



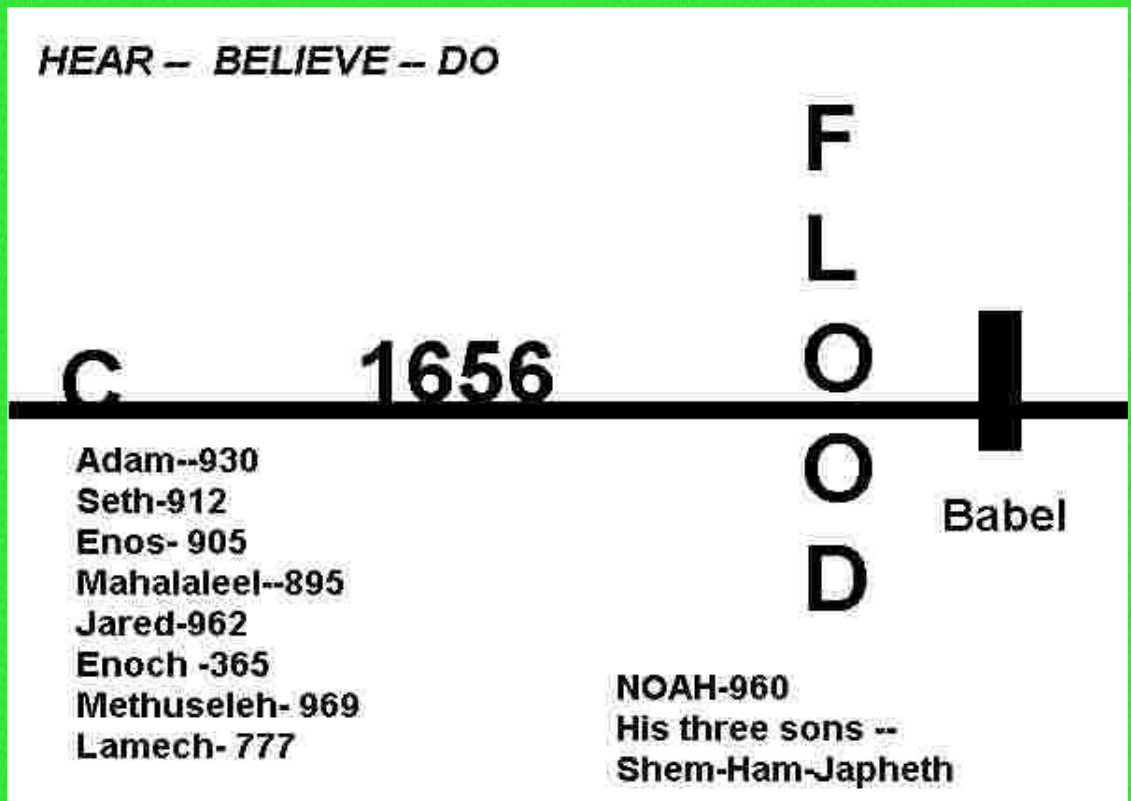
**Hi, This is a short
timeline study
between man and His
God beginning at the
creation account.**

Hello and Welcome to our study on the scriptures as we examine the relationship between man and His God. This book is designed to suit your time and your needs in studying the scriptures.

Here, our goal is simply to examine the texts seeking to hear, to believe and to do those things--whatever they are--that God wants man to do.

We have divided the timeline between man and His God into several small sections--so you will be able to work at your own pace and time.

Now, let's look together at the first time line.



IN THE BEGINNING **IN THE BEGINNING**

Oh, yes, we need to start in the beginning of the relationship between God and man. That means we have to begin where?

In the Garden, the Garden of Eden. It all begins here with Man, with God and with our enemy, our opponent, our adversary, the Devil.

To begin with we Have God, the creator of everything. Have you thought about this? When you stand outside on a starry summer night--God made all of this that you see for man--for us.

After the Garden is prepared God first forms Adam out of the dust of the ground--and, later Eve. Even here, the opportunity to leave God is given--Eat of everything in the garden save one.

Then along comes our enemy in the form of a serpent and what happened then still happens to us as men today. Why?

Because our enemy is really good at devouring human souls in hells fire and keeping that from them until it is far too late to change anything.

Well, If you know the story, What did Satan do? It sure does not seem like much--after all God has said,
"Thou shalt surely die!"

Satan didn't do much, at least at the time it didn't seem like it.

First, you can become like God--yes, you can, knowing good from evil.

That is true enough but Satan knew what else would happen to man and kept silent..

Second, Satan did it then and Satan does it now--He changed the word of God and told Adam and Eve

"God said that shalt surely NOT DIE!"

As a result of listening to Satan, they ate of the forbidden fruit and died--they became separated from God by their sin....just as men still are today.

God cast them out of the Garden and put angels over the garden to keep man out. WHY?

Because Adam and Eve disobeyed God. All that God had ever asked of them was to Hear Him, Believe Him and Do what He asked.

They didn't and they became spiritually separated from God because of the sin.

As an aside, have you realized that when you read the bible Satan is not present in the first two chapters or the last two chapters???

Our Next unpleasant encounter between man and Satan that is worth noting on the time line are two guys very very much like us. We need to look at it because it was\is so effective that Satan still uses it on man today. And, that means you and me..

Cain and Abel

So, Let's look at the situation by asking ourselves this question. What happened between God and Cain? What was the situation that caused Cain to go out in anger and kill his brother, Abel?

Doesn't it all begin when both men go to the altar to offer their sacrifices to God? We still remember how simple things are supposed to be -- To Hear, To Believe and then To Do..

Ok--We know that there was a real problem in the sacrifices each brother offered --Abel's was acceptable and Cain's was rejected. Why?

Does this mean that somehow Able loved God more than Cain? That would be hard to believe, wouldn't it since both men come to God to offer their sacrifices.

Does the differences in "sacrifices" mean that Cain quit loving God while Able continued to Love God? That is also hard to believe.

Dear Friend--I do not believe that you love God less than I Do and I cannot believe that these two men did not love God.

Sure, some things about this story is more than a little on the muddy side--that is, hard to see and hard to understand. However we do have some clues that help us get to the heart of the problem.

First hurdle is what exactly did God require as a sacrifice? We are not told. The key to understanding lies in a couple of facts:

[1] Both men prior to this time had been offering sacrifices to God and both men knew what God said was acceptable.

[2] Since Abel's sacrifice was acceptable--and Abel tended to animals--we can come close in assuming that the sacrifices God wanted was animal.

[3] I know, I said a couple--but we would be remiss if we did not mention that Cain was a person who is what we would call a farmer--He tended the ground and grew food.

Now, I don't know about you but there are some things about this story that just scare me more than a little.

Yes, it does seem that Cain decided to "change the offering" and, the really scary part is that I could be just as tempted to do the same thing. Evidently Cain did offer as a sacrifice--the best Cain had made with his own hands--And, friend, are we not tempted to do that even today in our lives?****

Perhaps this is why God gives us this story--to help us remember that all that God wants is for man to hear Him, to Believe Him, and, to Do what He asks.

The Consequences for Cain because he chose to "do it differently--but with the best possible motive--" is not acceptable to God--Thus Cain was angered when God rejected his offerings at the altar.

Abel then, may well have been tempted to do as Cain did in his offering--we don't know--but we do know that the choice Abel made was "well-pleasing to God".

That is God accepted Abel's sacrifice because Abel had heard God, had believed God and did what God asked. Please think about this--isn't this the only difference we can find in the story of these two brothers?

In the continuing passing of time beyond the Garden man just could not seem to care much about staying in a "righteous" [good] relationship with God--hearing, believing, doing.

To see man under the yoke, power and bondage of Satan was not good -- Evil began to Abound--WICKEDNESS SOON BEGAN TO BE THE NORM!!

You know, think for a second about the things you and I prize in our lives today--Things like JUSTICE -- MERCY -- and LOVE just disappeared.

The Flood

Please scroll back up to the time line and look to see just how long man was living during this time

When you look at the time line--did you notice that Noah lived to be about 950 yrs Old? Remember the Land where Noah and the world was in at that time? It just did not rain every day or every year. I mention this because I don't know about you but I have often wondered at the events transpiring at the same time.

Think about it. On the one hand, we have a righteous man{man who heard God, believed God and Did what God asked} who begins to preach and teach the end of the world.

Further Noah followed God's instructions and began to build the ark--IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT!

As He and his family continue to build the ark--His neighbors must of thought Noah was a little strange -- by their standards..

But friend, isn't that the difference--**Noah measured by the Word of God{orally given}** and the **friends and neighbors-they measured by what they knew and what they wanted.**

I have often wondered if any of Noah's neighbors had any second or third thoughts--when Noah began loading the animals into the ark.

Remember Noah's age--He knows how little it has actually rained in his lifetime--Yet see how he has believed God.

God said to Noah--I am going to destroy the World because it is so wicked. Noah believed God--Noah then built the ark--loaded all the animals and his family and sealed the Ark.

Well, it began to rain and the rest is history. One good thing that comes out of this is the rainbow. God promised to never destroy the world with water and gave us the Rainbow as a result of that promise.

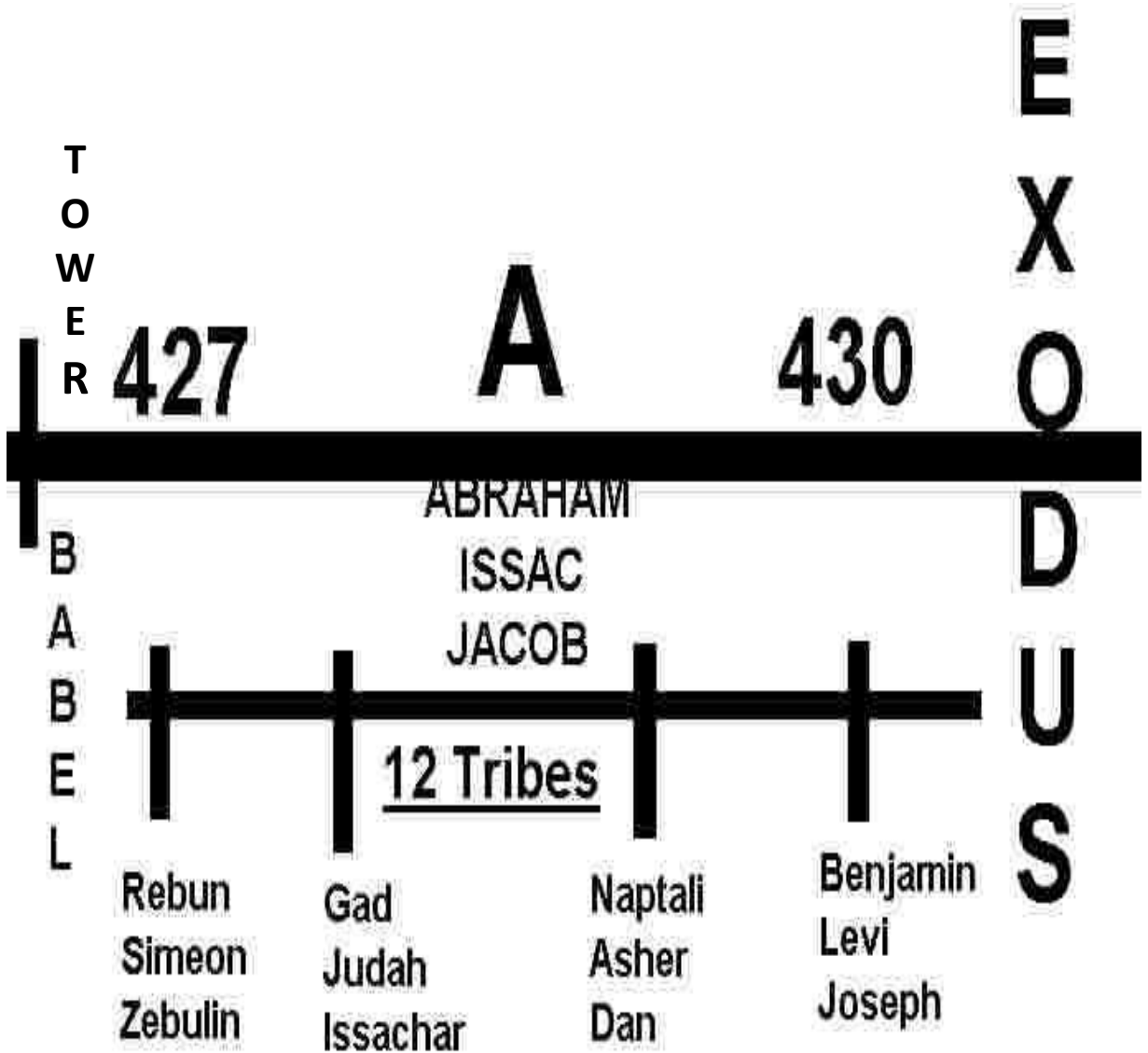
Well, Noah was rewarded with life for himself and his family and everyone else perished. This is really a problem that man still has today--deciding on whether or not to hear God, to believe God and to do as God has asked.

Today, we tend to make our own decisions here and we do--past history tells us that we lose big time when we make that choice. Not many years later- we come to the end of this portion of the time line. Man again chooses to ignore God and begins to build the Tower of Babel.

Since they didn't listen to God...the natural consequence this time was all those languages--cooperation went out the window and man began to move out over the whole earth.

I find it sad than man never ever seems to want to profit from past mistakes. So we just keep repeating them with the same consequences..

We are still traveling through time just past the tower of Babel to the time of the Exodus of Israel from Egypt.
Please note the time line below:



Just nine generations after the flood, Abraham and his son, Isaac enters into the picture.

Again, what has happened between man and God? For the most **part man is not Hearing, man is not believing and thus man is not doing what God wants for them to do.** By this time, this seems to be a repeatable pattern in the history of man.

And, when you stop and think about what is happening in our world today--we still have the same problems and we still desperately need folks like Abraham and His son, Isaac to walk on the face of this earth with us--hearing God, believing God and Doing what God wants done.

Abraham was married to a most beautiful woman and while following God's instruction to move--He found it necessary to lie about himself and his wife for fear he would be killed and his wife taken by one of the kings.

God stepped in and corrected that situation and they make it to where they are supposed to be going. But it is not over yet. They Abraham and Sarah are growing old and they do not have any children.

I know that there are times in our lives when like Abraham and **Sarah—doubt the Word of God-just as we have a tendency to do even today.**

But even so they were folks who heard God, believed God and did what God wanted. Abraham has already demonstrated that by picking up the family and moving--moving a long ways.

Each of us needs to desire the character of Abraham--even when we make mistakes.

God had made Abraham a promise and renewed that promise several times--that He would have a child.

Finally, after Sarah was past the child bearing age, God sent three men to Abraham in the plains of Mamre. They had good news. They were going to have a son. You know Sarah heard that and laughed--she saw things from a purely human perspective--she was past the child bearing age. However, that changed and within the year she bore Abraham a son.

The name of that son was Isaac. This young man is going to have a very interesting life--especially his sons. When Isaac was wanting to get married--again, Abraham wanting to please God sent a servant back to His own people to find his son a wife.

The servant found a young woman by the name of Rebecca. Like Sarah, Rebecca was childless for a long time and that makes for another interesting story in and of itself.

Now, we have twin sons born by Rebecca--and folks nothing is ever going to be the same ever again.

We read about Jacob and Esau and how Jacob managed to take the birthright away from Esau and Jacob with the help of his mother, tricked Jacob into giving Jacob the blessing.

God has told us that the descendants of these two men would never never be at peace with one another. That they would fight, fuss and feud until the world comes to an end.

Have you looked at your Tv lately? Have you read your daily paper? God's statement about those descendants is still keeping the rest of the world in turmoil.

Killing on both sides takes place almost on a daily basis. It all starts here, way back here in man's relationship with God.

The next person to step forward in our discussion is probably one of the best known men in the Bible..

Joseph's Early Life

Here is a brief update on the family. Jacob is one of Isaac's twin sons--the one who stole the blessing. He has twelve sons. The son of our timeline is one of the better known men of the Bible. His name is Joseph. Joseph was the firstborn of Jacob's wife, Rachel and was born after his father was in old age. Evidently in the first 17 years of Joseph's life was spent in learning and believing in God and trusting God. He is going to need all of this as his brothers are extremely jealous{does Cain and Abel spring to mind} and they sell him into slavery and then lie to his dad about his fate.

For the next 22 years or so--Joseph will not see his father and his father will believe that Joseph is dead.

As a slave Joseph was sold to Potiphar, Captain of the guard. We can see God working with Joseph. He is soon placed over all the financial affairs of Potiphar which carried with it a lot of prestige.

Things change when Potiphar's wife wants Joseph to go to bed with her. When that just does not work out she tells her husband that Joseph attacked her and he ends up in prison.

Do you know that in order to overcome all this temptation--we see that Joseph **was a man who heard God, believed God and did what God wanted done.**

Joseph would not betray the trust Potiphar had given to him--would not sleep with his wife and that costs him.

Joseph does not give up on God--Look at what happens in the prison--Joseph is soon placed in charge of all the other prisoners and God gives Joseph the power to understand dreams. This is going to eventually get Joseph out of prison and He becomes the second most powerful man in Egypt-but not just yet.

Joseph interprets the dreams of the Pharaoh's butler and baker and Joseph's interpretation of both dreams came true.

Two years later Pharaoh had a dream and no one could understand nor interpret it. Finally, the butler remembered how Joseph had helped him with his dream two years ago.

This is the story of the early part of Joseph's life and God walked with Joseph because Joseph trusted God in all things.

One of the greatest gifts you can give to your children if you are newly married is the gift Joseph's parents gave him--17 years of learning to know and to love and to trust God.

However, many of us are deprived of this due to circumstances beyond our control--but as new parents you can correct the error.

All God wanted from Joseph's parents is what he wants from each of us.

Hear - Believe - Do
Hear - Believe - Do

One of the great lessons that Joseph teaches us with this later part of his life--is that while he has the power to effect revenge upon his brothers--He chooses not to and instead extends mercy and grace to them.

Have you noticed that in our society today--that is not the norm, this is not what we see via the movies now, is it?

If we are wronged we are going to get even. Yet if Joseph had done this--He would not have heard God, believed God and done as God asks.

Joseph trusts God in one other matter. Joseph lives to be 110 and knowing that one day his people would some day return to the promised land--Joseph directed that his body be preserved and carried back with the people.

Moses -Early Life

Many years after the death of Joseph, a ruler came to the throne of Egypt who began to persecute the people--Joseph's family and their descendants along with his brothers make up what is one day going to be the Jewish nation--but we are getting ahead of our timeline.

Our next character in this time line and the one man who will lead God's people out of Egypt but not into the promised land is Moses.

Things were pretty tough on Jewish babies when Moses was born--The wicked King had ordered that all male children should be thrown in to the Nile river at birth.

After the birth of Moses--his mother prepared a basket and set it adrift in the river with older sister sortof tagging along the bank.

Pharaoh's daughter found Moses and takes to him and decides to rear him in the royal palace.

Due to the providence of God the princess allowed Moses' sister to select a Hebrew nurse for the child.

What a story! What a God! Moses' nurse was his mother and she told him that he was one of God's chosen people.

When Moses was forty--His anguish at the treatment of God's people becomes too much and He strikes and Egyptian slave driver and kills him.

Fearing for his life--Moses flees into the land of Midian where he shepherds sheep for forty years.

The many and varied challenges of living and working in the wilderness prepared Moses for the greatest task of his life, leading God's people out of slavery. By the way as we study this man we learn that He was not willing at first to serve God in this manner but God overcomes all his objections and He does God's will in this matter.

With his brother Aaron--they appear before the wicked king of Egypt and we have the ten plagues and at the end of the tenth plague--The wicked king let's God's people Go.

At the beginning of our next timeline, we will begin with the Exodus.

Well, here we are starting the third part of our time line between man and His God. We left off with God's people leaving Egypt as a result of the ten plagues.

Now, we start with the trials and tribulations of God's people as they learn how to struggle with Hearing God, Believing God and then Doing as God has asked.

Friend you and I can benefit from a study of these people as they struggled much as we can and do today in having a good relationship with God...

We will end this session by looking at the first three Kings of Israel. Saul was chosen by God to be the first King--but you know it went to his head and He lost his Kingdom for his family and he lost his relationship with God..

He loved what He was doing more than doing what God wanted. How many times have we found ourselves in that very situation??

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Ok--life gets really confusing. The people start out just as happy as they can be--and, rightly so. They are escaping over 400 years of slavery to the nation of Egypt.

It does not take long--they start looking back over their shoulder because that ole King decides that enough is enough.

He leads his army out against Israel. Many of the movies we have seen make this pretty realistic like--being afraid they forgot to trust God but God does not turn His back on them. Nope--He comes to their rescue with the incident of the Red Sea.

Well, having been freed from slavery, been rescued from the Evil King and nation--things still are not going to go well for God's people.

They are upset and murmur and complain against God. Man, they have a lot of problems to overcome and they are doing poorly at it.

In several different incidences some of them are lost because of "doing their own thing" something that God does not seem to have any tolerance for at all.

Do you suppose that God is pleased with us when we decide that it is A-ok to do our own thing when worshipping and serving Him?

From reading this I have some doubts and God is going to deal very severely with His people--at about the two year mark in the wilderness.

They arrive at the banks of the Jordon River and they send 12 spies out to search the land.

Two of those men are named Joshua and Caleb. When all the spies came back--Here is sort of how it went..

10 spies--Man, there are some really big big people over there. We cannot defeat them. They will destroy us and we will be lost.

2 spies--Come on--Let's go get these guys. The land is flowing with milk and Honey and it is everything God said it is.. With God's Help we can easily take this land.

The People seem to forget who has been taking care of them and feeding them. They choose not to Hear God, to Believe God and to Do as God as asked--Go and take the land.

Folks, without trying to scare anyone--the penalty God gives these folks for not doing is extremely severe.

God said--Not one of you guys 20 years old or older will never see the promised land. Only Joshua and Caleb will see it.

God kicks them back out into the wilderness for another 38 years and they walk and walk until all those guys 20 yrs or older are dead and buried.

Then they find themselves back at the Jordon River.

Gotta Trust God Gotta Trust God

What we have to understand is the lesson that these folks learned the hard way--**THERE ARE NO UNBELIEVERS THIS TIME AROUND!**

Please keep this thought firmly in mind for we are in a few minutes going to run into a person who forgets this.

Now, these people have heard God, they Believe God and they are going to do as God has ordered. They march seven days around that fortified city--with no weapons of war and the walls come tumbling down. Thus the city of Jericho falls to the Israelites.

Oh! God says to His people **DESTROY EVERYTHING KEEP NOTHING!**

A few days later facing a much smaller city the Israelites set out to conquer the city of Ai.

Man they fought all day long and **LOST**. That was unthinkable. They lost and that is one very upset group of folks, let me tell you.

Wouldn't we be upset if we had been there--trusting and believing in God--AND , WE LOSE!!

Well, Joshua is fit to be tied and rightly so..But as he tears his clothes and falls on the ground to ask God why--You know I bet his blood ran cold when he was told that Someone had kept some of the devoted things--**THEY WERE NO LONGER GOD'S PEOPLE AND HE WAS NOT THEIR GOD till they get this worked out.**

Serious stuff. Because one person kept some of the devoted things--the whole nation suffers. By the way, the guys name was Achan.

He must of spent a most miserable night, or perhaps not feeling safe and secure that no one had seen him take the devoted things.

By the way he had to dig up his living room floor to bury the loot and the morning comes early. They are all up and they walk pass Joshua one tribe and one clan at at time till they come to Achan.

God says--That's the one. And, he admitted that he had done this thing and they went and dug up the stuff he kept and did not destroy.

And, what happens next is sobering. They took this man, his wife and his family--stood them by themselves and picked up the stones off the ground and stoned the whole family to death.

They did not stop there. They took down his home{tent} and took all their earthly possessions and put them on the bodies and burned the whole thing.

How many of us realize the cost when we make the decision not to hear God, to believe God and then to do as God has asked.

The Whole family perished because of one person. This is something to certainly reflect upon as we Study God's Word and the time line between man and His God.

One of the more important pieces of relationship takes place during this time period. God, after some adjustments give the People of Israel a new Covenant. We often address that covenant as the giving of the ten commandments since that is what is written on the Stone.

In reality God gave them lots of laws that were of benefit for them and helped them if they would keep them and do them.

You can read about most of this in the first five books of the bible and you can read of the giving of the law in Deut.

Here Come the Judges

The people go on to take this land as God has promised them and they were in the land and ruled by "judges" for about 460 years.

One important thing to note--is that the people of God were continually forgetting what God had done for them. When a judge would rise up to help and God would help things were great for a generation-generation and a half. Then the people would once again "do their own thing". Just read the last verse in the last chapter of the book of Judges.

And isn't it hard for us today not to do likewise?

The logo for 'The Kings' is displayed in a stylized, blue, 3D font with a white outline and a slight shadow. The word 'The' is smaller and positioned above 'Kings'. The entire logo is centered within a white rectangular area that has rounded corners and is surrounded by a thick green border.

Oh the people were unhappy. They had problems with God and finally they began to ask God to give them a King. Now, if we remember, with God at the helm, one does not need a king.

But they kept asking and God gave them a King. And Saul started off on the right foot. But as time went on in his relationship with God-He begins to do things that He wants to do.

There are a couple of things that are outstanding--that we should remember in this timeline.

[1] He lacked the faith due to his actions in his life up to that point to go out and trust God to be with him to kill the giant. And, that giant was not a little fellow either.

[2] This incident introduces us to the Next King of Israel, King David.

Toward the end of his relationship with God--the Spirit of God left Saul--and it was notable to those around him that God had indeed left him.

Saul and his son die in battle and David becomes King.. And, while David was a man after God's own heart--and, he was.

David was also a fallible human being who made a ton of mistakes-he committed adultery, he committed murder to cover it up.

And yet, the one thing that can give us hope today as we search for our relationship with God is King David.

Every time David messed up--never it seems a little one--David always made the necessary course corrections to come back to God.

However, His sins were not without consequences. One son rapes a daughter and he does nothing. Another son plots and kills the rapist--another plots to take his kingdom from him and ends up dying.

As one who learns to hear God, to believe God and to do as God has asked--I am continually reminded of David and that He made it.

With all the pain and heartache he causes himself that all begins with the sin of adultery--He can still hear God, believe in God and do what God says to do.

Since God has put David in the timeline surely we can expect God to treat us at least as well as King David. **All we have to do is Hear God, Believe God and Do what God has asked.**

As David's life comes to an end there is some contest about who will replace him.

When all the smoke clears--we have our third King of Israel. God was so pleased with him that God gave him the ability to be smarter than anyone else has ever been.

Wisdom would be the more proper term. And, in the beginning, Solomon had "no Satans" That is no one to oppose him.

Later in his life two kings against Solomon and Solomon is remembered for his wisdom. And, with the death of Solomon we are going to see the Kingdom divided.

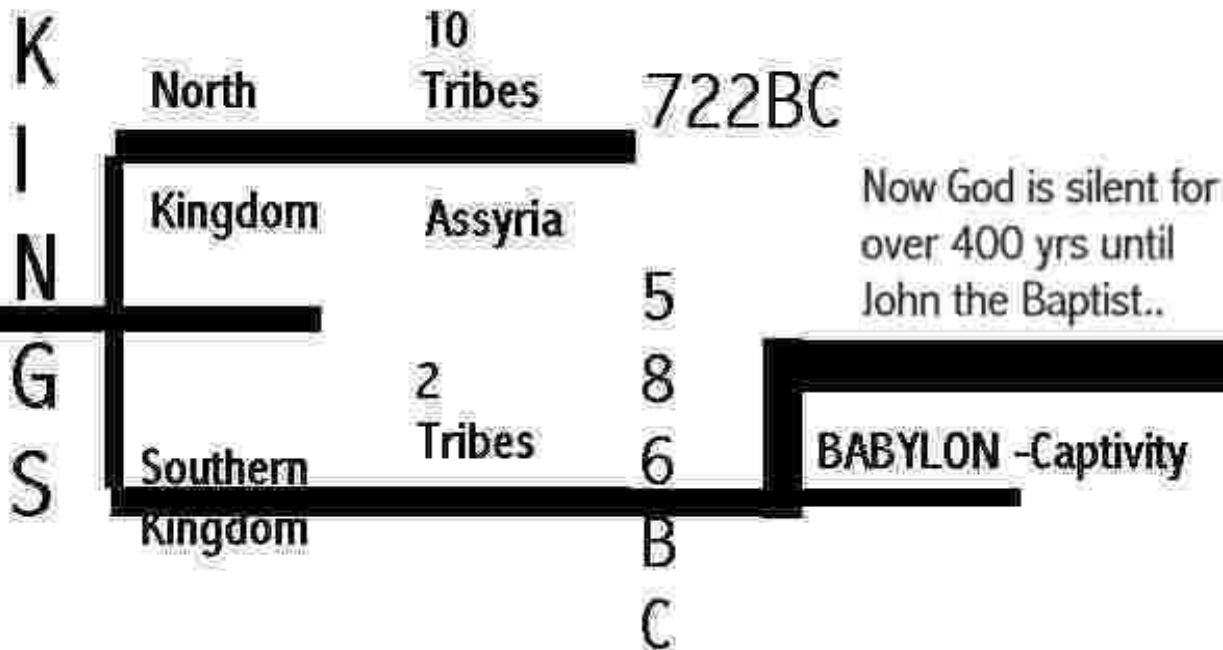
Divided Kingdom

Our fourth time line then will pick up the relationship between man and His God shortly after the Death of the third King of Israel, King Solomon.

This is our fourth time line and it concerns itself with the Kings--King Solomon and then life with the prophets of God.

God's people are taken into captivity and the Southern Kingdom was in Captivity for 70 years and then a remnant was allowed to return and to rebuild the city.

This time line does not end where your Bible has as the OT the last Book of the OT. Jesus Christ will be in our next time line. He, and one John the Baptist are the last prophets of God to the nation of Israel. Enjoy the study.



King Solomon was the son of the Warrior King, King David and since he was the warrior, God would not allow David to rebuild the Temple.

However, it seems that David "gathered all the necessary stuff" for his son to build it. --I suppose King Solomon is best known for having a really interesting life and life experiences and he sums it all us thusly "The whole duty of man is to fear God and keep HIS COMMANDMENTS.

I wonder if all those wives helped him to come to that conclusion. However , fearing God and keeping His commandments is familiar to us by this time.

With his death alas, bad things begin to happen to God's people.

Divided Kingdom

We are living in the first part of the 21st century and at the end of the year 2012 we have just two men wanting the highest office of the land. It is not hard to understand when we pick the time line up here.

Power always seems to carry a price.

Solomon's son Rehoboam, through his arrogance and tyranny--caused the division of God's people. The Northern Kingdom comes about as a result of this man and his lust for power. The folks rebel and select another King Jeroboam as their ruler.

To further the division Jeroboam built two altars in the Northern Kingdom one at Dan and the other at Bethel and put golden calves in the altars.

Both of these kingdoms remained in sin and in idolatry until God allows them to be taken captive by their enemies.. Please go back and look at the time line for the dates.

The Prophets--The Prophets

As you read the last 17 books of the bible--God gives us valuable information concerning the Prophets. These were men that God inspired and sent to His people to call them back to God. Here is the essential message of these men.

Hear - Believe - Do
Hear - Believe - Do

These men also spoke to the people about the Messiah that God would send and redeem them. One of the greatest of these prophets was Isaiah.

He lived about 745-755 years prior to Jesus leaving Heaven and descending to earth as a human being.

His message--God would establish a new Kingdom--not just for the Jews but for all peoples. This prophet predicted many things about the Christ and thus is known as the Messianic prophet.

Daniel is another prophet most of us know about--He practiced hearing God, believing God and Doing what God asked and it got him thrown into the Lion's Den.

Daniel's message--God of heaven would set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed.

Later, Jesus referred to the Kingdom of Heaven as the "CHURCH" during His earthly ministry..

Man's relationship with God over time reaches the point where God does not speak to His people for over 400 years.

At the end of this time we are introduced to another Bible character who is the "the forerunner of the Christ" John the Baptist.

John's life illustrates to us that He Heard God, that He believed God and that He did as God requested.

The Holy Spirit speaking through John's father at his birth tells them and us that the purpose of John was to tell and show God's people how to get their sins forgiven.

As John begins his ministry he does so by immersing folks in the Jordon River for the remission of their sins.

Eventually He loses His head for telling the King that he should not have his brother's wife. King was willing to live with that sort of, for he feared John.

The problem was not the king but the king's wife. She is the one who caused John to lose his head.

Wow, if you look at the time line--we have exceeded it somewhat but we needed to know that at the end of this timeline--Jesus Christ is the next player in our time line.

Here we are picking the time line up where the transition period is John the Baptist. Prior to John the Baptist God had been silent for over 400 years. He had not spoken to His people but as His plan for redeeming all mankind moves along--we have John the Baptist.

God's purpose for John the Baptist was not only as the forerunner for Christ but to also give God's people, the Jewish nation knowledge on how to have their sins forgiven.

Remember up to the point of John--they had been using the sacrificial system of offerings.

Now, let's look at the time line--and then we will continue.

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We can now see the importance of John--Listen to to his Father-Ooops did I forget to mention that once again both of John's parents were advanced in age when John was born.

And, since his father had some problems in believing-- God made it so he could not speak until after the baby's birth--Here are the first words by the Holy Spirit--though John's father. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people.....and, thou Child {speaking of John} shall be called the prophet of the Highest; for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of sins.

Wow! after more than 400 years of silence on the part of God--people begin to pay attention. John did this and we can read of this in each of the four gospels.

By the way John is related to Jesus, did you know that? For us living today this is old news but how exciting it must of been to be a Jew and to hear John say--"Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand..... and we also have this--Confessing their Sins, they were Baptized by him in the Jordan River. Remember--for over 400 years nothing, nada, zip from their God.

Baptism means immersion--like the sinking of a ship--you know, totally immersed or like the dyeing of a garment--You have to totally immerse the garment or wow--you get a very strange looking piece of material.

They were doing this to have their sins forgiven and then after his ministry is started, we have JESUS CHRIST:

Jesus His Baptism and Ministry

Ok--we will back up briefly to look at the birth and early life of Jesus Christ. He was born without having a human father, lived a life pretty normal for a Jewish boy until the age of twelve. Then he seems to act like many kids do today--worry mom and dad over a lot of things.

At age 30 Jesus is immersed in water by John the Baptist but not for the remission of sins as John has been preaching to God's People. Jesus was immersed in water to fulfill all righteousness--that is the will of God being accomplished.

Hear - Believe - Do
Hear - Believe - Do

His ministry is going to be about 3 1/2 years and as He begins to preach and teach the kingdom--John the Baptist begins to decline.

Jesus begins to preach and teach the baptism of John to the people and Jesus and his disciples were baptizing many more than John.

By the way, Jesus had a tough audience--the Jewish people with hundreds of years of religious thought and work behind them.

Here is how serious the problem really is for the Jews.. **Luke 7:29**
(All the people, Even the Tax Collectors, when they Heard Jesus'
Words, Acknowledged that God's Way was Right, because they had
been Baptized by John.30 But the Pharisees and Experts in the Law
Rejected God's Purpose for Themselves, because they had not been
Baptized by John.)

Talk about being between a rock and a hard place--the religious leaders were against Jesus for the most part yet the common people and those who knew they needed to make changes in their lives--choose Jesus.

They did so by being immersed in water in order to have their sins forgiven--yet in the very next verse--the religious leaders turned right around and "rejected God's plan for them" by refusing to be immersed.

Hear - Believe - Do
Hear - Believe - Do

Jesus goes on to perform many miracles and to teach a lot of people, some in small groups, one on one and some large gatherings. He even fed over 5,000 with some loaves and some fish. He healed the blind, the lepers and taught God's people about what they should be and were not.

OT Jewish Covenant ends

All of this miracle making and teaching just reached the point where the Jewish leaders could not contain themselves and they conspired to have Jesus put to death. In doing so, at the cross, this brings the Old Covenant that God had made with these people At Mt. Sinai to an end. Jesus fulfilled the law, taking it out of the way, nailing it to the cross.

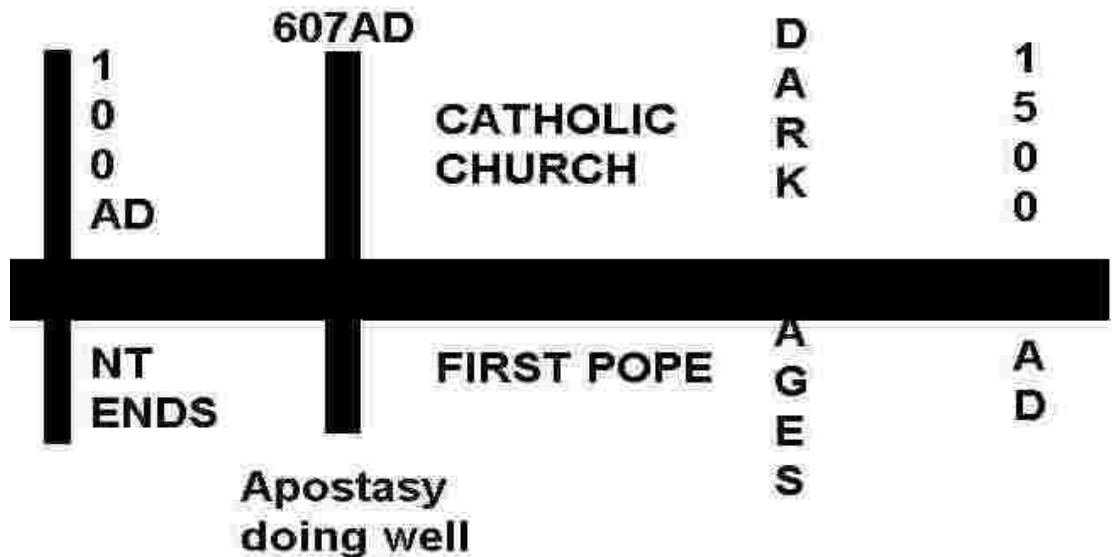
Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, "Surely, he hath borne our grief and carried out sorrows....He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

There is a fifty day period of time from the death to the beginning of the New Covenant. True for the first 8-10 years it was only preached to the Jews but God had foretold that they would forfeit their right and the doors of the Kingdom would be opened to all people during all ages until Christ returns. The Day of Pentecost means "50" and when looking at the time line the days are broken down like this First three days concern the death, burial and resurrection--Assuming then that Acts 1:1-2 comes into play Jesus we are told spent forty days with the Apostles before ascending back into heaven.

The apostles return to Jerusalem to be with the rest of the group--about 120 and they choose another apostle to replace Judas who has betrayed Jesus

The New Covenant The Church

As we move out beyond the day of Pentecost and the establishment of the church--from the book of Acts through the book of Revelation and the death of the last apostle takes us to right around 100AD.



In our earlier examination of our timeline between man and God we became familiar with God's wanting man to Hear, To Believe and To Do.

We see the continual problem that man has with doing this and even today, we all face the same problem

Hear - Believe - Do **Hear - Believe - Do**

What happens on the part of God up to 100AD that helps us know that we can know and find the truth and know it when we find it?

God gave us His Word with Revelations being written toward the end of the century.. we have the completed Word of God.

In this book we have the account of how men were saved--Hearing, Believing and Doing by reading many of the Old Testament men who were able to do this.

The results were notable--those who Heard, Believed and Did lived and those who didn't perished.

**In reviewing the first preached sermon--the Holy Spirit speaking through Peter--tells them and us--
They are accused of being sinners and murderers--and this during the preaching of the sermon--Evidently many of them believed for they asked "what shall we do?"**

The Holy Spirit tells them as believers to have a change of heart , to be immersed in water in the name of Jesus and to have their sins forgiven.

Remember, the audience with Jesus in Luke 7? We have the same problem here--Acts 2:40 (KJS) And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

Just as Jesus has in Luke 7--you got one audiences who make two very different decisions..

Hear - Believe - Do
Hear - Believe - Do

Acts 2:41 (KJS) Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added [unto them] about three thousand souls.

In the book of the New Testament we Find the life and times of Jesus Christ--His life--His ministry and His message first to the Jewish people and by Acts 10--about ten years after Pentecost--the Gentiles were added because the Jews rejected Christ as the Messiah.

With the death of the last apostle--men began to turn to one another and not God for instructions on what to do in given situations.

Paul spent some of his time going back to churches he had established and installing elders--men who had to meet certain qualifications as given in the texts--to help the churches to grow and mature in Christ.

What happens is that these elders begin to select one of them to be in charge and then by geographic area began to send these men to meet together to help make decisions. Then this group began selecting a man to represent them as they enlarged the circle. And, this cycle continues till we have the makings of the Catholic Church.

Remember how the people of God in the Old Testament wanted a King-they didn't need one but wanted one anyway. Well, this is how it ends up at about 607AD.

The Catholic church elects its first pope and like the Jewish leaders of God's time in the Old Testament--the Catholic church decides that they have the power to change, amend or even delete parts of God's Word to fit what they want to teach.

This is not new -not even today. Everyone seems to want to worship God--their way. Again this happened to God's people during the time of the judges--"each man did as he thought right" Wow! It didn't work then and it just doesn't work now.

Sometime after the Catholic church gets rolling--actually by 400AD the Roman Army was fighting for the Catholic church.

They used very simple but effective means of converting the folks they captured. If they did not convert over to the Catholic church, they would put folks in their churches or temple--and then burn it down with the people in it. As time goes on as the timeline implies we go into the dark ages, a time period when things over all just do not go well for mankind.

Yet many many times during plagues--writings reflect Christians ministering and dying along with those with the plagues.

The church makes a determined effort to keep the bible out of the hands of the people. After all, why do folks need the bible --they have the church telling them what it says..

This brings us to the point oh around 1500 ad that we have the beginnings of the reformation movement--that is men in the Catholic church seeking to reform the church.

We will pick up the time line then with the reformation and eventually the restoration of the New Testament Church of Christ.

Remember what God asks of man--

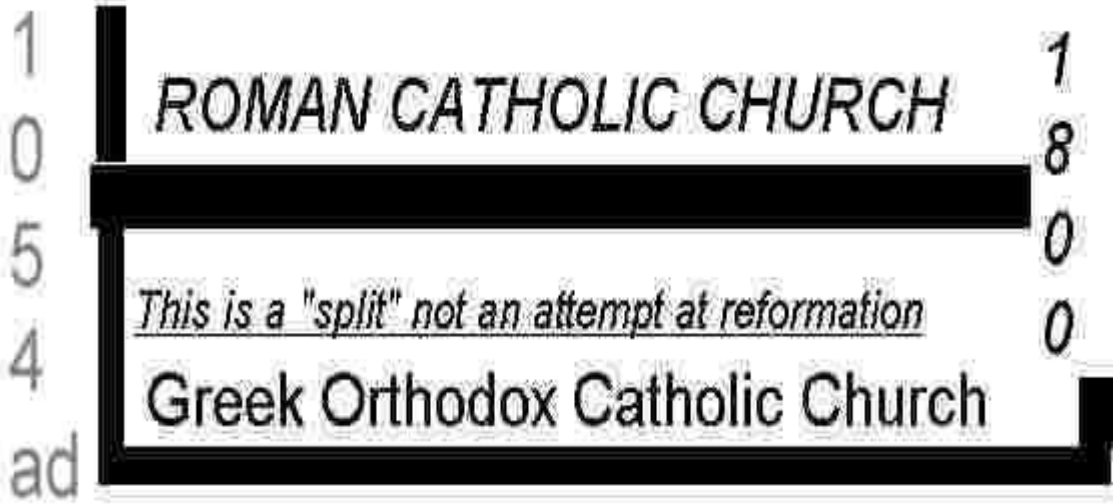
**Gotta Trust God
Gotta Trust God**

As we continue our study with this, our last time line we are really looking at approximately 300 years with the beginning of the reformation of the Roman Catholic Church.

While it ends 300 years later with the RESTORATION of the Lord's church.

It is still an ongoing process. We are going to look at the first MAJOR break off from the Roman Catholic Church because not one--not one denomination today breaks off from the Greek Orthodox Catholic Church.

Here, let's look at the first break

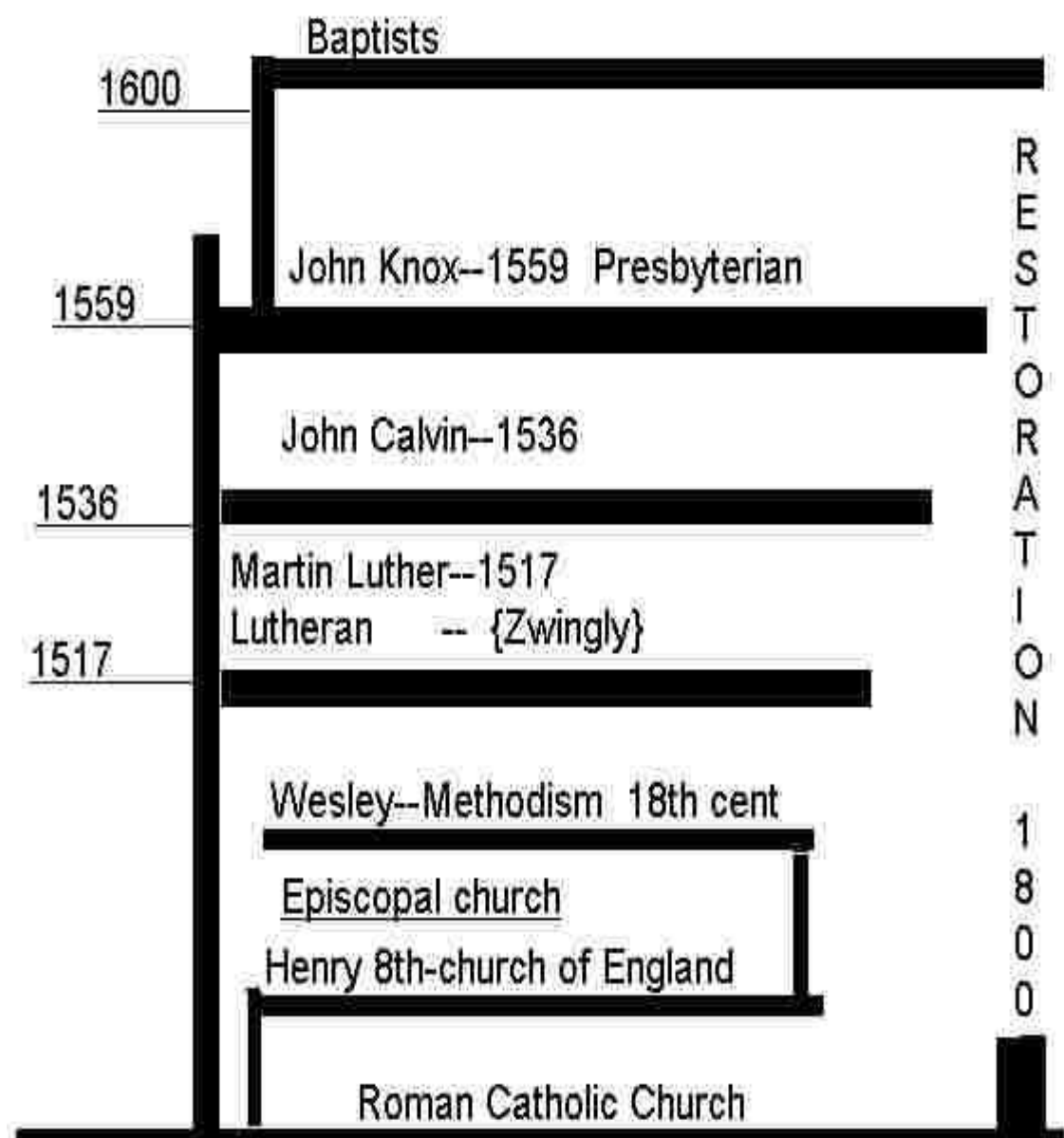


You should know that there are many events that take place in the 1500's. However, This is a split because two guys at different places in the world wanted to be Pope in 1054 ad.

However, as we are going to see in our next timeline all the efforts of reformation are directed at the Roman Catholic church.

This is a tremendous effort on the part of men but they are seeking to restore the Roman Catholic church—to correct some of its abuses and practises.

This then is the next timeline..



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In looking at this timeline--a lot of things have to happen and we should be aware of some of the hard work and effort that goes into trying to reform the Catholic Church and then we will see how all these folks participate in the RESTORATION MOVEMENT that is still with us today.

Remember what God wants?

Hear - Believe - Do
Hear - Believe - Do

Now if we drift back to Jesus and the first century--
[1]Jesus kept His promise to deliver "all truth" but the question is what happened to it?

Well, the Catholic church added a few things--holy water, mass instead of the Lord's supper, extreme unction, celibacy [forbids marriage to the clergy--priests], transubstantiation {teaches that the bread and wine become the literal body and blood of Christ}, purgatory, changes in congregational singing, and exchanging "sprinkling" for immersion in baptism.

Ok--there are a lot more but you get the idea. Now, when the time of the Reformation comes--denominations take a lot of this with them--because of the Catholic Church--folks were believing that all this stuff was in the scriptures--don't you see?

At this time--most of the bibles are not in the hands of the people but in the hands of the clergy--those priests who belong to the Roman Catholic Church.

Please note that the reformation begins with folks who have access to the bible--and reading for themselves do not find many of the Roman Catholic Church teachings in the bible.

Their goal was to reform the Roman Catholic church. And, then here comes one Martin Luther, a Catholic Priest who led a very large group of folks away from the Roman Catholic Church.

He endangered his life by doing so and they soon excommunicated him from the Catholic church yet his work stirs the beginnings of the Protestant Reformation.

By necessity Luther and His followers had to produce a formal statement of His teachings. These were adopted in 1530 this statement is known as the "Augsburg Confession".

Luther also translated the Bible into his own language-- German and after his death--because Luther and his followers had protested against the unfair advantages given to the Catholics by the German rulers, They became known as "Protestants."

All Protestant churches can trace their beginnings to this man, Luther and their heritage is what--about 550 years old.

One thing Luther tried hard to do was to have his followers call themselves just Christians but after his death, they began to call themselves Lutherans-- something Luther would of hated.

All Protestant churches can trace their beginnings to this man, Luther and their heritage is what--about 550 years old.

Yet, the Lutherans rejected many false teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and returned nearer to God's way--yet they hung on to some of the Catholic doctrines--Like their priests also forgive sins, something only Jesus can do and many other doctrines.

Next, we have a movement in Scotland begun earlier by John Calvin since he had to flee France to escape the Catholic churches prosecution. He was known as "the Fiery Reformer" and published his famous "Institutes of the Christian religion" in 1536.

In Switzerland, Calvin's followers were known as the Reformed Church. However, as the movement continued to develop in Scotland, it became known as the Presbyterian Church.

Let's talk about ole King Henry the 8th for a minute. The church of England was declared as a separate body from the Roman Catholic church--look at our timeline--.

In 1552 this new church issued an official creed known as the 42 Articles--later reduced to 39 articles. Many churches today, including the Methodist church and the Protestant Episcopal Church are an out growth of the church of England.

One of more prominent groups which began in opposition to the church of England is the Baptist church.

Now with the growing group of denominational churches--they seemed to be more interested in doing things their way which was not the way of the church they split off from.

Each was named after its founder or a particular doctrine or some religious practise.

Now, one other thing begins to take place at this time. Remember, during this time period--there were not a lot of bibles floating around and certainly not in the hands of the common people.

So, in the middle of this timeline--People begin to reproduce the Bible. The Roman Catholic church did everything it could to prevent the bible from falling into the hands of the common people.

For example, John Wycliffe was one of the first to translate the bible into English. Well, he got the boot from the Roman Catholic church.

And, after he had been dead 44 years a pope has his bones dug up and burned and scattered over the River Swift to show what the Roman Catholic church thought of his translating the bible.

Not many bibles were available at this time--so the ones that were out and about were treasured.

Also Protestant denominations begin to multiply at a rapid pace. But instead of going back to God's Way--Remember—

Hear - Believe - Do
Hear - Believe - Do

Instead, each denomination began to stress its own teachings. So when someone came along liked most of it--but not all of it--they just started another denomination.

They Forgot God and His Word and What God wanted from man.

Looking back through the time lines--do you notice that man in that timeline still is having big time problems in remaining faithful to God and His Word.

This is not a new problem and even today this problem still exists

Gotta Trust God **Gotta Trust God**

Keep in mind that we are getting close to the Restoration part of our timeline--and, that bibles are slowly but surely beginning to be made available to the common man.

When the doctrines of men are mixed with the Word of God you have something other than what God has given man and what God wants from man.

Because men have continued to mix man made doctrines with the pure seed of Christ we have over 370 man made denominations today--each claiming to belong to Christ--because like the thousands and thousands of Jews on the day of Pentecost--Men choose not to

Hear - Believe - Do
Hear - Believe - Do

Now, as bibles become more plentiful and leaders in the denominations begin to figure out some things--a change is coming.

Men from all these denominations started looking at just what the bible teaches and not seeing their denominations doing it. Here is just one example of how men begin to think about getting back to just God's Word.

In our early west--Circuit preachers would go to say the Baptist church and only the Baptists would come--naturally? right! Well, the same thing was happening with all the denominations.

So someone began to take a look at why the separation--and what they discovered was that it was their creeds and non biblical practices that was keeping folks apart.

Even among religiously divided folks there was a common respect for the word of God. Well, brains started clicking and folks started talking about this..

The Bible is the Word of God and that is the only common ground upon which everyone could build together and be united in Christ.

After all,
didn't they
accept the
bible as God's
Word, Didn't
they all
believe in the
same God.
Remember

Hear - Believe - Do
Hear - Believe - Do

Well, why not do things in a bible way? The sin of religious division was not coming from the Word of God but from denominational names, creeds and barriers erected by men.

Division continued to flourish because most folks continue to give allegiance to their church manuals and creed books rather than to the Word of God as the final authority.

However, sincere and honest men began to remember what Jesus Himself had stated--It goes something like this In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men....And, every plant which my heavenly father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.

And now we have:

Enter the Restoration Movement

Now, we have bibles on computer and we have bible programs to aid us in our study of God's Word.

Those of us who have a compelling interest in learning what God wants--have discovered a problem. This is a real life problem dealing with the bible itself.

Everyone and their dog uses it. Have you noticed that everyone uses it to support their particular doctrine or dogma?

This today seems to be the norm in our society--remember in the 1800's men began to realize that unity can only be achieved by going back to the Word of God--and, teaching it exactly as given.

On the time line this would take us back to the time period beginning with the establishment of the church and the teaching of the apostles

When you get a moment read the gospel of John chapter 17. Yes, the whole chapter and you may never have realized that this is there.

You can see the "chain of command" here in John 17.

God the Father gives His Word to His Son--His only beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

Jesus takes twelve Jewish men works with them-gives them what we call on the job training and man, that was some training.

Jesus GIVES THE FATHERS WORD TO THESE APOSTLES AND do you know why?

Why would Jesus do this? Jesus gave these men the Father's Word--and, they in turn--GAVE IT TO US!

How did they do this?

They did this with the Help of God by giving us what we know as the bible--The Word of God.

From our timeline--we see that God chose the Jewish people to be His people. We also see that they chose time and time again to be unfaithful to God till God ultimately sends them His son.

When you read the bible and you read the Old Testament have you noticed that God does not give any slack. If an event is bad, it is recorded as such. It is not sugar coated or ignored.

One of our examples that I want to refer to now is from the Old Testament and it involves two men.

And it scares me because If I don't pay attention myself to what God wants--I can suffer a fate similar to theirs.

Two Old Testament Priests Nadab and Abihu were told to use a special fire in the Jewish worship. They decided to use fire secured elsewhere and fire came down from heaven and consumed them.

God records these events so we can evade them. That we can learn to do as He asks.

Well, in the 1800's men began to really think on these things and even though many of these men lived far apart from one another and did not know one another at first -- they shared a common purpose.

Jesus has given us the Word of the Father and that word is found in the scriptures.

Again, repeating one of our problems is that everyone uses the scriptures. That's cool except no one seems to want to use them as given.

These men followed then after the path of Calvin and Luther with this exception.

Luther and Calvin started denominations based on their teachings and not just that of the Scriptures.

These men who began the Restoration movement did not do this.

They decided that unity could only be achieved if men just taught the scriptures as they are given.

Their goal was to reproduce the church of the New Testament and they could do that only by returning to the scriptures and doing just that.

So, they did. And, man , what a stir they caused. Thousands and thousands literally left their denominations --and made the decision to only teach and preach the Bible..

Now, this can be done because when the seed {word of God} is planted in the hearts of men and men do what God has asked--

Hear - Believe - Do
Hear - Believe - Do

Then that seed reproduces "Christians" exactly as the first century church did. Many years ago, I read this story about King Tut.

You know he has been dead for over 2,000 years and when they discovered his tomb--they also discovered "wheat seed" in his tomb.

Do you know what they did? They planted that seed, Yes they did and do you know what? It produced the same exact type and kind of wheat that was grown in the days of King Tut.

This then is how the word of God works. When it is planted into our hearts and we hear it, we believe it and we obey it, that is we do what the word says to do--We become Christians exactly in the same way that Christians did on the day of Pentecost--so many many years ago.

So, Yes, we have folks using the scripture but you will notice that they only use certain scriptures that tend to prove whatever it is they are doing--and, somehow never get around to texts that when added to theirs--would lead to a change of conclusions.

So, it is not going to be the fact that folks use the Bible, they do! What does count however, is how folks use the bible.

Let me share a short but silly story that no one in his right mind would consider.

Let's say I am a contractor--I come to you and to your neighbor and one of your friends and I say help me build this house and you all agree.

Further, I say to each of you- go cut me ten 2x4's 8feet long and then bring one and lay it down here. When each of you have done so--Here is what I see. And, for the first time--you see it..

Here is yours..



Here is your friends



Here is your neighbors



Wow! Can you see the problem. Each of you is very sure that you are right and how could anyone, anyone make such a mistake.

Your neighbor gets out his tape measure and measures his--Walla, it measures exactly eight feet.

Hmmm. Your friend says wait a second here--Look at mine--and he gets his tape measure out and lo and behold, it measures exactly eight feet.

By now, you have your tape measure out and we watch as you use your tape measure to measure your board. Alacazam, it measures exactly eight feet.

Now, see where the problem lies. I ask your neighbor, where did you buy your tape measure? He responds, why down at the corner grocery store.

Then your friend speaks up and says, I bought mine down at the drug store.

And, right after him, you say, "I purchased mine from the local hardware store".

Each tape measure is made by a different company and each company decided for themselves how many inches make a foot.

It is evident that they all make tape measures, but they did not all use the same standard in manufacturing their tape measures.

Now, you know, we are just not that ignorant, now are we as human beings.

In Washington DC, there are marks on the wall. So many marks equal an inch--so many inches equal a foot--so many feet equal a yard.

Now, you know, we are just not that ignorant, now are we as human beings.

In Washington DC, there are marks on the wall. So many marks equal an inch--so many inches equal a foot--so many feet equal a yard.

Now, it doesn't matter where you buy the tape measure--when each of you cut the 2x4--they will all be exactly the same, won't they?

But you see, when men come to God's Word--men and not God set and change and amend the standards to suit them and that is why we have over 700 man made denominations in the world today.

Remember this--

Hear - Believe - Do
Hear - Believe - Do

Remember our first timeline? From almost the very beginning of man's relationship with their God--man keeps changing the standard in the name of God.

When they did that God rained death and destruction upon them for not hearing, not believing and not doing it His Way.

Like the Marks on the wall, God has given us a uniform standard in the Bible so we can each know what God wants from us.

Remember, our second time line? Now, is our problem any different today?

If we want to know God--then we are going to have to go to the standard to seek guidance and instruction. Man cannot afford to change the standard.

This is why in the 1800's we have the Restoration movement.

Men in these man made denominations could "see" what was causing the problems between man and his God.

In closing out this study...Let me ask you a question. Do you like Tests? I mean, when in school, did you like tests? How did you feel about taking the driving test to drive a car?

Ok. Do you feel better about an open book test? Now, I like those kinds of tests. So we are going to give you an open book test right here. And, you may or may not find it easy.

First--remember what God wants?

Hear - Believe - Do
Hear - Believe - Do

In the following text--your question is to tell me who did what God wanted.

First Jesus tells His Apostles to do this...Mark 16:15-16)
And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Now, here is the text--Acts 2: 36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

37 Now when they heard [this], they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men [and] brethren, what shall we do?

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, [even] as many as the Lord our God shall call.

40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added [unto them] about three thousand souls.

There is your test. See how easy it is.. Who exactly out of the thousands and thousands who all heard the same message

Gotta Trust God Gotta Trust God

And how did they "Trust God?"

This next text out of the Old Testament is worthy of more thinking.

Deut 13:3 (NKJV) "you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

May you Love God with all your heart and with all your soul **AND as this comes to an end—CONSIDER--**

Satan says..Your Faith

SAVED YOU

Now

you

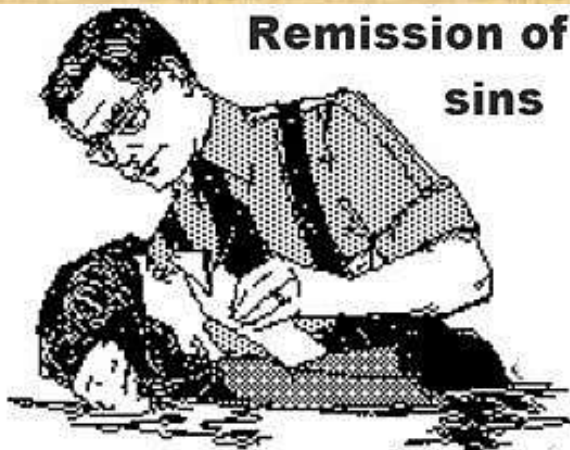
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BAPTISED

Hear - Believe - Do
Hear - Believe - Do



**Remission of
sins**

**You will do well if you read
And choose God's Way as
Given on Pentecost up to
Today.**

**May God encourage you in
Your choice**

Hear - Believe - Do
Hear - Believe - Do