

Palisades Community Bible Church

Presentation and Bible Study Notes

Genesis As History

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Lesson One:

Jesus is the Cornerstone

Who is Jesus Christ?

The world doesn't really know who Jesus is. Far too much of the Christian Church doesn't know who He is, either.

Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

Philippians 2:9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

Ephesians 1:21 Far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. John 1:2-3

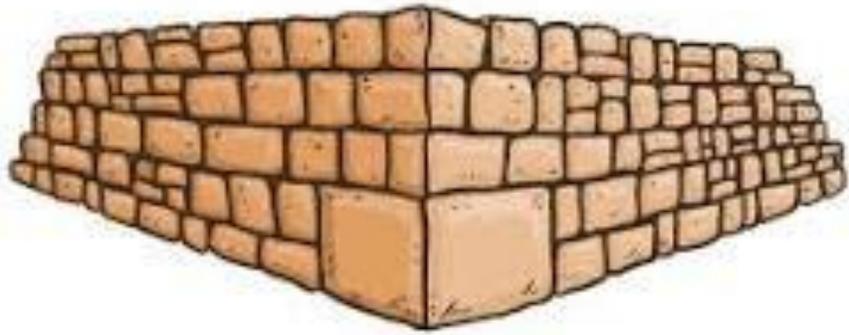
Jesus created the universe. He is above everything that has ever been created; above everything that has ever been named. One day, He will defeat the final enemy of mankind; death itself.

Jesus is the CORNERSTONE of all creation, and of our faith.

What is a Cornerstone?

- Webster's: 1: a stone forming a part of a corner or angle in a wall
2: a basic element : FOUNDATION
- A marker for the starting point of a structure
- Sets the orientation of the structure
- Usually at the most prominent point in the structure
- All measurements taken from the orientation of the cornerstone
- Often bears important information; date, builder, etc.

Cornerstone



Jesus is the Cornerstone of Eternity past, and Eternity future.

Colossians 1: 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

Isaiah 28:16 “So this is what the Sovereign Lord says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic.”

Colossians 1: 15 “The Son is **the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.**

16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

19 For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him,

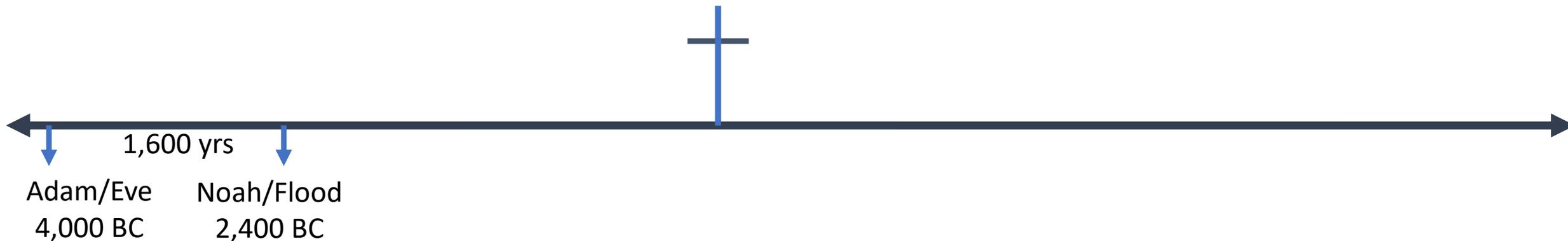
20 and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”

Revelation 1:8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

- What follows is a timeline that will lay out Jesus’ role in Eternity past through eternity future. This will not only help us to understand Jesus’ role in the universe, it will give us a foundation for sharing Christ with others. It can give the unsaved person a foundation for understanding just WHO Jesus is.

Who is Jesus Christ?

Dates are approximate



From Adam's and Eve's creation, around 4000 BC, to Noah's flood, around 1600 BC, mankind had opportunity to worship God after the practice God instituted with Cain and Abel in Genesis 4.

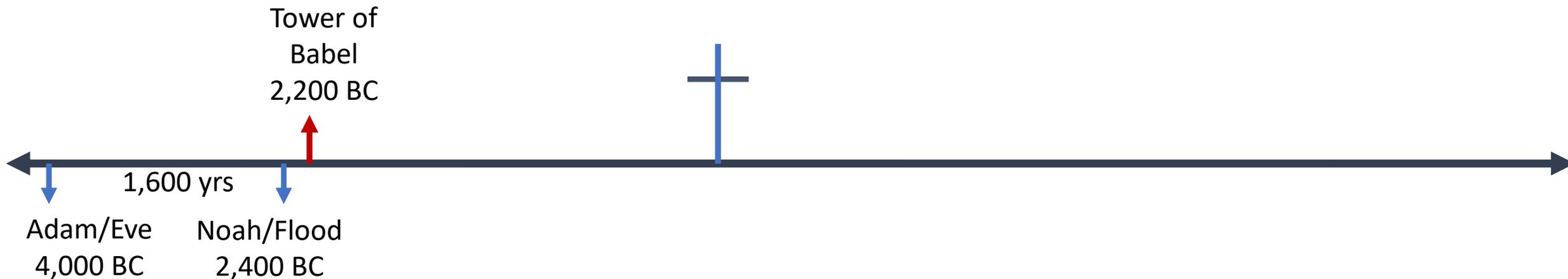
Cain tilled the soil and Abel tended flocks. When they brought their offerings to the Lord, Abel's was favored (blood sacrifice), and not Cain's (grain offering).

This tells us that humans had knowledge of their sin condition and that God had instituted a forgiveness program – blood sacrifice. We know the rest; Cain killed his brother and God cursed the ground.

Humans acted then, as today, ignoring God and living in sin....until God finally destroyed them with the flood.

Who is Jesus Christ?

Dates are approximate



After the flood, Noah's descendants hadn't yet been dispersed across the earth. They were concentrated in an area, and their sin made them determined to find an alternative to God. They wanted to their own method, set of practices, etc., to reach God. We define "Religion" as "Man's efforts to reach God."

When man devises his own approach to reach God, he is putting himself in God's place. He is creating a false god and a set of practices to please that false god; which he made.

The tower of Babel was the foundation, the ROOT of most man-based religions: idolatry, mysticism, demonism, cults, etc. Organized man-made religions seem to have their beginnings at the Tower of Babel.

The whole idea of the Tower of Babel was an alternative to God; a place of false worship.

False Worship is not like eating celery, which has no nutritive value; tasteless yet harmless. False Worship is like eating twinkies; they taste good, have no nutrition, and are damaging to your body.

False Worship gratifies the flesh, and the flesh alone. It has no spiritual value. Indeed, it causes spiritual damage.

Galatians 5: 16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

From the time of the Tower of Babel, we see 200 years pass until we reach the time of Abraham. We can assume that, with the possible exception of Seth, there was no believer in the True GOD left on the earth. How can it be that in so short a time, Noah's descendants forgot about their salvation from the flood waters, and turned to idols created by their own hands?

Once again, the human race had succumbed to Satan's counterfeit religions.

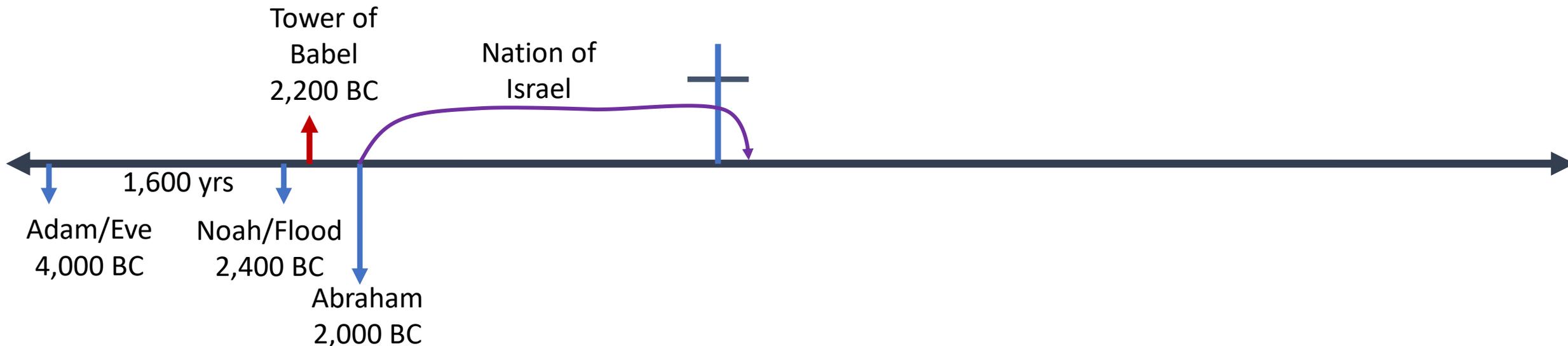
Joshua 24: 2 Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods.

They were ALL idolators, including Abram, himself. God had given Adam, Abel, Noah, etc., a knowledge of sin and a system of sacrifice, but most of mankind rejected it.

So for 2,000 years, we see that man would not succumb to God's offer of simply being obedient to Him, believing what He said. In 2000 BC, we see that God does something totally different at the **midpoint between Adam and Jesus.**

Who is Jesus Christ?

Dates are approximate



We see the river of mankind flowing from Adam to the end time. Out of that flow up until 2,000 BC, we have seen a singular grouping of people. Then, God calls out Abraham and begins a unique nation of people we know as the Jews.

From Genesis 12, all the way up to the time of Christ, the Bible deals, almost exclusively, with the Nation of Israel. God gives them a covenant of promise that out of this one man, Abraham, will come a nation of people. And, He put them in one geographical location; between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River, which we call the "Holy Land." The ancient Egyptians, and all the ancient peoples referred to that land as the divine land, and they did not really know why.

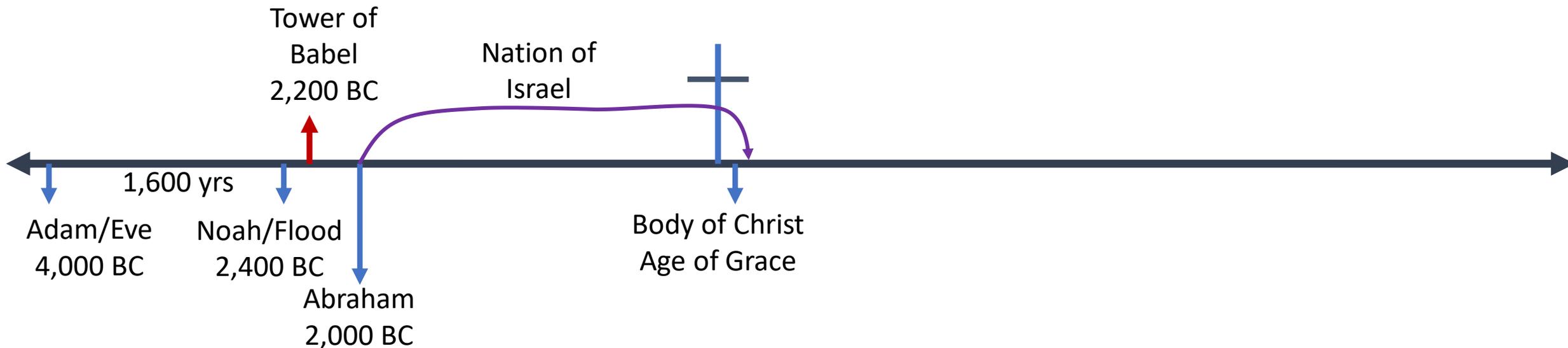
So began God's direct dealing with this set-aside group of people, and He promised them a government in the form of a king. You cannot have a nation of people operating as a society if there is no kind of government. Otherwise, you have anarchy, as we see so repeatedly stated in the Book of Judges; **"In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did that which was right in his own eyes."**

Israel, however, had the constant promise before them that, as part of the covenant, there would be a king. This king would be in the person of the Messiah, the very Son of God. Until then, God gave them the Tabernacle and a special measure of His divine presence. God demanded nothing more than their faithfulness.

The entire Old Testament, from Genesis 12, on, is preparing the nation of Israel for the coming of their king, their Messiah, their redeemer. There had to be salvation from sin before the rest of the promises could come to pass.

Who is Jesus Christ?

Dates are approximate



Now, we reach the Birth of Jesus and his earthly ministry. Everything Jesus did was to demonstrate one thing; that He is the prophesied, promised Messiah. He demonstrated proof of his validity as the Christ in everything He did. He did not heal, raise the dead, and forgive sins only out of compassion, but so that everyone would know that only the true Messiah could do that.

Matthew 16: 13b “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.”

Note that Peter never said anything about the Cross, or the Resurrection, because they had not happened, yet. But, Jesus commended Peter for saying who He was, and that it was NOT revealed to him by human knowledge, but by God, the Father.

The New Testament records Martha's confession of Jesus as the Son of God, as well as Paul's, after his conversion. The entire purpose of Jesus' ministry on earth was to demonstrate - to prove that he was Messiah.

Jesus fulfilled the entire thrust of the Old Testament promises that their government, in the person of the King and Messiah, and Redeemer, would one day come to the nation of Israel.

We learn, not only from the NT, but from world history, and looking around our own society, that only a small percentage would receive this Messiah.

Luke 19: 14 "But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We don't want this man to be our king.'

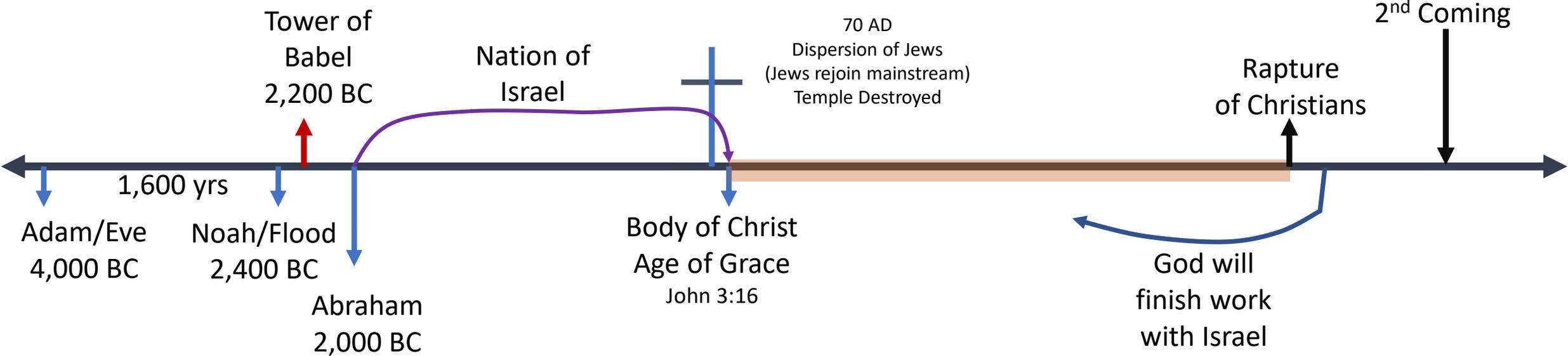
1 Samuel 8:7 And the LORD told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.

So, Rome carried out the request of the Jewish leaders and Jesus was crucified.

Now, we see that, having rejected their Messiah, Israel has been returned to the mainstream of humanity, which we call the Dispersion. They were sent into every nation under heaven. The temple was destroyed, the Priesthood was destroyed, and Israel almost loses their national identity as they are put back into the main stream of humanity. All this, because they rejected their Messiah.

Who is Jesus Christ?

Dates are approximate



The resurrection of Jesus, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, are parts of Jesus calling out a people for His name, which the Bible calls the Body of Christ – The Church. This is an entirely new concept, never known in the Old Testament. Nothing in Old Testament writings suggested that God would return the Jews to the mainstream of humanity and that Christian believers - both Jew and Gentile – would be taken from this river of humanity and they would form the Body of Christ, the Church. This is all accomplished by Grace, alone. This is called the **Age of Grace**; the calling out a people (Jew and Gentile) who live in His name. This period has been going on, now for 2,000 years. When the Church age is complete, God will take it out. Just before the seven year tribulation, the Church will be taken and God will finish where He left off with Israel back when they rejected Christ.

Jesus is the Cornerstone

We see that Jesus created all things for Himself and created mankind in His image.

When mankind rejected him, He offered a way out of sin. As man continued to reject Him, he called out a unique people; Israel, to bring forth the Messiah.

As Israel fell in and out of grace, His love continued and culminated in the earthly ministry and crucifixion of Israel's Messiah, the savior of all mankind; Jesus.

The Church, the Body of Christ, is the combination of Jews and Non-Jews called out to represent Jesus to the rest of humanity. Those who are faithful to Jesus live under Grace until the Church is taken out; those alive, and dead, in Christ.

1 Peter 2: 6 For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

Those who reject Jesus will be crushed by this stone.

Let us look at this "STONE" in another light.....in a way that will amaze you!

In Daniel, we read that King Nebuchadnezzar was the greatest of all human rulers in his day. Daniel had been captured and was serving in the palace because of his wisdom and intelligence. The king had a disturbing dream and asked his circle of wise men to, first tell what the dream was, then interpret it. We pick up the story in Daniel 2.

King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream:

Daniel 2: 26 The king asked Daniel, “Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?”

27 Daniel replied, “No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, 28 but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you were lying in bed are these:

29 “As Your Majesty was lying there, your mind turned to things to come, and the revealer of mysteries showed you what is going to happen. 30 As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than anyone else alive, but so that Your Majesty may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind.

31 “Your Majesty looked, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. 32 The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. 34 While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

Daniel 2: Nebuchadnezzar's Dream



The Interpretation:

36 “This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. 37 Your Majesty, you are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; 38 in your hands he has placed all mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.

39 “After you, another kingdom will arise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. 40 Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron—for iron breaks and smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. 41 Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. 42 As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. 43 And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

44 “In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. 45 This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. “The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.”

46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him. 47 The king said to Daniel, “Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery.”

God communicated in in the scriptures in ways that are timeless. What was written thousands of years ago, can be accurately understood today. A king will always be a king, gold will always be a precious metal and very soft, iron will always be a hard metal for tools and weapons, etc. The values of these metals are always in this order; Gold, silver, bronze and iron.

As you go up the statue, the value of metals increases. As you go down, the hardness and the utility increases. You would not make a plow of gold, even if it was cheap – it's too soft. You'd use iron. Iron is used in making tools and weapons.

With this illustration of descending value, we see a descending authority in governments:

Gold - Absolute dictator; Nebuchadnezzar

Silver - Medes and Persians: required the consensus of two

Brass - Greek Empire; power divided between four generals

Iron - Roman Empire; the first republic in history

Iron and clay – revived Roman Empire which is still sweeping Europe today.

As the next empire came along, they divided their authority and it weakened the government structure.

Daniel 2: Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Absolute dictator
(total control)

Meds/Persians
(power divided by two)

Greece
(power shared by four generals)

Roman Empire
(Governors and Senate)

Democracy
(the people have power)



We love democracy, but it's hard to get things done! And, we can see how PROPHEMICALLY the world has come to the place we are today - that every nation wants a democratic government.

What we Americans are experiencing, today, was foretold in Nebuchadnezzar's dream! The nature of governments in the world has been an evolution from absolute tyranny to an ever-increasing division of power. This means that it takes more and more people to make decisions.

Which of us would have ever dreamed the world would pant for a democratic form of government? But, look at Nebuchadnezzar's dream; it was foretold. Now, when we get down to the ten toes of the statue; the mixture of clay and iron – all of our democratic governments are as weak as thin glass. In a democracy, the people can topple their nation simply by marching and protesting. Look at how the greatest democracy in human history has degraded in only a decade!

It was FORETOLD!

Finally, we get back to the stone; the 'rock cut out of the mountain, but not by human hands' in the vision. It pulverized every metal in the statue until all of them became like chaff that was blown away. That very rock then became a huge mountain that filled the whole earth. That's a vision of the second coming of Jesus – He will destroy all human governments and fill the earth with His power and glory.

34 While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them.

35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

This is a prophesy of the second coming of Jesus, destroying all man-made governments and establishing His power and glory across the earth.

Daniel 2: Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Absolute dictator
(total control)

Meds and Persians
(power divided by two)

Greece
(power shared by four generals)

Roman Empire
(Governors and Senate)

Democracy
(the people have power)



Narrow political
power/Less war

Broad political
power/More war

As you go up the statue, there is more power concentrated in small areas. This means smaller amounts of POLITICAL power and smaller amounts of wars.

As you go down the statue, there is more power DISTRIBUTED through POLITICAL processes, and there are more wars.

The mixture of clay and iron in the toes of the statue demonstrate division, and the resulting weakness caused by corruption in political leadership.

Remember; these are examples of human governments. These metals, and their positions, do not indicate godliness or righteousness. They indicate levels of authority one vs many hands.

The stone, 'not cut by human hands', will crush them all and grow into a great mountain that will cover the earth. This will be Jesus in his second coming!

Conclusion.....

Jesus has been central since before the creation of this universe through eternity future. He is the CORNERSTONE!

God has demonstrated His power and the truth of His prophecies endlessly through human history. When we read that God created the physical universe and all of life, we aren't mind-numbed robots for believing it. We put our faith in the God of all creation who has demonstrated many times that He is who He is.

When we, next, turn our attention to the Creation and Flood accounts found in Genesis chapters 1-11, we can place our faith fully in God's words. And, not only that...we can believe what God's creation truly reveals about these events.

You'll come to see the fallacy in the ungodly world's assertions that it took "millions and millions of years."

I believe your faith will be strengthened and your knowledge will increase