

AN OUTLINE OF FOUNDATIONAL BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

A Study Guide for the Biblical Literacy Entrance Exam of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary

Revised September 24, 2007

General

- ❖ The number of canonical books in the Protestant English Bible, and how many in each Testament.
- ❖ The names and order of all the books in the Protestant English Bible.
- ❖ The meaning of canon, apocrypha, and pseudepigrapha.
- ❖ Which languages the Bible was originally written in and which books contain these languages.
- ❖ Know the names, significance, and order of the Jewish festivals mentioned in the Old and New Testaments.
- ❖ The major events and developments of the Intertestamental Period (based on the article, "The Period Between the Testaments" in Volume 5 of the SDA Bible Commentary).
- ❖ The kinds of translation (literal, dynamic equivalence, paraphrase).
- ❖ The production of Biblical manuscripts
- ❖ The purpose of textual criticism.
- ❖ General geography of Bible Lands (map knowledge; see "Old Testament Place List" and "New Testament Place List" below).
- ❖ The nature and use of the following Bible study tools: Bible Handbook, Bible Dictionary, Lexicon, Concordance, Bible Atlas, Bible Commentary, marginal notes and footnotes (What kind of information would be sought and found in each?).

Old Testament

- ❖ The four major divisions of the Septuagint/English Bible.
- ❖ The three major divisions of the Hebrew Bible.
- ❖ What was created on each day of the creation week.
- ❖ The Three Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob) and their stories.
- ❖ The Twelve Tribes.
- ❖ Memorize the Ten Commandments and where they are found (any translation, but all the pieces must be there in proper order).
- ❖ General sequence of the major events, persons, and eras of the history of Israel (in relative chronology; see "[OT Timeline](#)").
- ❖ Identification of all persons listed on the "OT Timeline" (including not only persons listed under the "People" column, but also persons in the names of Biblical books and those in the "Events" column of the Timeline).
- ❖ Approximate dates of major periods in Old Testament history (see OT Timeline).
- ❖ The events of the Exodus (date: ca. 1450 B.C).
- ❖ The events and lives of David and Solomon.
- ❖ Memorize Psalm 23.

- ❖ Major kings of Israel (see supporting lists below): identify major events during their reign and list in chronological order.
- ❖ The events and ministries of Elijah and Elisha.
- ❖ Major kings of Judah (see supporting lists below): identify major events during their reign and list in chronological order.
- ❖ The events of the Exile and Return (dates: B.C. 722, 605, 586, 539, 457).
- ❖ The basic ideas in each chapter of Daniel.
- ❖ The work of Ezra and Nehemiah
- ❖ The tabernacle and two temples (builders, layout, services and major festivals).
- ❖ Major and Minor Prophets: identify and list in order of Biblical books (Protestant English Bible)

New Testament

- ❖ The five major divisions of the New Testament.
- ❖ The general chronology and major events of the life of Jesus.
- ❖ The names of the Twelve Apostles.
- ❖ The basic ideas and parts of the Sermon on the Mount
- ❖ Memorize the beatitudes as found in Matthew 5: 3-12
- ❖ Memorize the Lord's Prayer as found in Matthew 6:9-13
- ❖ Know the parables of Matthew 13, Mark 4, and Luke 15.
- ❖ The relationships and differences found between the Synoptic Gospels and John.
- ❖ Know the difference between Herod's temple and the synagogues and their basic functions.
- ❖ The work and writings of the Apostle Paul; the classification of his writings.
- ❖ The authors and general contents of the General Epistles.
- ❖ The basic ideas and parts of the book of Revelation.
- ❖ The basic events and contours of Apostolic History, based on the book of Acts.
- ❖ Memorize the Three Angels' Messages of Revelation 14 and know where they are found.
- ❖ Main events and figures in the history of Palestine and the Roman Empire in the first century A.D. (see supporting lists below).

Supporting Lists

Old Testament Lists

Place List

Nile River	Samaria (city)	Red Sea
Euphrates River	Dan (city)	Haran
Jordan River	Beersheba	Egypt
Dead Sea	Heshbon	Assyria
Mt. Sinai (Sinai Peninsula)	Shiloh	Babylonia
Mt. Carmel	Shechem	Canaan
Babylon (City)	Hebron	Persia
Nineveh	Ammon (country)	Syria
Damascus	Moab (country)	Jericho
Jerusalem	Edom (country)	Philistia

Major Kings of Judah (in chronological order)

Rehoboam	Ahaz	Josiah
Asa	Hezekiah	Jehoiakim
Jehoshaphat	Manasseh	Zedekiah
Joash		

Major Kings of Israel (in chronological order)

Jeroboam I	Jehu	Menahem
Baasha	Jehoahaz	Pekah
Omri	Jereboam II	Hoshea
Ahab		

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OLD TESTAMENT TIME LINE

DATES*	BOOKS	PERIOD	EVENTS	PEOPLE
+/-4000BC	Genesis 1-11	The World Before Abraham	Creation; The Fall	Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, Seth
3000				
2500			The Flood The Tower of Babel	Enoch, Methuselah Noah, Shem, Ham, Japheth
2000				
1900	Genesis 12-50	The Age of the Patriarchs	Call of Abraham	Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Lot, Esau, Sarah, Hagar, Ishmael, Rebekah, Rachel, Leah, Bilhah, Zilpah, Dinah
1800	Job		Migration to Egypt	Jacob's 12 Sons, Hammurabi, Hyksos
1700				
1600	Exodus 1-11	Egyptian Bondage	Oppression in Egypt	A new line of Pharaohs (18 th Dynasty?)
1500	Exodus 12-40		The Exodus	Moses, Aaron, Miriam, Balak, Balaam
1400	Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	Wilderness Wanderings (ca. 1450-1410 BC)	Mt. Sinai Sanctuary	Caleb, Joshua
1300	Joshua Judges	Time of the Judges (ca. 1375-1050 BC)		Deborah, Gideon, Jael, Jephthah, Samson, Delilah,
1200	Ruth			Boaz, Naomi
1100	I-II Samuel I Kings, I Chron. Psalms	United Monarchy (ca. 1050-931 BC)	Jerusalem as capital	Samuel, Hannah, Eli Saul, David, Jonathan, Bathsheba, Uriah the Hittite, Michal, Abigail, Hiram King of Tyre, Jezebel, Naaman, Baruch, Huldah
1000				
900	II Chronicles Prov., Eccl. Song of Sol. II Kings, Joel	Divided Kingdom (Israel: ca. 931-722 BC; Judah: ca. 931-586 BC)	Temple Built Revolt of Jeroboam	Solomon, Sheshonk I Jeroboam, Rehoboam Jehoshaphat, Ahab

800	Jonah, Amos Hosea Isaiah, Micah Nahum			Jehu, Elijah, Elisha Tiglath-pileser III (Pul) Hezekiah, Sennacherib Manasseh
700	Jerem., Zeph., Hab., Obad., Lamentations Ezekiel, Daniel, Haggai, Zech.	Exile (ca. 605-536 BC)	Destruction of Samaria By Sargon II or Shalmaneser V	
600		Return from Exile	Finding Book of the Law Destruction of Jerusalem	Josiah, Necho Nebuchadnezzar Zerubbabel, Belshazzar, Joshua the High Priest
	Esther, Ezra			Esther, Mordecai, Ahasuerus (Xerxes)
500	Nehemiah Malachi		Decree of Cyrus	Ezra Nehemiah
400		Intertestamental Period (ca. 400 BC-Birth of Christ)	Decree of Artaxerxes Close of Old Testament History	

* All dates are approximate.

New Testament Lists

Place List

Sea of Galilee	Nazareth	Greece
Jordan River	Capernaum	Italy
Mediterranean Sea	Caesarea Maritima	Antioch
Dead Sea	Cyprus	Ephesus
Jerusalem	Crete	Corinth
Bethlehem	Asia (Roman Province)	Rome
Jericho		

Main Events and Figures in the History of Palestine and the Roman Empire in the First Century A.D.

Please be prepared to identify the roles that the following play in Biblical events.

Roman emperors (in order)

Augustus	Claudius	Titus
Tiberius	Nero	Domitian
Gaius Caligula	Vespasian	

Local rulers (in order)

Herod the Great	Herod Philip	Herod Agrippa I
Archelaus	Herod Antipas	Herod Agrippa II
Philip the Tetrarch		

Roman governors (prefects/procurators)

Pilate Felix Festus

High Priests

Annas I Caiaphas

Other Important New Testament Characters

Anna	Gallio	Phoebe
Ananias and Saphira	Herodias	Prisca/Priscilla
Apollos	Jairus	Rhoda
Aquillus	James and Jude (brothers of Jesus)	Salome
Barrabus	John the Baptist	Sergius
Barnabus	John Mark	Paulus
Bernice	Joseph Junia	Silas/Silvanus
Damaris	Lazarus	Simeon
Demetrius	Luke	Stephen
Diotrephes	Mary (wife of Joseph)	Theophilus
Dursilla	Lydia	Timothy
Elizabeth	Mary and Martha	Titus
Elymas	Mary Magdalene	Zacharias
Epaphroditus	Philemon	Zaccheus
Eutyclus		Zebedee
Gaius		

Jewish sects and movements

Zealots	Pharisees	John the Baptist
Sadducees	Essenes and Qumran community	

Events

Roman conquest of Palestine	Birth-baptism-crucifixion-	Nero's persecution and death
Beginning of the Roman	resurrection-ascension of Jesus	of Peter and Paul
Empire	Death of John the Baptist	Death of James the Just (the
Death of Herod the Great	Baptism of the house of	Lord's brother)
Building and completion of the	Cornelius	Jewish Revolt and Destruction
Temple	"Council" of Jerusalem	of Jerusalem/Temple
		Domitianic persecution

Dates

4 B.C. (death of Herod the Great);	31 (Jesus crucified),	70 (destruction of Jerusalem and Temple)
A.D. 27 (Jesus begins his ministry)	34 (stoning of Stephen)	
	51-52 (Gallio's term as proconsul [Paul in Corinth])	