

# Entering the World of the Old Testament: Reading Scripture with Ancient Eyes

How Context Brings Scripture to Life on a Journey Through the  
World Behind the Text



# Hearts Burning Within

A Deep Dive into the Sunday Scripture Readings

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Did not our hearts burn within us while  
He talked with us on The Way and  
while He opened to us the Scriptures?  
Luke 24:32

Two disciples walking along.

They were running away. Away from Jerusalem and all that had happened.

Their hopes were shattered.



“ we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel

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**What Does It Mean to Read with “Ancient Eyes”?**

# What Does It Mean to Read with “Ancient Eyes”?

1. Identity was collective, not individual
2. Time was cyclical and agricultural, not linear and industrial
3. Social structures were hierarchical and patriarchal



# Central Themes

1

Reconciliation



2

Personal encounter

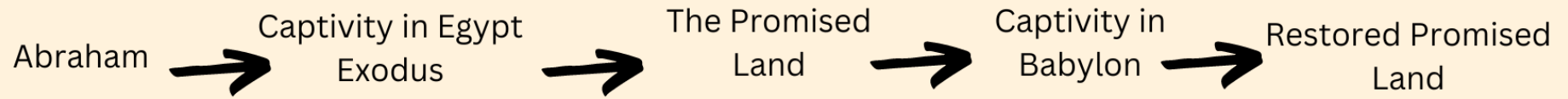


3

Transformation

















Law

History

Poetry & Wisdom

Prophets

**Law** -> identity as a covenant people

**History** -> how the covenant is lived out

**Poetry & Wisdom** -> finding God in human experience

**Prophets** -> covenant accountability

## **Who is God?**

**Law** -> covenant-maker, teacher

**History** -> faithful through human messiness

**Poetry** -> found in the human experience, source of understanding

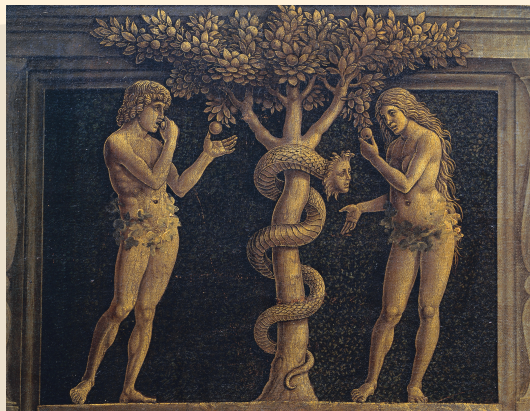
**Prophets** -> just, merciful, and passionately involved



**Law (Torah, Pentateuch)**

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy



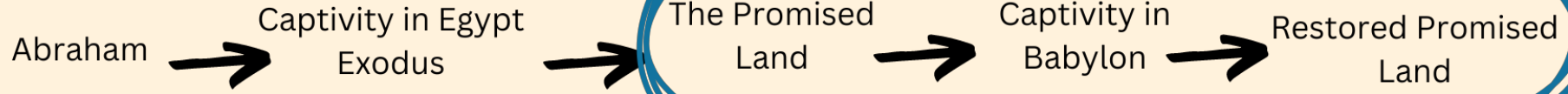


# The Exodus From Egypt

4000 B.C.E.      2000 B.C.E.      B.C.E. / C.E.      2000 C.E.

GREAT SEA,  
SEA OF THE PHILISTINES





## History

Joshua

Judges

Ruth

1, 2 Samuel

1, 2 Kings

1, 2 Chronicles

Ezra

Nehemiah

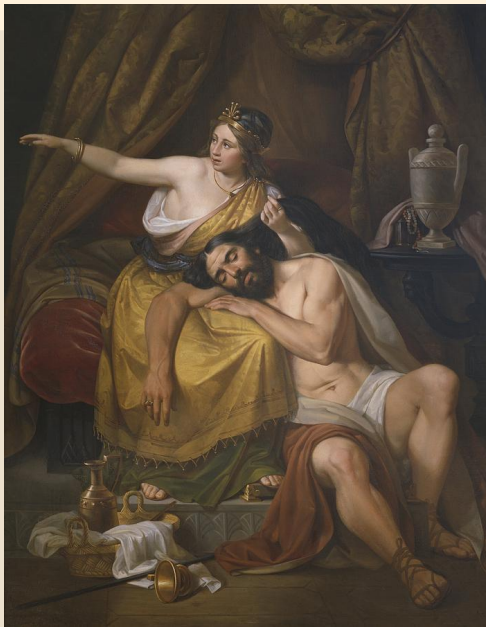
Tobit

Judith

Esther

1,2 Maccabees









# Poetry & Wisdom

Job

Psalms

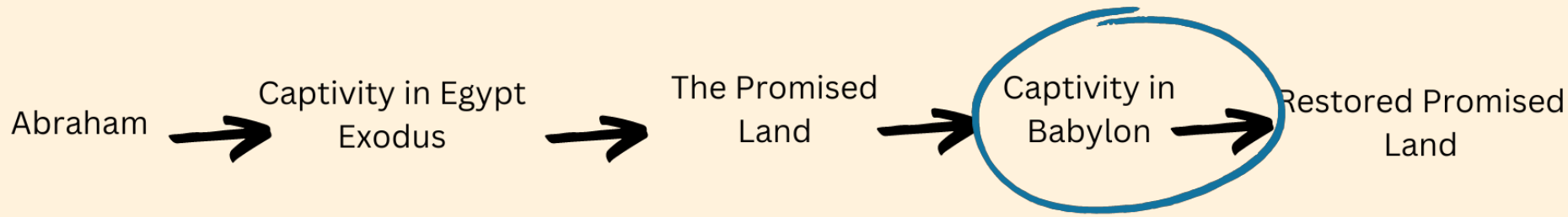
Proverbs

Ecclesiastes

Song of Solomon (Song of Songs)

Wisdom (of Solomon)

Ecclesiasticus (“Wisdom of Ben Sirach”, Sirach)



## Major Prophets

Isaiah

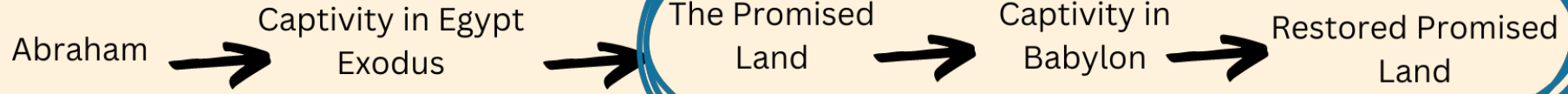
Jeremiah

Lamentations

Baruch

Ezekiel

Daniel



## Minor Prophets

Hosea

Joel

Amos

Obadiah

Jonah

Micah

Nahum

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi

# Key tools

1

## timeline

Understand where a particular story fits in the overall story timeline.

2

## geography

Where does a story take place and how can the geography of that place help us understand the story?

3

## categories

What category of books does the story fall in and how can that help us understand the story?

4

## who is God?

What does the story tell us about who God is and how God acts?

