

what is

GOD

doing?



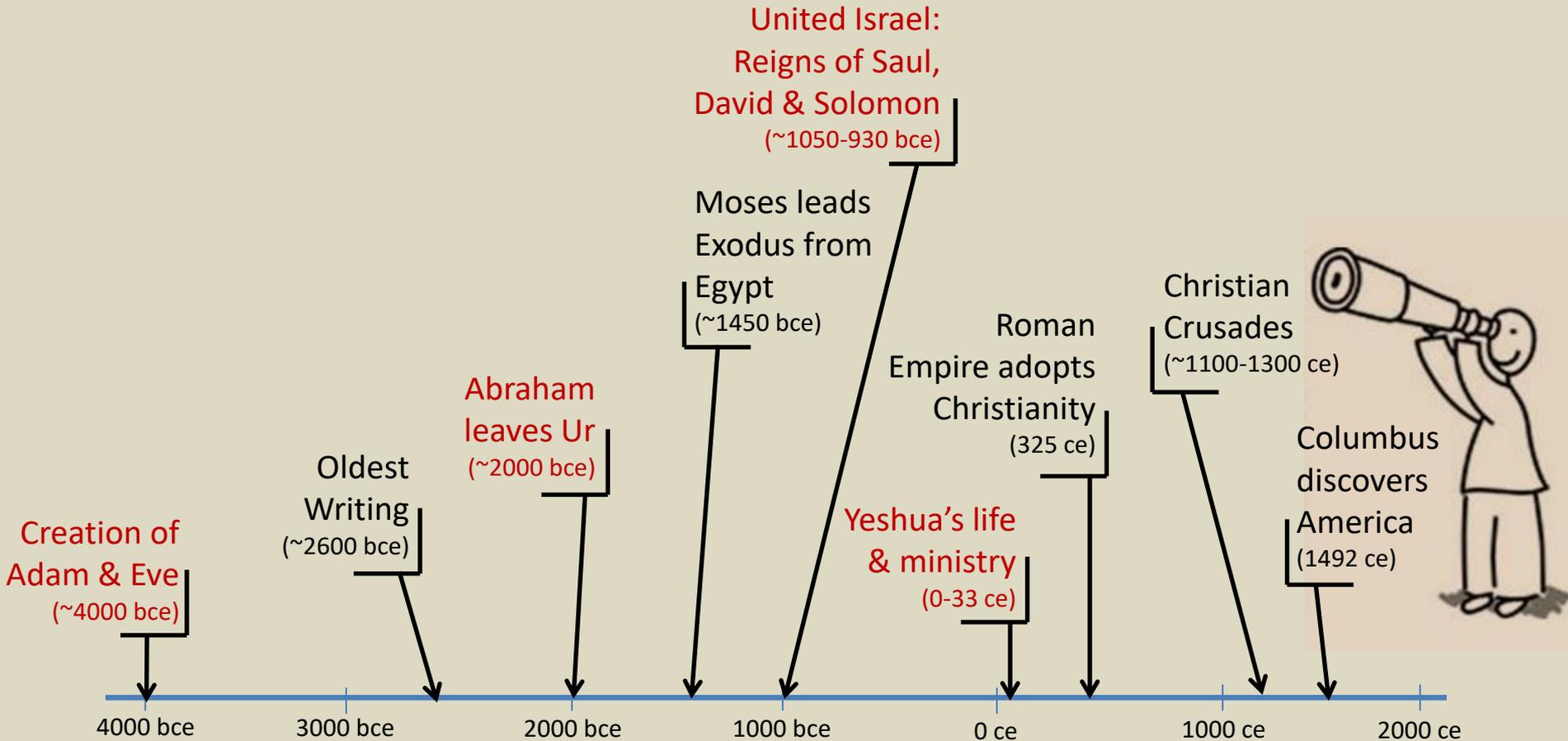


- Look at our beliefs through the lens of history
- Try to determine what God is doing with mankind and specifically, His people
- Try to see what's coming in the future

- Determine how we should live our lives based on what we learn

Recorded History

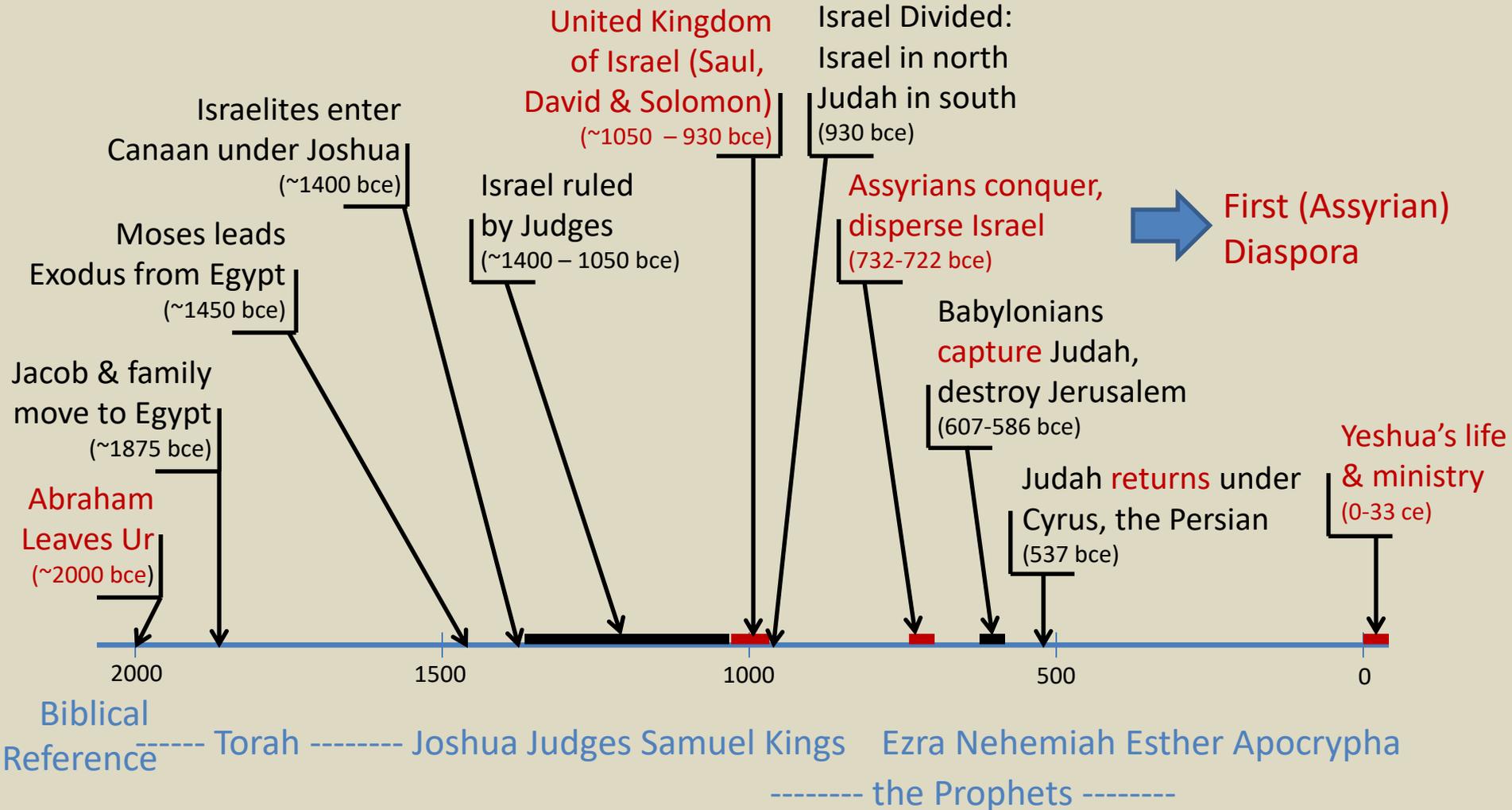
(**bce** - before the Common Era **ce** - Common Era)
(**BC** - Before Christ **AD** – Anno Domini: year of our Lord)



Israel's Recorded History

(Before the Common Era – bce)

Dominant Civilization: Egypt ? Israel Assyria Babylonia Persia Greece Rome



The First (Assyrian) Diaspora



- Cruelty of Assyrians
- Divided conquered peoples into small groups and forced them to relocate to remote regions of Assyrian Empire
- Northern Israelites lost their ethnic identity – they never returned
- Brought people from remote regions to settle conquered territory (led to Samaritans)
- God warned the Israelites **several times** of this possibility
 - “you will **perish** among the nations” Lev. 26:38, Deut. 28:64
 - The prophets: Isaiah, Amos, Micah, and others
 - The names of Hosea’s children:
 - Jezreel – God scatters or sows, as seeds
 - Lo-Ruhamah – not loved
 - Lo-Ammi – not my people

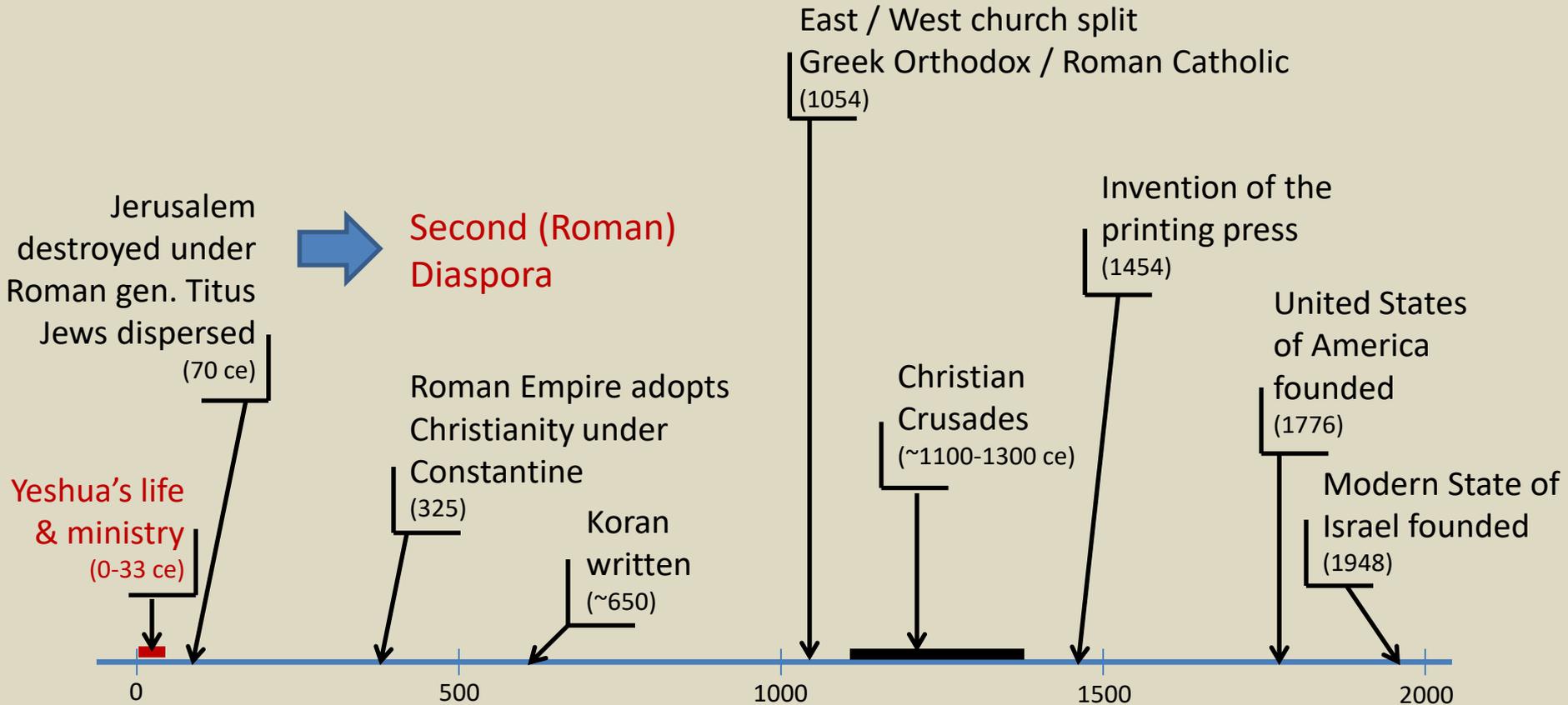
The Babylonian Captivity



- Babylonians valued Hebrew talent and expertise
 - Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego served in Nebuchadnezzar's court
- Conquered peoples were transferred “en masse” to Babylon
 - Allowed to settle in large groups and continue to practice their social and religious customs
- After 70 years, Judahites were allowed to return to Judah under the Persians
 - Many Jews were comfortable in their new homes and did not return
 - Some Jews migrated to Moab, Ammon, and Edom (today's Jordan) as well as Egypt and did not return to their original homeland
- These are the forefather's of today's Jews

Israel's Recorded History

(the Common Era – ce)



What Yeshua Accomplished on Earth

- Willingly gave himself as the required sacrifice to atone for the sins of humanity, thus saving those who believe in Him from the eternal consequences of their sin
- Acted as the “Living *Torah*,” providing a demonstration of how to live according to *Torah*
- Encouraged people to repent (*teshuvah*) and to return to the true worship of God and obedience to His Covenant, the *Torah*
- Corrected religious leadership for replacing the Word of God (*Torah*) with “traditions of man”
- Sent the Holy Spirit (*Ruach HaChodesh*) as the promised “Helper” to guide believers



Yeshua did NOT come to start a NEW religion, but to show how to correctly practice an OLD one

The Problem with the term “Jews”

- The term “Jews” comes from the word Judah and refers to:
 - Descendants of the inhabitants of the ancient kingdom of Judah
 - Descendants of the tribe of Judah
- The non-Jewish part of Israel is called:
 - House of Israel (referring to the ancient northern kingdom of Israel)
 - House of Ephraim (referring to the leading tribe in the northern kingdom)
 - Sons of Joseph (referring to descendants of Joseph’s sons, Ephraim & Manasseh)
- While it is true that all Jews are Israelites, it is NOT true that all Israelites are Jews
- Believers in *Yeshua* are Israelites, either by:
 - Heritage as descendants of the northern kingdom of Israel (Eph. 2 or Romans 11)
 - By adoption (Ruth, Rahab, etc.)
- The nation of Israel is composed of BOTH the Jews (House of Judah) AND the non-Jews “who keep God’s commands [*Torah*] and hold fast their testimony about *Yeshua*” (Revelation 12:17)



He is gathering His people from all the nations where He has scattered them to bring them back to the land He promised their forefathers:

- The house of Judah
- The house of Ephraim
- All others who accept the *Torah* and Messiah *Yeshua*

God told us that this was His plan many times in His Word:

- Deuteronomy 30:1-6
- Ephesians 2:19-22
- Ezekiel 11:14-21, 37:1-28
- many others

Deuteronomy 30:1-6

When all these blessings and curses I have set before you come on you and you take them to heart wherever יהוה your God disperses you among the nations, ² and when you and your children return to יהוה your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today, ³ then יהוה your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and **gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you.** ⁴ Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, from there יהוה your God will gather you and bring you back.⁵ **He will bring you to the land that belonged to your ancestors, and you will take possession of it.** He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your ancestors. ⁶ יהוה your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.

What must happen

- The Jewish people must come to realize:
 - *Yeshua* was and is the prophesied Messiah and the Living *Torah*
 - They have non-Jewish brothers dispersed throughout the world
- The believers in *Yeshua* dispersed within the nations must come to realize:
 - The importance of *Torah* and the errors in church doctrine
 - The relationship they have with their brothers, Judah
- For each individual, there must be repentance and a reawakening of the longing for the mind and heart of God



God MUST and WILL make this happen

Ten Assurances that our Faith is based on Truth and that we are near the Time of the End

- 1 The existence of the Jews today
- 2 The existence and pervasiveness of the Bible
- 3 The existence of the modern nation of Israel
- 4 The use of Hebrew as a modern spoken language
- 5 The end of God's "Creation Week" (6 "days" => 6000 yrs)
- 6 The witnesses in the Heavens (the "End of the Age")
- 7 The increase of evil in the world today
- 8 Prophecy of Daniel 12:4 ("[In the time of the end,] many will go here and there and knowledge will increase.")
- 9 The "Torah Awakening" among believers today
- 10 The witness of the Holy Spirit within our own hearts

A Suitable Prayer for our Future

Help me, **יהוה**, to be content to trust in You, not expecting to receive anything in return...even if I never again see another "sign" that You are with me...or a "sign" of *Yeshua's* soon return. While I am in this present generation of evil... of degeneracy... of perversity, help me to stand my post, to watch and to wait for Your return, always actively doing my small part in helping to bring everything to pass... doing all that I have been called to do, according to Your word and according to Your will, always trusting in You.