CREATION TO THE PROMISED LAND

MAP OF ISRAEL'S WANDERINGS



THE TABERNACLE - FUN FACTS:

- 1 The tabernacle was a portable tent with a curtained courtyard that was taken down when the Israelites moved from place to place and set up again each time they settled in a place for a while.
- 2 The surrounding courtyard was about the size of an American football field or a soccer pitch.
- 3 The Holy Place of the Tabernacle had wooden walls overlaid with gold.
- 4 The Holy Place's roof was four layers of cloth and animal skins.
- 5 The Most Holy Place contained only the ark of the covenant.
- 6 The Most Holy Place was where God descended in a cloud to meet with his people.



TIMELINE: MOSES TO JOSHUA (PART 1)

EGYPTIAN
SECOND
INTERMEDIATE
PERIOD

Hyksos people invaded Egypt and set themselves up as kings. They introduced horsedrawn chariots

THE HITTITES SACK BABYLON





NEW KINGDOM IN EGYPT

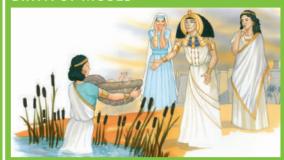


The new kingdom began when Ahmoses drove out the Hyksos kings and made himself pharaoh.

ISRAELITES BECOME SLAVES



BIRTH OF MOSES



Moses was born into an Israelite family, but instead of obeying the Pharaoh's command to kill all Israelite baby boys, his parent: hid him. They put him in a basket in the Nile River, where the Pharaoh's daughter found him and adopted him as her son.

1650-1550 вс

1595 вс

1550-1200 BC

са.1550-1070 вс

Exodus 1

Exodus 2:1-10

BUILDING THE TABERNACLE



God gave Moses detailed instructions on how to make the tabernacle, where the people would come to offer sacrifices in worship to God. Only the priests were allowed to go inside. The people stood just outside the entrance.

COVENANT IS RENEWED



God wrote the Ten
Commandments on new
stone tablets and renewed
his promise to care for Israel
and give the land of Canaan
to them.

MOSES PRAYS FOR THE ISRAELITES



God was very angry with the Israelites and sent a plague to punish them. But Moses pleaded with God not to destroy them and God relented.

GOLDEN CALF



The Israelites became restless when Moses was gone for forty days on Mount Sinai, so they made a golden calf and worshipped it. Moses was so angry when he came down from the Mount that he threw down the tablets God had written on and they broke.

COVENANT AT MOUNT SINAI

God gave Moses the Ten Commandments written on two tablets of stone. God also gave other laws on how he wanted the people to live and behave.



Exodus 25-31, 36-39

Exodus 34:1-28

Exodus 32: 7-14, 30-35

Exodus 32:1-6, 15-19

Exodus 20-24